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Quick News
Emily T and Bree D travelled to Brisbane to play in the QLD U19’s Trans-Tasman Secondary School Squash Team. Both the girls played excellent squash over the week, with QLD coming second. Well done to both girls for representing their state in School Squash. Congratulations to Bree for making the Australian team who played against New Zealand.

Congratulations Lindsay!
A few weeks ago I participated in the under 16 National Hockey Tournament in Adelaide. Over the 9 days we versed all of the other states and went through the tournament undefeated. We went on to beat New South Wales in the final and I was picked in the under 16 Australian Team to travel to and tour Europe for 16 days in May next year.
Lindsay M.

Year 12 Visual Art Studies Mosaic Workshop
This week, our Year 12 Visual Art Studies students were invited to participate in a whole day Mosaic Workshop run by a Gladstone Community Arts Project titled “Animating Spaces Gladstone”. During the workshop, students worked collaboratively with local artist Janie Petersen to produce 3 x 0.5m diameter mosaic circles, which will form a permanent, community artwork at the Gladstone Aquatic Centre. This experience provided students with opportunities to develop skills in collaboration, design, tile cutting and mosaic construction. The unveiling of the mosaic artwork will occur in conjunction with a larger community, multi-arts event at the Gladstone Aquatic Centre on 27th September 2014, 3pm – 9pm. For more information, go to http://gladstonefrolicwith.me
Chappy Chat!

We have celebrated the end of another Shine group and begun our final group which will conclude halfway through Term 4. Last week our new group discussed Value and this week some wonderful Zonta ladies will come along and help to do the girls’ nails and chat about being one-of-a-kind and valuing individuality rather than comparing ourselves with others.

Another group that has kept me on my toes is VITAL. I have two groups currently comprising a total of 24 students. Michael Trafford has kindly come along and helped on a Thursday for 2 lessons and will hopefully be able to help for the rest of this term. His input has been invaluable and the Year 9 boys are benefiting greatly – although, finding it very challenging. The sessions I lead involve active games followed by debriefing opportunities where we unpack values that students need to succeed. Throughout, the students are being challenged continually to assess their long-term goals and the values they will need to achieve.

I continue to see a flow of students – some self-referred and some requests by concerned teachers. The most common are still family relationships, bullying and anger management. Several students are dealing with grief and thankfully, they are receiving support not only from me, but also our wonderful staff. Of concern, is the growing numbers of students who will not eat at school. From casual discussion with other chaplains, this seems to be a bit of a trend throughout all high schools. Shed 19 is running a CAP money course and I will be transporting some independent students to attend this invaluable opportunity on Monday evenings for 3 weeks.

Our Tuesday Boardwalk, while small in number, meets a need and some students are enjoying the social networking while munching on biscuits or toast.

I joined with some chaplains and supporters who assisted at the Gladstone Botanic to Bridge on Sunday by providing first-aid to participants. Thankfully, no major incidents happened! On the previous Saturday, I refreshed my First Aid skills courtesy of CQ First Aid which will also make a financial donation to Chaplaincy as thanks for our help. On Thursday evening I was enthralled with a presentation by Maggie Dent where she focused on ways to develop resiliency in children 0 – 12 years of age. As Year 7 will form part of our cohort in 2015, I thought it valuable to attend. Maggie Dent is an author, educator, and parenting and resilience specialist with particular interest in the early years and adolescence. She was a high school teacher for 17 years before working as a counsellor with young people and their families in suicide prevention and palliative care. She is a highly informative and entertaining speaker and I would recommend her as a future speaker on adolescent issues. Check out her website for possibilities!

Again, your continuing support is vital to encourage, guide and equip our youth to negotiate this part of their lives. Thank you for your financial, spiritual and active support.

Yvonne Kamholtz.
Virtual Babies

The year 9, 10 and 11 students have been experiencing the “joys” of being a parent for the weekend. The virtual baby program is run by the School Based Youth Health Nurse and the participating students have been caring for their simulated baby and meeting its needs for 3 days and nights.

The students have realised the hard work that goes with being a mum or dad and the lack of sleep and impact on their social life. The program also educates the students on various aspects of babies and parenting including: Sudden infant death syndrome, shaken baby syndrome and the importance of caring for yourself as a parent.

The students have found the babies are very time consuming and demanding, just like a real baby would be and teen parenting is not desirable for them.

ATAP 2014

Another year, another ATAP. Teacher aide, Felicia Watkins, and myself had the privilege of escorting four proud Indigenous Gladstone State High School students to compete in the 2014 Academic and Talent Aspirations Program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students in Rockhampton on the 21st and 22nd of August. Gladstone State High School has a long tradition of participating in this successful program. It was an absolute pleasure to watch these inspirational students engage with current topics and interact with students from other schools. Suzannah W, Raquel W, Coen D and Tremaine B were given the task of creating a response to a long term problem solving question and also a persuasive speech which the students performed proudly. This opportunity is a brilliant way for Indigenous students to connect with other students and explore pathways to university. The students were immaculately presented and were complimented numerous times on how smart they looked. Well done to the 2014 students! A big thankyou to Miss Kirby Polglase for organising and helping the students prepare for this event. This wouldn’t have happened without you!

Student Feedback

Suzannah- ATAP is a good experience for people to share their knowledge with other Indigenous students. Our team worked well together and we all had a good laugh

Raquel- ATAP is a very good opportunity for all Indigenous students to compete against each other in a series of events ranging from English to Drama and everything in between. Our team got along very well, we were all glad that we chose to ATAP. All of us had a good laugh. I would definitely do it again if I was given the opportunity.

Coen- ATAP was great and really deadly. It had a lot of deadly people from a lot of different tribes and a lot of great backgrounds.

Tremaine- ATAP was a great experience to learn other students’ backgrounds and we all had a good time.
Gladstone State High School is currently recruiting more Homestay Families to register for our International Student Program. It is a wonderful opportunity for local families to learn more about other countries and their cultures.

Enquiries welcomed for students arriving in Semester 1, 2015, Options of: 3 months, 6 months, 9 months or 12 months placements
Payment of $212 (tax free) per week for Homestay Families

Major Requirements:
- Caring English speaking family willing to take a student into your home and fully integrate them with your family for the duration of their stay.
- Provide the student with individual bedroom which includes desk and chair.
- All meals and snacks must be provided.
- Access to internet. Students may bring their own laptop.
- Easy access to Gladstone State High School.
- All persons over the age of 18 living in your home must be eligible for Blue Card Suitability Check. We can assist you with the application.

For further information please contact:
Vanessa Randazzo or Lorraine McCamley
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