



HAWK CHAT

HARRISTOWN STATE HIGH SCHOOL



Edition No. 01

6 February 2009

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Harristown Hawks - Shine in '09!

Welcome back to all to the 2009 academic year.

It is also my privilege to welcome the new students, staff and families to our Harristown school community. I trust your time with us will be rewarding and positive. I look forward to celebrating the many successes we will have together in the year to come.

As Principal of Harristown, my goal in 2009 is to **continue** to develop the drive for excellence in every aspect of our school. Many of our seniors in 2008 have experienced great success with their final results - 5 OP1's, in addition many other students have found work, apprenticeships, traineeships or are planning further study.

This year we will be working on many of the projects and plans that we started in 2008. This will involve continuing to enhance our physical facilities and ICT capabilities. We are committed to preparing students to be confident and positive people in their community.

In 2009 we will continue to develop the concept of our school as one of specialised Academies - Academic, Industrial Skills, Sport and The Arts, as well as being a school that strives to help all students achieve their personal bests.

We will be working hard to develop literacy. We will continue with the spelling program that involves all students in every year level, in each subject having spelling test or skills session each week. This will involve a focus on three words each week in each subject in Year 8 and 9 and five words in Year 10, 11 and 12. This year we are also focusing on a whole school approach to comprehension, so students have a routine thinking process when they are asked to answer questions involving comparing and contrasting, developing lists, problem solving and cause and effect.

We will continue to reinforce core school issues: handing in assignments and drafts, homework, student behaviour, wearing the correct uniform (making sure students bring a note when they are not in correct uniform) and reducing litter in the school environment.

It will be a big year for the school - an important one for all of us. I look forward to working with the staff, students and families in 2009 as we build on our successes from last year.

Until next week, warm regards
Regan Neumann, Executive Principal

P & C NEWS

Lockers

If your student requires the use of a locker, \$25.00 can be paid at the P & C Shop for the locker allocation and issuing with the combination. \$5.00 will be refunded at the end of the year when the locker is emptied out and the combination lock returned.

Senior Tie

As of 2009 Year 10 students are now required to wear the senior tie with the formal uniform. Students can purchase ties from the P & C shop for \$23.95.

P & C Membership

To become a member of the Parents and Citizens Association, you are required to call in and collect/complete a P&C Membership form from the P&C Shop. Everyone is most welcome.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at 7:30 pm on the 3 March 2009 at the Creative Technology Centre on South Street. All welcome.

General Meetings

General Meetings of the Association are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30 pm unless the first Tuesday falls on a school holiday. Venue is as above.

For more information contact: Pamela Ernst

LEADERS RETREAT

The 29 February not only marked the first Friday of the school year but also the first day of the annual Leaders Retreat. Good intentions packed the nominated Year 12 Gold and Silver leaders as well as the Year 11 SRC representatives as they headed to the Tallebudgera Active Recreational Centre to discuss the year ahead. The Retreat involved workshops that targeted and enhanced the planning and production skills the leaders will need to help Harristown 'Shine in '09'. After a river swim, a sing-a-long, *Braveheart* and a chicken dance between workshops it was time for the leaders to head on back to hawk home soil. Returning Sunday, the exhausted but excited group of leaders and teachers prepared for the massive year ahead.

Hawks grab your brown and blue, 2009 is on!!

Written by: Ella Breydon

VISION: Preparing students to be confident and positive people in their community through meaningful learning experiences.

Contact Information: 341-367 South Street, Toowoomba Q 4350
Phone: 46368700 Fax: 46368777

IMMUNISATION PROGRAM COMES TO SCHOOL

The Toowoomba Regional Council is providing free vaccinations for all Year 8 and Year 10 students, as part of Queensland Health's annual School Based vaccination program.

Year 8 students are being offered vaccination to protect against Hepatitis B and Chickenpox while Year 10 students are being offered protection against diphtheria- tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough).

Female students in Year 8 are also being offered Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination to protect against cervical cancer.

The vaccinations will be conducted by a team of specially trained registered nurses.

A consent form for each vaccination offered will be given to your child to bring home. Please read the information carefully, sign the consent form irrespective of whether you wish your child to be vaccinated or not and return the consent form to school by Friday 20th February.

Parents are encouraged to ensure their children have breakfast on the morning of vaccination. For more information about diseases, vaccines or the School Based Vaccination Program, call 13 Health on 1343325584 or visit www.health.qld.gov.au/schools_vaccination/.

For more information contact: Julie Barby School Nurse

DRIVING WORKSHOP

The third Toowoomba Attitudinal Driving Workshop will be held at the Toowoomba RSL (corner Ruthven and Herries Streets) on Tuesday the 24th February at 7.30pm.



The Workshops run for about 2 hours with an intermission break where tea/coffee/biscuits are supplied.

The Workshops involve a group of presenters (victims, survivors, QPS/QAS/QFRA personnel) speaking about how a driving choice has affected them.

The Workshop is not a course and very limited details are provided about facts and figures relating to road trauma. It is about real people telling real stories about how road carnage has affected them.

I have attended the previous two Workshops in Toowoomba and I strongly urge you to take along your teenage children, regardless of whether they currently hold their drivers licence, for a thought provoking evening. Your attendance just may save their life or the life of another.

For more information contact: Constable Rebekah

EVEN START TUTORING PROGRAM

The tutoring program will continue in 2009 for those students involved in Term 4 2008. The program is to support students experiencing difficulty in Numeracy and Literacy. Parents gave permission for their child to attend these tutoring sessions in 2008. The program was extended by the Federal Government to allow for all students to complete the program by 8th April 2009.



The program will begin on the 9th February in V block. Students will be given a card which outlines the time of their tutoring sessions. Students are asked to keep this card safe.

For more information contact: Ms Yvonne Bidgood - Even Start Co-ordinator.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

The new school year began with the news of the exciting results achieved in 2008 by students in the Humanities subjects of Ancient and Modern History and Legal Studies. Congratulations to all those students who have gone on to further study.

The students of Year 11 Legal Studies will next week be undertaking an excursion to the Courts Complex in Brisbane. While there, the students will study the procedures in the District and Supreme Courts and how the Supreme Court library may be useful to their studies.



For more information contact: Ms Reilly

DEFENCE TRANSITION MENTOR (DTM)

Hi, my name is Mrs Helen Petersen. I am the new DTM for Harristown State High School (HSHS).

My role is to provide information, support and referral to secondary students from Australian Defence Force families. This may include welcoming and farewelling activities, supporting students with their day to day needs at HSHS, assisting students with the challenges of transition and parental absences and encouraging involvement in sporting, academic and personal development programs.

Students of Australian Defence Force families at HSHS can visit me in K002. Parents/guardians are welcome to call me on 46368767.

For more information contact: Mrs Helen Petersen

QUOTE OF THE WEEK (contributed by Ms Jones)

"Competence, like truth, beauty and contact lenses, is in the eye of the beholder".
Laurence J Peter

NIGHT OF THE NOTABLES

The Year 8 Accelerated Academic Academy ended 2008 on a high note, with the SOSE presentation of The Night of the Notables. Students studied what it meant to be a "notable" figure and then selected a notable person from the Renaissance to research and present. There were Kings and Queens, artists, scientists, explorers, politicians and revolutionaries. Highlights of the night were Leonardo da Vinci's portrait painting, the Tudor corner and re-enactments of Spanish imperialist preparations!

Thank you to the parents, staff and students who came along to view the displays. There was a great atmosphere in the hall. Special thanks to the AAA class, who did all the work.

For more information contact: Donna Jones

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 11	School Captains Investiture
Feb 12	Yr 11/12 Legal Studies excursion to Supreme Court
Feb 16	Yr 12 Local Community Day
Feb 20	Yr 11 Biology Excursion Cooby Dam
Feb 25	Shakespeare in the Park
Mar 2	Balkuin & Dherwain Afternoon Tea
Mar 3	P & C Meeting
Mar 9	Barang & Bonda Afternoon Tea
Mar 13	Modern History Day
Mar 19	Yr 8 Hep B & Gardasil & Yr 10 Bootrix needles
Mar 26	Toowoomba Show Holiday
Mar 30	New Zealand Volleyball Tour
Apr 7	P & C Meeting
Apr 9	Last Day of Term 1

QCS PREPARATION FOR YEAR 12 STUDENTS

Students who are OP eligible are expected to attend QCS preparation on Wednesday afternoons. NON-OP eligible students who are seeking a selection ranking must also attend. The selection ranking is another avenue for students who are non-OP eligible to enter TAFE and other tertiary institutions. If you require more information, please contact Ms Bidgood.

Preparation sessions will begin on Wednesday 18th February. For those students who are required to complete the QCS preparation but will be involved in a SAT, sport, childcare placements, etc - you must attend the alternative session on Thursday mornings at 8.00 in D3. All Year 12 students must return their permission forms by 11th February to Ms Barker in the box in the front office.

LITERACY - SPELLING FOCUS

Harristown State High School understands the importance of literacy as a skill for all students both at school and in life, in general. In an effort to assist students to develop their literacy skills, we have developed a whole school program which, in 2009, will focus on spelling and comprehension strategies - Top Level Structure.

Students in all year levels will have already received spelling lists for their subjects. All students will be required each week, for homework, to learn the spelling words from each of their subject areas. In Years 10, 11 and 12, students will be required to learn 5 words per subject area per week. In Years 8 and 9, students will be required to learn a minimum of 3 words per subject area per week. Teachers will be focussing on students' spelling skills throughout the year to support this new and important school program.

For more information contact: Ms Yvonne Bidgood

CONGRATULATIONS
DHERWAIN
SWIMMING CARNIVAL WINNERS
2009

More details in the next edition of Hawk Chat