

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello everyone, we are back for another fantastic year at Benowa State High School. Welcome to our Year 7 families new to Benowa. Great excitement in the school this week and special thanks to families for supporting our 100% uniform policy.

A newsletter each of weeks 1 to 3 to keep everyone up-to-date as we start up the year is our plan - we hope this meets with your approval.

Best wishes for a fabulous 2016.

Mark Rickard
Executive Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL HOURS

Please be reminded that students must be in their Care Class by **8.45am** for roll call.

School finishes at **2.45pm**.

ADMIN OFFICE HOURS

Mon to Fri: 8.00am - 4.00pm
Phone: 07 5582 7333
Fax: 07 5582 7300
Email: office@benowashs.eq.edu.au
Website: www.benowashs.eq.edu.au

STUDENT DETAILS & CHANGE OF INFORMATION

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

NEW ROAD

Mediterranean Drive now has a one-way exit left onto Ashmore Road to allow for Mediterranean Drive to flow easily at busy school pickup and drop off times. Please use this exit if you are able.

CAR PARKING

Parents please **do not use** the two staff car parks to drop off or collect students during the day other than to collect sick children.

BUS TRAVEL

Students who require information about bus timetables and bus passes please contact Surfside Buslines by phoning 13 12 30.

Application forms for bus passes can be downloaded directly from www.surfside.com.au.

Approved bus passes may be collected from the Student Services Counter at Benowa State High School at the following times:-

- * before or after school;
- * morning tea and lunch breaks.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos will be taken on **Monday, 15 February 2016** with a catch-up day on **Monday, 22 February 2016**.

Students are required to be in full dress uniform to have their photo taken.

All students are required to have their photo taken as this photo will be used for the School Student ID Card which the school supplies.

Photo payment envelopes will be distributed during their care class shortly and payment will be required immediately.

P&C

The first P&C meeting for 2016 will be held on Wednesday, 17 February at 6.30pm in the Conference Room in W Block (multi storey building off Mediterranean Drive). Everyone is welcome.

IT NEWS

IT and technological devices have taken a new turn at Benowa State High School. As the 1-to-1 laptop program phases out, the BYOX program takes over. Parents have the opportunity to purchase a device, and then gain connectivity to the BYOX network at Benowa State High School.

On-boarding BYOX students in 2016

This year, the IT Department will be doing classroom visits to assist students with connectivity to the BYOX network.

IT would greatly appreciate if parents could ensure their children have their laptops/digital devices with them as early as possible in the first few weeks. This will ensure that IT can on-board as many students as possible within the early part of Term 1.

Parents can also find the examples of preferred devices on our Benowa website under preferred devices.pdf, which lists a range of suggested devices that would be suitable for students to have when becoming part of the BYOX community at Benowa State High School. These range from a base level, right through to an elite level for more high end subjects such as graphics.

Day use devices will continue to be available for students not participating in

the BYOX program. However, there is no guarantee that all students would be able to access these every day, as there is only a limited supply.

MOBILE PHONE & PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY DEVICES

The use of mobile phones and personal music players is subject to the following policy: *These are to be switched off during class time to protect the classroom environment and to not interfere with the learning of other students. These will be confiscated if used during class time. These may be collected from administration after school. The sharing of inappropriate images by mobile phone will be regarded as gross misconduct and subject to consequences in the Responsible Behaviour Plan for students.*

Games are not to be played on laptops during class time.

SCHOOL ABSENCES

ABSENCE

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;**
- **ring 24hr absence line on 07 5582 7360;**
- **replying to a text message;**
- **sending a note to the Absence Room when the student returns to school.**

When you report an absence please give **clear and concise** details - student 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. Students cannot report their own absences. Repeated days off should be supported with a medical certificate as outlined in the student diary. Persistent absence may affect school enrolment.

LATENESS

Students arriving late must report to the Absence Room located next to the Textbook Room to sign in. Students are to present a note with an explanation for their lateness. Students are reminded that punctuality is expected at all times. Late arrivals will be recorded on reports and can lead to cancellation of enrolment.

RECEIVING SMS ABSENCE MESSAGES

If you receive an SMS from the school advising that your child is late/absent
 (Newsletter continued over the page)

from school would you please ensure that when you reply include the **full name** of the student, Year level, date and reason for absence i.e. **John Smith Year 10 sick 11/2/16**.

EARLY DEPARTURE

Students are only permitted to leave school grounds during the day if they are signed out by parent/s, guardian/s or caregiver/s or have a note signed by parent/s, guardian/s or caregiver/s giving a valid reason. Before school or during break times, students must have their note sighted and signed by a Director and then go to the Absence Room to have a Leave Pass issued.

I would ask parents to please refrain from collecting students during school hours unless absolutely necessary. If you must collect your child during school hours please advise the office beforehand to ensure we locate your child in plenty of time. Students will not be released from the school site to go to an ATM or to go and buy lunch.

Please be detailed in absence notes as 'Family Reasons' will not be accepted as a reason for absences.

ILLNESS

Students who become ill during the school day must initially report to the Student Services Counter after obtaining a note from the current subject teacher. From there, students will either return to class or a parent, guardian or caregiver or listed emergency contact person will be notified.

Your child should be collected as soon as possible after you have been contacted. We cannot provide long term care for students.

Under no circumstances is a student to contact home and arrange to be collected without the prior permission of the Office staff.

SUBJECT NEWS

HOMEWORK CLUB AND SUBJECT SUPPORT

Year 7-12 students can access teachers in the Collaboration Centre for homework and assignment support in English, Mathematics, Science and other subject areas commencing on Monday, 1 February 2016. Homework Club operates on the following days:
Monday – 3.00pm to 4.00pm
Wednesday – 3.00pm to 4.00pm
Thursday – 3.00pm to 4.00pm

SUBJECT CHANGES

Years 9 and 10 students are able to see Miss Lynch in the Administration Courtyard during morning tea and lunchtime from **Monday, 1 February until Friday, 19 February 2016**.

Year 11 and 12 students are able to see Mr Wolski in his office during morning tea and lunchtime from **Monday, 1 February until Friday, 19 February 2016**.

IMPORTANT: STUDENTS MAY ONLY CHANGE THEIR ELECTIVES IF THERE IS ROOM AVAILABLE IN THEIR CHOSEN SUBJECT.

NO SEMESTER CHANGES WILL BE MADE AFTER THESE DATES.

FINANCE NEWS

Cashiers Office hours:
Wednesday, 27 January 2016 to Friday, 5 February 2016 from 8.00am to 3.00pm.

From Monday, 8 February the operating hours change to:
Mon – Wed: 8.00am to 3.00pm.
Thurs: 8.00am to 1.00pm.
Fri: CLOSED.

RESOURCE SCHEME 2016

Resource Scheme contributions for 2016 are: Years 7, 8 & 9 – \$320, Years 10, 11 & 12 – \$420.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

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

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

Years 7, 8 & 9: Term 1 - \$120, Term 2 - \$100, Term 3 - \$100
Years 10, 11 & 12: Term 1 - \$170, Term 2 - \$150, Term 3 - \$100

Centrelink: Instalments can be deducted from a regularly fortnightly Centrelink Payment. Minimum fortnightly payment amount is \$50 per student. Forms are available from the Cashiers Office or you can contact Centrelink directly.

Payments can be made by Cash, Cheque, EFTPOS, BPOINT or through Internet Banking as 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**.

To comply with Education Department Policy requirements the Resource Scheme Participation form must be signed and returned before access to the resources can be provided in 2016. This form can be downloaded from our website or collected from the Cashiers Office.

ADDITIONAL COSTS for 2016

SPORT EXCELLENCE YEARS 7, 8 & 9 – Costs to be advised at the beginning of each term.

1-to-1 LAPTOP PROGRAM - Years 11 and 12: \$190 per year – full payment required by Monday, 29 February 2016.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT LEVY - Semester 1 (Feb-June): \$110.

SUBJECT LEVIES Years 11 & 12 - Marine Studies Year 11 – \$275. Marine Studies Year 12 – \$185. Multi Media Studies Years 11 & 12 – \$200. **Subject levies must be paid by Monday, 7 March 2016.**

Account statements will be sent home early next week.

P&C BUILDING FUND

The P&C Association contribution is a voluntary but important contribution and is the major fundraising activity of the P&C Association. This contribution is tax deductible. Contribution amounts are: \$50 per student, \$80 for two students or \$100 for the family.

SPORTS NEWS

Please note that our weekly Sports Day falls on a **WEDNESDAY**. Full sports uniform must be worn by all students on Wednesdays including correct footwear eg. running shoes or cross trainer – **no canvas or skate shoes**.

Interschool sports competition costs \$110. Recreational sport will attract an additional cost depending on which sport is chosen (information has already been sent home for your perusal). Trials for interschool sport begin in week three along with recreational activities.

Please ensure your student has completed and returned the Sports Permission form for 2016. A copy of this form can be found at the back of the student diary.

Information letters can be found on the school's website: www.benowashes.eq.edu.au

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

All students should have received an information sheet outlining all details regarding the swimming carnival. This is a full school day and early departures will not be approved.

DATE: Thursday, 4 February 2016.
VENUE: Southport Aquatic Centre
TRANSPORT: ALL YEAR 7 STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE VENUE ON THE SCHOOL SUPPLIED BUS. Year's 8 to 12 students can make their own way to the venue however, those wishing to travel by bus (\$3 per trip) must return the completed bus permission slip ASAP.