14 August 2014

College Principal’s Message

This week has seen a ground breaking event for Stretton and a first for any Queensland High School with our live-stream TedX event at the UQ Pharmacy Theatre on Monday night. Everyone in the audience felt extremely proud of what great state schools can achieve when we collaborate and communicate with each other.

Students in our High Achievers’ Program, with the creative direction of their student mentors and inspirational teachers, expounded their learnings to the world via a live stream international talk. And what an exciting event it was! The partnerships which fostered this event included University of Queensland, Queensland Academies and Mighty Minds! And it was definitely a case of mighty minds in action!

Learning outside your comfort zone…
Transcending boundaries…..
Leading edge thinking…..
Questioning, challenging – provoking new frontiers of learning…..

This is what this TedX presentation encompasses and brings to life in a vibrant, dynamic forum. Students have been given the opportunity to spark off each other and gain inspiration from a thought provoking free flow of creativity.

One of my favourite quotes notes advice given to a young native American at the time of his initiation:

“As you go your way in life, you will see a great chasm. JUMP….It’s not as wide as you think.”

The world our students are moving into is dynamic, exciting and full of opportunity. It requires independent minds adaptable to collaboration in a global environment; minds that ask the right questions and know the skills which need to be brought to forge solutions of weight and longevity.

Students need to be able to pursue their individual interests and strengths in a collaborative setting premised on influence rather than direction. The TedX exercise shows us clearly that schools need to be able to network together with other organizations in an adaptive mode in our connected world.

If the goal is autonomous learning for our students, this must be reflected in their educational experience. Autonomy is the platform for lasting teamwork and capacity building. Our students thrive on good teaching and learning – and this requires a continuum of intimacy and engagement, and an open environment which encourages the sharing of ideas and knowledge, across people, time and location.

Education has, for centuries, provided time for people to ponder big questions: issues that have occupied minds for generations and thoughts of what a future could look like. This TedX event has been a wonderful opportunity to breathe oxygen into minds which are hungry for this new knowledge.

John Steinbeck once said:

“Our species is the only creative species, and it has only the individual mind and spirit of man…..and I believe this: that the free exploring mind of the individual human is the most valuable thing in the world.”

Congratulations to our students, coaches and teachers involved in this groundbreaking event, who have nurtured this creative spirit of enquiry. May this TedX event inspire you to jump across more learning chasms in the future!

Until next time,

Jan Maresca
Executive Principal

Associate Principal News

TEDxStrettonStateCollege

“I took a last look at my team mates and pushed open the lecture theatre doors. The crowd hushed. The introductions were done and I stepped into the light to deliver my message to the world.”

This was the experience of our Year 6 students, Sristi, Anna and Robert, who participated in the TEDxStrettonStateCollege strand of the Karawatha Cluster High Achievers’ program. These students along with Year 6 students from six other schools, presented their talks on Monday night. Our thanks to
Sasha McDonald, Craig Hynes, Luke Fleming and other staff for their leadership of the TEDxStrettonStateCollege program. It was a great experience for these students to be involved in a Queensland schools’ first.

This event was live streamed and is still available at the link below if you would like to see their presentations.

https://new.livestream.com/accounts/4931571/events/3252460

It will also soon be a permanent part of the TED.com network through the TEDxStrettonStateCollege website, where the presentations will remain available to a worldwide audience.

**IPad winners**

Keen readers of the newsletter would have seen that one of our advertisers, Sreeta Pabari from McGrath Real Estate, was offering an IPad to a newsletter subscriber. The winners of the IPad are the Crowd family. This family have subscribed to our newsletter even though their students are not yet old enough to join our College. We look forward to welcoming them in the future and thank Sreeta for her support of our College.

**The Urban Upbeat Festival**

The Urban Upbeat Festival held at the Ekka was a chance for four of our bands to build the reputation of our great College and demonstrate the strength of our instrumental music program.

It was wonderful the see the sea of beautifully presented students in their band uniform moving through the Ekka crowd. All four bands performed well. Most importantly their support of the other schools’ bands as they played was a demonstration of their Stretton Spirit. The 126 students, 9 staff and 2 brave parents enjoyed time exploring the Ekka once their performances were complete.

The Great South East film crew were filming while we performed. So you may see some of our students featuring on the show this week.

**Geoff Latta**

**Associate Principal**

**Illaweeana Principal News**

**NIGHT OF STARS – AWARDS NIGHT**

The Stretton State College Awards Night is to be held in Term 4 on Wednesday 29 October, returning to Hillsong Church at Mt Gravatt. Numerous Academic, Cultural and Spirit awards are available to students who meet the benchmarks and criteria. The numbers of students receiving these Awards is limited only by the number of students who reach the benchmarks set. Now is a great time to discuss student performance so far this year by comparing Term 1 and Semester 1 reports. This is a great starting point for setting goals/targets for the rest of the year and for putting in place plans to achieve those goals.

**STRETTON VALUES FRAMEWORK**

The Stretton Spirit Values is the language we use with students on assemblies, in classes and when supporting them to meet expectations and achieve their potential. I encourage you to consider how you can support your child to demonstrate a safe and responsible attitude, both inside and outside of school, and also to assist them in having a positive, well-balanced life.

Please click on the link below to see a full description of the Stretton Spirit Values Framework, this can also be found in your son/daughters student planner.

**POLICE ENFORCEMENT AROUND STRETTON STATE COLLEGE**

The police have informed the College that they will be patrolling both campuses in the next few weeks to monitor speeding through the 40km/h speed zones and the illegal parking on the nature strips and drop offs/pickups, and especially along Gowan Road where the yellow solid lines are painted.

**2014 EARLY SCHOOL LEAVERS SURVEY**

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual state-wide survey of students who left school in Years 10, 11 and prior to completing Year 12 in 2013. The Early School Leavers survey is a brief, confidential survey that provides a picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school leavers in the year after they left school to
understand why young people leave school early and to help early school leavers make positive career choices.

Between July and August, our students who left school in Years 10, 11 and prior to completing Year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate. Thank you for your support of the Early School Leavers survey in 2014.

For more information visit www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/ or telephone toll free on 1800 068 587.

EMAIL ADDRESSES AND MOBILE PHONE NUMBERS

Email and text messaging are now the primary forms of communication with parents at our College. We still have a few parents who do not have accurate email addresses and whose mobile phone numbers are not current. Please ensure that all details are up to date. This allows you to be better informed about your child and the activities at the College.

Don’t forget to like us on Facebook for the latest information about the College.

G20 PUBLIC HOLIDAY FOR BRISBANE SCHOOLS

With the G20 Leaders’ Summit being held in Brisbane in November, our school is taking this opportunity to help our students further explore the world they live in and Australia’s place in the world through this important global event.

Parents and families are reminded that Friday 14 November has been declared a public holiday to ease the impact on the city and help minimise any potential disruptions, and our school will be closed on this day.

http://education.qld.gov.au/community/events/g20/index.html

2015 Lighthouse Applications

Applications have now been extended for our Lighthouse Academic Excellence Class for 2015. Lighthouse classes are offered in each Year level from Year 5 to Year 9. An explanation of the Lighthouse program can be found at:

https://strettonsc.eq.edu.au/Curriculum/Excellenceprograms/Pages/Lighthouse-Academic-Excellence-Program.aspx

Michael West
Principal – Illaweena Campus

Gowan Principal News

“It takes a whole village to raise a child”
African Proverb popularised by author Jane Cowen-Fletcher 1994

In last week’s newsletter I highlighted some of the wonderful aspects of being a part of our big happy Stretton College Community.

At Stretton we pride ourselves on developing strong relationships with our families that foster a sense of community and ensure that we collectively raise happy, well-adjusted young people who are ready to ‘take on the world’.

While our world is becoming increasingly busy and we are often distanced from our close family, the task of guiding our children to become happy and well-educated adults is more than a little daunting when we attempt to do so by ourselves.

In recognition of this, I invite families to contribute to our Stretton College ‘village’ by engaging with each other over an informal ‘cuppa’ before school assemblies on Monday (from around 1:30 each week). This is an ideal opportunity for you to meet other like-minded parents and catch up with others that you may not have seen since a birthday party when your children were in Prep together. Please also watch out for invitations from your child’s teacher about opportunities for you to visit their classrooms and see the amazing work they are doing.

Parents share a cuppa and a giggle at some of the most amazing ‘Sizzling Starters’ written by our students.

At Stretton we continue to ensure that student wellbeing is central to having happy children who can focus on learning goals, and are currently working with consultants from the Kids Matter team to identify a range of programs that promote the building of positive relationships between students and their world. As an example, later this month we will be running a one-day workshop called “MPower Girls” specifically designed to promote and improve positive relationships for Year 6 girls. Teachers from across both College campuses will be involved in this to ensure that friendship groups moving into Year 7 next year are strong and positive. In the playground, our Games Rangers program also supports students to develop their social skills including ‘resilience’, as you will see in Ms Tonsheck’s article this week. If you would like more information on this initiative – please visit the Kids Matter website for Australian Primary Schools Mental Health ( www.kidsmatter.edu.au ).

It was wonderful to see so many parents in attendance at our Prep to Year 3 Sports Fun Day today. Again, another lovely opportunity for families to get together while they encourage their little people to have-a-go.

Kind Regards,

Maryanne Gosling
Principal – Gowan Campus
Senior Secondary Deputy Principal News

SUBJECT SELECTION 2015

We have now formally entered the time for students in year 8 through to 10 to electronically select their elective subjects for 2015. This is done by students and families using the Oneschool application (See attached instructions). Subject selections opened on the 11th of August and students have until the 29th of August to log on to the website and make their selections. All students will have received subject talks and selection booklets to guide their choices. Selections are not based on a ‘first in best dressed’ approach so don’t panic if you have not got to this yet. Our Year Coordinators are also active in assisting with any queries about the process.

YEAR 11 LEADERSHIP CAMP

I would personally like to commend all of our soon-to-be seniors on the excellent way in which they conducted themselves on our leadership camp this year. All reports were simply as good as we could wish, and I’m excited about the depth of talent we have to choose from in our leadership pool for 2015. My thanks also go to the tireless staff that accompanied the students.

SET PLAN INTERVIEWS: YEAR 10 STUDENTS

Our Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan interviews are taking place on the 2nd and 3rd of September for our Year 10 families to ‘sign-off’ on courses of study in Year 11. To ensure that we all get this vital senior phase of learning right, school leaders will be meeting with you and your child to discuss subject selections and future pathways over a half hour meeting at the College. Subject selections should be submitted online prior to this meeting.

SET Planning interviews can be made through our online booking system using the following website: http://sobs.com.au/pt/parent.php

Drew Jell
Deputy Principal – Senior Secondary

Junior Secondary Deputy Principal News

HIGH ACHIEVERS’ PROGRAM

Last week saw our High Achievers’ Program (featuring TEDx – see below) draw to a close. The Program has provided extension and enrichment workshops in Maths, Humanities, Science, Instrumental Music and cross disciplinary studies (TEDx) for almost 100 of the Karawatha Clusters’ “Best and Brightest” Year 6 students at Stretton State College for the past 9 weeks. A celebration evening for the participants and parents will be hosted on Monday 18 August to showcase outcomes from the program.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the participating schools who have supported this initiative on behalf of their students in this inaugural year, School Coordinators, our Staff Facilitators - Ms Boreland, Ms Willis, Ms Mahler, Ms Blackman, Mr Stewart and Ms Mc Donald as well as our partners; Mighty Minds, The University of Queensland and Queensland Academies.

Initial feedback has been extremely positive from the students and we look to grow the program as a cluster in 2015.

TEDx

The 2014 Karawatha Cluster High Achievers’ Program featured a Queensland Schools’ first TEDx event. At 6:00pm Monday 11 August, the TEDxStrettonStateCollege event was streamed live from The University of Queensland’s Pharmacy Australia Centre of Excellence in Woolloongabba. This event featured our Year 6 students from across schools in the cluster who have worked alongside the best and brightest Stretton State College Year 11 students and University of Queensland PHD students to create their TEDx presentations. The TEDx website houses “ideas that matter” from the worlds’ leading thinkers and achievers. Student presentations covered areas as varied as: pollution, maths in art, leadership, environmentally sustainable housing, stop motion animation and other topics. A big congratulations go to these students who have pulled together a “micro-thesis” in around 8 working hours of contact time and a big congratulations to Ms McDonald for initiating and managing the event with Mr Latta.

ICAS TESTS

Congratulations to our extension students for their participation in the ICAS test for Science, Maths and English. We have had record numbers participating in these tests this year from Years 2-12. Stay posted for results.

ASTRONOMY NIGHT

Wednesday the 6th of August saw our Gowan Oval filled with avid stargazers for the first ever Cluster Astronomy night. Thank you to all the parents and students who attended and congratulations to Ms Anne McIrvine Mc for launching this initiative.

MATHS TEAMS CHALLENGE

Three hundred and fifty students, in sixty-eight teams from eighteen schools recently competed in the second annual Stretton Maths Teams Challenge. The event was again a huge success thanks to Ms Mary-Anne Rolls and her maths teaching team (filling the Gowan Hall to capacity).

Results were as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Runner Up</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior</td>
<td>Stretton State College</td>
<td>Mt Gravatt State High School</td>
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<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>St Patricks College</td>
<td>Cavendish Road State High School</td>
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<td>Junior</td>
<td>Cavendish Road State High School</td>
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<td>Upper Primary</td>
<td>MacGregor State School</td>
<td>Runcom State School</td>
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AUSTRALIAN MATHS COMPETITION

Congratulations to the ninety-seven students who recently competed in the Australian Maths Competition. We look forward to publishing results from this competition also in the near future.

STEM AMBASSADORS

Expressions of Interest are currently being called for two STEM Ambassadors per year level from Years 9, 10 and 11 to promote science in their school. This initiative is run in partnership with Griffith University.

Interested students should see Ms Rummins or Ms Boreland by the 22nd of August (which incidentally is during an action packed Science Week at Stretton State College).

HERON ISLAND CAMP

An opportunity exists for seven high achieving Year 10-12 students to attend the Heron Island Camp (with UQ Marine Biologists). The Camp takes place in the first week of December and interested students need to express interest to Ms Boreland and pay a $300 deposit by Friday August 15th to secure a place. Total cost for the camp is $1250 payable by November 15.

NAPLAN PRACTICE TESTS

NAPLAN practice tests will occur for Year 8 in week 6 this term. Apart from familiarising students with test environments and materials, the practice tests give us valuable information on students’ literacy, numeracy and problem solving abilities so that we can continue to work with them to improve their academic performance.

QUICKSMART

The QuickSmart Literacy & Numeracy Program is an educational intervention designed to support literacy and numeracy skills development. A research team at the University of New England through the National Centre of Science, Information and Communication Technology and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia developed QuickSmart.

The program is called QuickSmart to encourage students to become “Quick” in their response speed and “Smart” in their strategy use when learning the basic skills required in literacy and numeracy. It focuses on the role of automaticity in developing students’ understanding and quick recall of basic academic facts. Instruction and assessment form a continuous learning and teaching cycle in the QuickSmart program.

There are currently 106 students from Years 5-9 involved in the instructional phase of the program and they attend 3 x 30 minute lessons each week with the same instructor.

We are only four weeks into the program, but already the results being achieved by many of our students are far-exceeding our expectations. We have some students who are doubling the amount of flash cards they get in 1 minute with 100% accuracy. These results can only get better as each student’s confidence and self-esteem grows with their own achievements. We are already hearing from our students involved in the program that they are finding their classwork just a “little” bit easier since QuickSmart started.

Craig Hynes
Deputy Principal – Junior Secondary

Junior Primary Deputy Principal News

P-3 FUN DAY NEWS

Today, August 14th, we had our annual P-3 Fun Day. It was wonderful watching the students displaying the key Stretton State College values of Participation, Resilience and Engagement whilst they were having a fun day with their friends, families and teachers.

We would like to thank Mrs. Jeffrey and all of the wonderful Prep-3 Teachers and Teacher Aides for all of their hard work and dedication in making the day such a resounding success.

Make sure that you look at the Stretton Facebook page for the great photos displaying the excellent sportsmanship that was shown as the students participated in their six rotational activities. Keep a look out for the next fortnightly newsletter that will display even more fantastic photos from the Fun Day events, including javelin, shot put, long jump, high jump, running and everyone’s favourite, Tug Of War.

Students displayed their understanding of our values as they shared, supported, encouraged and cooperated in pairs and groups to help each other enjoy the activities. Teachers and Parents were impressed as students demonstrated their commitment and resilience on the day; they just kept trying, showing true Stretton Spirit! Well done everyone!

SISSLING STARTS

There are some wonderful writers at Stretton, as demonstrated by our sizzling starts. The students participate in the weekly writing challenge that has been organised by Miss. Evans. Pop in to the junior undercover area displays some of the great works are students are developing. Read the exciting writing examples the students are producing, you will be ‘hooked’ and want to keep reading more…….

Mrs Cathy Fletcher
Acting Deputy Principal – Junior Primary
Game Rangers Program

The oval – at lunchtimes – is the busiest place in the school grounds. Students are running to and fro after the ball, scrambling between groups and trees. Sometimes students lose focus on the fun aspect – in the heat of the game! The Games Rangers program is working on mentoring skills and building resilience with all students.

Resilience means knowing how to stop myself from getting extremely angry, down or worried when something ‘bad’ happens. It means being able to calm down and feel better when I get very upset. It also means being able to control my behaviour when I am very upset.

Examples of Resilience:

• When someone treats me unfairly, inconsiderately or disrespectfully - I can stop myself from getting too angry and lashing out
• When I make mistakes, do not understand something, get a bad report card or am teased and ignored - I can stop myself from getting very down
• When I have an important test or activity to perform - I can stop myself from getting extremely worried!
• I can stop myself from getting extremely worried!
• I can stop myself from getting extremely worried!
• I can stop myself from getting extremely worried about what they will think of me if I stand up and say ‘no’
• When I want to meet someone new -
• When someone is putting pressure on me to do the wrong thing -

Learning Resilience is a lifelong important lesson – not just one for the sports field, but for every aspect of life.

Good sports have got resilience nailed – they trust their judgement, have confidence in themselves and their actions and know that by being a good role model, others will follow.

Good sports also:

• Play fair
• Follow the rules of the game
• Respect the judgement of referees and officials
• Treat opponents with respect

Some people define good sportsmanship as the golden rule – treat the people you play with and against as you’d like to be treated yourself. You demonstrate good sportsmanship when you show respect for yourself, your teammates, your opponents, coaches and for the referees, judges and other officials.

If you are into sports – you have probably seen it happen! Maybe you have even experienced it – we learn to handle victory and defeat with grace, style and dignity.

Many thanks go to the staff on Gowan campus who have helped with the Games Rangers program.

Canberra Camp

There is a Canberra Camp Expression of Interest going out to all Year 5 students, parents and carers. This is a camping opportunity which may be introduced to Stretton State College next year, for the Year 6 cohort. Next year, Stretton State College plans to take the Year 6 classes to Canberra for school camp. This camp will be for Year 6 students only, and will be from 17-21 August. To help us make plans, bookings and costings, we need to have numbers of students wishing to attend that camp.

We will require a $400 non-refundable deposit (which can be paid in instalments) before the end of the school year. This will cover the cost of flights which we will need to book and pay for at the start of the year. The cost of the flights will range from $350 - $400, only to be confirmed 6 months before departure. The approximate cost of the camp will be $1000.

To be eligible to participate in this activity, the Resource Scheme Fee for your student must be paid (this includes full payment, significant deposit or payment arrangements as negotiated with the Business Services Manager) with or prior to the submission of the permission form and Camp payments.

I have included part of the itinerary for your information:

Our Trip includes:

• Return flights from Brisbane to Canberra
• Coach trips around Canberra and to the Snow fields (5 days)
• 4 nights accommodation in Canberra at Capital Country Holiday Village
• All main meals – breakfast, lunch, dinner
• Attractions we are visiting:

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<td>AIS</td>
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<td>High Court of Australia</td>
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<td>Old Parliament House</td>
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<td>CSIRO Discovery</td>
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<td>Parliament House</td>
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<td>Electoral Education Centre</td>
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<td>Australian War Memorial</td>
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<td>National Zoo and Aquarium</td>
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<td>National Gallery of Australia</td>
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<td>National Museum of Australia</td>
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<td>Full Snow Day –Perisher - including clothing, toboggan hire</td>
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Lisa Tonscheck
Deputy Principal – Secondary Primary

Dean of Students News

As we look back on the first four weeks of term 3 the list keeps growing with the amazing opportunities that our senior students have been offered.

Our Year 10 students have had their subject talks on parade and then our annual Subject Expo. The large majority of Year 10
students attended the Subject Expo with their parents to peruse the long list of subjects that we have available in 2015. It was an excellent night with lots of questions and hopefully lots of answers to assist students in starting their subject selections which open this week.

Students not only will select their subjects but also log onto SOBS and select their SET P interviewer for the 2nd and 3rd of September. All students are expected to attend a SET P interview in order to lock in their 2015 subject selections.

Our Year 11 students attended their leadership camp and received rousing reviews from the staff members at Maroon Dam for their excellent behaviour. The week was filled with leadership and team building activities to prepare students for the next phase of senior schooling.

With this in mind, over the next two weeks we will begin the 2015 leadership selection process. Students will collect the forms from my office in senior schooling (next to the library) when they are ready. Students will be advised on their year level parade when this will be.

The jersey for the 2015 graduates has been decided on and shortly a letter will be sent home so that we can begin the process of finalising the order. Students will be given a checklist that needs to be completed along with payment of their school and subject fees before a deposit can be paid and a jersey ordered. Once I have sent the letter home if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Year 12 students are counting down the days until the QCS test. It is just around the corner and with a final QCS Masterclass session at 3pm-5pm on the 21st August 2014, we know all students will be prepared for the two big days on the 2nd and 3rd of September.

A Formal committee meeting has been held to organise the big night selecting the colours and students approving the menu for the evening. Students will be putting together the song list and finalising centre piece selections over the next few weeks.

Work experience is being completed throughout the College with Year 12 students assisting in classrooms on Gowan Campus, sports classes on Illaweena Campus and even a few up in the office with the Campus Principal, Mr West. All of these students have received positive feedback on their work ethic and enthusiasm.

Keep up the excellent work senior students!

Belinda Johnson
Dean of Students (Senior School)

What’s happening in Senior Schooling?

Whew sooooo much is happening in Senior Schooling right now!!!

- Our Year 12 OP students are completing their final preparations for their QCS exam held on Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd September
- Our Year 11 OP students are commencing their OP range interviews
- Our Year 11 Business Training Centre students have been invited to be delegates at the Sustainable Business Conference at USQ Wednesday 20th August
- Our Year 11 and 12 tertiary rank students are reflecting upon and in some instances working towards the completion of their certificate courses
- Our Year 10 students are busily selecting their subjects and pathways for 2015
- As part of a cluster initiative, Stretton State College is hosting a Hospitality Work Readiness Program. Paula Kooyman, our Pathways Officer - Southside for the Metropolitan Region, has worked with the College to deliver an introductory program into the hospitality industry. There are sixteen students participating in the program from schools within our cluster (Calamvale, Runcorn, Mt Gravatt, and Holland Park). Students have participated in team building and workplace health and safety activities along with three hour blocks of practical cookery. During the course students will complete work experience with a view to securing part time work and/or a traineeship in Hospitality.

- The photo below show our continued support of the Napoleon Perdis make up course run by one of our past students Lauren Deluca at the Terry White Chemist Calamvale Central. The program runs Wednesday afternoons.

Liz van Genderen
Head of Department Senior Schooling
Lvang14@eq.edu.au

From the English Department

Term three is set to be very busy for students studying English at Stretton State College. There is an air of academic rigour as our senior students prepare for the home stretch and our junior students dive headlong in to some serious novel and play studies – both of which are at the heart of the subject English.

On Tuesday 29th July, more than eighty students on the Illaweena Campus sat this year’s ICAS English exam, whilst their Gowan Campus peers also participated in their ICAS English exam. The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) English assesses reading and language skills in a range of contexts. The following aspects of texts are assessed and reported: reading for meaning in literary texts, reading for meaning in factual texts, textual devices, syntax and vocabulary. The questions require students to locate, identify, interpret, infer and synthesise information in and about texts. It was incredible to see that well over two hundred students across both campuses were all engaged in rigorous academic learning and assessment.
With the ICAS English exam behind us, we have a live theatre performance and the Brisbane Writer’s Festival on the horizon. All year 10 English students have been invited to attend a live performance of *Romeo and Juliet* at school on Friday 15th August by the acclaimed theatre company *Shake and Stir*. This performance will enhance students’ understanding of the Shakespearean play they are currently studying in class as well as providing an interactive learning experience. This is an opportunity not to be missed.

Additionally, all year 7 & 8 Lighthouse students have been offered the opportunity to attend the Brisbane Writer’s Festival (BWF) on Wednesday 3rd September, with limited places available. The BWF is an incredible festival featuring some of Australia’s most talented and well-known authors who share their stories and their craft with school students from across Queensland. This is an interactive event allowing students the opportunity to work closely with published authors and their peers. Payments for this excursion are due Wednesday 27th August.

Lastly, if you missed the presentation at the year 10 subject information night on the senior subject *English for ESL Learners*, please do not hesitate to contact the English Head of Department for more information. This subject is tailored for students from non-English speaking backgrounds who would seek university and tertiary study as a pathway when they finish high school. There is criteria to meet in order to be accepted into the course and I would encourage any student or parent who believes that they may be eligible for this subject to contact me at their earliest convenience.

**Monique Trim**  
**English Head of Department – Illaweena Campus**

**Student Council News**

Nelson Mandela once said, “*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*” Unlike those in Australia, Papua New Guinea’s children face numerous problems with access to quality education.

*Project 24*, Barrick and Stretton State College are partnering to deliver much needed textbooks, reading books and teaching resources to three primary school in the Waterais, Unantu and Milimoia regions of PNG. All three primary schools have strong community support, student attendance and dedicated teachers. All that stands in the way of greater education outcomes is access to learning resources.

We’re asking our Stretton community to band together and support those less fortunate than us by donating school supplies such as:

- Textbooks and reading books for years 1-8
- Reading books and picture books for preschool aged children
- Teaching resources including posters, flash cards, crafts etc.
- Stationary supplies including pens and pencils, writing paper, exercise books etc.
- School and library bags

Donations will be accepted on both campus offices, until Friday the 29th of August. For more information, visit [www.project24.com.au](http://www.project24.com.au)  
Thank you for your support.

**Student Council**

**Books for Babies**

Welcome to baby Arav, little brother to Rhea in Prep E.

If you have had a baby recently please see the lovely ladies in the Gowan office and we will organise a Monday parade to give you your book pack.

**Stretton College Library News**

August is a very exciting month in the Library as it celebrates Australian Children’s Book authors. At Stretton the Gowan Campus we will celebrate with a character dress up parade for Prep to Year 3 students on Friday August 29 from 9am. Letters and invitations should have already been received.

The students on Illaweena Campus are invited to write an eBook using Storybird. For any further information please contact the classroom teacher or the Library direct library@strettonsc.eq.edu.au

Students on the Gowan campus are required to use their waterproof Library bag in order to borrow. This protects their loans from any damage especially from drink bottles and lunches. Many students are missing out on the wonder of books and reading by not having their bag on Library days.

Finally, we are pleased to announce our Library page on the College website. Please have a look to see what’s happening in the Libraries and useful information on accessing information out of school hours for example *World Book Online*.

[https://strettonsc.eq.edu.au/Facilities/Library/Pages/Library.aspx](https://strettonsc.eq.edu.au/Facilities/Library/Pages/Library.aspx)
Canteen News

Last week we celebrated Canteen Week. The canteen staff were overwhelmed with the students acknowledging the hard work that they do every day.

To celebrate, the students participated in a colouring-in competition, with the winning entry submitted by Meiting Yu from 4F. Meiting’s entry has been submitted into the state competition going into the draw to win some goodies for the College.

Congratulations to all students who participated.

Sharyn O’Brien
Business Service Manager

Uniform Shop News

Stretton State College Year 6 2014 polo shirts with your child’s name and class and your Teacher’s name are available for purchase at $35.00. For collection at the Uniform Shop please bring your receipt from the office, we have all sizes available 8 to 18.

Uniform Shop Opening Times:

- Monday: 8.00 am – 10.00 am,
- Tuesday: 7.30 am – 9.30 am,
- Wednesday: 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm,
- Thursday: 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm.

Janet O'Neill
Uniform Shop Co-Ordinator

Starry Nights 2014

Last Wednesday over three hundred Parents, Students and Staff came along to our Starry Nights 2014 event. With the amazing turn up, the night did not finish until 9:30pm. The members of Brisbane Astronomical Society complemented our Stetton community on its enthusiasm, patience and politeness. So, a big thank you for your overwhelming support for this event and we look forward to seeing you at an improved Starry Nights 2015.

Anne McInerney
Maths and Chemistry Teacher

Football Academy

2015 TRIALS

The Stretton State College Football Academy welcomes boys and girls from Years 5 to Year 11 to trial for a position in the academy.

- Date: 11st September 2014
- Time: 3.00pm – 4.00pm
- Where: Stretton State College
  Gowan Oval

Please see Stretton State College school website for further details.

SPORTS NEWS

DISTRICT ATHLETICS – KARAWATHA

Congratulations to all our wonderful athletes who competed at the recent Karawatha District Athletics Carnival. We had some terrific individual achievements including Jenna Lawrence who broke the 13 years girls Shot Put Record, Oliver Corfield who broke the 17 year boys javelin record and Kian McGrath who broke the 15 years boys 400m record!!! Jenna Lawrence and Kian McGrath were crowned age champions for their age categories!!!

After a hard fought battle against the other schools we finished a gallant 4th overall! Well done to all students.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to represent Stretton and Karawatha District at the Met West Athletics trials:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jenna Lawrence</th>
<th>Kajah Waller Thompson</th>
<th>Georgina Faatuga Moe</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Lee-Bennett</td>
<td>Clayton Wilson</td>
<td>Vince Gonzales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luka Marinov</td>
<td>Katerina Brac</td>
<td>Waimarie Gray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kian McGrath</td>
<td>Megan Campbell</td>
<td>Vincent Guevara</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leyton Revie</td>
<td>Chantelle Clarke</td>
<td>Nadine James</td>
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<tr>
<td>Declan Ryan</td>
<td>Oliver Corfield</td>
<td>Tameika Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loughlin Sharma</td>
<td>Alex Dean</td>
<td>Thatcher Klewin</td>
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<td>Ali Stu’ ana</td>
<td>Josiah Enoka</td>
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<td>Tash Valentine</td>
<td>Angela Faatuga Moe</td>
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