ENGLISH

Our Junior Secondary program continued to thrive this year, with an explicit school wide focus on improving reading. With a weekly lesson dedicated to Reading Strategy Improvements in Year 7, students are developing this essential skill in a systematic manner upon their entry into our school community. As reading continues to be one of our core priorities this year, students throughout the school, from Years 7 – 12, have been encouraged to read more widely and more regularly. Appropriately, this year, the greatest number of Junior Secondary students to date participated in the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

Our after-school Literacy Tutorials in Semester 1, have continued to prove both popular and effective, as over twenty Year 12 students (using a program developed by Ms Draper and Mrs Freeman) volunteer their time to work one on one with junior students to improve literacy skills. Our annual Poetry Immersion Day was also enjoyed by extension students in 10-12, as they explored the poetry of calypso to slam poetry and Shakespeare.

One of our focus areas for 2015 has been the more formalised differentiation required for our extension program, in order to cater more effectively to learning styles across the school. In addition, we have focused on providing extra literacy support where required throughout the junior school and fostering a stronger connection between parents and guardians and the classroom. All of our Literacy Support classes have been enriched by the regular inclusion and visits of their loved ones to their English classes.

Special mention must also be made of four new classes of Extra Literacy Support in Years 7 and 8, staffed by teachers and teacher aides, giving intensive support in literacy and reading twice a week through the use of the ‘Cars and Stars’ program. Feedback obtained from students, teachers and parents has indicated such a program is invaluable in enhancing student confidence and basic literacy skills.

This year has also seen the first full year of implementation of our Corrective Reading Program and we are extremely pleased with the extensive success of this reading intervention program. Under the leadership of our specially-trained Reading Intervention Coordinator, Mrs Jacinta Gordon, students have continued to improve their decoding and reading comprehension skills, with many of our pilot groups graduating from their initial course. We have also been able to expand the program, with six classes running and an additional teacher, Mr Myles Newton, now trained in the implementation of the program.

Feedback from students, staff and parents about this initiative has been excellent and we look forward to the long term effects of such an important program within our school.

At the end of 2014, all Year 12 students gained their QCE Literacy Credit, with 99% pass rate in Senior English and 100% pass rate in English Communication. With a strong and dedicated group of teachers from many departments across the school, it is clear that English continues to flourish. We look forward to 2016!

MATHEMATICS

The Year 7, 8 and 9 Extension/Academy Classes competed in the Australasian Problem Solving Olympiad throughout terms 2 and 3. The competition involved solving sets of problems within a pre-set period of time (20 mins – 27 mins). Students enjoy this challenge and it expands their problem solving and skills. They performed admirably over 5 rounds of very difficult questions.

The top problem solvers in Year 7 were Jayden Clarkson, Mitchell Lawson and Joe Luckley. The top problem solvers in Year 8 were Zac Seychell, Sam Firster-Matherson and Cade Duff. The top problem solvers in Year 9 were Joshua Ingerman, Amber Mann, Abbey Myott and Tyson Smith. Well done everyone!

The concept of school on a Saturday occurred in term 2 with our 2015 Open Day. The Mathematics department invited future parents and students to demonstrate their mathematical
problem skills. The tasks involved Poly Puzzles, Towers of Hanoi, money making through probability and foreign currency calculations. The future parents and students enjoyed the challenge with some parents (fathers) needing to be dragged away by their children.

In Term 3, approximately 140 Year 7 to 12 students competed in the Westpac Australian Mathematics Competition. The students achieved fantastic results. The final results contained 6 High Distinctions, 18 Distinctions, 50 Credits, 50 Proficiencies and 20 Participation awards. Special recognition must go to Reagan Cleary, Brock Duckworth and Phillip Glattback, who finished in the 100th, 99th and 98th percentiles respectively. All three students received High Distinctions for their efforts. A great set of results!

In term 4 the Year 11 Maths B students went on an excursion to White Water World. The excursion provides an opportunity for students to see, first hand, how higher-order Mathematics (Calculus) is applied in the real world. They observed and participated in mathematical investigations related to their curriculum including, investigating periodic functions in the Cave of Waves, discovering average and instantaneous rates of change in the Blue Ringed Octopus, create a mathematical model for how long it takes riders to get sucked into The Rip! and calculate the volume of the wave pool.

It has been a great year that has been made possible by the hard work and dedication of every mathematics teacher, mathematics student and the parents associated with our wonderful school.

**SCIENCE**

2015 has been busy year in Science, with Alex Hills students and staff representing the school in a range of scientific activities.

Our partnership with the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy continues to provide opportunities for our students across all year levels. During 2015 our students have participated in the Science Olympiad (Year 10), Expand your Mind (Year 9) and Energy for the Future (Year 8). All of these programs give the students an opportunity to participate in a series of hands on activities based on minerals and energy and to also get first hand advice about career pathways from industry experts.

Year 12 student, Luke Atkins, was selected to be a QMEA Ambassador as part of a new QMEA program and has spent the last 12 months attending various events based around careers in the resource sector. Luke along with Jonathon and Zac attended the Glencore/QMEA MINE Challenge in Mt Isa and experienced life in a mining community while working alongside engineers on a real life project.

Three of the Year 10 Academy class students have been selected to attend Science Summer Schools over the Christmas holidays. Congratulations to Sabrina Bartlett and Ethan Cleary for being selected to attend the ConocoPhillips Science Experience at Queensland University. A special thanks to Don Brown MP for providing the sponsorship for these students to attend this event. Jordan Atkinson has been selected to attend the CSIRO ASSETS Summer School to be held in Adelaide. I am sure these students will have a wonderful experience and will be able to share their new skills with us all next year.

A newly formed partnership with QUT STEM Outreach Program has given the students in the Academy Classes and the Year 12 Engineering Technology class an opportunity to attend a variety of workshops including robotics and electronics and the modelling of genes in populations. These workshops also provide the opportunity for the students to experience a day a university and to talk to current students about their studies.

Congratulations to Ashley Corone in Year 7 for winning the Science Spelling Bee held in Term 3. A special thanks you to the P & C for kindly donating an e-reader as the prize for this competition.

While our science students have been working hard, so too have the teachers. In August, Robyn Flexman (HOD) was selected to attend a “Train the Trainer” workshop with the Society of Petroleum Engineers. This workshop, held in Kuala Lumpur, has given her skills to deliver the “Energy4me” program to both teachers and students.

This program involves a series of activities and hands-on experiments to teach energy in an exciting way. Our Year 11 Physics students will be attending the Unconventional Resources Conference and Exhibition to undertake these workshops and also visit the conference floor to speak to the experts.

Congratulations to all our Year 12 students and the results you have achieved this year. We are looking forward to an exciting year in 2016 when we will welcome our first Year 7 Academy Class and continue to provide opportunities to enhance our Science curriculum.
**SOCIAL SCIENCES**

There are always new topics and issues to explore in the teaching of our dynamic subject area. But the most exciting aspect is always in the activities we have undertaken. A group of dedicated History teachers formed a Junior History Club for students who love their history and enjoy having activities to do during lunch hours. The club meets once a fortnight and has been well attended throughout the year. Various activities and enrichment opportunities have included the construction of 3D models; online empire building games; viewing of movies and more currently, competitive rounds of history trivia with prizes on offer.

But it was the excursion to the Abbey Museum for History Club members that was a most enjoyable opportunity. Year 7 Club members got their hands dirty in an Archaeological experience while Year 8 & 9 members participated in a medieval presentation.

Partnerships with Queensland University at St Lucia have been developed in the senior levels. Year 11 & 12 Ancient History have participated in Archaeological and Artefact workshops led by post graduate students who provided an insight into career pathways as well. Various career presentations, both on site and off site, took place with Year 10 Geography classes.

Brisbane during WW2 became the focus for a Year 10 History group who visited the MacArthur Museum and Anzac Square in the city. In all of these excursion activities our students represented their school with excellent behaviour.

In the year ahead the Junior History Club will continue to grow. A 6 day trip to Canberra is now in the planning stages for the mid-year break next year. The senior school are being presented with the opportunity to participate in a 12 day overseas trip to Vietnam.

Social Sciences at this school still remain with a focus on the world, Australia and being out and about in the environment.

**VISUAL ARTS**

The vibrant Visual Arts Department had another successful year in 2015 – a year which was guided by a number of changes in curriculum, extracurricular activities and teaching staff. With these changes our very talented students continued to create many outstanding works across Years 7 to 12.

Our two subject areas, Visual Art and Film & Television and New Media, are showcased for the community yearly and 2015 was no exception with newly formatted events.

Our annual Art Exhibition transformed the library into a cutting edge gallery with paintings, sculptures, ceramics, installations and digital art created by our senior students in Years 10, 11 and 12. Family, friends, staff and the local community were delighted with this more intimate and professional showcase of our students' creative skills and hard work. Each year students strive to win the prestigious Helene Kempe Art Award, as well as year level prizes and highly commended certificates.

This year, Year 12 student Sinead Henderson won the Helene Kempe Award. Her work was judged to be a cohesive representation of skillful talent and conceptual ingenuity. Many thanks are to be given to Cerid Brereton and Simone Maguire, both highly experienced in teaching Senior Art, for judging the exhibition.

Our very own annual ‘Academy Awards’ night was also held again this year in the library. The Film Night highlighted productions of our talented Media and Film & Television students who strive to win the coveted Film Awards, including best actor, people’s choice and the “Alex” for best production each year. This year there was a record number of high quality films entered from across the junior and senior year levels with Year 11 student Sage Rizk winning the “Alex” Award. Our Senior FTVNM teacher, Mr Harvey, must be applauded for his exceptional talents in teaching and guiding students to create such professional films; in addition to organizing the Film Night.

There are many opportunities throughout the year for Visual Art and Media students to exhibit their work in the wider community - for example, junior and Year 12 VAS students entered and won many awards at the Redlands Photographic Exhibition and Competition once again in 2015. And furthermore, Shanae Duckworth in Year 12 was invited to show her artwork at the South East Queensland Regional Exhibition for the Creative Generation Excellence Awards in Visual Arts Exhibition. What an innovative and artistically inspired year!

**BUSINESS**

2015 has yet again been a busy year in Business at Alexandra Hills SHS. January saw the introduction of the Certificate III in Business, which runs in association with an outside provider called Binnacle
Training. We were very excited to enter into this new phase of program offerings beginning with two classes of eager students. So far this year, the students have learnt about business plans, they have investigated e-learning and most importantly, have been able to give local charities $1160 as a result of fundraising activities in the school.

Tourism has also continued to thrive with two classes this year, with students enjoying learning about the tourism opportunities that abound in our local area.

Our Junior Secondary numbers have remained strong in our faculty with the continuation of the Year 7 program. Students have enjoyed the term of Business, where they have begun learning about the retail sector and have enjoyed doing product tasting and writing reviews of well-established brands in the Australian market.

Our Year 10 students have also eagerly enrolled in our “Taster” courses in Semester Two this year. In this time we offer the students the opportunity to try some of our Senior subjects before subject selection. This year, we have had six classes across our various subject offerings and we hope many of them will continue their Business Journey in 2016!

**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN**

Design Technologies

The focus for the Technology Department continues to be on Innovation and Design. This year ITD students have created outstanding products and there have been excellent results as the student’s skills and confidence at using tools and machinery have grown.

Our 2015 Junior students have designed and built an impressive range of household products such as cutlery stands and lounge room side tables. The senior cohort have designed and built products such as colonial furniture, toolboxes and stools. Year 7 students this year where given the challenge of working with a combination of wood and plastic in their projects. The implementation of 3D printing and robotics into our classrooms has enhanced how students design solutions and apply innovation to solving the challenges presented to them.

Automotive Students attended the Test n Tune at Willowbank Raceway in September where students had the opportunity to work as part of a pit team to see what has to happen to send a car down the quarter mile. They were involved in the preparation and maintenance of the school vehicle as well as analysing performance data.

Digital Technologies

IT students continued their exposure to Coding and Robotics challenges that will enhance their skills for the future. Year 9 students created and programmed a range of different robots using Lego EVE3 equipment as well as building their Graphic Design skills. Year 10 students completed coding challenges in Python and designed and developed Apps.

Coding club students participated in the National Computer Science Challenge in August with some outstanding results. Matthew Stewart, Tristan Sharman and Jayden Clarkson received a perfect score and are on the international leaderboard for the top 60 competitors in their group. Special congratulations also go to Brendan Haidenhofer and Declan Flemming – High Distinction, Natasha Merritt, Chelsey Anderson and Tirryn Forster - Distinction. Georgia Sweetapple in year 10 became our first student to achieve a MOS (Microsoft Office Specialist) Certification in PowerPoint.

**LANGUAGES**

This has been a busy year for Italian, German and Japanese, the three main languages studied by students at our school. Along with the core business of classroom teaching, we have had some exciting events happen since the end of the last school year, including the visit of the German consul to our school in Term 2, and, at the end of Term 3, hearing the thrilling news that Nicolas Stojanovic has won the prestigious StudItalia prize, which will see him spending 4 weeks at a school in Italy early next year, all expenses paid.

Over the summer holidays last year, 17 students and three teachers visited Italy for 35 days. This was a wonderful opportunity to experience Italian-speaking culture, and students had a wonderful time immersing themselves in the culture, food, sporting events and also attending school in Italy.
In 2016, overseas trips are planned to Japan, Germany and Italy, providing all languages students from Year 10 upwards, the opportunity to travel and learn about other cultures. Although it is only senior secondary students who go on such trips, the Languages Department also works hard to ensure that Junior Secondary students not only learn a language, but have multiple opportunities to engage with the culture and traditions of the particular language. Thus our languages program includes immersions involving pasta-making, learning Japanese calligraphy and creating German Christmas ornaments, to name just a few of the exciting activities which comprise learning a language.

With an increasingly multicultural outlook, and with a number of our senior students benefiting from the bonus rank points offered by Queensland universities, our Languages Department continues to thrive within our school.

**PERFORMING ARTS**

Performing Arts teams began 2015 with energy and a renewed focus on preparing for this year’s excellence programs in Music, Dance and Drama. Our senior leaders got straight to work with choreography, instrumental music ensemble preparation and drama performance development through active drama games. Teachers and parents, assisted Deputy Principal Trisha Hutchinson and HoD Eddie Leeon with organising fund raising events and activities for the Performing Arts Tour of the USA in September.

The launch of our Strings program in February was a big success. The ensemble began with twelve foundation strings members, and this number is expected to grow to 16 next year. The group had their very first public performance at the Wynnum Manly Eisteddfod where they received a Highly Commended. Well done to our strings students and our new teacher Ms. Julie Schmidt. Two more additions to our instrumental music program has been the inclusion of classical guitar and piano lessons provided by outside tuition services; The Virtuoso Guitar School and Piano Teacher, Linda Decker.

Drama students took part in excursions to QPAC, Billy Brown Studios and RPAC to witness “Argus”: Yr. 9, “It Begins With Love”: Yr. 10, “Oedipus” and “Seven Stages Of Grieving”: Yr. 11 and 12. These performances surely inspired our Drama Extension students when they undertook an abridged version of the famous musical “ Bugsy Malone”. This production was the brain child of Ms. Lockwood, who reworked the original script for assessment purposes and allowed our Catering students an opportunity to provide a service for parents and friends in a Theatre Restaurant setting in the Performing Arts P03 theatrette. Parents were dazzled by the student performers and the level of confidence and dramatic skills they applied on the night. Well done to everyone concerned, especially to our very talented Ms. Lockwood, supported by Ms. Taske.

The Year 12 Music Extension class performed their assessment concert in P03 to the delight of all who attended. Excellent performances from all our students really provided a full evening of music and singing entertainment.

The highlight of the 2015 music program was the AMPS Concert at RPAC last week. Some of our regularly attending parents expressed how much they thought this year’s concert was one of the most varied they have attended in recent years. Congratulations to all our instrumental music teachers, Ms. Wolfe, Ms. Winch, Ms. Ensby and Ms. Schmidt and all the instrumental music students for another truly magnificent year of music excellence.

Dance Excellence’s Night of Dance was another big hit this year, with the audience packing the hall out to the rafters. A particularly entertaining item was one that included members from the very first Boys Troupe along with other past students from various years in a memorable performance titled “The Vision”. In this piece performers paid tribute to past choreographers and to the phenomenon that has become Boys Troupe. They also honoured their favourite dance teacher, Ms. Hill, who returned to school this year after three years break from teaching. What a well-deserved welcome back she received. Another memorable performance on the night was the creative work choreographed by Mr. Newton and Ms. Carmody involving the use of suspended lightbulbs from the ceiling. This was truly a visual feast, where moving shadows were hauntingly cast upon the white cyc behind the dancers and seemed to move with the live performers. Well done students, Ms Carmody, Ms. Hill and Mr. Newton.
The Performing Arts Tour of the USA in September will be remembered by all travellers for the rest of their lives, because they really did have an experience of a lifetime. After their long trans-Pacific and trans-continental flight to New York, students viewed two Broadway shows “An American in Paris” before they had a chance to recover from jet lag and “Kinky Boots” at the well-known Al Hirshfield Theatre. The group attended separate music, dance and drama workshops in famous addresses including the Alvin Alley Dance Studios, The Broadway Dance Centre and the Ellington Centre. They participated in Musical Theatre seminars, a Hip Hop workshop, a walking tour of Harlem and sightseeing to famous locations in and around Manhattan such as the Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero, and the Brooklyn Bridge before flying into Los Angeles. Here they met students at Cypress Hill High School in Anaheim. Their American friends included our students into daily classes and school activities, sharing thoughts and learning with their new Aussie friends. A musical theatre experience class culminated in a performance that was recorded at Disneyland before enjoying a full day of fun at the famous theme park. The tour extended over ten days in America with the group returning home after an extremely packed eleven days, fully exhausted. Teachers Ms Wolfe, Ms Hutchinson and Mr. Newton enjoyed the rest of their much deserved September holidays.

Congratulations to our Year 12 cohort who have achieved extremely well in all four OP subjects, Music, Dance, Drama and Music Extension. We wish you well for the future ahead. Congratulations also to all the Performing Arts mentors, teachers and students who have made this a very special year in Performing Arts – well done everyone!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC</th>
<th>PRACTICAL ARTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wind Orchestra and Concert Band</td>
<td>Staff teaching in the Practical Arts faculty are Kerry Candy, Kim Hill, Heather Johnson, Di Stackpool, Sherree Torrance and Narelle Logan (HOD). Margaret Koppenol and Paula Kenny have also spent many weeks in the Home Economics department this year doing contracts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The PEP Band</td>
<td>Year 7 students spent a busy term in the kitchen developing basic skills and producing simple dishes. They also created sock puppets and in the process learnt basic hand sewing skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The String Ensemble</td>
<td>Our Year 8s concentrated on the food side of Home Economics producing a variety of recipes to enjoy at home and used their design skills to create party cakes in the food unit. Students have made a decorated drawstring bag as a basic introduction to the operation of a sewing machine. Our Catering students have enjoyed a variety of food units culminating in the always popular restaurant in Year 10. Our oldest kitchen was given a make-over during the Easter break giving us three modern school kitchens. Fashion classes in both Yr 9 and 10 have produced items of clothing they can be proud to wear. All students have benefited from the purchase of 24 new sewing machines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Clarinet Ensemble</td>
<td>Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care provides our senior students with the opportunity to successfully complete a Cert III while at school. The Year 11 students were involved in a number of regular programs at various primary schools this year. Certificate III Aged Care will end</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Flute Choir and Sax. Ensemble</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIG BAND</td>
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<td>PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE</td>
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<td>DRAMA</td>
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<td>Drama Extension</td>
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<td>Lael Batoon</td>
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<td>House of Champions: most outstanding Male dancer</td>
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<tr>
<td>DANCE TROUPE</td>
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<td>Fresh Ethics</td>
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<td>Junior Mixed Hip Hop</td>
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<td>Junior Musical Theatre Senior Musical Theatre Senior Contemporary Boys Troupe</td>
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<td>Junior Contempory Senior Girls Hip Hop Fresh Ethics Hip Hop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Musical Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Musical Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys Troupe</td>
<td>5th @ Brisbane Eisteddfod</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls Hip Hop</td>
<td>4th @ Brisbane Eisteddfod</td>
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<td>Fresh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elite Contemporary</td>
<td>2nd @ Brisbane Eisteddfod</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Mixed Hip Hop</td>
<td>1st @ Brisbane Eisteddfod</td>
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with this year’s Year 12 students with many hopeful of placement in nursing courses next year.

Our senior Home Economics students enjoy the challenges of an authority subject with a strong practical focus. They continue to produce some amazing textiles work which has been extended by the use of our computerised embroidery machines.

Students in Hospitality can now achieve a Certificate II or III in both front and back of house. The school’s training cafe provides students with a suitable place to practice their skills. Together with our Hospitality SAS students, the certificate students have catered for numerous functions during the year with the most recent being the Theatre Restaurant for Bugsy Malone.

**HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

In Second Semester Year 10 Health and Physical Education changes from being a core subject to an elective. The school offers three HPE alternatives in Semester Two Year 10 to prepare students for Year 11. The students studying Physical Education Extension have completed units on Invasion Games (Touch, Soccer, Basketball etc) combined with a theory unit on Fitness and Training. This has been very beneficial to students playing not only competitive sport but also those wanting to keep fit. The Recreation Extension classes have been enjoying physical activity units involving different forms of football combined with a theory unit about Sports Injuries. The Health Education Extension classes have learnt about lifestyle diseases and are currently completing a unit on Mental Health.

**Sports Excellence**

The Year 8 Sports Excellence class was lucky enough to have Australian Volleyball player Tim Dickson instruct them on the finer points of playing volleyball during their unit of study in term 3/4. This class also participated in an introductory weightlifting clinic conducted by Damon Kelly (Commonwealth Games Bronze Medalist 2014). Other activities planned for this class include lifesaving lessons at the Goodlife Gym pool in preparation for the annual 2 day camp to the Point Lookout Surf Lifesaving Club. The Year 9 Sports Excellence Class are preparing for their camp to the Runaway Bay Sports Center where they will be physically tested by a number of the activities conducted at the center.

**Recreation Studies**

The Year 12 students have studied a variety of recreation units this year including Ten Pin Bowling. The Year 12 course also requires the students to complete a First Aid Certificate Course, Bronze Medallion and a Community Coaching Certificate. These qualifications are useful when students seek employment.

**Certificate III and IV Fitness**

Our partnership with The College of Health and Fitness has once again been of great benefit to the students at Alexandra Hills State High School with fifteen Year 12 students close to receiving a Certificate IV in Fitness. This allows these students to become personal trainers and is also very useful if students wish to continue with study in this area at University or another Tertiary Education institution. Another 16 students have been working through their Certificate III in Fitness which will enable them to secure work in one of the many gyms in the area.

**STUDENT SUPPORT CENTRE**

The Student Support Centre has enjoyed another busy and successful year in 2015. The number of students who access the program has increased again this year and the variety of activities and opportunities has also grown. The students who are supported by the Alexandra Hills State High School Special Education Program, enjoy the support of teacher aides and their case managers. The dedicated staff ensures that the students have the opportunities to engage in the many and varied activities that are offered by Alexandra Hills State High School.

This year we welcomed large groups of Year 7 and 8 students who have grown socially and academically as the year has progressed.

The Junior School program focuses on improving students’ Literacy and Numeracy levels - especially supporting the Year 7 and 9 students as they prepare for the NAPLAN tests. The Year 7, 8 and 9 students enjoyed being involved in science experiments and were intrigued by their “Archaeological Digs” and the amazing objects they found in History. The students enjoyed the products of their cooking experiences in their Life Skills Program. Groups of Year 7s and 9s took the opportunity to attend their year level camps which saw them returning with many amazing stories of their unforgettable experiences and the new friends they had made.
The Year 10’s have had the opportunity to trial subjects for Year 11 in semester two which has helped them make decisions about what subjects they wish to participate in during Year 11 and 12 and begin plans for their future.

The senior program continued with an expanded suite of subjects incorporating Living Skills, Life Skills, Computer Skills, and Work Skills along with Literacy and Numeracy.

A number of senior students successfully participated in TAFE programs and School-based subjects and look forward to receiving certificates in areas such as Work Place Practices, Automotive Studies, Hospitality and Visual Art. Students have been supported by community organizations to access work experience with the goal to develop the necessary skills to gain employment in the future. Work experience placements have given these students a true insight into life after school with students having firm plans in place for 2016.

**SENIOR SCHOOLING**

An array of vocational opportunities continues to be what sets our school apart from many other schools with 195 students finishing Year 12 in 2014 having completed at least one vocational qualification, with the majority having completed more than one. 95 students completed a Cert I, 125 students completed a Cert II, 88 students completed a Cert III and 15 students completed a Cert IV. A total of 323 certificate completions, up from 289 in the previous year. Seven students completed a partial Diploma or University subject. QCE completion rates continue to increase with 99% of Year 12 graduates in 2014 leaving with a Queensland Certificate of Education.

In 2015, 53 students commenced certificate programs off campus with TAFE Brisbane (formally Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE) or SkillsTech. In addition 111 students are completing a Cert III or IV program at school through the College of Health and Fitness, Binnacle Training or the Cairns Training Academy. Likewise many other students are completing other school-based certificates.

School-based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SAT) numbers continue to grow. Often this opportunity comes about as a result of students participating in Structured Workplace Learning as part of their vocational subject offerings. 102 students participated in structured work placement in 2015. This year we again offered all Year 10 students an opportunity to experience a week of work experience with an employer in the September school holidays. 92 of our Year 10 – 12 students took up this opportunity to trial work experience, some students choosing to partake in two different experiences in a wide variety of different industries. Some of the fields included: Surveying, Environmental Health, Engineering, Law, Business Administration, Mechanics, Childcare, Veterinary Nursing, Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrician, Beauty Therapy, Hairdressing, Information Technology, Theatre, Retail and Commercial Cookery.

Employers, who are impressed with a student’s skill and work ethic, sometimes offer them employment either in a part-time or full-time capacity. Similarly offers of a school-based traineeship (SAT) or apprenticeship are increasing as a result of the positive student experiences in the workplace. In 2015, approx. 90 students are either undertaking or have completed a SAT, with the number growing on a weekly basis.

The broad, quality curriculum opportunities in the senior school, coupled with the supportive school culture work together to maximise student success. This has proven to be a successful blend of strategies which has resulted in outstanding achievements for students from Alexandra Hills State High School.

**INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

AHSHS Indigenous students have had the opportunity to be supported by a number of agencies as a result of the positive community partnerships that have built over the previous years. Senior students continue to work with The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation (QATSIF) to gain a QCE. Last year all nine recipients achieved their QCE and all six Year 12’s are on track again this year. Great outcomes for all Australians. The school also enjoys close ties with our local COOEE Elders who offered a six week Learning Through Cultural Workshops to link students with Elders, the art of storytelling, traditional fire lighting and painting. National Sorry Day at COOEE was a moving experience for our dancers who listened to firsthand accounts of those dark days in Australia’s past. Further to this, it was encouraging to see parents, students, teachers and tutors working Indigenous art at the Trackers Art Classes. We continue to showcase our artistic skills on NAIDOC parade each year with dance and song. Tabitha’s voice and Tyson’s didge playing are always a highlight as was the speech by one of our parents. Ren Perkins: Mr Perkins spoke about
the importance of country and the land to First Nation People based on this year’s theme “Sacred Ground”. Much of these experiences are a result of the coordination efforts of Natasha from Titans For Tomorrow and Cerid, our teacher aide. The Titan’s program continues to be ever present in the students’ lives keeping them on track, motivated and at school. Students have also taken up the chance to attend university this year at the UQ Inspire U Camps – Tahlia, Tyra and Tate all enjoyed this 5 day experience and as a result are motivated to reach their career goals. Moving forward, Jordan, Chloe, Stephanie and Tahlia are attending university experiences in Sydney and Adelaide over the break. AHSHS congratulates them on their successful applications.

Best wishes to our Year 12 group. It is our wish that all these experiences will be carried with you on your personal pathways through life and that you continue to connect with culture.

THE HUB

Hub Staff take on a broad and varied brief here at Alex and as such anything is possible up in The Hub. Student needs are always a priority as is working with families and other agencies to enable students to be the best person that they can be. At times the focus is on emotional wellbeing and at others it is about finding that dream job, the perfect uni course or connecting with peers over a game at lunchtime. Hub staff continues to work with staff to help support our young people and it is the flow of referrals from astute staff that can make the difference to a student’s overall wellbeing. At time I believe that Hub staff could be eligible for a Quiet Achievers Award as we often deal with issues discreetly.

Parent involvement is always welcomed in the Hub and this year Annie Shultz and Michelle Lockwood worked collaboratively with Child Youth and Mental Health to present a family based program to reduce the anxiety levels of some of our students.

Further parent commitment was demonstrated at the Black Dog Institute Parent Forum for Mental Health Week. The benefit of such programs is to confirm that we are never the only family experiencing the challenges of raising teenagers.

The 2015 Hub calendar included regular events such as University visits to QUT, UQ and Griffith, the Year 12 Careers Day, with a focus on QTAC applications during Term 3. The QCS breakfast is always an early start yet we are pleased to provide that high protein breaky for 100 students to settle the nerves.

We said a sad farewell to Anna – our Chaplain – who moved to WA to start a new life. She has been a positive part of the happenings here in the Hub for a number of years and we wish her well. This change then allowed us to warmly welcome Chantelle along with Lisa our school nurse.

An acknowledgement must go to Mr Damien Hepburn who took on the Hub leadership role last year at short notice. He embraced all that is positive in the Hub and co-ordinated the team seamlessly.

SPORT REPORT

School Carnivals

Acacia House were winners of the Swimming carnival, with Hovea House dominating the cross country and athletics. Hovea House were the Champion House for 2015.

Bayside District Carnivals

Alexandra Hills SHS finished seventh at the Bayside District Track and Field Carnival. In other district carnivals, our school finished sixth at the swimming and cross country.

Summer Sport

- Year 10 Softball girls
- Bayside District Premiers – Metropolitan Champions
- Year 7 Basketball boys Bayside District Premiers – Metropolitan finalists District Premiers
- Year 8 Basketball boys Bayside District Premiers Baseball
- Bayside District Premiers
- Year 9 Basketball Boys
- Bayside District Premiers

Winter Sport

- Year 8 Rugby League Bayside District Premiers
- Year 7 Rugby League Bayside District Premiers

Other Competitions Participated in:

Aerobics: Team Tricky State and National Champions

Futsal: teams entered the Vikings South East Qld championships

Touch: Five teams competed at the Qld All Schools Touch competition.

Rugby league: Five teams competed at the 9-a-side competition.

Sporting Representatives:

- Mitchell Nicholson Australian and State title holder – Kick boxing
- Brayden Martin National and State Champion - Gymnastics
- Kiara Foster National and State representative –
of their debates on the
throughout their debating

representatives:

• Billy Blackburn Australian representative – Gridiron
• Daniel Wilkins Australian representative – Gridiron
• Nikita Ireland Regional representative – Softball
• Michael Trindle Regional representative – Softball
• Michael Trindle Regional representative – Softball
• Nathan Mallet Regional representative – Baseball
• Tiani Mununggurrri Regional representative – Athletics
• Elijah Puna Regional representative – Basketball
• Rylee Holland Regional representative – Netball
• Plaza Syle-Gray Regional representative – Athletics and Cross country
• Tiani Mununggurrri Regional representative – Athletics

As always we had a very successful season of debating with the majority of our teams winning many of their debates. We entered three teams in the QDU competition and for the first time we had our Year 7 team debate above level against Year 8 teams.

 Congratulations to our Year 7’s as they won half of their debates convincingly at this level and were unlucky not to make the finals. They had excellent coaching from Ms Brooks who then got the Year 7 team to present inspiring speeches to our school on parade. Another first, was inter-school debating where we took a delegation of debaters to Birkdale South Primary School and these students taught enthusiastic grade 5 and 6 students how to debate. It was a very successful activity with the debating teams learning what it was like to coach and adjudicate others. Thanks to the efforts of coaches Ms Brooks, Mr Devlin, Ms Hoy, Mrs Hurrell, Ms Rodukoff and our debate teams we had a great season of debating.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Lions Youth of the Year

A total of seven Year 12 students competed at two of our local clubs – Capalaba Lions Club and Redlands City Lions Club. Isaac, Jenn, Hugo and Jess presented thoughtful and sincere speeches on a wide range of topics, impressing the judges with their depth of knowledge and compassion for others. Isaac was declared the winner of the public speaking competition on the night with Hugo to progress through to the zone final as the overall winner.

The second group, at the Redlands City Lions Club, completed all aspects of the competition on the same day. Alex, Gloria and Yasmine faced the panel of judges in the morning and then presented their speeches to an interested audience the same afternoon. Alex was declared the public speaking competition winner and Gloria progressed to the district final.
ROSTRUM

This year’s ROSTRUM public speaking competition kicked off at 10.00 am on Saturday morning, May 2 at QUT Gardens Point. This year, four intrepid speakers put their hands up to have a go at this sometimes quite daunting task. Jackson and Scarlett were first time speaker while Mark and Janice had given it a go last year and were back for another dose of butterflies this year. While all students gave it their best, unfortunately, no students made it through to the next round. The junior topics included, ‘A Lightbulb Moment’ which gave Jackson scope to talk about one of his passions, climbing, and how persistence in this activity has led him to some valuable life lessons.

We congratulate these students on meeting their commitment to represent our school in this challenging competition and hope that they will continue to develop their public speaking skills into the future. Well done, Jackson, Mark, Scarlett and Janice!

STUDENT WELFARE

There is much research to show that social and emotional learning promotes young people’s academic success, engagement, good behaviour, cooperation with others and wellbeing. Our junior secondary student wellbeing program ‘Alex & Me!’ continued to flourish this year and provide students with many opportunities to further develop resilience, persistence and the life skills needed for success. ‘Alex & Me!’ is a multi-faceted program including regular wellbeing lessons, a Year 7 Transition program and Incursion days, Junior Leadership positions and opportunities, Junior Secondary Homework Club, Taskforce and Buddy Bench.

We have an ongoing dedication to provide a program with the most up to date research, resources and activities to ensure we deliver a comprehensive quality student needs based program. This year the AHSHS student wellbeing program continued its partnership with Motivational Media, with all junior secondary students attending the multimedia presentation Jigsaw. Our Year 7 and 9 students also completed Optus Digital Thumbprint workshops learning valuable skills and strategies to protect themselves online.

Alexandra Hills SHS’s ‘Alex & Me!’ program won the 2014 and 2015 Regional Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools in the Junior Secondary Category with our program also being nominated as one of three State Showcase Finalists.

2016 looks to be an exciting year with the school introducing a newly developed Education Queensland respectful relationships programs as well as starting on its journey to become an eSmart cybersafe and cybersmart school.

RESOURCE CENTRE

2015 saw the Resource Centre continue to be at the forefront of innovative and technologically enriched learning. We recognise the need to provide students with access to the latest learning tools that will equip them with the skills they will require to embrace the opportunities afforded to them in the continually changing landscape of the technological world in which we live. Our library is an environment that promotes learning practices that allow students to focus, share, collaborate, create and connect.

This year we have seen some exciting events continue, creating some new Alexandra Hills SHS traditions. The celebration of Indigenous Literacy Day and the fund raising event the ‘Great Book Swap’ is one event. Staff and students alike come together in the Resource Centre and have the opportunity to grab some great books and raise some money for our indigenous communities. It is a wonderful event which allows many to share their love of literature and to give back to the Australian community.

Due to our school’s relationship with Suzy Wilson, founder of the Indigenous Literacy Fund and owner of Riverbend Books, our school was very fortunate this year to have the opportunity to have Jane Caro, author, TV star, social commentator and lecturer, make a special visit to our school to speak to our senior students on public education day. She spoke of her new book and also the importance of having a good public education system in our country. It was an inspiring speech and will be remembered by all who were there. Finally, our Resource Centre has also seen the beginnings of an exciting make-over and our brand new desk was delivered at the start of Term 4. This has brought a new look to our space and is helping us to prepare for our continuing move into the future of digital resources.
At the Alexandra Hills State High School Resource Centre students have access to web-based learning tools and the professional services of our library team. Many exciting new web-based learning tools are being used by the resource centre including: Infiniti a web based information service, ClickView an online digital library, Wheelers an eBook platform, and Citemaker an online referencing guide for students.

**STUDENT COUNCIL**

It has been a very successful year for Student Council taking part in numerous activities around the school and raising money for our much needed charities. We began our busy year with Sun Safety for our Swimming Carnival providing Suncream to all of our students and ensuring everyone was SunSafe. Our Senior students primarily also took part in the World’s Greatest Shave raising money for leukemia. Our boys always enjoy this part of the year as many of our senior students colour and shave their legs for charity.

We have also planted trees for Planet Ark Tree Day, and sold Daffodils raising money for Cancer Council. We have recognized International Women’s Day and our outstanding teachers with World Teachers Day. We raised over $1000 for our sponsor child Sandra Abanyenke in Uganda with our Suit up for Sandra and Spooky Spider Friday.

Of course how could we forget…..Once Upon a Dash- as the tradition lives on…

The Dash has been an integral part of history at Alexandra Hills State High School for as long as we can remember. It was another wonderful day for everyone involved, where students and staff dressed up and became part of the fantasy and the theme of the day. Students were sponsored by family and friends to run, and raise money to help student council create improvements in the school. These much needed funds are now going towards cold water fountains in the school. Thank you for an incredibly exciting and successful year we can’t wait to see what we can do in 2016.