



### NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Year 11 student Rachael Schneider recently spent four days at the National Leadership Camp 09 in Sydney.

Addressing the school assembly, Rachael spoke of the lifechanging experiences she had at the camp. Pushed outside her comfort zone and forced to face a number of her fears was ultimately a rewarding experience.

Rachael encouraged other students to apply – the reward being the opportunity to discover the strength of your values, vision, passion, resilience and service to others.

### DEBATING 2009

A total of seven teams entered the QDU competition, with all teams having wins across the four preliminary rounds. Two Year 9 and one Year 12 team went through to the finals series. Our Year 12 team now heads to the Grand Final where they will go up against St Ursula's arguing the affirmative of 'That we should introduce hate crime legislation to combat racism.'

Congratulations to all teams on a great year and a special thanks to all the teacher coaches and parent supporters.

### PARENTS IN SCHOOLS

Parents were part of the school landscape at our second "Parents in Schools" week. The program allowed parents to spend the morning at school attending several classes. Parents were escorted about the school by the year 8 ambassadors.



### CHAMPION VOLLEYBALL SCHOOL

The Harristown volleyball community is excited to have regained the titles of Champion Honours and Aggregate Champion school at the recent Senior Schools Cup held in Toowoomba. This competition, one of the largest school sporting events in Queensland, saw 170 teams from all over Queensland contest two age groups in several divisions. Harristown's best results in the honours divisions were a fourth in the open boys, a bronze in the senior boys and a silver in the senior girls. The senior girls division 2 team also claimed a bronze medal.

The results were a great reward for the efforts of those involved with the school's volleyball program including coordinator Terry Moore and volleyball captains Leisa Windley and Daniel Jones who both assist in after school training.

Preparations are already underway for the junior competition to be held in Brisbane in mid-October.



# HARRISTOWN STATE HIGH

## Hawk Talk

IN THIS ISSUE: Olympiad helps transition to high school | Harristown rocks on | Eisteddfod success | Sam crowned World Champ | National Leadership Conference | Debating 2009 | Parents in school | Champion Volleyball School

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Celebrating our achievements is a regular occurrence at Harristown High. Many of our high-performing students and staff achieve personal bests that often mean great results in local and state competitions. We love to share just some of these achievements and activities with you, our local community, through this newsletter.

It is really important for us to acknowledge the work that happens every day at Harristown. Experiments, role-plays, problem-solving activities, personal challenges, ICT activities, performances, experiments and research work are just a snapshot of what I see as I visit classrooms, look at student work and talk with students and staff.

I am amazed at the rich and diverse learning experiences our students enjoy each day. Local primary school parents and students were able to recently experience some of these activities through our Parents in Schools morning and our Year 6 Olympiad.

On Tuesday 18 August, you can see some of the learning experiences that students enjoy as a part of their study program at our annual Open Afternoon. There will be presentations, demonstrations, performances and lots of student work to view. Please come and join us during the afternoon. Details below.

I hope to see you here.

**Regan Neumann**  
Executive Principal

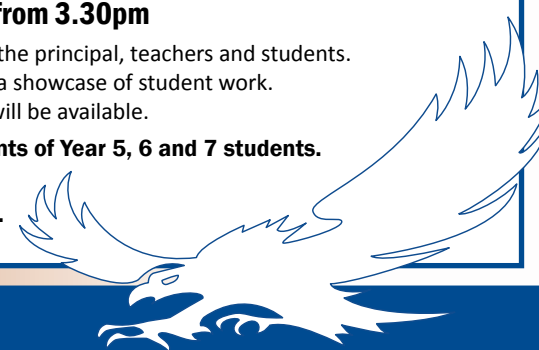
### HARRISTOWN HIGH OPEN AFTERNOON

**Tuesday 18 August from 3.30pm**

Please join us and meet the principal, teachers and students. Tour the school and see a showcase of student work. Enrolment information will be available.

**Presentations for parents of Year 5, 6 and 7 students.**

**For more information please call 4636 8700.**



341-367 South St, Toowoomba, Q.4350  
Ph: (07) 4636 8700 Fax: (07) 4636 8777  
hshshawkstalk@eq.edu.au

## August, 2009



Principal Regan Neumann with the winning year 6 Olympiad team from Glenvale State School

## OLYMPIAD HELPS TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

Our very first year 6 Olympiad matched primary students against each other in a range of competitions. Group problem-solving in Science/Maths, English/Drama, Visual Arts and ICT were tackled by each team, with the overall winner being Glenvale number 1 team.

The Olympiad is the brainchild of the Middle School Transition Committee who are investigating ways to provide a smoother movement from primary to secondary school.

## HARRISTOWN ROCKS ON!

Congratulations to the Rock Eisteddfod team who took their production, Venetian Vendetta, to the stage last month for the 2009 Brisbane Grand Final. The team put together an amazing show and Venetian Vendetta was hailed a resounding success, taking out third place and a host of awards.

The team received Awards of Achievement for concept, choreography, set design and function, costuming character, visual enhancement, soundtrack and performance skill. We also received the overall Awards of Excellence for stage use and lighting. Four of our teachers were presented with a plaque recognising ten years of involvement with the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge.

Many thanks must go to our many supporters and helpers who helped make this year's production such a success.

## EISTEDDFOD SUCCESS

Once again, Harristown ensembles have delivered impressive performances at this year's Toowoomba Eisteddfod. The Stage Band and the Symphonic Wind Ensemble both won their sections – which is the seventh year



consecutive year for the Stage Band and the fourth for the Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

While not receiving a place, the Concert Band and the Big Band both played extremely well and received favourable comments from the judges. The school was awarded the Darling Downs Instrumental Music Committee trophy for the highest aggregate result.

Congratulations to all Instrumental music students and staff on their outstanding performances.

### Helping support Harristown High School Families



**First Home Buyers - Refinancing  
Debt Consolidation - Investment Loans  
Business Loans**

**Call 1300 308 105**

**[www.toowoombahomeloans.com.au](http://www.toowoombahomeloans.com.au)**



## SAM CROWNED WORLD CHAMP

Every now and then in life we come across someone who is a true inspiration. Harristown Senior student Sam Carter is definitely one of those people.

Sam has just been crowned World Champion in the 100m at the recent World Junior Athletics Championships for Athletes with a Disability in Switzerland. He also won silver in both the 200m and 400m and a team gold in the 4x100m relay.

This type of success is not accidental, but is the result of many years of dedication and very hard work. For the past eight years, Sam has maintained a gruelling schedule – training two hours each day, six days a week. He also has the support of Vision Health and Fitness in Toowoomba, who give him three free sessions a week with a personal trainer in the gym for one hour each session.

Sam's next competitive goals are qualifying for the World Championship Games in Auckland in 2011 and the Paralympics in London in 2012.



He has just obtained a scholarship with the Qld Academy of Sport and is aiming to study Law at USQ next year. He truly is an amazing young man and we wish him all the best as he strives to meet his future goals.

The maturity, dedication and focus required to achieve such success, for a young man of just 18 years is an inspiration to us all.

## HAWK BITS

- EXCELLENCE IN ART – Two Year 12 visual art students, Ella Breydon and Victoria Doolin, have had their work entered in the Creative Generation Excellence in Visual Art and Design Awards. The students' work is being exhibited at the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery from 7 August to 6 September and will have the chance to be selected as part of the touring exhibition which will travel around Queensland galleries during 2010. Good luck to these two talented students.
- HOCKEY – The Hawks Open Girls Hockey team have reached the state finals of the National Australia Bank hockey competition. The girls managed a 3 -2 win over St Ursulas in extra time. The team now head to Brisbane to compete against other regional winners.
- STUDENT COUNCIL INITIATIVE – Watch for the Harristown State High float in this year's Carnival of Flowers parade
- RUGBY LEAGUE – The year 8 and 9 boys Rugby League teams have qualified for the finals of the Michael Hancock Shield with a 70 -10 win over St Mary's CBC. The boys will travel to Brisbane to compete against the best Brisbane schools later this month.
- STOP PRESS – FOOTBALL – The Harristown State High Junior Girls team has won the state final of the Bill Turner Cup and will now go on to represent Queensland at the National finals in September.