Helping students to "Be Your Best"

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Helping students to "Be Your Best"...

A message from the Principal...

Tips for helping students achieve our school value of “Be Your Best”

1. Make sure students are at school every day, on time, after eating a nutritious breakfast.

2. Encourage students to pack their bag the night before, after careful examination of their timetable.

3. Assist students to write their assessment due dates into the semester planner in their Student Organiser. Assessment calendars for each Year level are published at https://sanddists.eq.edu.au/Calendarandnews/Examtimetables/Pages/Examtimetables.aspx. Ask students to show you drafts of their assignments.

4. Encourage students to read every day. Fifteen minutes of reading a day will assist students to improve their reading fluency, extend their vocabulary and improve spelling, grammar and punctuation.
5. Check the student’s writing journal. All students are expected to write, with a pen and paper, every lesson. Do they re-read what they write to check sense, have they identified spelling errors and created a spelling list to learn, and is their writing legible?

6. Ask students to talk about Dimensions of Learning. They should be able to tell you about Habits of Mind like persisting, managing impulsivity and striving for accuracy. They will also start to use tools like graphic organisers to assist them to make decisions, problem solve, invent, conduct an experimental inquiry, investigate or complete a systems analysis.

7. Don’t rescue students all the time and shield them from the consequences of the decisions they make. For example, if something is lost, the student needs to find it; if there is a problem in class the student needs to see the teacher to resolve it; if the student is being bullied, they need to report it.

8. Speak positively to the student about school and reinforce the importance of education. Be involved in your school. Our first P&C meeting for the year is Wednesday 19 February 7pm - 8 pm in the Staff Common Room (B block above the tuckshop). The Year 8 welcome to high school BBQ is Wednesday 12 February starting at 5:30 pm in the Piazza.

Paying Fees

Please remember that the Student Resource Scheme Fee of $265 per student should have been paid by last Friday (7/2/2014). The laptop/tablet $150 fee for students in Year 11 and 12, Year 8 and 9 Immerse IT and Year 8 and 9 Academic Achievers was also due on that date. Distinctive curriculum fees, such as Academy of Sport, Year 10 Immerse IT and Instrumental Music, should be paid by the end of this week. We keep our fees as low as possible, while still delivering a high quality curriculum to all students.

Mrs Jeanette Gentle PRINCIPAL

P&C MEETINGS | THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
7PM | STAFF COMMON ROOM | ALL WELCOME
THIS YEARS FIRST MEETING WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2014

What's On 10 February - 28 February
### Week 3

- Monday 10 February 2014 | **SWIMMING CARNIVAL**
- Tuesday 11 February 2014 | **ENEWSLETTER**
- Wednesday 12 February 2014 | Year 11 | Ancient History | Abbey Museum
- Wednesday 12 February 2014 | **WELCOME YEAR 8 FAMILIES BBQ**
- Friday 14 February 2014 | Year 8-12 AOS Physio Screen

### Week 4

- Tuesday 18 February 2014 | District Swimming Carnival
- Wednesday 19 February 2014 | **P&C MEETING | 7pm | All welcome**
- Friday 21 February 2014 | Year 8-12 AOS Physio Screen

### Week 5

- Tuesday 25 February 2014 | **ENEWSLETTER**
- Wednesday 26 February 2014 | Year 8 Camp Warrawee
- Thursday 27 February 2014 | Year 8 Camp Warrawee
- Friday 28 February 2014 | Year 8 Camp Warrawee
- Friday 28 February 2014 | Year 8-12 AOS Physio Screen

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**OP Fast Facts**
OP FAST FACTS

UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS

What is an OP?

An OP (Overall Position) is a student's position in a statewide rank order based on overall achievement in Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) approved subjects. It is used for tertiary entrance purposes only, indicating how well a student has done in comparison to all other OP eligible students in Queensland. Students are placed in one of 25 OP bands from 1 (highest) to 25 (lowest).

How do I get an OP?

To get an OP you must study a certain number of Authority subjects and satisfy other requirements including completion of Year 12 and the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test. The basic eligibility requirement is 20 semester units of credit in Authority subjects with at least three subjects taken for four semesters. Authority subjects are based on syllabuses that have been approved and endorsed by the QSA.

How is my OP calculated?

The calculation of your OP begins with the results you get in the subjects you study in Year 12. These results are reported on your Senior Statement in terms of five levels of achievement: Very High Achievement, High Achievement, Sound Achievement, Limited Achievement and Very Limited Achievement. These levels of achievement alone are too broad to calculate OPs. Four graded comparisons of student achievement are necessary using subject achievement indicators (SAIs). SAIs are numbers (400 being the highest) assigned by teachers to OP eligible students. They show your achievement compared with the achievement of other students in each subject you study in your school.

YOUR OP QUESTIONS ANSWERED

My friend and I both got five VHAs. Does that mean we will have the same OP?

Although you both achieved great results, you won't necessarily have the same OP because you did not compete against other students to achieve these results. Even if you only just met the criteria and standards for a Very High Achievement (VHA), your VHAs will be reported on your Senior Statement. Your Tertiary Entrance Statement (your OP and Field Positions – FP) however, is based on comparisons with other students. Some students with five VHAs may be ranked at the top of the VHA band in every subject, while others may be ranked quite low in some or all of their subjects. These differences are reflected in your SAIs and are sent to QSA at the end of the year as crucial input for OP calculations.

If I get five SAIs of 400 will I get an OP?

Not necessarily. In fact, usually not. An SAI of 400 only indicates that you're the school's highest achieving student in a particular subject. You may not be the best student overall in the school, nor among the top students in Queensland.

Does Year 11 count towards my OP?

In most cases, Year 11 does not count towards your OP. Year 11 focuses mainly on formative assessment which aims to provide feedback on your progress as you develop skills and knowledge in your subjects. However, each subject has its own assessment pattern and even if you exit a subject in Year 11, those results might still be used in the calculation of your OP. You can find out how each subject is assessed by checking your school's QSA-approved work program. If you're aiming for an OP, you should do your best in every subject throughout the year. However, even if you had lower results in Year 11 than you would have liked, you can improve these results by working hard in Year 12 and improving your ranking in each of your subjects.

How should I choose my subjects to get a good OP?

The QSA recommends that you choose the subjects you enjoy and are good at. If you do your best and remember that you need to be placed as far as you can be ahead of your competition, then you will achieve the OP you have earned.
OF FAST FACTS

Are high achievers disadvantaged in a lower achieving subject group?

High achievers are not disadvantaged provided they demonstrate considerably better achievement compared to the other students in that subject. A student who wants a good OP must consistently demonstrate outstanding achievement in all subjects. In a low-achieving subject group, this would be reflected in a large gap between one student’s SAI and the SAIs of other students. OP calculations take into consideration both the average and the spread of the subject-group’s QCE Tests performance. Low achievers may reduce the average but having a much higher achiever in the group increases the spread, therefore ensuring no disadvantage.

Which subjects are used to calculate my OP?

Your "best 20" semesters are used in the calculation of your OP. These are determined after your SAIIs have been scaled, so they might not be the subjects you expect.

Are some subjects worth more than others?

All QCE subjects are treated equally in OP calculations. A student can achieve a good OP with any combination of Authority subjects. In 2010, 81 different Authority subjects featured in OP1 results. What matters in OP calculations is not the subject that you study but how well you do in relation to the competition in that subject. A student can achieve an OP1 or an OP2 by studying any combination of subjects. In 2010, there were 707 OP1 students who studied 4-5 different subject combinations.

Is there a bias in favour of certain schools?

Students, not schools, are awarded OPs. The procedures followed for the calculation of OPs are exactly the same for students in every school. The quality, application and performance of students are unevenly distributed across all schools, so different performances at different schools are to be expected.

Are students in a small group or a small school disadvantaged?

The QCE has special procedures in place for small groups and small schools to ensure students are not disadvantaged. SAIs are assigned differently and the scaling processes are adjusted to make sure that OPs reflect students’ performances fairly.

The QCE does not set a quota of OP1s (or any other OP rank) for a school. OPs and IPTs compare students (not schools) across the state, providing a state-wide rank order of students for that year. The number of OP1s achieved by students at a particular school can vary from year to year depending on the level of students’ achievement and how they rank compared with students across the state that year. If there is a large number of OP1s in your school in a particular year, it’s simply because a large number of high-achieving students attended your school.

If I do badly on the QCE Test, how will this affect my OP?

Your OP is not based on your individual QCE Test result. QCE Test results contribute to group data used in the scaling processes in OP calculations. While it is very important that you do your best on the QCE Test, it is how well you achieve in your Authority subjects that is most important.

Are students with VHA or more VHAAs in Authority subjects and an “A” on the Indexes for automatically rated an OP1?

Not all students awarded VHAAs are at the same standard. Some students may be ranked at the top of the VHA range, while others may be doing just well enough to get a VHA. There are more students with five VHAAs than there are OP1s.

Are there a lot of Visa students in my subject? Will my OP calculations be disadvantaged as a result?

Visa students are not included in OP rankings. Instead, they are given an “Equivalent OP”. Visa students live temporarily in Australia under a short-term visa or a similar authority issued by the Australian Government. The QCE has special procedures in place to ensure that domestic students are not disadvantaged in subject groups and school groups with a high number of Visa students. These procedures also ensure that there is comparability between Equivalent OPs and OPs.
Ask anyone who was there and they’ll tell you; this year’s Senior Induction was awesome. After being welcomed by the school’s Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Mr Charlton, our year twelve coordinator, took to the stage, greeting everyone. There were a myriad of speeches, of which a few come to mind. Mrs Gentle and her emotional speech...
that left more than just herself in tears, Dr Lisa Major (Past SDSHS Vice-Captain, Dux of the school, and OP 1 recipient) who’s speech inspired everyone, teacher, parents and students alike, and of course my very own speech, which, according to Mrs Gentle, was an “11 out of 10”.

It really was a great day, seeing all the year twelves together as one big group. Being up on stage, looking across the audience, seeing everyone’s families, and all the special guests here for us makes me proud of our school. The Honourable Wayne Swan, Sister Linda Yuen, Ms Kerry Millard, Mr Stirling Hinchliffe, Mrs Jenny Kalinowski, and Dr Lisa Major: thank you for coming. Thank you for supporting us on a very special today. Thank you, for believing in us.

Now I just can’t wait until next year, where Kahn and I will take up Joshua Parsons and Emma Clignet’s job of handing over the traditional hunting boomerang, though I doubt next years induction will be anywhere near as special as this years.

Harrison Button/School Captain Extraordinaire
School Patron, Sister Linda Yuen and The Honourable Mr Wayne Swan presented our School Captains and School Vice Captains with their Blazers, Leadership Ties and Senior Badges during the ceremony.
2013 School Captain, Joshua Parsons and 2013 School Vice Captain, Emma Clignett returned to the school to officially hand over the leadership positions to our 2014 School Captains, Harrison Button and Kahn Renata.
Introducing our new School Captains and School Vice Captains for 2014.

School Captains - Harrison Button and Kahn Renata

School Vice Captains - David Watts and Thessa Agasii

Introducing our 2014 School Sport Captains

William Morris-Wilson and Eden Langley
Introducing our 2014 School Cultural Captains
Ndebele Moyle-Virtue and Aariki-Jack Johnson

Introducing our 2014 Collins House Captains
Caleb Boyd and Alana Cunningham
Introducing our 2014 Hinkler House Captains
Isaiah Hill and Tia Templeton-Farmer

Introducing our 2014 Monash House Captains
Andrew Parkinson and Samuel Peina
Introducing our 2014 Story House Captains

Travis Turton and Madison Vass

Special Guests included P&C President, Mrs Jenny Kalinowski, Guest Speaker - 2005 Dux of the School, School Vice Captain and OP1 recipient - Lisa Major, School Principal - Mrs Jeanette Gentle and Mrs Kerry Millard - MP for Sandgate
Introducing our 2014 Year 12 Coordinator - Mr Chris Charlton

Congratulations to all 2014 Year 12 students, we are looking forward to a wonderful Senior Year at Sandgate High.
Year 12

Year 12 students have been reminded this week about the critical importance of their Final year of schooling at Sandgate. Students need to focus on maximising their efforts to achieve a healthy OP or Selection rank score, coupled with achieving the 20 credits points required for the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

See Mr Wishart (Guidance Officer) for all assistance across this body of work.

Year 10 is Worlds of Work

I will be calling for 25 year 10 students for the Worlds of work week project that will take place again in May this year. This is a fantastic opportunity for year 10 students to spend a week in a different learning environment to discover much about themselves as they do about the various working opportunities that awaits them in the future.

It is a truly valuable week of diversity that over the years has left a significant impression on many Sandgate Students lives.

Watch this space !!!!!

Mr Scott Wishart | School Guidance Officer

Year 8 Welcome Families BBQ
Ms Starkey | Year 8 Year Level Coordinator

UQ Enhanced Studies Program (ESP)

“And a round of applause to our high achieving ESP students for 2014!” that was the opening of last night’s (Tuesday 11 February) orientation evening at University of Queensland. I felt honoured and delighted to attend
this event with two of our outstanding students this year. Vishaal Narayan and Harrison Button have successfully enrolled in their respective ESP courses in German and Mathematics.

This program constitutes one subject over one semester available to students in their final year of attending high school. In order to keep this newsletter article brief I will list words and phrases that were uttered last night to attempt to impart an insight into the evening: challenging, taster in self learning to be successful, try out intended area of study, be organised, time manage, interact with University staff following etiquette, attend weekly lectures, attend lectures during school holidays, unique experience, gain an insight into University life…

You may ask what this extra effort will be worth for participants, and the answer is a plethora of information. Students will gain a unique experience that will assist them with setting them up for further studies, an academic transcript, perhaps credit towards future University studies amongst other life skills.

Congratulations to our young students and we wish you all the best!

Simone Phillips | German teacher

Students pictured - Vishaal Narayan and Harrison Button

Human Movement News

Week 3 starts another busy few weeks for the Human Movements Faculty. This fortnight sees our Inter-House School Swimming carnival on Monday 10th. Good luck to all competitors!! Also, senior and junior sports have selected and teams and are now training for interschool games commencing in the next few weeks.
Key Sporting Dates for the 2 weeks of school:

- Monday 10\textsuperscript{th} February – Inter-house Swimming Carnival
- Tuesday 11\textsuperscript{th} February – District Trials Volleyball 15 & Open (G & B) Softball Open Girls
- Tuesday 18\textsuperscript{th} February – District Swimming Carnival
- Wednesday 19\textsuperscript{th} February – Round 1 Senior Sport
- Friday 21\textsuperscript{st} February – District Trials Touch Football 15 & Open (B & G)
- Tuesday 25\textsuperscript{th} February – Round 1 Junior Sport

All students are reminded that our school policy is hats must be worn and sunscreen applied for our outdoor activities. A water bottle is also a must for these classes.

Sports information will be passed on to students through announcements on Monday Assembly, written in student notices, and permission letters home for relevant activities. Don’t be afraid to knock on the Sports Hall Staffroom door to get assistance with specific information you may require.

Mrs Cameron | Human Movements Teacher

Subscribe to our ENewsletter

We are excited to introduce you to our interactive, graphically rich, full colour, professional electronic newsletter.

To receive this service you will need a computer with internet access and email.

If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically, please use the link below to add your contact details.


This link is also available on our School Website at www.sanddisths.eq.edu.au

Paper copies are available for collection (each fortnight) from the student foyer, for families who do not have access to the internet.

Sandgate DSHS Online Communities

In 2012, Sandgate DSHS has launched into the 21\textsuperscript{st} Century and have set up official Facebook and Twitter accounts. Regular updates from the school calendar and messages about upcoming events are fed into the social network. During the school closure in January this year, Twitter and Facebook served as a fundamental tool to keep the community up to the date with the flooding in surrounding areas. Direct links to the official
Community Notices

Latest News for Get Started Round 3

Get Started round 3 opens for voucher applications at 10am on Monday 10 February 2014.

Changes to the referral agent process
To refer a child or young person, the referral agent must now provide the parent, carer or guardian with a Get Started Fact Sheet with the referral agent section completed or an email or letter on letterhead containing the referral agent statement and the referral agent's contact details. The parent, carer or guardian will be required to upload this as part of the application process.

Referral agents are people who hold one of the following positions - state/federal member of parliament, police officer/police liaison officer, local councillor/council youth development officer or school teacher/principal/guidance counsellor.

New activity supported
In round 3, organisations that currently meet the Get Started criteria, such as PCYCs and those affiliated with Queensland Gymnastics Association Inc, DanceSport Ltd Australia and DrillDance Queensland, will be able to accept vouchers for dance activities, if offered, as part of the Start Playing, Stay Playing strategy.

General information
The program has a limit of one voucher per child or young person per calendar year. If a child or young person received a voucher in round 1 or 2, they are eligible for a voucher in round 3. If a child receives a voucher in round 3, the child is not eligible for another voucher until round 5, opening in early 2015.

Get Started is one of three funding programs that comprise the Queensland Government's Get in the Game initiative to support sport and recreation at the grassroots level. Get Started assists children and young people
who can least afford, or may otherwise benefit from joining a sport or recreation club. Eligible children and young people aged 5 and up to age 17 can apply online for a voucher valued up to $150, to help pay for club membership and/or participation fees.

If you would like additional information about the program please visit our website at

Ridgehills United Football Club

Ridgehills Soccer Club is a small family orientated club located in Stanley Day Park, 75 Grand Street Bald Hills. Online registrations are now open for all players interested in playing soccer this year. Due to the upgrading of our fields, we are holding grading nights at McPherson Park, Bracken Ridge as follows:-

- Tuesday 18/02/14  **U9** - 5pm - 6pm and  **U11** - 6pm - 7pm and
- Wednesday 19/02/14 **U10’s** 5pm - 6pm.

This year Ridge Hills United will be hosting the Squirts program for those keen little guys and gals who want to start playing Football now.

Aged between 3 & 5 years we have a 30 - 60 minute training and game program on a Saturday morning. Cost is $70 for a 12 week program and includes everything they need to play (Shirt, Shorts, Socks, Ball, Shin Pads).

For any enquiries, please contact Aaron Punter on sst@rhufc.com or 0431729288 or Michael Hentscher on registrar@rhufc.com or 0416 371 810.

Pine Rivers High Community Education Classes

Pine Rivers High Community Education Classes Term One classes commence from Tuesday 4 February. Update your skills, learn new ones or get fit! Small classes, great tutors. See www.pineriverscomed.com.au or phone Jenny on 0432 116 973 for more details.

Brighton Bulldogs Football Club
WEP Student Exchange – Memories & Skills For Life

Have the time of your life when you spend a summer, semester or year overseas as a WEP exchange student. Choose from over 20 countries around the world to complement your secondary studies with an international, cultural exchange experience. You will be invited by a welcoming, volunteer host family to live and learn like a local teenager, attend school overseas, make new friends and return more mature, independent, goal-oriented and with a new outlook on life!

Don’t Miss Out! Applications Closing Soon!

Applications for long-term programs starting in August/September ’14 to Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland and Spain start to close in mid-April. Applications for the USA close earlier. Contact WEP for details.
Early Bird Special – Save $500!

WEP is currently offering Early Bird discounts for programs starting in January '15 to any of the following countries: Brazil, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Norway, Thailand or the USA.

Find Out More!
Request an information pack, including WEP's FREE application form.
Visit [www.wep.org.au](http://www.wep.org.au)
Call 1300 884 733
mail info@wep.org.au

41 Braun Street, Deagon, SANDGATE, QLD 4017
PO Box 195, SANDGATE, QLD 4017

07 3869 9888
07 3869 9800
07 3869 9802

enquiries@sanddiasths.eq.edu.au
http://www.sanddiasths.eq.edu.au