Dear Parent

Welcome to the 2015 school year. We have had a very smooth start to the year and I take this opportunity to thank the many staff who worked prior to the first student day to ensure all was ready for students to experience a quick transition into their learning programs.

A special welcome to new students and families who join the Miami High community this year. We were certainly ready for all year 7 & 8 students and their excitement about moving classes and having different specialist teachers is obvious.

The school enrolment stands at 1,269 students which represents an increase of 95 students from 2014 and the number of boys and girls stands at 624 boys and 645 girls.

New Staff

We welcome the following members of new staff and look forward to their contribution and new ideas.

- Melinda Jackson – Head of Department, Professional Practices
- Heath Fox – Head of Department, Student Services
- Lee Wilkinson – Technology

Flying Start Teachers

- Michelle Flynn from Caningeraba State School
- Jenni McCarthy from Benowa State School
- Jill Pead from Miami State School
- Tarley Hawke from Caningeraba State School
- Danielle Stewart from Benowa State School

Year 7 & 8 Parent/ Teacher Meet and Greet Evenings

Just a reminder that a Meet and Greet evening will be held in the Great Hall for parents of year 7 students from 7:00pm to 8:15pm on Wednesday 18 February and parents of year 8 students from 7:00pm to 8:15pm on Thursday 19 February 2015.

The success of your student’s transition from primary to secondary school and their journey through high school strongly depends on how closely you are able to work with teachers. These evenings are a wonderful opportunity for you to meet your student’s teachers and commence that partnership. We welcome your student to accompany you.

A crèche for younger siblings will be operating in the library during this time. Nibbles will be provided and I know that the teachers will look forward to seeing you.

Senior School Performance

Once again the senior students of 2014 have performed remarkably last year. 88% of our OP eligible students received an OP of 1-15 whilst the average for all schools in the state was 79%.

97% of our students exited year 12 with a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

54% of our students received an ‘A’ or ‘B’ result in the Queensland Core Skills Test (QCS) whilst the state average was 47%.

These results are a very strong testament to the professionalism of our staff working together as a team and the strong performance culture amongst our students.

Student Leader Investiture

The Student Leader Investiture Ceremony will be held this Friday in the Great Hall and I take this opportunity to officially recognise the following student leaders:

Junior School

- Captains – James Blackman and Ashlee Jennings
- Student Council President – Portia Elia

House Captains

- Alinta – Hudson Matthews and Ryah Charteris
- Bindana – Harrison Smith and Amber Clark
Information about a School Lockdown

As you are aware, the school recently initiated a 'lockdown' procedure due to an incident regarded by police as a threat to the safety of our students. Whilst I do not wish to elaborate on the details for that decision, I feel it is important that you fully understand the operating guidelines that the school follows during such an incident.

The school contacts police in relation to any critical incident and if a decision is made by the police to initiate a 'lockdown' procedure, then police take over authority and responsibility for running the school including communication to parents. How and when we communicate with parents becomes a matter of consideration for police and not the principal. During a lockdown, all students and staff in the school are secured behind locked doors under the direction of police and this remains in place until the lockdown is lifted. No student can therefore be released to parents during this time.

Unfortunately social media allows wild accusations and misinformation to circulate and this was the case during this incident. Nevertheless I take this opportunity to thank the police for their quick response and coordination that ensured the safety of all students.

Significant Instrumental Music Program Growth

I am proud to announce that our award winning Instrumental Music Program has grown from strength to strength in recent times. Our school now hosts no fewer than 6 ensembles across the six year levels under the direction of our instrumental music teachers Scott King (Brass and Percussion) and Sara Jameson (Woodwind). The various ensembles cater for the full range of student abilities as follows:

**Concert Bands**
Nova Adva Wind Ensemble (Year 7, 8 and 9 students) and translates to "New Wave"
Stella Maris Symphonic Band (mainly seniors years 10 - 12) and translates to "Star of the Sea"

**Contemporary Bands**
Zephyr Jazz Ensemble (Year 7 students) translates to "Little Wind"
Miami Groove Train Jazz Band (Year 8 and 9 students)
Miami Sound Machine Big Band (Senior students)

String Program is staffed by Stacey Bolton, String Instrumental Music Teacher,

**Miami Breeze Chamber Strings**
I have every confidence that the growth in instrumental music will continue under the direction of Mr King, Miss Jameson and Miss Bolton who are very experienced and talented teachers.

Regards

**Jim Baker**
Principal
**Dates to Remember**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 February 2015</td>
<td>Investiture Assembly Junior 9:00am – 10:00am; Senior 10:00 – 11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 February 2015</td>
<td>School Photos Yr 10 -12</td>
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<td>17 February 2015</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting</td>
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<td>18 February 2015</td>
<td>ACER Test</td>
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<td>19 February 2015</td>
<td>Student Leader Retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 February 2015</td>
<td>Oceanic Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 – 6 March 2015</td>
<td>Year 11 Outdoor Recreation Camp</td>
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<td>11 March 2015</td>
<td>Year 12 First Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 – 13 March 2015</td>
<td>Year 8 Camp</td>
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<td>16 – 20 February 2015</td>
<td>Year 11 Certificate 3 Work Experience</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 March 2015</td>
<td>Year 10 Outdoor Recreation Snorkelling</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 – 20 March 2015</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 – 27 March 2015</td>
<td>Year 12 Certificate 3 Work Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 March 2015</td>
<td>Year 9 Well Being Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 – 27 March 2015</td>
<td>Year 11 Outdoor Recreation Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 March 2015</td>
<td>Harmony Day</td>
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**Important Information from TransLink**

From January, use TransLink’s online journey planner to find the best travel options for your child to travel to and from school. Our helpful tips for journey planning for school services makes planning your child’s school journey even easier.

Alternatively, you can also use the school timetables search if you already know your bus route number.

**Travel to school with go card**

When your child travels to and from school on public transport with go card, they can save at least 30% compared to the cost of a single paper ticket. That’s in addition to the 50% discount that school students pay compared to adults. These savings quickly add up!

Grab a go card for your child online or at selected retailers today.

Visit the TransLink website for full details on school transport, tickets and fares.

**Is your child eligible for STAS?**

The Queensland Government provides eligible school students travelling to and from primary and secondary schools with assistance via the School Transport Assistance Scheme (STAS).

Find out if your child is eligible and beat the rush – apply now and pick up your child’s travel pass from your local operator today!

Kind regards

**TransLink Customer Relations**

**Finance Office/Uniform Shop hours of operation**

REMINDER: The finance counter DOES NOT operate on Friday’s for receipting. This closure coincides with the current arrangements in place with the uniform/bookshop closed each Friday. Hours of operation are 8.00am to 2.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week.

**Kellie Johnston**

**Business Services Manager**

**Payments Via Internet Banking**

Paying for Miami High School excursions and/or fees is possible using Internet Banking.

The traditional payment methods are still available (Cash/EFTPOS/Credit Cards), but some people find Internet Banking much quicker and easier – especially because you can make payments 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from the comfort of your own home or office.

**INTERNET BANKING DETAILS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Name:</th>
<th>Miami State High School General A/c</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank:</td>
<td>Commonwealth Bank of Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Branch:</td>
<td>Burleigh Heads</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSB:</td>
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<td>Account Number:</td>
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PAYMENT REFERENCES
Each child has a unique Education Queensland Identification number (EQ ID). For all internet payments we will require you to use your child’s EQ ID number to identify your payment, e.g. 0011223344W.

Please ensure each payment sent through has the following details within the Payment Reference so that we can clearly identify your payment.

Excursions:
>>Student EQ ID Excursion>> e.g 0011223344W Seaworld
Please ensure only one payment per student per excursion – If you have multiple students/excursions to pay for, please put each one through individually, unless otherwise arranged with the school office. As internet banking payments are not instant, please ensure internet payments are done 48 hours prior to payment cut-off date.

School Fees:
<<Student EQ ID Fees>> e.g. 0011223344W 2013 Text
If you have any questions relating to payments, please contact the payment office on 07 55540333 or email Nikki Clark on nclar179@eq.edu.au.

Kellie Johnston
Business Services Manager

Update your Contact Details
ARE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS UP TO DATE – INCLUDING EMERGENCY CONTACTS?
We have been experiencing a number of students presenting to sick bay with serious illnesses/injuries to warrant the school needing to urgently contact a parent/guardian or an emergency contact but with no success. Could you please make sure that your contact details are up to date and ensure your emergency contacts are available if you’re not able to be contacted. This is especially important for when parents are travelling away during the school term and leaving students with guardians. Please feel free to contact the school either by email admin@miamishs.eq.edu.au or telephoning 5554 0333 to confirm your current details.

RTC SMS Text – Home Communication
To improve the communication between parents and the school, Responsible Thinking Classroom (RTC) SMS text messages will be sent daily for all students referred to the RTC. This will provide immediate feedback for parents allowing them to discuss issues with their student, and if they have any concerns, contact the school for clarification. The following texts will be used:

SMS text for daily RTC referral.
Dear parent, please be advised your student was referred to RTC today. Please discuss with your student and contact Miami SHS 55540333 if concerned.

SMS text for student reaching RTC Level 3.
Dear parent, your student has reached Level 3 on RTC. Please support by discussing this with your student. Thank you from Miami SHS.

SMS text for student reaching RTC Level 5.
Dear parent, your student has reached Level 5 on RTC. Please contact Miami SHS on 5554 0333 to arrange an intervention meeting time asap. Thank you.

SMS text for student reaching RTC Level 7.
Dear parent, your student has reached Level 7 on RTC. One more referral may result in suspension. Your urgent support is appreciated. Thanks Miami SHS 5554 0333.
Please take the opportunity to discuss this with your student, should you receive a text message regarding RTC. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Tiffany Grant / Glenn Smits
Student Support Coordinators

SEP News
JELLYBABIES PLAYGROUP
Miami State High School’s ‘Jellybabies’ Playgroup, in conjunction with Playgroup Australia, welcomes parents/caregivers of young children to their playgroup every Wednesday morning (in school term) from 9:00-10:30am for fun-filled adventures with other young children while participating in educational games, craft, painting, water play table, dress-ups, sandpit, play dough, singing and other adventures whilst playing with other young children.

Students undertaking their Certificate III in Children’s Services assist with activities. Morning tea is provided. Cost is $4.00 per visit per family (no charge on your first visit). For further information please call Julieta Thomas at Miami High School direct 5554 0333 or email jthom843@eq.edu.au.

February Technology News

Great news for the construction students in 2015! Our students will be undertaking their Certificate I in Construction through an outside provider for the first time. The Technology Faculty has chosen Blue Dog Training to provide training support for our Year 11 and 12 students. This allows our students to access online training materials and in class course materials whilst remaining in our workshops at Miami High and being instructed and supervised by their Miami Industrial Technology teachers.
Online Technology Training
The classes are being taught by Mr Luke Harrison and Mr Robin Thomas, who both have many years’ experience in building and in delivering the Certificate I in Construction. They have been working closely with the outside trainers and have developed a program for our students that will lead to well-trained and highly capable workers at the end of the course. This is a very exciting innovation for our students and is designed to be focused on real work activities. The photos depict our students beginning the theory aspects of the course which must be completed before they start their first project.

Construction Students
So next time you are in the school, don’t be surprised to see our students carrying ladders, or sheets of ply, shovelling barrows of sand and gravel, or even rolling up power leads or air hoses. It is planned that our students will be work-ready and site-tough by the time they finish their certificate. This will mean that if they choose to follow a construction or trade pathway they will be competent and capable to start earning the boss money from day one.

Miami High Dance News
Miami High Dance Excellence 2015
The Miami High Dance Studio is a hive of activity with students engaged in dance before and after school and during both lunch breaks. 2015 is set to be a very exciting year with a new curriculum as Miami High Dance Excellence!

Miami High Dance Xtreme Auditions
The Dance Xtreme Program is designed as an extension program in Dance undertaken during sport and Friday lunch, enabling students to further develop their abilities, participate in workshops with professional choreographers, showcase Miami High, compete at eisteddfods and foster primary links. Auditions for the program will begin on Monday 23/02/15 (Week 5) with a sign on followed by a three-phase audition process. Interested students are required to prepare a 1-2 minute audition piece in the genre of their choice that best demonstrates their technical ability and diversity as dancers. Students selected to progress onto the second phase of the audition process will be required to learn a contemporary dance sequence in the choreographic style of the Artistic Director. The third phase of the audition process will require these students to perform the contemporary choreography taught. Students gaining selection in the 2015 program will be announced at the end of the third audition phase on the 02/03/15. A formal presentation will then follow on both Junior and Senior Assemblies at a date to be announced.

Dance Auditions
Miami is very proud to offer a wide range of opportunities for students to participate in dance through a number of groups
which rehearse during lunch. The following auditions will occur during week 6 of this term:

- MDC (Boys Hip Hop Crew) – Monday lunch
- MGC Junior (Years 7, 8 & 9 Girls) – Tuesday lunch NEW for 2015!
- MDA (Miami Dance Acrobatics) – Wednesday lunch NEW for 2015!
- MGC Senior (Years 10, 11 & 12 Girls) – Thursday lunch

Auditions will occur during second lunch and details of requirements will be provided on weekly Junior and Senior Assemblies.

*Miranda van’t Hof*

*Dance Excellence Teacher / Artistic Director Dance Xtreme*

**Parenting Programs**

**PACE – Parenting Adolescents a Creative Experience**

Increase your confidence, optimism & satisfaction in parenting. Six week parenting teenagers program. Please see attached information.

**Happy Parents Happy Kids – Free Parenting Course**

This free parenting program is held at the Palm Beach Neighbourhood Centre. Please see attached flyer for full details.

**Successful Co-Parenting Workshops**

The focus of this workshop is to build resilience in your children. Another parenting program held at the Palm Beach Neighbourhood Centre. Please see attached flyer for full details.

**Community News**

*Queensland Academy for Health Science Open Day*

**Gold Coast District Junior Rugby League Sign On Carnival**

Sign up to play Rugby League in 2015! Saturday 7 February 9am – 2pm at CBUS Super Stadium. Please see attached flyer for full details.