



TSHS News

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'Lest We Forget'

Week 1 Thursday, 24th April, 2014

INTERIM REPORTS

On Friday, April 4, we issued the first reports for the year. The reports will show several indicators of your child's progress and achievement to date. The achievement rating is a benchmarked result based on the actual quality of the work submitted or tested. It includes work completed in class as well as diagnostic and more formal assessments. The other standards, (behaviour and effort) report on aspects that may contribute to this overall achievement rating but they are decided separately. There should be no surprises on these reports. I have asked teachers to be in touch during the term where there are concerns or where progress is not as expected.

These reports give students some point-in-time feedback about their progress. I've been encouraging students to seek feedback continually. Research around effective learning shows that clear, specific and timely feedback is twice as effective as explicit teaching by a teacher or tutor and four times as effective as a student working through material on their own. If we can get to the point where students take this feedback and are able to self-assess and self-report on their progress and to be clear about what is needed to improve, this is twice as effective again.

It is time for students to be clear about the improvements they need to make in each subject. These improvements need to be quite specific. To say, "I am going to work harder." is great but it is not sharp enough to aid real improvement. Targeting the particular skills, conceptual understanding or thinking processes that can be improved works much better. Teachers have been providing feedback so that students know exactly what to do.

To further explain the details of your child's progress we are holding parent-teacher interviews from 3:30- 6:30pm on Tuesday 29 April. These short interviews are a chance for teachers and parents to confirm some key points about progress., therefore it may be necessary to schedule additional time for further discussion where there are concerns to be addressed. Students are welcome to attend with their parents.

DISCIPLINE AUDIT



On Thursday, April 3, Mr Kevin Wager conducted the Discipline Audit at our school. A Discipline Audit is a process where an independent, experienced school principal (trained as a Discipline Auditor) visits the school to collect a range of data and information about school wide behaviour programs, practices and procedures. The auditor's findings (which are garnered from a range of pre-arranged formal interviews as well as informal, random interviews with staff, parents and students) are moderated against the following five domains:

- Principal Leadership
- Parent and Community Engagement
- Data Informed Decision Making
- Clear Consistent Expectations for Behaviour (this includes consequences)
- Explicit teaching of Appropriate Behaviour to all students.

We have received the auditor's report of findings and I am pleased to advise that we attained consistently high ratings for each domain as well as a number of commendations. This report will be uploaded onto our website as well as presented at our next P&C meeting.

ANZAC CEREMONY 2014 — LEST WE FORGET

Of all the school ANZAC commemorations I have attended, those at Tully High are by far the best. Once again, the Year 10 History class did us proud with a moving and memorable ceremony. The inclusion of the New Zealand national anthem was particularly notable and certainly well appreciated by guests and students who have 'come across the ditch'.



Thank you to Bunny Waite who once again piped students in and out of the ceremony.



This morning's ceremony was made even more poignant by the Last Post – played by Rivah Johnson with Shabaun Jones playing 'echo'.



Thank you to Gordon, Alan and Ray who represented Tully RSL at our ceremony.



Thanks to the year 10 History Students, Darcie Goodman, Reon Van Rooyen, Ryan Kelly, Nahani Ketchell and Alana Jackson



Welcome Fran Valadian



For term 2 we welcome Fran Valadian to Tully High. Fran joins us from Peregian Springs on the Sunshine Coast. Fran brings to the school 34 years teaching experience across many different fields including Learning Support, Distance Education, Special Education and general classroom teaching. At Tully High Fran will be based in the Interactive Learning Precinct and will have a focus on Special Education. Fran was born in Innisfail and went to Good Counsel College. She has a daughter who will attend Tully High in grade 9. Fran is the cousin of Ben Barba from the Brisbane Broncos on her mother's side of the family. We wish Fran all the best in her new role at Tully High and look forward to working alongside her.



Students from Murray Upper SS joined us for today's ceremony as did the school captain from Feluga SS who laid a wreath at our symbolic *Candles of Remembrance*.



Student representatives attached poppies to the ANZAC board, as a symbol of respect to all fallen soldiers.

From the Nurse's Desk



Cannabis and young people

Studies have shown that if a young person uses cannabis early in life (before the age of 16 years) and for a prolonged period of time, it can lead to a number of significant problems.

What are the concerns about young people using cannabis?

Adolescence is a period when many developmental changes are occurring. It is a time when a young person's intellectual capacities expand and their friends become increasingly influential.

Adolescent use of cannabis has been linked to a range of developmental and social problems. A review of current literature suggests that the early initiation of cannabis use can have an impact on the following:

***Memory, attention and learning**

***Poorer school performance**

***Problematic behaviours**

***Increased risk of mental health issues** Using cannabis from an early age places the person at risk of impaired emotional development, increased risk of becoming more dissatisfied with their life and increased likelihood of experiencing depression.

(Excerpt from the NCPIC Cannabis and young people Factsheet, 2011)

For more information please see the web page for '[young people](#)' on the NCPIC website

Notices & Event

P & C Meetings 2nd Tuesday of the month at 4.30 pm in the Library.

25 April ANZAC DAY public holiday

29 April Parent Teacher Interviews

2 May Cross Country