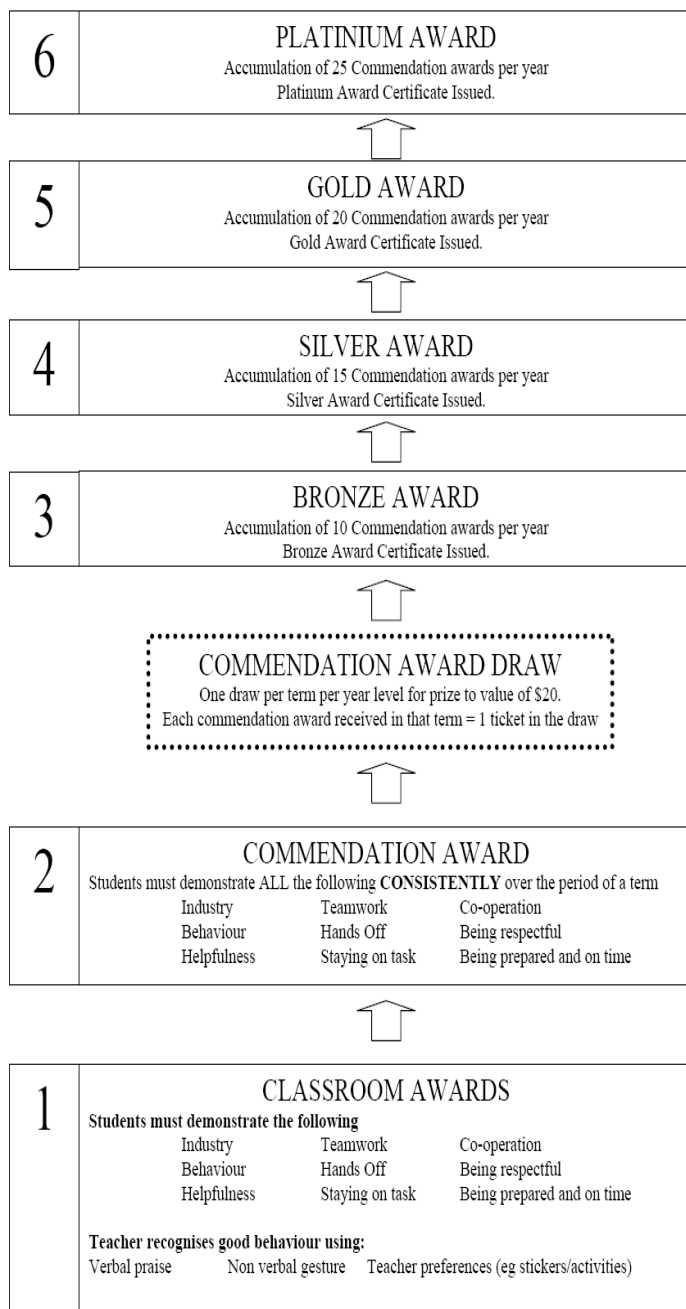


## COMMENDATION AWARDS

Teachers are in the process of nominating students for commendation awards for Term 1. Students who have consistently demonstrated exemplary standards of behaviour, attendance and work ethic during the term are eligible for these awards. The awards will be presented to students early in Term 2.

The following table shows how our Commendation Scheme operates during the a school year. Last year nineteen students were awarded the Platinum Award at our Annual Presentation Night.

### COMMENDATION AWARD SCHEME



## YEAR 8 LEADERSHIP TEAM

Six students from the new, Year 8 cohort met last month to discuss their role in the leadership of Smithfield SHS. Most students had been School or Sports Captains during their final year of primary school and staff suggested that these skills should not be wasted, waiting until students were in Year 12 for them to have a leadership role within the school. Year 8 students were asked to nominate themselves to be involved in the group and work alongside the student leaders from other year levels. Students will play an active role in organising events and activities for their fellow classmates throughout the year and during their first meeting with Mrs Selsby and Mr More, discussed ways in which they could have a positive influence in the school.

The leadership team was treated to a delicious morning tea as they discussed their vision for 2009 at Smithfield SHS. A number of fundraising initiatives were put forward for worthy causes including cancer research, YAPS and victims of the recent bushfires and floods. As well, students were keen to improve facilities around the school and get involved in environmental issues like plant-a-tree day and recycling.

In the coming months, the leadership team will be working to provide lunchtime activities and form class competitions for the Year 8 cohort. They will also be working on whole-school initiatives with others in the leadership team and getting involved with the school radio station CoastFM.

*Mrs Rebecca Selsby*



**A Team** *By Paul Hanlon, Year 11*

This year the Year 11 group has formed a leadership team called the "A Team". The team consists of around twenty different Year 11's who show an interest in the school and community. The main focus of the group is to work towards achievable goals. The team will be focusing on improving the school's overall look and image in the community. Some suggestions that have been made include more lunch time activities, helping out at local charities and improving parts of the school through working bees. This year a partnership is being formed between the Year 8's and 11's to work towards different ideas they possess about the school.

Keep a lookout for the different activities the group will be performing throughout the year.

The International Student Department has been busy so far this year with seven new students arriving at the start of the year. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Edith Riegler, Veronika Weber, Mary Jo Barry, Shauna Dainton, Yanni He, Anne Truemner and Brittney Ewasyn. We hope you enjoy your stay.

The start of the school year saw our office being relocated to a new beaut area with a meeting room attached. Thank you to all involved who helped clean it, paint it, move all the equipment into it and make it the fabulous office it is now.

The international students have joined Radio and are planning on a number of broadcasts over the next few months. Ms Phillips and Cassandra Quirk are planning on having their own show too! Remember to tune in to 101.7 Coast FM to hear all our golden voices!!!

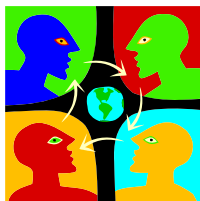
The yearly International Student BBQ has not been arranged mainly due to the weather being so unpredictable this time of the year. It will probably be held sometime in mid August when the weather is more agreeable!

The Swimming Carnival was a great day. Trinity won....YAY! (Ms Phillips house!) It was great to see our international students getting involved. We had a team taking part in the relay race and Veronika Weber won the 50m breaststroke race. *Congratulations, Veronika!* (She said afterwards that she hadn't seen any of her competitors and thought she was coming last!)

Not only did we have international students competing in the pool but our two Canadian students, Brittney Ewasyn and Shauna Dainton, were part of the radio crew who managed the radio station all day and did a fantastic job. A *huge* thank you to both of you!

That's all from the International Student department for another month. We would like everyone to get to know our students a little better so every month there will be a profile of one international student featured here. Anne Truemner is our student for this month.

Cheers for now  
Cassandra Quirk



### EQI Homestay

If you are interested, or know someone who may be, please contact Cassandra Quirk.

#### Why Host?

It is an interesting way to help the school, and the cultural exchange is an enriching experience for both the host family and the visiting student.

#### What is Homestay?

Homestay is caring for, supervising and accommodating an international student in your home for a period of between three and twenty-four months.

#### What do you need to provide for a student?

- ◆ Supervision and care
- ◆ Private bedroom with desk and wardrobe
- ◆ All meals

#### How do I become a Homestay parent?

Contact Cassandra Quirk  
Phone: 4055 6604 ext 53  
Mobile: 0423 124 177  
Email: cquir12@eq.edu.au

Please note that it is a requirement that all household members over eighteen years of age hold a Suitability Card (Blue Card). Further information regarding this can be given at time of enquiry.

### INTRODUCING:



### Anne Truemner

I'm Anne and I'm from Germany. I like singing, playing soccer, skiing, the snow, making and hearing music, and lots of other things. I'm in Australia for six months and I really like it so far. I have a great host family and I found some awesome friends at church.

The heat was a big shock for me because in Germany we have snow at the moment and it's cold. In the last weeks whilst I was in Germany it was down to -20°C and that was really cold. And then I came to Australia and we had 35°C.

Also driving on the left side of the road was strange for me because we drive on the right side. So the first few times I got into a car I always got in on the wrong side of the car. And when we drove I was really scared because I always thought we were driving on the wrong side.

There is a big difference between school in Germany and school in Australia. We have to do a lot more homework and we write two test every semester. Our tests are a bit like the assignments in Australia but we have to write them in 90 min in school. So we have to remember all the things because we're not allowed to have any notes. We have 13 years of school. So when I go home I have to do three more years of school. Also my school day begins at 7:40 am and ends at 12:50 pm but sometimes we have school until 3:15 pm. Students in grade 12 and 13 sometimes have school until 5:15 pm.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE LOTE DEPARTMENT

Did you know that Year 8 students have been learning all about themselves in German? They have two German lessons per week, where they learn how to read, speak, write and listen in that language. Every lesson covers those four macro skills. By now students have also completed their first test and assignment. Check your children's school diaries for their results, in the back of their diary.

We have covered topics about: name, age, where one comes from, where one lives, compass directions and our next topic is "The family" – "Die Familie".

**How can you help your child learn?** You can take their exercise book twice a week and quiz them. You can let them place vocabulary sheets on walls with blue tack around the house. You can learn with them. Let them give a talk in German. Learning a language can be fun and challenging. Laughing at pronunciation and making mistakes is always welcome.

### Here are a few comments about the grade 8 German classroom from students:

I have learnt in German five sentences including my name is Ned and I am 12 years old. Some numbers between 1-20 including 12, 6, 11 and more.

What's different between German and English? Well almost every single word sounds and looks different.  
*Ned!*

I have learnt many new things in German, like how to ask "How are you?" and learning how to count to 20 in German. In German I like to work by myself, and I like things to be quiet and calm, its helps me with learning. My difficulties in German are: it takes me a while to pick up new words and get the pronunciation right.  
*Madeleine.*

I find German is very easy to learn and I enjoy learning German.

I find nothing hard in German. What we have learned is quite easy and understandable.

I understand when we do the tapes with the German language is very easy to understand for me.

*Taylor.*

Thank you for your interest  
Simone Phillips

## HAPPENINGS FROM THE ARTS...

*Tiara Seccombe - Year 11*

Year 11 Film, Television, and New Media students are currently working on their own music videos. In preparation for this students participated in a hands-on lighting workshop with Ms Evangelista on 27 February in the Q block production studio. Students learnt about different types of lighting for screen and were taught how to put this knowledge into practice. The Year 11s are very much looking forward to completing production on their videos and showing their classmates their completed products.



## ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

This term the students have been learning about electrics, electronics, and Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) systems through a variety of various electrical components to make circuits such as an electronic dice, and creating and testing a PLC program to control a packaging plant.

Year 11 and 12 Engineering Technology (ENT111 and ENT121) students, Jordan Russ (left) and Joel Reynolds (centre) and teacher Mr Robert Callin get "hands on" with an electric boat trailer winch.



**WELCOME TO 2009!**

Already, we have seen the band out and about helping in the community, preparing concerts, rehearsing and building a repertoire for a CD. The two band captains (Paul Hanlon and Pippa Bray) plan to keep everyone updated with what's going on with your school's bands.

This year, Smithfield SHS bands have settled into the routine of weekly rehearsals and lots of practice. This year, Mr Fox and Ms Spannenburg have enlisted the help of a staggering number of new students who have joined us.

We have already been involved in community events including the Rotary Australia Day Breakfast. On Monday 9 March Sam van der Sluis and Christine Pike accepted a cheque for \$2000 as thanks from the Rotary organisation. The money from this will go into maintaining and updating the trailer that we purchased last year.

This year we've started to build up a very interesting repertoire which we plan to record onto our 4<sup>th</sup> CD in August this year. So, look out for the launch of this in early September.

We're all looking forward to a very full and exciting year preparing for and performing concerts. Some gigs we have coming up soon are the Stage Band playing at Cairns Jazz Club for a social dinner on the Wednesday 25 March and both bands will be playing at our Easter Concert which will be performed in Q Block on the Wednesday 1 April at 7pm.

We hope to see you there!  
Pippa Bray and Paul Hanlon  
Band Captains '09

**Samantha with  
Conductor Ralph Hultgren**

**STATE HONOURS  
ENSEMBLE PROGRAM  
NORTH QUEENSLAND**

Congratulations to Samantha Van Der Sluis for being accepted and taking in the SHEP NQ program over the weekend at St Mary's Catholic College. The program is run by Griffith University - Queensland Conservatorium and aims to expose students outside of Brisbane to music of an extremely high standard. Students were nominated by their instrumental music teacher due directly to their outstanding effort in the high school music program. This year was the 5th SHEP NQ event held in Cairns and the Grand Finale Concert was held on Sunday 15 March at St Mary's. The results of the weekend were outstanding and Sam represented our school in an exceptional manner. It was great to see the SSSH uniform among the other schools on the day. The weekend was a huge learning curve for Sam as she made her way around all the percussion instruments of the band. The final piece was a highlight for me as I watched Sam play the major snare part with intense concentration and precision. I was very proud of Sam's efforts at this concert and the whole of SSSH should be too.

Well done Sam!

Mr Jason Fox  
Instrumental Music Teacher

**DRUM ENSEMBLE**

This year sees the Smithfield State High School's talented drum ensemble move into its second year of running. The year is shaping up to be chock-a-block full of practices and performances.

The drum ensemble consists of five talented students, three Year 8's, one Year 9 and one Year 11. Being such a young group of students, they will be looking to build on the experience gained throughout the year.

The ensemble is practising hard for the recording of our new instrumental music CD later on in the year.

Lead by ex-student and percussion teacher Mr Graham Foster, the ensemble will gain valuable experience for the years to come.

Look out for their performances later on in the year.

Paul Hanlon  
Band Captain

**State Honours Ensemble Program 2009,  
Brisbane: 1-4 October.**

Nomination forms come out in May for students who would like to express interest for nomination.



## BREAKFAST – BRING IT ON!

By Chloe Williams and Savi McGrath

On Wednesday 11 March Yr 8F at Smithfield State High School prepared a healthy breakfast during their Health and Physical Education class.

Fruit kebabs and smoothies were made fresh by the students to enjoy. The flavours of the smoothies were banana with honey and berry. The kebabs looked bright and colourful and were made from watermelon, rockmelon, pineapple and grapes. During our HPE classes we have been studying the importance of a healthy breakfast.

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day and if you skip it you could suffer these consequences:

- ◆ low academic results
- ◆ being overweight and obese because of snacking on junk food
- ◆ poor behaviour, and
- ◆ lack of energy.

When everything was prepared, class 8F enjoyed a big healthy breakfast. We're sure they were happier, healthier and more energetic for the rest of the day.



Andrew Duncan

## ORGAN DONATION WEEK

By Shayne Pou, Julie Raymer and Michelle Webb – Mrs Jones, Year 11 Senior Health

As you may or may not be aware, last week was Organ Donation Week and students from Mrs Jones Year 11 Senior Health campaigned to raise awareness amongst staff members and students here at Smithfield State High School.

- ◆ Did you know that over 1800 Australians are currently waiting for life saving organ transplants and that 50 of those waiting are children? In Australia more than one person will die each week waiting for their organ transplant.
- ◆ As of the 30 December 2007, over five million Australians were registered on the Australian Organ Donor Register, yet only 1% of the organ donor deaths were even viable for donating.
- ◆ The procedure for organ donation can only occur if the donor is viable to donate, and their family has given their consent.

- ◆ Every donor has the potential to improve the lives of up to 10 people and gives the recipients a renewed or enhanced quality of life.

Two years ago a Year 11 student from SSHS, was killed in a cycling/ car accident and his family chose for him to give the gift of life by donating his organs. He alone allowed five recipients to enjoy a more improved life. It is important to consider becoming an organ donor and discussing your wishes with your parents and family.

If you would like to find out more about organ/tissue donation visit: [http://www.myclivelandclinic.org/services/Organ\\_Transplant/nic\\_Organ\\_Donation\\_and\\_Transplantation.aspx](http://www.myclivelandclinic.org/services/Organ_Transplant/nic_Organ_Donation_and_Transplantation.aspx)



(L – R) Jake Macey and Emily Forova



Cycas Circus would like to thank the Northern Circus Alliance trainers for their help this year:

Gerry Holmes

And local representatives of the community:

MP Steve Wettenhall

SSHS P&C

The Tanks

Cairns Regional Council

Also a special thank you to local businesses in our community:

Reid Screen Printers

Candy Signs

Caught On Fire



Gambling

Community Benefit Fund

Queensland Government



Queensland

Government

Arts Queensland



## CYCAS CIRCUS PREPARES FOR NEW SHOW

Rehearsals are in full swing for the new Cycas Circus Show, *The Wheel of Life*, to be performed at The Tanks in June. With a cast of 22 the troupe is counting down the weeks leading up to opening night.

This will be a show not to be missed and guaranteed to astound every viewer. Original costumes have been designed and are being made in Thailand. The energetic sound track is complete and lighting and special effects will be created by the Coe brothers, Will and Ben.

The story, written by Ms. Burnheim, is based on the theme of "running away with the circus". It will evoke laughter and tears as we watch a boy find furry, slimy and slithery friends in the mystical rainforest. This is as much an adult story as children's; everyone will find something to relate to as the plot unfolds.

With an intermission of fire twirling spectacular and clowning around, the troupe will showcase their skills in unicycling, juggling, hoops, diabolo, poi, acrobatics and aerial. Come watch Corey dive through the flaming hoop, Tarryn up high on the static trapeze, Christine jump rope on her unicycle, Elliot juggle up a storm, Nick cartwheel on stilts, X-man burst into fire and many more amazing tricks!

Support the Far North's first high school circus troupe in their very first circus show. Tickets will be available soon. Watch this page for further notice.

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