



HAWK CHAT

HARRISTOWN STATE HIGH SCHOOL



Edition No. 10

08 May 2009

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families

This week the community of Toowoomba has been saddened by the death and serious injury of some of its young people through a road accident. Our hearts go out to all the families and school communities touched by this sad event. It has reminded me about how precious life is, particularly our young people. Although we do not know the circumstances that surrounded this tragic event, it does remind me of the importance of spending time with family, friends and being careful and vigilant when being on the road. It has indeed been a situation that makes one think about the important aspects of life.

I have conveyed our sympathy to the Downlands Community. Our thoughts are also with St Mary's College families.

Until next week,

Warm regards

Regan Neumann, Executive Principal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 11 - 13	Hospitality LIVET Course
May 12 - 14	Year 9 NAPLAN Testing
May 13	Ski Trip Parent Information Night
May 14	USQ Science & Engineering Challenge
May 18	Yr 8 & Yr 10 Subject Selection Evenings
May 25 - 29	Academy Testing Week
June 2	P & C Meeting
June 4	Yr 8 Gardasil & Chicken Pox Injections
June 8	Queens Birthday Holiday
June 9 - 19	Yr 10, 11 & 12 Exam Block
June 23 & 24	QCS Practice Test
June 23	Year 8 Athletics Day

QUOTE OF THE WEEK (contributed by Ms Jones)

"Carve every word before you let it fall".

O. W. Holmes

ACCELERATED ACADEMIES INTAKE 2009

In semester two, an exciting new venture will commence at Harristown High for capable and highly motivated Year 8 students. Any Year 8 student is invited to apply for a position in our Accelerated Academic Academy or our Accelerated Industrial Skills Academy.

Our aim is that Accelerated *Academic* students will complete the traditional 1 - 10 syllabus in each of the core areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and ICTs by the end of Year 9. In Year 10, these students will be expected to enrol in some Senior subjects which may then be completed by the end of Year 11. Students who have completed any Senior subjects by the end of Year 11 will then be expected to enrol in at least one first year university subject.

Our aim is that Accelerated *Industrial Skills* students will complete the traditional 1 - 10 syllabus in each of the core areas (as above) by the end of Year 10. In second semester Year 8 and through Year 9, these students will also undergo intensive basic skilling programs in engineering and construction skills. During Years 9 and 10, these students will be expected to achieve a Certificate 1 in their preferred engineering or construction strand. Through Years 10, 11 and 12, these students will be expected to complete Certificate 3 in their preferred strand through a school based apprenticeship. At the same time, these students will continue to study English, Mathematics and some other elective subjects at an appropriate level.

In order to facilitate student success in this venture, Harristown High is actively pursuing and securing university and industry partnerships to cater for the needs and aspirations of these students and to provide realistic pathways.

There will be information published shortly about information nights to be held during term two and about selection processes. Parents, if you believe that your son or daughter has the necessary abilities, drive and motivation to be selected for either academy, then please encourage them to collect an application form from Mr J Williams in D 24.

For more information contact: Jon Williams

P & C SHOP

Beanies and scarves are available to purchase in the school colours through the P & C Shop for the colder winter months.

\$2.95 Beanies (Royal Blue)
\$5.95 Scarves (Brown or Royal Blue)

SCHOOL COUNCIL

There are currently TWO vacant parent representative positions for the School Council.

The objective of the School Council is to improve learning outcomes by exercising specified functions for guiding the broad strategic direction of the school. The successful nominees will be required to attend four meetings (one per term) during the school year. These positions are for a two year term.

Parents are asked to nominate to become a parent representative by completing a nomination form and a Schedule 1 form (pertaining to indictable offences) which can be obtained from the P & C Shop. To arrange to have the forms mailed out to you please call the shop on 46368714.

Nominations close 12 June 2009 at 4.00 pm

NAPLAN - National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy

All students in Year 9 will sit the NAPLAN tests on Tuesday, 12th, Wednesday, 13th and Thursday, 14th May. Included with Hawk Chat this week is a copy of the NAPLAN Information brochure for all parents with students in Year 9.

There are five tests for Year 9 students:

- Language Conventions
- Writing
- Reading
- Numeracy (calculator)
- Numeracy (non-calculator)

Year 9 English and Mathematics teachers have been preparing students for the tests by teaching techniques to assist them with the tests and through the provision of practice tests in class.

Year 8 Information Evening

Monday, 18th May
5.00pm
Harristown SHS
Auditorium

The Information Evening will provide parents/guardians and students with information regarding the selection of subjects for Semester 2 this year and Year 9 next year.

Parents/guardians and students interested in finding out about the **Accelerated Academies** are invited to attend an information session starting at 5.00pm.

Year 10 Information Evening

Monday, 18th May
6.00pm
Harristown SHS
Auditorium

The Information Evening will provide parents/guardians and students with information regarding the selection of subjects for Semester 6, that is semester 2 this year.

Parents/guardians and students interested in finding out about the **School Based Traineeships/ Apprenticeships** are invited to attend an information session starting at 6.00pm or after the main presentation at 7.00pm.