

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Term 4. In newsletters this term I will attempt to outline future plans and directions for the school, to give you all an opportunity to see how we are positioning Smithfield State High School as a "high performing academic school" – a school that will prepare all students for the challenges they will face in life after school.

Firstly, let me outline some important events / dates coming up this term.

Year 12 Formal

Saturday 17 October

While this is a very significant evening for our Year 12 students I caution all parents/caregivers to remind students attending that this is a school event with school rules/protocols applying. More importantly, talk to your son/daughter about any 'after formal' activities they may be attending. The school plays no part in any activity following the formal and accepts no responsibility for them. We have spoken to the students about safety following the formal and I advise parents/caregivers to be fully aware of where students are going and what activity they are attending.

Presentation Night

Tuesday 3 November

This is our stellar event for the year and I encourage all families to attend. Not only do we acknowledge the efforts of our students, we also showcase many of the outstanding talents they possess.

Final Days

Check the calendar for final dates for each year level. It is an Education Queensland expectation that students attend right up to the final day.

In positioning Smithfield State High School as a school to best prepare students for the Challenges of the 21st Century, staff are currently addressing three key questions:

- 1) What does learning need to be and to look like, to best prepare students for life in the 21st Century?
- 2) What key teaching skills and attributes are required to provide this learning environment?
- 3) What classroom environment will best allow this learning and teaching to occur?

The answers to these will guide our future plans for teacher professional development, curriculum and lesson planning and facilities development. I will publish the results late this term.

Finally, can I ask your support in what can be a very frustrating matter for our staff and can be a serious negative impact on student learning. The issue is school arrival times and/or lateness to school. Too many students regularly arrive late, often with no excuse other than "I slept in". School commences at 8.30am each morning. It is an expectation that all students be at school before this time unless there is a valid reason. Students (and families) are responsible for meeting this requirement. We will advise parents/caregivers if students are regularly late and expect action to be taken to address this.

Until next newsletter
Barry Courtney



P & C Meeting 21 October 2009

At the next P&C Meeting, Dr Justine Thorp from James Cook University's Public Health, Tropical Medicine & Rehabilitation Centre will be giving a brief presentation about dengue fever transmission, breeding spots, and the dengue situation both here and overseas.

This is a timely reminder for us to be vigilant as the wet season approaches.

All welcome. In the School Library, Wednesday, 21 October 2009 at 7:00PM

regards...

Tony Gorell

President
Smithfield State High School P&C
Association

Year 8 Enrolments 2010

Parents of current Year 7 students who wish to enrol their son/daughter at Smithfield State High School for Year 8 in 2010 need to book an enrolment interview with the school now.

Enrolment interviews will be held from Monday 9 – Friday 13 November in the Administration Office at Smithfield State High School. Please call 4058 4333 to book an appointment time.

Enrolments should be completed no later than Friday 20 November 2009 to guarantee places in specialist elective classes / extension classes in 2010.