This year’s Leadership camp was an amazing experience. This year our camp was held at Barabadeen for the first time and what a venue! Our Barra Base students experienced activities such as Mountain Bike Adventures, Abseiling, Low Ropes, Land Navigation, Canoe Navigation, Swimming and that’s just during the day, at night students slept in dorms, or tents and had a “cook your own adventure”. The Ultimate Challengers hiked, orienteered, mountain biked and rogainned their way over the mountains to arrive at Barabadeen by day three only to be whisked away for a rope and canoeing challenge before being allowed to join the evening feast.

The students then came together for the "Night of the Tribes". Students created banners and costumes and then shared stories about their "clans", sang chants and danced the night away. A massive thanks to all staff involved it was a major event and a massive success. Our students really shone and I truly look forward to seeing their leadership skills in full swing next year. Congratulations to the Seniors of 2012.

Toni Stevens. YEAR 11 CO-ORDINATOR.
**Principal Words —**

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2011. It has been a busy year with a wealth of learning and achieving and hopefully some fun along the way as well. The end of the year is always busy with staff movements. There are a number of staff changes that will be occurring for 2012. Briefly these are:

- Mike and Leanne Schaul - both retiring from teaching
- Keira Favale - transferring to Collinsville SHS
- Katya Brandon - transferring to Port Douglas SS
- Tamara Brown - appointed to Tully SHS

Our contract teachers finishing are Heather and Roy Jackson and Rosie Torrisi. We wish them all the best for the future.

Tim Ralph and Lesa Pershouse will be taking extended leave for 2012. Both will still be around and we hope to see them back again in 2013.

Congratulations to the following staff who have secured promotional positions for 2012. Teena Seidenkranz has been appointed Deputy Principal to replace Serge Venturato who retired earlier this year. Teena is coming to us from Beenleigh SHS. Her husband Kipp is a music teacher and he will replace Katya. Kylie Lambert has been permanently appointed as the Arts/ICT Head of Department (replacing Mike Schaul). Michelle Culleton will be HOD (Health) and Chris Keating will take up the new HOD (Student Engagement) position created using National Partnership funds. Fay McGrath will be taking on a new role supporting staff with the National Partnership changes.

Other teachers in new National Partnership positions are:
- Kim McClelland - Key Numeracy teacher
- Myna Riber - Key Literacy teacher
- Jason Richardson - Key E-learning teacher

This team will be responsible for improving the learning of all our students in their respective areas of expertise.

Welcome back also to Anne Carmichael who has been on leave this year. There are a number of new appointments to the teaching staff. These are:

- James Ballin (Ancient History, Geography) from Northern Peninsula Academy
- Phil Christensen (Art/LST) from Longreach SHS
- Peter Congreve (Physics)
- Jaclyn Cunningham (Maths)
- Rachel LaFranchi (Legal/Business)
- Greg Pelka (Business)

I would like to especially thank all the staff for their hard work this year. While I am waiting to see the achievements of our Year 12 graduates in mid-December, I am delighted with the results of our Year 10 students. For over 90% of our students, they have improved more than 2 years of schooling since their Year 7 NAPLAN tests. This is a great result that shows the teaching staff are making a positive difference and our students are on track to achieve even better things in the future.

If I do not see you before the summer break, take care and travel safe if you are going away for holidays. The office will be open from Monday 16 January. Years 8 & 12 start on Monday 23 January and the remaining years start on Tuesday 24 January.

I look forward to seeing you again in 2012. Warm regards to all families.

Jo Soothill
PRINCIPAL

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**Message from Ms Pershouse**

For the past 18 months I have been Acting Deputy Principal at Mareeba State High School and I have enjoyed working with staff, parents, students and the wider school community. Mareeba State High School is a great school and I am very proud to have been in a position of leading our school. I will not be continuing as Deputy Principal in 2012. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over this time and wish Ms Teena Seidenkranz the best in taking up her position as Deputy Principal in 2012.

May you all have a wonderful Christmas, New Year and all the best for 2012.

**Lesa Pershouse**
ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

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**Theatre Trip**

On 2nd November our Dance and Music students were blown away by a performance from Bangarra Dance Company. We travelled to Cairns Civic Theatre and watched ‘Mathinna’, a story of a young girl from Tasmainia and her life growing up as a child in the stolen generation. This innovative dance company combines Indigenous dance with Contemporary Dance to create amazing performances. Our students were also lucky enough to meet the companies director Stephen Page and some of the dancers from the show. This is one experience the students will not forget.

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**Bursary Award**

Every year the Business Liaisons Association in conjunction with GHD Pty Ltd offer bursaries for students interested in pursuing a career in the engineering field at university. In order to receive this bursary, students need to identify an area of the school that would benefit from renewal and/or development and provide a solution for that area. This year Adrian Madrid decided to redesign A block in order to create a new student services building. After interviewing staff and researching possible solutions he completed a series of design drawings and submitted them to GHD. Based on these drawings the Architects at GHD shortlisted Adrian and asked him to come in for an interview. The interview went well and Adrian was awarded first place. In addition to an engraved plaque and a certificate Adrian will receive a $1000 bursary to help with his studies next year. Congratulations Adrian!

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**Birthday Celebrations**

The Multi Learning Centre celebrated its 10th birthday last week. It was officially opened on 22nd November 2001. Staff at the centre support 22 students with a disability across the school to access curriculum and opportunities along with their peer group.

Jo Barnes
HOMES

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**Certificate III Success**

Tori Coats (Year 12) has just completed her Cert III in Education through RATEP. She will attend the graduation at TAFE next Thursday where she will be presented with her certificate. We wish Tori all the very best for her future.
On Friday 25th November, 55 Year 10 Students travelled by bus to see Arthur Christmas (3D) at the Birch Carol and Coyle Cinema in Cairns. Following the movie, the students ate lunch in the food court and then enjoyed just over 1 hour of shopping before returning to Mareeba at 3:00pm. Mr Chris Keating, Mr. John Sellars, Miss Sally Levi and Mrs Kym Carlsson enjoyed the Year 10 end of year excursion also.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and wish the very best for all year 10 students. Next year I will be involved in a different role as Acting Head of Department – Student Engagement. I have enjoyed my time as year level coordinator, which gave me the opportunity to see students grow into young adults. All the very best for your senior years.

Chris Keating
YEAR 10 COORDINATOR.

The phase in period for the new Mareeba State High School Shorts will expire at the end of this year. From 2012 onwards all students must wear the Mareeba State High School shorts. Maroon Umbros shorts no longer to be worn as part of the uniform for 2012 onwards. Please ensure when purchasing new uniforms for 2012 they are the Mareeba State High School shorts.

Jo Soothill
Principal

Making good use of the School Holidays

Although school holidays are great time for teenagers to relax and have a break from the routine of school, they can also be a stressful time for parents searching for ways to keep them occupied. So here is Professor Matt Sanders top five tips to make good use of the school holidays.

Tip 1. Sit down with your teenager before the holidays. Plan activities that they can look forward to. Check papers and local council for the holiday activities or log onto the internet to see what’s happening in your area. Keep the full list handy and refer to it when you’re hit with the I’m Bored syndrome.

Tip 2. Organize a holiday budget and discuss this with your teenager. None of us have a bottomless pit of money. It may be the time for them to look for a part-time job, or perhaps you have a store of jobs to be done around the house that they might like to do to earn a few dollars.

Tip 3. Don’t fall into the trap of being a full time taxi. Teenagers need to take responsibility and learn to plan how to get to events and activities they are interested in. It is important to praise your teen ager when they come up with positive suggestions.

Tip 4. Discuss and agree on ground rules for such things as getting up and going to bed, but allow your teenager to be more relaxed than during school time. Agree on time limits for computer and TV use. It is still important to monitor programs and computer games.

Tip 5 Try and arrange some family activities that you and your teenager both enjoy. Save these for the holiday times so that they are more valued. Discuss this with your teenager ahead of time if you can in case special arrangements need to be made. Parents often find that its difficult to find family activities that teenagers enjoy, so talk to other parents to see what ideas they have found successful. Remember Parenting is much easier if you get support from others.

Tips from Professor Matt Sanders (Director of the Parenting and Family Support Centre at UQ and founder of Triple P Positive Parenting Program).

I hope you have enjoyed the read and please remember to remain safe over the festive season. As the School Based Youth Health Nurse I wish all parents, guardians and students a safe and happy holidays. Looking forward to seeing you all in 2012. Cheers

Chris Gray
SCHOOL BASED YOUTH HEALTH NURSE

Wow
WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU ALL!

Year 10 students have been amazing in their determination to meet the requirements of certificate courses recognised nationally. The final tally of successful students is 17 students with Certificate I in Business, and 19 students with Certificate I in Information Technology. Students now “bank” two credit points to contribute to the minimum of 20 points required to gain a QCE ie Qld Certificate of Education, at the end of Year 12. Well done to all these students and their supportive teachers: Mrs Mikota and Ms Brown.

Mrs F McGrath
HOD--BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

Lost Property and Jewellery

There are lots of valuable items in lost property at the school office. If your child has lost something during the year, please have them come to the school office to collect it. The office will be open until 13 December.

Any student who has had jewellery or mobile phones confiscated from this or previous years please collect from the office before 13 December.

Year 10 Movie Excursion

On Friday 25th November, 55 Year 10 Students travelled by bus to see Arthur Christmas (3D) at the Birch Carol and Coyle Cinema in Cairns. Following the movie, the students ate lunch in the food court and then enjoyed just over 1 hour of shopping before returning to Mareeba at 3:00pm. Mr Chris Keating, Mr. John Sellars, Miss Sally Levi and Mrs Kym Carlsson enjoyed the Year 10 end of year excursion also.

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Chris Keating
YEAR 10 COORDINATOR.

Maths Mania

ISSUE No. 11
1st December 2011

Q1 - If an electric train is travelling 100 km/h, against a 100 km/h headwind. Which way will its smoke blow?
Q2 - A beggar’s brother died. But the man who died had no brother! How is this possible?
Q3 - Can you divide this circle into four equal parts by drawing 3 curved lines of equal length?

MAREEBA ELECTRICAL SERVICES
4092 1573
The Seniors of 2011
Live in the moment....

What a fantastic ending to 12 long, hard years of education for the Year 12 Graduates. Everyone in the room got chills as the seniors of 2011 entered their graduation ceremony to “I’ve Got a Feeling” by the Black Eyed Peas. Our Masters of Ceremony, Vice Captains Kirlyn Batchelor and Ryan Searle, did a fabulous job, making sure the evening ran perfectly. Our own, Jahmin Heta, entertained the packed hall with his beautiful rendition of the Jason Mraz classic, ‘I’m Yours’. The Senior Video screened capturing so many special moments. A collage of images invoked memories of Leadership Camp, Senior Induction, Sports Day and the many events that the seniors took part in throughout the year. The Year 12 Coordinator, Mr Ralph, gave his speech and told of how proud he is of the seniors of 2011 and how this very special group had ‘Lived in the Moment’ and achieved great success for themselves and their school in 2011.

As the students received their graduation certificates their Grade One and Grade Twelve photos flashed up on the screen telling a story of where they had come from and the journey they had made. Our amazing School Captains, Eliza Michael and Piers Portella, then gave a very heartfelt Valedictory speech and said thank you and goodbye to the seniors of 2011 for the very last time. As a special thank you, the seniors then presented their parents with a personalised letter and a rose to show their appreciation of the support and love the parents had provided them with throughout their years at Mareeba State High School. To finish off the evening our Graduates cheered in celebration. A moment they will not forget in a hurry.

Friday morning, the last day of school ever for the seniors of 2011, began with a BBQ prepared by the teachers. With only minutes left of school the seniors gathered near the School Hall. At 11:59am the count down began and as the clock struck 12 Blue and White helium balloons were released, tears were shed, screams of joy echoed and the Seniors of 2011 left the school grounds for the very last time.

The Senior Formal would be the last time that this group would be together in their entirety. They all looked magnificent, and some unrecognisable, as they arrived in their many varied modes of transport to the Mareeba International Club. The night was definitely a family affair, with hundreds of friends and family showing up to celebrate this significant milestone for the Graduates of 2011. Camera’s flashed as the seniors walked down the red carpet into their Senior Formal. It wasn’t long before the students took to the dance floor for the Tee Ton Mountain Stomp Dance which brought the group together in a swirl of magic, colour and movement to the shrieks of joy and laughter. This time the parents were invited up to dance the Nut bush with their sons and daughters and the dance floor came to life again with giggles and laughter. At the end of the night the seniors formed a circle and sang along to their senior song, Semi Sonics, ‘Closing Time’. It was time to say goodbye.

This years graduating class have represented the school with pride and honour. They have acted as role models for all students at Mareeba State High School and become active citizens within the Mareeba Community. They have gone above and beyond in everything they have done and they have lived in the moment and made the most of what 2011 had to offer. They have been a very talented group and have won many awards, both individually and for the school. They have helped build the excellent reputation that Mareeba State High School holds. We all thank them and wish them well for the future. May they continue to live in the moment and make the most of the opportunities they are faced with throughout their lives.

We will miss you all. Congratulations seniors of 2011.
Mr Tim Ralph
YEAR 12 COORDINATOR, 2011
QUEENSLAND TERM DATES 2012

Term 1  Monday 23 January - Friday 30 March (10 weeks)
Term 2  Tuesday 10 April - Friday 22 June (11 weeks)
Term 3  Monday 9 July - Friday 21 September (11 weeks)
Term 4  Monday 8 October - Friday 14 December (10 weeks)

Student free dates for 2012
- Thursday 19 and Friday 20 January
- Tuesday 10 April
- Monday 9 July
- Monday 22 October (at this stage government rethinking)

Year 10 & 12 finishing dates for 2012
- Year 12 Friday 16 November
- Year 10 and 11 Friday 30 November

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- Year 3 to advanced year 12
- 4pm – 8pm Monday to Friday

DIMBULAH COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS CAROLS
Saturday 3rd December at the Dimbulah Memorial Hall Park
6.30pm Start – Food, Drinks, Candles and Glo Sticks on Sale
BYO Rugs or a Chair
Visit from Santa expected during the night

ONLINE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Visit from Santa expected during the night

As the school year comes to an end there are still many topics to be discussed. The Websites below offer information for you to access.
- Safety information for students going to Schoolies
- Schoolies safety information for Facebook and Twitter
- Changes to school holidays
- Changes to school holidays for Facebook and Twitter

REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE FROM MISS ELLACOTT
Year 11 and 12 Student Laptop Program 2012

Join the student laptop take-home scheme now and take the laptop home for Christmas.

Mareeba State High School is allocating a laptop to every year 11 and 12 student in 2012 as a part of the Federal Governments National Secondary School Computer Fund program (NSSCF). To maximize the opportunity for students to take advantage of the computers the school will be offering a 1:1 take home scheme whereby, for a parent/guardian co-contribution of $150 per year, students will be able to take the computers home.

Known as anywhere, any time learning the benefits of participating in the take home program include:

- Part of an international move to individualising learning
- To enhance independence and self-initiated learning among students
- To extend student learning beyond the classroom including prepaid Ed Qld filtered 3G Internet access
- To promote the development of 21st Century teaching and learning

Research shows:

- Students who access their own computers take greater pride and ownership over the knowledge they create, with a flow-on to more flexible forms of schooling
- 1-to-1 programs extend formal learning communities to include parents, siblings and other people important in students' lives

To participate in the take home scheme and receive a laptop this year please complete the forms supplied to students or available from the school office and return them together with the $150 co-contribution for 2012 to the school office before the end of the school year.

Further information and documentation available on school's website.

Pictured are Mickayla Dunn and Aniash Ali-Allen who are among more than 100 students who have chosen to participate in the Laptop-take-home scheme.