

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Semester 2! I hope everyone had a safe and happy June—July holiday. If you stayed here in Cairns, like I did, you would have enjoyed the wonderful weather.

The new semester is a perfect time for all of us at the school to take stock of progress towards our schooling goals. For staff, it is a time to reflect on teaching practices and skills that work or may need refinement. We did this on our student free days, using our Dimensions of Learning Framework as the basis for our reflection. We will continue to do this as part of our regular professional development program.

For students, the school has its formal feedback processes - teacher feedback on assessments, parent evenings, etc. It is important families take advantage of these processes. In the Senior school, changes to timetables, SET Plans and/or subject choices may eventuate if required. Administration and Year Co-ordinators will be reviewing progress in each year level and interviewing where necessary. Individual parent interviews will take place when students are identified as not contributing to a satisfactory level, to their learning.

Term 3 is also important for two year levels in particular:

Year 12 - Queensland Core Skills (QCS) tests take place on Tuesday 1 and Wednesday 2 September for all OP eligible students. We had a very positive response to our practice tests on the last two days of Term 2. We are confident our students will be well prepared for these tests.

Year 10 - Term 3 brings the Career / SET Planning unit of work in Social Science. All students will use this unit to plan their preferred futures

and select subjects for Year 11. Wednesday 26 August marks our Year 10 into 11 (2010) Parent Evening. Detailed information will follow, but all parents / caregivers of current Year 10 students should attend if possible.

There are numerous other activities on during this term, all adding to the "learning" curriculum of the school. Our Performing Arts evenings—21/22 July were a highlight, NAIDOC Week celebrations take place in Week 3 and our annual Athletics Carnival is on Thursday 13 August. Our Special Education students are off to the Challenge Games in Townsville on 28/29/30 July also. I am sure pictorial and written highlights of each will be found in upcoming newsletters.

The school P&C have resolved to abolish the School Council as of 2009. The P&C will continue as the forum for parent involvement in the school decision making processes. Where needed, community forums will be held to discuss major decisions across the school.

Finally, I was fortunate to visit some very successful and innovative schools in Victoria last term. It was an inspirational event and helped cement some of the visionary learning we are planning for Smithfield High. I will speak more of this as the term progresses. I will soon show you an outline of the vision we have to develop Smithfield into a higher performing academic school, producing learners for the 21st Century.

I will finish with some statements of the learners we will produce.

Learners of the 21st Century

"An articulate, autonomous but collaborative learner with high meta-cognitive control and the generic skills of learning"

"Involved in engaging educational experiences with enriched opportunities and challenges"

"Supported by various people, materials and ICT linked to general well-being but crucially focussed on learning"

Till next newsletter,
Regards

Barry Courtney
Principal



Proposed Industrial Action

You would have received a letter from the Queensland Government which was sent home last week regarding the proposed industrial action.

We have been notified that this action has been postponed. Therefore school will be on as usual.

Phone Numbers

Our new phone system has been installed.

The new school phone number is **4058 4333**. At the moment you are unable to dial an extension for a staff member, all call transfers are done through reception. Please be patient.

We also now have a direct line for students absences. This number is **4058 4366**. You will be advised to leave the following details:

- ◆ name and contact number
- ◆ student name
- ◆ reason for absence and
- ◆ expected duration of absence.