Welcome Back

The first cohort of Junior Secondary students have sailed their way through their first week at Chinchilla State High School. All students were welcomed to 2015 with two half days dedicated to Pastoral Care lessons with their form teachers and Year Coordinators. In these lessons, students focus on building positive relationships and clarifying expectations, to ensure a successful start to the year.

Students then settled into class routines with team-building activities, as well as individual learning goal conversations with their classroom teachers. During lunch breaks, Year 7 and 8 students stayed together in their groups around their lunch areas; however, it was obvious by the second day that many were feeling comfortable enough to locate their own seating spots. It has been great to see our Senior Secondary students welcoming our young learners and assisting them to locate classrooms and amenities. A change in 2015 will see the School Hall available to Year Levels during lunch breaks in an effort to provide students with alternative activities in a spot out of the summer sun. We look forward to our Senior House and Sport captains adding to the lunchtime entertainment options with the start of twice weekly lunch time activities.

Our Year 9 students are also stepping up this year, with an opportunity to obtain their Junior Leadership Certificate offered to them last week. Students must seek endorsement from four staff members in order to submit their application for a Leadership Certificate. If their application is approved, students are then eligible to nominate for a Junior House Captain or Committee Chairperson role in line with our School’s Senior Secondary Leadership roles. Students will be elected by their peers and staff, with positions awarded at our School Leadership Ceremony on Tuesday 10 February. The Chinchilla State High School TEAM is looking forward to an exciting and rewarding year with our Junior Secondary students!

Mrs Stacey Wolski
HOD Junior Secondary

LEADERSHIP CEREMONY
Parents, families and friends are warmly invited to a special assembly on Tuesday 10 February commencing at 8.50am in the school hall.
During this assembly, School Captains, House Captains, Committee Chairpersons and Form Class Captains will be officially acknowledged and presented with their badges of office.

P & C
First Meeting of 2015
Monday 9 February
7:00 – 8:00pm in the resource Centre
Annual General Meeting - 9 March
Nominations and elections of Office Bearers for 2015 will be held. If you are interested in being involved with our P & C please come along.
Dear Parents, students, staff and community supporters
Welcome to the 2015 school year. I hope it will be a great year for all members of our Chinchilla State High School community. In particular, I would like to welcome all of the Year 7 and Year 8 students and all of the new students and their families. This is a very good school and we hope that you find your time at Chinchilla State High School to be very rewarding.

From early observations, the students appear to have settled in well and are making a good start across all of their subjects. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff who have been working hard in preparation for the start of the school year, to ensure that our students receive the best opportunities in 2015.

Staffing:
I would like to extend a warm welcome to the following staff who have joined our school this year:
Non-Teaching Staff: Mrs Kate Hart (Admin), Mrs Sharon Fendley (Teacher Aide), Clare Richards (Teacher Aide)
Teaching Staff: Mrs Cindy Grimes (Master Teacher role), Mrs Anne Cardillo (Learning Support), Mr Lachlan McKensey (HPE/Math), Miss Stacy Condall (Agriculture/Science), Ms Maree Bird (English/Humanities), Mrs Rivona Singh (English/Humanities), Miss Louise Sexton (English/Humanities), Miss Amber Szulokowska and Mr Kevin Peters (Special Education), Mrs Amanda Akers (2 week contract Math/Science).

2015 Key Priorities
We are always very appreciative of the many supportive parents, guardians and community friends who are associated with our school and we are looking forward to working closely together to ensure that all of our students experience many outstanding learning opportunities again this year. This year we will continue to work on a number of key priorities and expectations that aim to reinforce a school culture where every student feels safe and strives to achieve positive learning outcomes.

- All of our staff will continue to show a strong commitment to maintaining a supportive school environment based on mutual respect.
- Our teachers will continue to work hard at ensuring that high quality, explicit teaching occurs in every lesson. We will continue to promote our stance that ‘every lesson counts’ and that ‘every student is capable of learning in every lesson, every day.’
- Our students are required to come to school with a very clear and disciplined focus to learn. Our everyday expectation for all of the members of our school community is for them to ‘be the best that they can be.’
- A new goal for our school is that: ‘every student is to achieve a minimum of a ‘C’ for Effort and Behaviour in every subject.’ i.e. No student is to fail for Effort or Behaviour.
- Our students are required to be at school, ready to learn, every day. Please ensure that all absences are explained with notes to Form teachers or via phone calls or emails to the school office.
- Student attendance targets above 92% will be required to be achieved for students to participate in non-compulsory school activities.
- We will continue to encourage all parents to maintain a close interest in the school and the study program of their children.
- Our school reflects the expectations of society by setting high behavioural standards for our students and staff.

School Website and Q Schools App – Chinchilla State High School
This year we will continue to strive to have important information readily available to parents through our school website and Q Schools App (smart phones). Please see the QSchools App information flyer included in this Newsletter.

Recommendations that contribute to a successful education
At Chinchilla State High School we pride ourselves on reinforcing high standards and promoting the development of resilience in our students. I have included some simple recommendations that Parents, Guardians and Staff can all work together to reinforce with students throughout the year. Following these simple routines will maximise their education and develop invaluable life skills that will hold them in good stead in attaining long term employment.

- Be on time for school.
- Be at school every day unless too ill to attend.
- Wear the uniform as required. Lots of jobs have uniform requirements that must be followed.
- Education is the key to your journey through life. Take responsibility for developing a strong work ethic that represents a desire to learn every day. Employers want people who want to continue to learn and develop their skills.
- Work closely with teachers. Set goals to achieve and complete study, assignments, assessment drafts and homework.
- Work at time management. Minimise the time lost with distractions eg phones, social media,
- Senior students should be mindful of not over-committing to excessive hours of part-time employment.

All of our staff are very committed to our students and we look forward to working closely with our broader community to ensure that our school is the ‘best that it can be’. Thank you in anticipation of your support of our school and for working with us to ensure that all of our students reach their potential by following the school motto – “Learning together for a happy and productive future.”

Best wishes to everyone for a happy, safe and successful year ahead.

Kind regards
Scott Rowan
Hi everyone. It’s great to be back at this fantastic school for another school year.

This year I will continue my work as Chaplain providing spiritual, ethical and personal support to the school community. I will continue to offer individual pastoral care sessions, fun and positive activities for students, and will be involved in school social activities. I am available at the school five days a week and appointments can be made by seeing me in the Chappy Office or contacting me through the school administration.

During our first Assembly an Ecumenical Service was held. Pastor Lee Dallmann shared the story of Wilma Rudolf. Wilma who had Polio, wore a leg brace until she was nine years old, and was told that she would never walk properly and never run. Choosing not to listen Wilma worked hard and went on to win three gold medals at the 1960 Olympics.

Lee left us with the challenge – ‘How will we choose to live our lives this year?’ The service concluded with Pastor Murray Smith praying for the school community and the year ahead.

INTRODUCING YOUR SCHOOL GUIDANCE OFFICER, DR SANDRA SYTSMA

Hello everyone! I am a Guidance Officer in the Darling Downs South West Region assigned to several Chinchilla Cluster schools for this year. I provide a guidance and counselling service to students and their families in your school.

Students are referred to me for additional support with learning and social-emotional concerns through the school’s student support team. The Principal, class teacher and parents talk about and sign off on these referrals before they are sent on to me.

I work with the student service team, teachers and parents to design and implement interventions to improve students’ experience and quality of life and learning. Typical activities include data gathering (eg assessments of thinking capacities and/or behavioural patterns to inform adjustments in learning and social programs), personal and vocational counselling to address life issues and small and large group programs to develop social skills.

As parents and caregivers, you are most welcome to make contact with me through the school office should you have concerns about your child.

Students in year 10, 11 and 12 interested in medicine, dentistry or optometry will need to sit the compulsory UMAT (examination) when applying for one of the above career choices. UMAT preparation course materials are now available, and enrolments are already filling up. All details are available via www.nie.edu.au

More information on the role of the Guidance Officer can be found on the DETE public website.

Kind regards

Sandra Sytsma
It has been a very busy start to the sporting year. With the year 7’s now a part of our school it has been decided that all students (yr7) who are born in 2003 (12 this year) will still take part in Chinchilla District Trials. This pathway will ensure that no student misses out on the opportunity to trial for representative sport throughout 2015. Students who have been selected for these sports will receive permission letters outlining the specific details of the trials early in Term One. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

The following Chinchilla District School Sport trials, South West trails, Chinchilla State High School trials and Eastern Zone Trials will run in the next fortnight:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinchilla District 10-12 Years Basketball trials</td>
<td>Chinchilla State School</td>
<td>3:30-5:00pm</td>
<td>Wednesday 11 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinchilla District 10-12 Years Swimming trials</td>
<td>Chinchilla Pool</td>
<td>8:50-1:00pm</td>
<td>Wednesday 11 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>South West U/19 Tennis trials</td>
<td>Chinchilla Tennis Courts</td>
<td>8:45am-3:00pm</td>
<td>Friday 6 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>South West U/19 Softball trials</td>
<td>Chinchilla State High School</td>
<td>8:45am-3:00pm</td>
<td>Friday 6 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Geitz Netball trials (Yr 7, 8 &amp; 9)</td>
<td>School Hall</td>
<td>3:30-5:00pm</td>
<td>Wednesday 11 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinchilla SHS Netball trials U/15 &amp; Open</td>
<td>School Hall/Multi-Purpose Courts</td>
<td>3:30-5:00pm</td>
<td>Thursday 12 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinchilla SHS Touch Football trials</td>
<td>School Oval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Zone U/15 &amp; Open Soccer</td>
<td>Bulldog Park</td>
<td>1:30-3:00pm</td>
<td>Tuesday 10 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Zone 15 &amp; Open Touch Football</td>
<td>Bulldog Park</td>
<td>3:30-5:00</td>
<td>Tuesday 10 February</td>
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**INTER-HOUSE SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

This year the annual Chinchilla State High School Inter-house Swimming Carnival will be held on Friday February 13. The carnival will run during the school day, beginning at 8:45am and finishing at approximately 2:45pm. The carnival will run with the same format as previous years, with competitive events that contribute to age championships and some participation events that contribute to house points. Details about the day are listed below.

**Date:** Friday, February 13, 2015  
**Venue:** Chinchilla Fitness and Aquatic Centre  
**Travel:** The school day will begin at the Chinchilla Aquatic Centre at 8:45am. Rolls will be marked by Form Teachers at 8:45am sharp. Students arriving by bus disembark at St Joseph’s or Chinchilla State School and walk, under teacher supervision, to the pool. Students will be admitted to the pool from 8:20am. The first race will commence at 9:10am and the carnival will finish at approximately 2:45pm. Students travelling by bus will be dismissed from the pool at 2:50pm to give them enough time to walk, under staff supervision, to St Joseph’s or Chinchilla State School to catch their bus. Students who do not catch the bus will be dismissed from the pool at 3:05pm.

**Time:** Students are also to ensure they are sun safe by wearing a collared shirt and a school hat when not competing. The following items are strictly not permitted at the pool: coloured zinc, body paint, nikko pens, streamers, silly string and crepe paper. Students may use balloons and banners to decorate their house area.

**What to Bring:** Water bottle (complimentary cold water will be provided for students), hat, sunscreen, packed lunch, money (a canteen will be in operation), suitable swimwear for competitive swimming, house spirit.

**What to Wear:** Students are encouraged to wear their house colours on the day. Students are also to ensure they are sun safe by wearing a collared shirt and a school hat when not competing. The following items are strictly not permitted at the pool: coloured zinc, body paint, nikko pens, streamers, silly string and crepe paper. Students may use balloons and banners to decorate their house area.

**Please Note:** Times swam throughout the day will be recorded and results posted to the Chinchilla State High School website. No results will be published on the day of the carnival.

If there are any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

James Kratzmann, Lachlan McKensey & Joshua Wolski  
Carnival Convenors

**WHAT’S HAPPENING**

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<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>7 Feb</td>
<td>P &amp; C Melon Festival Trivia Night Cultural Centre 6.30pm</td>
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<td>10 Feb</td>
<td>Leadership Ceremony 8.50am</td>
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<td>10 Feb</td>
<td>Titans Program 1.00-3.15pm</td>
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<td>12 Feb</td>
<td>Year 7 Peer Power Half day</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Feb</td>
<td>Year 12 Peer Power Half day</td>
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<td>13 Feb</td>
<td>Bulling No Way Day</td>
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<td>13 Feb</td>
<td>Whole School Inter-house Swimming Carnival</td>
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<td>14 Feb</td>
<td>Melon Festival March Instrumental Music Senior Dance</td>
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<td>15-18 Feb</td>
<td>Year 12 Camp Noosa North Shore</td>
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<td>16-18 Feb</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp Mudjimba</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Feb</td>
<td>Year 8 Peer Power Half Day</td>
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<td>23-25 Feb</td>
<td>Year 8 Camp Mudjimba</td>
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<td>27 Feb</td>
<td>Grin &amp; Tonic Performances Year 7-9 and 12 English</td>
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<td>5 March</td>
<td>Interim Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 March</td>
<td>Titans Program 1.00-3.15pm</td>
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<td>10 March</td>
<td>Parent/Teacher 3.30pm-6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>‘Youth Speaks’ Evening</td>
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