

Report from the Director of Studies

It is very rewarding and with great pride that I begin my first report of 2013 by summarising the successes of our graduating OP-eligible cohort of 2012. Congratulations to Hiroki Nakata, Tiffany Tang and Stephanie Boniface for attaining the ultimate recognition of achievement - an OP1. These students, along with 16 other students, were part of the sixteen per cent who received an OP 1- 5. It is also very noteworthy to mention that almost 50% of the cohort received OP 1-10 and a tremendous result of 83% obtaining an OP 1- 15. This signifies that a massive number of our students will have the score required to obtain placements at a number of local, state and national Universities of their choice. It ensures that a large number of young people will embark on a career of preference and become successful and contributing citizens in this world.

Special mention must also be extended to the families of these students who I am certain have invested great amounts of love, support and encouragement in each of these students. Your efforts, working in conjunction with our school's aspirations and staff, have been fundamental to each individual's success.

Whilst providing a fine example for our Year 12 students, the work now begins in earnest in not only emulating this result but setting a new and higher benchmark of success. Year 12 students have begun their QCS preparation program, both in-class and with the Mighty Minds immersion sessions. Students will also have the opportunity to sign-up for "Master Classes" in Term 2 that are focussed on providing additional after-school sessions. These sessions run for two hours and cover six important aspects of QCS test. More information will be forthcoming in the next month. For those students seeking an alternative pathway, either Rank or workforce, they are continuing to work through modules in order to achieve a Certificate 1 in Work Preparation and have these points contribute to their QLD Certificate of Education (QCE).

Each year we have a number of opportunities for students to undertake University subjects whilst still attending school. Success in these subjects can secure Guaranteed Entry into an assortment of courses for that particular University. Congratulations to the following students who have been accepted in Griffith University Early Start to Tertiary Studies (GUESTS) courses; Bethany Allen, Charlie Cho, Isabella Faranda, Resma Khan, Ryan King, Ben McGrath, Madeleine Reid and Tony Ruzic. I encourage both students and parents to view the local Universities' websites for details on such programs offered.

Brendon Wolski, Director of Studies.

Benowa Junior Volleyball Girls 6th at National Titles!!

In the last week of term last year the **Benowa High's Under 14 Girls' Volleyball team** travelled to Melbourne to represent the school and the Gold Coast at the **Australian Volleyball Schools' Cup Championships**. This is the **biggest** High School Sporting competition in the Southern Hemisphere with nearly 5000 students taking part. This team finished 4th at the Qld Titles last October and headed off to compete against the very best in Australia for their age. This was a gruelling week-long tournament with some very long days of games and duty responsibilities. Travelling out to Dandenong and back twice with very early departures and late returns certainly was a test for the team!

The girls performed **very well** at the National Championships. They finished **6th** out of 10 teams in the Junior Honours Division (the very top division for their age) and this placed them 6th in Australia out of the 67 teams who competed overall in this age group. This result places them as by far **the best Gold Coast team** (male or female) at the national competition in any age division in 2013. Through their behaviour, attitude and effort the girls in the team were a credit to our school and to the Gold Coast.

Congratulations to all of the team for a fantastic week:-

Jordan Boxell, Breanne Bradford, Carina Brennan, Abby Byrne-Hartmann, Kate Fordyce, Charlotte McAneney, Rose Presto, Millie Xavier and Claudia Young.

A **HUGE thank you** must go to **Mr Ian Hutchison** who gave up his time to prepare the team, coach them in Melbourne and to share in both the highs and the stresses of competing at a National Championship with this young team.

Thank you also to the following wonderful ladies who gave up their time to go to Melbourne to support the team, stay in the accommodation with the girls and organised meals etc for the group. Many, many thanks to our magnificent mums:- **Ms Kate Xavier, Mrs Gina Fordyce and Mrs Iris Brennan.**

Thanks must also go to **Miss Jessyka Ngauamo** Benowa High's 2013 School Vice-Captain for travelling to the tournament with the group and for her roles as assistant coach, team referee and for continuing to be an inspirational role model for the girls.

Plans are already underway to send more Benowa teams to this year's Australian Volleyball Schools' Cup in December!!

Mrs Kerry Styles



The Benowa 14yr Honours Volleyball Team with the Benowa Banner at Luna Park.

Kate Fordyce, Breanne Bradford, Millie Xavier, Charlotte McAneney, Abby Byrne-Hartmann, Jessyka Ngauamo (Assist. Coach), Carina Brennan, Mr Ian Hutchison (Coach), Rose Presto, Claudia Young and Jordan Boxell.



The team in action at Dandenong

FINANCE NEWS
RESOURCE SCHEME 2013

Resource Scheme contributions for 2013 are:	Year 8	\$290
	Year 9	\$290
	Year 10	\$385
	Year 11	\$385
	Year 12	\$385

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Full payment can be made as a single payment of the total amount above.

Instalments: During the first two weeks of the first three terms, in the following proportion of the total amount:

Years 8 and 9:	Term 1: \$100	Term 2: \$100	Term 3: \$90
Years 10, 11 and 12:	Term 1: \$150	Term 2: \$135	Term 3: \$100

Centrelink: Instalments can be deducted from a regularly fortnightly Centrelink Payment. Minimum fortnightly payment amount is \$40/student. Forms are available from the Cashiers Office or alternatively you can contact Centrelink directly. Payments can be made by Cash, Cheque, EFTPOS or through Internet Banking as detailed below.

Payment by Internet banking can be made to the school bank account: BSB: 064-430 Account Number: 00090630. To guarantee correct identification of the payment, please ensure that the internet banking payment reference clearly includes the STUDENT NUMBER, along with the characters RES, e.g. 1245456594K RES.

Please complete the Student Resource Scheme 2013 – Participation Agreement form (a copy of this can be found on the school website) and return to the Cashiers Office when making a payment.

ADDITIONAL COSTS for 2013:

SPORT EXCELLENCE for Years 8 and 9

Year 8 SPX Term 1	\$100
Year 9 Surf Lifesaving	\$110

INTERSCHOOL SPORT LEVY

Semester 1 (Feb - June)	\$100
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SUBJECT LEVIES for Years 11 and 12

Marine Studies Year 11	\$275
Marine Studies Year 12	\$185
Multi Media Studies Years 11 and 12	\$200

P & C BUILDING FUND

The P & C Association contribution is a voluntary but very important contribution and is the major fund raising activity of the P & C Association. This fund has enabled the P & C this year to refurbish the canteen and uniform shop facilities as well as build the new Benowa Arts Building. This contribution is tax deductible. Contribution amounts are:

\$50 per student
\$80 for two students
\$100 for the family (maximum)

PAYMENTS

Cashiers Office hours: Monday to Wednesday 8.00am – 3.00pm
Thursday 8.00am – 1.00pm
CLOSED ALL DAY FRIDAY (no over the counter or phone payments will be accepted).

Payment options are as follows:

Cash, cheque or credit card at the Cashiers Office. Alternatively credit card payments can be made by contacting the Cashiers Office on 5582 7302 or 5582 7348 during office hours detailed above.

Centrelink deduction forms are available from the Cashiers Office for fortnightly deductions from your nominated Centrelink pension.

Internet banking is available 24/7 by using the following information

Account Name:	Benowa SHS General Account
BSB:	064-430
Account Number:	00090630
Reference details:	Please record the student ID number and the reference code eg. 000000 Ref YR9

Community/Fundraising Project

As part of the Sports Excellence program we are going to continue to take part in a community fundraising project which will be in the form of sponsoring three children in Rwanda. This was started in 2012. We currently sponsor the three children shown on this page.

The aim of the project is to teach our students the importance and value of thinking of others as well as to give them a greater understanding of the world we live in.



Thierry Kibibi - is an orphan, probably through AIDS. The parents left 3 children who now live with a distant relative who apparently does not care for them very well. The other two children are in our school.

Over the Christmas break of 2011-2012 I spent four weeks volunteering at a school in Rwanda, involved in the Kinamba Project. The aim of my visit was to teach the children English and sport, as well as meeting the child I sponsor; which was a real privilege. This allowed me to witness first-hand how desperately poor these people are. The average wage is between \$1 and \$2 a month. A policeman in Rwanda earns the equivalent of \$100 a year compared to Australia at \$80,000 a year. School fees are also between \$10 and \$20 a year. Therefore, every dollar we can donate makes a huge difference to these people.

Sponsorship will pay for all related costs to educate these children. This includes uniforms, notebooks and textbooks, pens and art materials, health insurance, daily porridge and for an increasing number of children, as funds allow, a lunchtime meal of rice and beans.

Danylla Credo Umuhoza is an orphan. Her father was killed in a road accident – we do not know what happened to her mother. She lives with a relative near to the school. She has a sunny personality and finds some security and friendship at school. We pay the fees for her to attend a local Primary School and she comes to us each day for a meal at lunchtime and after school for homework club.



The very large majority of children at the school are children of single parents, orphans or destitute or abandoned children who have been taken in by local people, themselves very poor. All are too poor to pay the costs incurred by attending local schools. The families have, at best, casual work occasionally. Some of the women have worked in the sex trade; others collect rubbish to earn small amounts of money for food. All live in the local area. The school knows the situation of each child as they visit the children in their homes before they are registered at the school. More

information on the Kinamba Project can be found at www.kinambaproject.org.uk or <http://www.facebook.com/#!/kinambaproject>

We are asking each student in the class if they would like to donate \$12 annually, which as a whole class will be enough to cover the monthly costs to sponsor the three children.

The donation of \$12 will be a one-off annual donation, which as a class; will cover the costs of sponsoring a child for the next 12 months. After this date if you are still interested in being involved in this a further donation of \$12, will be required to cover the next 12 months.

Therefore, you would not have to make another donation until February 2014.

The donations will be paid into the school's Student Peer-Support Council account and then transferred to the <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/kinambaproject> (which goes directly to the Kinamba project, the charity in Rwanda).

In Australia 'gifts' over \$2 are tax-deductible. A receipt from the registered charity will be provided for you.

If your child is not in a Sports Excellence class they are still able to participate in this community fundraising project and can contact me in P Block. If your family is interested in sponsoring your own child please contact me and I will supply you with the necessary details. For more information feel free to contact me at the school on 5582 7386 and I will be happy to talk to you and provide you with further information.

Mr Jonathan Burt
9X Sports Excellence Teacher

Jean de Dieu – a big boy who is good at sport. He is older than many of the others. He is in a family with his mother, a step-father and two younger step-siblings. Epiphane was telling me that men do not like 'sons' who are not theirs – something to do with inheritance at least and that Jean de Dieu has suffered quite a lot in his relationship with that man. He is intelligent and would probably do well in the national exams next year when he is in Primary 6. After P6 he could go to a boarding school which we could pay for and give him a chance. It costs at the moment about £25 a month to pay for secondary school, buy materials and the things they need and give them a bit of pocket money.



Do Your Kids Respect You? - 9 Ways to Change Their Attitude

-Excerpt taken from Empowering Parents Website - article by Janet Lehman, MSW

People wonder why kids have gotten so much more disrespectful these days - we see children and teens arguing with adults (or ignoring them), using foul language, copying an attitude, and not using manners or respecting those in authority. Sadly, this has become the norm for many children and teens. Movies, music, video games and television all seem to glorify a disrespectful, angry, rude way of dealing with others. This means that in some ways parents have to work harder to teach kids to be respectful. Parents are also busier than ever before, which makes it harder to respond immediately to our kids. Let's face it, it's easier to let things slide when you're worn out and stressed from working so hard. Another phenomenon that has increased over time: Many parents have a hard time looking at their kids in a realistic light. In some ways, our own parents were less defensive and more open to the fact that their kids were not "perfect". It is so important to be willing to look at your children realistically, noting both their strengths and their areas of weakness. This allows you to see inappropriate behaviour and not make excuses or ignore it.

We often forget that children aren't born with a built-in sense of respect for others. While each child has a different personality, all children need to be taught to be respectful. From birth, kids learn to manipulate their world to get their needs met - this is natural. The job as parents to teach them respectful ways of doing this.

Here are 9 things you can do as a parent today to start getting respect back from your kids.

1. **Remember, your child is not your friend.** It's not about your child liking you or even thanking you for what you do. Your job is to coach them to be able to function in the world which means teaching them to behave respectfully to others, not just you. When you think your child might be crossing the line, ask yourself, "Would I let the neighbour or a stranger say these things to me?" If the answer is no, don't let your child do it either. When your child becomes an adult, your relationship may become more of a friendship, but for now, it's your job to be a parent: teacher, coach and limit setter.
2. **Catch disrespect early and plan ahead if you can.** It's good to catch disrespectful behaviour early if possible. If your child is rude or disrespectful, don't turn a blind eye. Intervene and say, "We don't talk to people that way in this family." Giving consequences when your kids are younger is going to pay off in the long run. It's really important as a parent if you see your child being disrespectful to admit it and then try to nip it in the bud.
3. **Get in alignment with your partner.** It's so important for you and your partner to be on the same page when it comes to your child's behaviour. Make sure one of you isn't allowing the disrespectful behaviour, while the other is trying to intercede. Sit down together and talk about what your bottom lines are, and then come up with a plan of action and a list of consequences if your child breaks the rules.
4. **Teach your child basic social interaction skills.** It may sound old fashioned, but it's very important to teach your child basic manners like saying "please" and "thank you." When your child deals with teachers in school or gets the first job and has these skills to fall back on, it will go a long way. Understand that using manners - just a simple "excuse me" or "thank you" - is also a form of empathy. It teaches your kids to respect others and acknowledge their impact on other people.
5. **Be respectful when you correct your child.** When your child is being disrespectful, you need to correct them in a respectful manner. Yelling, getting upset and having your own attitude is not helpful and often only escalates behaviour. If you allow their disrespectful behaviour to affect you, it's difficult to be an effective teacher in that moment. You don't need to shout at them or embarrass them. Use these incidents as teachable moments by taking your kids aside calmly, making your expectations firm and clear, and following through with consequences if necessary.
6. **Try to set realistic expectations for your kids around their behaviour.** You may need to lower your expectations. If you are setting realistic expectations and you still think there might be some acting-out behaviours that crop up, set limits beforehand. For example, if you're going to go out to dinner, be clear with your kids about what you expect of them. This will not only help the behaviour, but in some ways will help them feel safer. They will understand what is expected of them and will know what the consequences will be if they don't meet those expectations. If they meet your goals, give them credit, but if they don't, follow through on whatever consequences you've set up for them.
7. **Clarify the limits when things are calm.** When you're in a situation where your child is disrespectful, that's not the ideal time to do a lot of talking about limits or consequences. At a later time you can talk with your child about his behaviour and what your expectations are.
8. **Talk about what happened afterward.** If your child is disrespectful or rude, talk about what happened (later, when things are calm) and how it could have been dealt with differently. That's a chance for you, as a parent, to listen to your child and hear what was going on with them when that behaviour happened. Try to stay objective. You can say, "Pretend a video camera recorded the whole thing. What would I see?" This is also a perfect time to have your child describe what she could have done differently.
9. **Don't take it personally.** One of the biggest mistakes parents can make is to take their child's behaviour personally. The truth is the teenager next door is doing the same thing to their parents, and your cousin's daughter is doing the same thing to her parents. Your role is to deal with your child's behaviour as objectively as possible. When parents don't have effective ways to deal with these kinds of things, they can often overreact or under react to the situation. When they overreact, they become too rigid, and when they under react, they ignore the behaviour or tell themselves it's "just a phase." Either way, it won't help your child learn to manage his thoughts or emotions more effectively, and be more respectful.

Understand that if you haven't been able to intervene early with your kids, you can start at any time. Even if your child is constantly exhibiting disrespectful behaviour, you can begin stepping in and setting those clear limits. And kids really do want limits, even if they protest loudly - and they will. The message that they get when you step in and set limits is that they're cared about, they're loved and that you really want them to be successful and able to function well in the world. Our kids won't thank us now, but that's okay - it's not about getting them to thank us, it's about doing the right thing as a parent.

HOMESTAY FAMILIES NEEDED



Since 1990, Benowa High has welcomed hundreds of Students to our International High School Programs.

We are now seeking additional homestay families who:

- Are **warm, friendly and caring** and are willing to include an International student in their life.
- Have a spare comfortable room with a desk and wardrobe, fan or air conditioning.
- Are open to sharing new cultures.
- Are willing to include the student in family activities and outings.
- Will attend training sessions and meetings.
- Live within 3km of the school.

To be a part of our homestay program please contact:

* *Financial Remuneration*

Judi Goldfinch
International Student Homestay Coordinator
Benowa State High School
07 5582 7359 or
email: jgold88@eq.edu.au

Trudy Campbell
International Student Coordinator
Benowa State High School
07 5582 7361 or
email: tcamp134@eq.edu.au

STUDENT DETAILS

It is vitally important, should parent/s, guardian/s or caregiver/s change address, telephone numbers (work, home or mobile) or email to advise Administration in writing as soon as these changes apply.

2011 SCHOOL MAGAZINES

WE HAVE A NUMBER OF 2011 CLEARWATER SCHOOL MAGAZINES WHICH WERE NOT COLLECTED AT THE END OF LAST YEAR. IF YOUR CHILD DID NOT RECEIVE THE MAGAZINE AFTER CLEARANCE, BUT WOULD NOW LIKE A COPY, PLEASE RING THE SCHOOL LIBRARY ON 5582 7358 DURING SCHOOL HOURS.

ABSENCES

Please notify the school as soon as you know your child will be absent.

You may report an absence by:

- sending a text message to 0417 159 081;
- telephoning the absence line on 07 5582 7360;
- replying to a text message;
- sending a note with the student on their return to school.

When you report an absence please give **clear and concise** details -

Student's full name, year level, date of absence and a very brief reason for absence eg. appointment, sickness, family matter, etc. Unexplained absence/s will be investigated.

Persistent absence may affect school enrolment.

CAR PARKING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS A REMINDER FOR STAFF AND PARENTS

ALL STAFF SHOULD ONLY PARK WHERE THERE ARE DESIGNATED SPACES AND STAY OUT OF TRAFFIC FLOW AREAS. PARENTS SHOULD RESTRICT ACCESS TO SCHOOL GROUNDS UNLESS URGENT OR NEEDED TO COLLECT SICK AND INJURED CHILDREN.

ALL CARS PARKED WITHIN SCHOOL GROUNDS ARE DONE AT THE OWNERS OWN RISK AND ARE NOT COVERED BY ANY DEPARTMENT INSURANCES.

P & C

The next P & C meeting will be held on Wednesday, 20 March 2013 in room V05 (located at the left of the administration car park) at 6.00pm. This meeting is the Annual General Meeting (AGM). All positions are vacant (a nomination form is on the next page and also available on our website under P & C) and everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

For latest school news and upcoming
school events check our
website -

www.benowashs.eq.edu.au



Our Children ~ Our Future

P & C Executive Member for 2013 Nomination Form

I, _____ wish to self-nominate for the position of:
My name

- President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Vice-President
- QCPCA Representative

OR

I wish to nominate _____ for the position of:
Nominee's name

- President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Vice-President
- QCPCA Representative

Name: _____ Signed: _____

Seconder: _____

Date: _____

P & C Secretary's use only

Successfully elected:

- Yes
- No