Virtual Babies Offer Unique Perspective

Year 10 students at Toolooa State High School gained insight into what their weekends may look like should they become teen parents.

The Virtual Baby program, made available through Queensland Health and facilitated by the School Based Youth Health Nurse, Lani Clements, sees students take home a pre-programmed baby for the weekend where they must care for the child, their efforts are recorded, downloaded and students are provided with feedback as to how well they parented.

"Most students collect their baby on a Friday afternoon with enthusiasm and excitement for what the weekend will bring. Many of them come back on Monday morning shocked by the level of care needed; they’re ready to hand the baby back which you just can’t do in the real world," Ms Clements said.

Student, Alisha Evans, is used to noise and responsibility with seven other children in her family home, however being responsible for a baby proved to be a different experience than that of a sibling. "I wasn’t expecting anything bad; actually I was keen as on Friday but then on Monday I couldn’t get back here fast enough. I thought it was going to be a bit of fun, I didn’t know it was going to wake up so often and I didn’t know how loud it got; I thought, if I just leave it a bit it might be quiet," Alisha said.

With Alisha’s family actively providing foster care support, there is always someone to look out for or someone to help with. "Mum always says a good cry can do them some good but they cry all the time. It was a good experience though cause I went out to my cousins football game and you can’t ignore it; you can’t just watch the game, you have to look after the baby so I won’t be doing that anytime soon," Alisha said, very relieved.

Helping Students Cope with a Significant Event – A Parent’s Guide

- Children take their lead from the adults around them.
- Be open to your child’s reactions
- Give information according to your child’s level of maturity
- Reassure your child
- Talk about the event and what it means for a child on a personal level
- Be aware that younger children may not understand the situation
- Look for an activity that lifts your child’s spirits
- Provide factual information that builds an understanding of the event
- Be patient with your child’s grieving process
- Be prepared to provide expert support if it is required

Term 2 Dates

- All classes resume on Monday, April 15

Alan Whitfield, Principal
It’s good to be back!

I would like to introduce myself (finally) to the school community as one of your deputy principals. While my face is new to most of you, I have been at Toolooa since 2005, and have returned this year from extended leave.

My portfolio includes year level responsibilities for years 9 and 10, Reporting and Assessment, School Wide Communications, Variation to School Routine, and Professional Learning. I line manage the key learning areas of Science, Technology and The Arts, and I am proud to say that I am a Science and Mathematics teacher.

Reporting

Faculty assessment should be finalised this week, with report cards mailed out after the 18th April. As per usual, the interim reports will report on student attitude, effort and behaviour, in each of their subjects, with no comments this round of reporting.

The Parent/Teacher interview night will be held on Tuesday 7th May, so please mark this date in your diaries now. It is extremely important that parents/guardians make the most of this opportunity to discuss their child’s progress with teachers. Instructions on how to book interviews online will be sent home with reports.

A busy term

Most of us would agree that this term, even though it has only been 9 weeks, has been a busy time for staff, students and parents. I have met many members of our school community in my walks around the classrooms and grounds, and it is very obvious that we are all in need of a good Easter break! I feel for our year 9 and 10 students in particular, because they are at an awkward point in their school life where they are not quite senior students and it is hard for them to visualise the ‘golden’ point when they graduate or move into training. My message to those students and the families that support them is, ‘dig deep and give it your best – the time goes by quickly (too quickly).’

Happy Easter to all!
Warm regards, Amanda Stirling

RED CROSS BLOOD DONATIONS YOUTH AMBASSADORS - CLUB RED

This year Toolooa SHS has become involved in the Club Red Youth Ambassadors program. The program is aimed at educating people on the need, importance and value of blood donating in Australia. On Monday 25th February while most senior students were catching up on school work thanks to a senior study day, Isabelle and Elora attending a Youth Ambassador training session. The girls learnt that in the time it usually takes them to do their homework, students from local high schools could be saving lives when they line up to give blood as part of the 2013 Schools Blood Challenge.

With 28,500 new youth donors needed nationally this year, the Blood Service kicked off their Youth Ambassador Program with a training day to promote community contribution and a fun, educational way for schools to introduce blood donation to students.

Students are encouraged to donate together as a group with their friends, and many students have found this an excellent way to overcome any nerves surrounding donating, especially for the first time. Students wanting more information on the program should speak to Isabelle, Elora or Mrs Read and keep an eye on the notices!!!!

YEAR 12 QCS PRACTICE DATES

All OP students and any non-OP students wishing to sit for the QCS test this year are to be aware that week 1 term 2 you will be doing your practice test. The practice test will take place on TUESDAY 16th AND WEDNESDAY 17th April. The 4 tests will be conducted in the science block under the same conditions as the QCS test in September.

Students who are NOT sitting the QCS test will have normal classes as per the timetable. Should you have any questions regarding the practice test please contact Mrs Natasha Read (Senior Schooling) on 4971 4357.

WORLD’S GREATEST SHAVE AND CRAZY HAIR DAY 2013

Congratulations to all staff and students who participated in the Greatest Shave and Crazy Hair day held at Toolooa on Friday 15th March.

Wonderful support was shown by all through having their hair coloured as well as attending the popular head shave!!

Special mention must be given to the 5 individuals who this year took the challenge of shaving for a cure – Kayley, Cassie, Zane, Jack and Michael. Kayley and Cassie both had registered on line and raised significant funds for the Leukaemia Foundation which was supported by Toolooa staff and students while Zane, Jack and Michael raised funds which went together with the funds raised from Crazy Hair Day – a total over $500 was raised!!

Well done to all involved.

STUDENT EXECUTIVE SUPPORTING DEAFNESS FOUNDATION IN 2013

Toolooa Student executive members will again this year support the Deafness Foundation in their Butterfly Badge Appeal this year. The Deafness foundation works to support those who are deaf and hearing impaired through research, prevention, education, early detection and technology. They chose butterflies as the emblem for their badge as “Butterflies are Deaf and are very Beautiful”.

The colourful enamel badges will be on sale for $2 from student executive members during lunch breaks.

INTERSCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

On Wednesday 13th and 20th of March, Toolooa State High School participated in the Under 15 Girls Volleyball Interschool Competition at Tannum High. The competition saw three teams from Tannum, a strong team from Gladstone State High and the Toolooa team.

The girls performed exceptionally well pushing the eventual winners Tannum State High to three sets, losing by just one point. Teachers Mr Wheeler and Miss Presswood were very impressed with the girls, considering most of them had never played competitive volleyball before the start of the year.

Special mention to Ellen Anderson, Sharna Gaston and Maddie Wellington for their outstanding performance over the two weeks. Also the Under 15 Boys team came fourth in their competition at State High.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Any students interested in doing work experience this year please see Bree in the Senior Room. The cost is $40 and there are places still available over the school holidays, term 3 and in the QAL block in June.
FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICER - OP ELIGIBLE STUDENTS?

QCS Test - Special Provision
There are two types of Special Provision that may be available for students for the QCS test.

Before the Test
1. **Special Arrangements** - are practical adjustments to the test conditions (rest breaks, A3 size test materials, computer etc., extra time)
2. **Exemption** - allows a student to be absent from the test and remain eligible for an OP

After the Test
1. **Absentee exemption** - allows a student who was unavoidably absent from the test to remain eligible for an OP
2. **Declaring a test grade null and void** - allows a student who sat the test to choose not to receive a test grade.

Applications need to be in by the 21st May and is available for students who may:
- Have diagnosed dyslexia
- Have any impairments
- Is on medication that may require extra time
- Anxiety
- Medical Conditions
- May have a sporting event or extra-curricular event they have been selected for
- And so forth....

Please give me a call if require further information or would like me to submit an application in for your child?

Sille Hetherington - Guidance Officer

**INFORMATION FOR CURRENT YEAR 12 STUDENTS INTERESTED IN UNIVERSITY**

I have received the 2014 Bond University Undergraduate Guide and Prospectus. Bond University 'Open Day' is on Sunday, July 14 10am-3pm.

If your child is interested in going to Bond University on the Gold Coast it is worth their while making an appointment with me to explore this further. In addition, Bond University offer numerous scholarships that are worth applying for.

Please give me a call or make an appointment with me for more information. All information is also available on their website www.bond.edu.au

Sille Hetherington Guidance Officer PH: 49 714 333.

**PERFORMANCE NIGHT**

Senior Dance and Drama students captivated audiences with their talents on Wednesday the 20th of March. Showing a range of assessment items they have worked on throughout term 1.

Next term senior performers will dazzle the audience with student-devised contemporary theatre works and contemporary dance. Year 9 and 10 drama will have the audience in stitches with their Clowning and Commedia Dell Arte scenes. Year 8 and 9 Dance will also be presenting a Contemporary piece.

Thank you so much for all who came along to show their support, donations that were given on the night are very appreciated by the Arts department and will go towards assisting the fabulous work Arts students and teachers are doing at Toolooa.

Thanks again, we hope you will join us next term.

CERTIFICATE I AND II SELF AWARENESS AND DEVELOPMENT

This term saw the introduction of Certificate I and II Self-awareness and Development for 9 senior students. The program designed to allow students to reach their full potential through discovery of personal strengths, learning and thinking styles, increased communication and goal setting has been warmly received by those enrolled.

The program being delivered by Lea (Youth Support Co-ordinator) will assist the students in gaining their QCE (short term goal) as well as increase their confidence for the future no matter what pathway they choose to follow. Special thanks must be given to the Rotary South Gladstone Club who has assisted us in running this program.

**NEED A TAX FILE NUMBER?**

Getting your tax file number through the school is the quickest and easiest way to do it, so please see Bree in the Senior Room to fill out an application. All you need is a copy of your birth certificate.

**BRAKE PROGRAM**

All non-QCS students by now should have submitted their BRAKE registration form and completed the eight modules in the program. Early next term you will complete the 3 month test and by the end of the term the 6 month test. Remember to bring in a learners permit number and a copy of your 15 hours of driving. All enquires can be directed to Mrs Read in the senior room.

**2013 NEXT STEP SURVEY**

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual state wide survey of all students who completed Year 12 in 2012. The Next Step survey is a brief, confidential survey that gains a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers in the year after they finish Year 12.

Between March and June, all students who completed Year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Government Statistician to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details.

Thank you for your support of the Next Step survey in 2013.

For more information visit www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep or telephone toll free on 1800 068 587.

**NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK (5TH-14TH APRIL 2013)**

Be Active, Be Happy, Be You is the message of Youth Week 2013. A number of courses are on offer for young people to participate in during Youth week which coincides with school holidays.

Programs include:
- Mosaic course
- Tech-check
- Amazing race
- Skull-a-rama
- Movie marathon
- Created it and uploaded it
- Magic the gathering
- Film fest showcase
- Photography workshop
- PS3 comp and crazy games
- Car Maintenance
- Branch out
- Rumble in the Park
- Drawing boards
- Young Ladies Day
- Illustrate your dreams
- Night Laser Skirmish
- Madagascar 3
- Sound barrier Music Fest
- Beach Fun
- Youth Shed Reno See notice board in and near senior room for more info.

For Bookings and more information see flier below or PH: 49766300
ENGLISH TUTORING SESSIONS

“Additional support for English assignments is available for students in all year levels every Tuesday from 3-5pm. These tutoring sessions will take place in the SOSE block and are provided by one of our English teachers, Ms Amanda Ford.

Please encourage your child to speak with Ms Ford should you wish them to access additional support for English.”

ENGINEERING LINK PROJECT

Since its inception in 1994 as a three day camp for Year 11 students, the Engineering Link Group has grown to be the exemplar in Queensland and Australia for introducing secondary school students to the discipline of engineering. We have grown to be state-wide since 1999, and have expanded to cater for Year 11 and Year 12 students, as well as linking teachers with engineers.

The Engineering Link Project is a three-day immersion course for Year 11 and Year 12 students who may be considering engineering as a career. Students actually become engineers for the day. Examples of the sorts of activities you may participate in can be found below.

An ELP lasts for three days, with each day following a similar format. Students select a discipline they are interested in and they spend the day working in that area.

- A guest engineer from the local community (industry or university) talks briefly about their career, about why they become an engineer, what their life as an engineer is like and what problems and situations they face in their work.
- Students receive a model problem and in groups consider the problem, test materials, design a solution and produce a proposal.
- The proposal is assessed by the engineer and then the solution is built.
- These solutions are then tested (usually to destruction).
- The engineer and students debrief and discuss the day’s outcomes.

At the end of each day, the students tour the university, inspecting facilities and observing current research projects and highlights of each faculty.

Central Queensland Engineering Link Project
Location: CQ University, Rockhampton, Qld
Cost: $132.00 - course, and lunch only (3 days) or $302.00 - course, single room at Capricornia College + all meals - 3 days, two nights
Date: 25 - 27 June
Registrations: Open Soon Registrations close: 7 June
www.telg.com.au
See Miss Cooper in the Science Staffroom for more information.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY SERVICE LINK

I would like to bring your attention the latest information and support tool (link attached http://www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/web/guest/support-for-new-residents) for new residents, which has been created through joint efforts between GRC Community Advisory service and GRC Community Relations teams.

This online welcome pack aims to share knowledge with newcomers (and existing residents) in relation to existing Services providers, periodic information sessions and integration activities across the entire Region. Also, memory sticks with similar information will be made available at the Community Advisory service front desk. In addition, printed welcome packs will only be available upon previous request.

Should you request further information do not hesitate in contacting me on,
Regards,
Luis Arroyo
Multicultural Community Relations Officer
PO Box 29 Gladstone Qld 4680
Phone 07 4976 6352 | Fax 07 4972 6557
Email luisa@gladstoneRC.qld.gov.au Website: www.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au
Toolooa S.H.S in Bailai, GoorengGooreng and Gurang country

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

MUSIC & INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

- Every WED 1st break in music room Term 1 (Beginner guitar) Term 2 (Tuba Team)
- Every MON 12-1pm Lessons and a SYMPHONIC BAND rehearsals with Mr Ross
- Every WED 12:30pm STRING ENSEMBLE rehearsals and lessons with Miss Brooks
- Every THURS 7:30-8:30pm CONCERT BAND rehearsals and lessons with Mr Kwan

DANCE

- WED 20th March 2013 [time to be confirmed] - Senior Drama and Dance Night
- WED 20th March 2013 [time to be confirmed] - Senior Drama and Dance Night
- WED 12th June 2013 [time to be confirmed] - Senior Drama and Dance Night

ART

- Visual Arts - "Keep calm and create Art"
- Open Studios: 2nd Thursday of each month (Artwork displayed in the library)
- AITP - Artistic Talent Pool - Selected students work displayed in the library

FILM & TELEVISION/MEDIA

- Gold Coast Environmental Short Film Competition: Building Awareness is being held at the school on 29th March, with a total of 25 films entered.
- "Whoever controls the media, controls the mind" - Jim Morrison

DATES TO REMEMBER

28th March 2013 Easter School Holidays Commence - End of Term 1
10th April 2013 P&C Meeting - Administration Building 7:00pm-8:30pm
15th April 2013 School Resumes Term 2
16th-17th April 2013 Year 7 & 8 Naplan Prac Exams

Toolooa S.H.S in Bailai, GoorengGooreng and Gurang country