From the Principal

Dear Parents /Caregivers and Students

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2016. Quality communication between the school and home is an important process in building and sustaining confidence throughout our immediate and wider school community and therefore we will continue to produce three quality newsletters per term.

Enrolments

Our Day 8 school enrolment was 679 students. This figure is 10 more than last year’s Day 8 figure. However, as in previous years, our enrolments will continue to grow to well over 700 again this year. Our steady but increasing enrolments have enabled the school to receive additional human and financial resources and provide for more flexible curriculum offerings.

Congratulations to the Seniors of 2015

♦ 100% of students who were OP eligible received an OP 1 - 15.
♦ 84/85 students who completed QTAC applications have received offers to a variety of tertiary institutions. Other students have been successful in gaining entry to various TAFE courses and apprenticeships and a significant number of students have gained full-time employment. It is also very pleasing to note that 76% of students received their first QTAC preference.
♦ 99% of Year 12 students graduated with their Queensland Certificate of Education (much better than the state average of approximately 91%).
♦ More than 60 students had guaranteed University entry as a result of their successful accelerated studies program.
♦ 33 students completed a Diploma in conjunction with their Year 12 studies.

Our results in 2015 in the top OP bands were the best they have been in the last 15 years and significantly better than the state average. (Our OPs 1 -5 were more than double the state average.) More importantly, the majority of our 2015 graduates are in their preferred course of study or training area, or they have started work. This exit achievement reflects our school’s commitment to academic standards and appropriate and tailored pathways through excellent teaching and learning and a commitment to our school vision “Quality Pathways to Success”.

Literacy and Numeracy Improvement Funding

Our school has again received substantial funding as part of the “Great Results Guarantee” program enabling us to develop and consolidate evidence based strategies and actions to further improve literacy and numeracy. It will also strengthen and obtain consistency in our pedagogical practices across the school.

Recently, all Year 7 – 9 students were tested in PAT M (Maths) and PAT R (Reading) tests. These tests are nationally recognised by ACER (Australian Council for Educational Research) and provide a point in time evaluation of
how students are travelling in the areas of “Numeracy and Literacy”. Later in the year students will be tested again to gauge the level of improvement made. Our intervention and support strategies last year saw students significantly improve in both areas.

It was also pleasing to note that a noticeable number of students were found to be reading at a Year 11 or 12 level and these students are targeted for our extension programs. Many students are reading well above their age thanks to some great work being done in our local feeder primary schools as well as encouragement and support from home. There is a saying that “Leaders are Readers and Readers are Leaders” - I ask that you assist your child to be a leader by ensuring that he/she regularly reads at home.

The Year Ahead
As Yeronga SHS forges ahead as a quality learning organisation, our dedicated and enthusiastic staff are eagerly looking forward to another successful year of providing a high quality education for your children. I wish to assure the school community that my focus will continue to be on “academic achievement”, as well as on providing the appropriate supportive learning environment that suits the needs of all students, whether they be academically or vocationally oriented. Our school vision of “Quality Pathways to Success”

A motto that students hear regularly will be that we are about “the business of learning”. As usual, we will continue to focus on learning by an unrelenting focus on the 5Ps - Being Punctual, Being Prepared, Being Positive, Being Productive and Being Proud.

I will be absent during Weeks 4 and 5 of this term, sorting out a minor health issue. Di Goodison will be Acting Principal during this time and Matt Petersen will step in as Acting Deputy Principal – Junior Secondary. Di is overseeing our systemic Whole School Review where our three main drivers: Literacy and Numeracy, Explicit Teaching and Pathways to Success will be under the microscope. I believe that this is an opportunity for us to shine (like our 2013 and 2015 Showcase Submissions) and for our “high performing school” status to be verified.) During the process, some parents may get a phone call from the reviewers!

I look forward to your continued support in 2016 and encourage you to contact me, or other members of the school’s executive team, Bob Logan, Di Goodison or Jessica Walker, at any stage throughout the year if you have any queries or concerns. There are so many exciting things happening in the school and I encourage you to join us in the 2016 learning journey and be part of the Yeronga State High School family.

Terry Heath
Principal

From the Deputy Principals

A warm welcome to all our new families and students, especially our Year 7s who are beginning to settle into the routines of high school – timetables, elective classes, student planners etc. If for any reason your child is still anxious about school, or encountering problems with settling in, please head straight to my door so we can address the issues. I’m here to make your child’s time in the Junior Secondary school a safe and rewarding experience.

Full School Review in February 2016
In weeks 5/6 of this term, three external reviewers will spend time in our school looking at our operations and speaking with staff, students, parents and community members about what we are trying to achieve for our students and teachers in 2016 and how we are going about this. The review will give us valuable feedback about how we are progressing in our journey of continual school improvement.

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Di Goodison
So what are the 3 things we are working hard on improving in 2016 and beyond?

**Literacy and Numeracy** – we've set some ambitious targets for our 2016 NAPLAN results. Our intervention programs are up and running as are our Upper 2 Bands (U2B) extension programs

**Explicit Teaching** - supporting teachers in becoming the best teachers they can be. Explicit teaching details how we want our teachers to teach and how students will learn. Consistency across classes is the key

**Pathways to Success** - ensuring every student has a quality pathway when they finish school by continually looking for new opportunities to expand our business, university and community partnerships.

For more information on our Full School Review, please visit our school website
https://yerongashs.eq.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx

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**Compulsory Student Attendance**

Parents and guardians will be aware that consistent attendance at school is a significant factor in achieving better academic and social outcomes. New concepts and skills are taught and reinforced each day by teachers. If a student misses the introduction or the reinforcement of these concepts and skills, he or she is likely to have gaps in learning resulting in poor or under-achievement. Regular attendance at school also assists socially with the development of skills such as resilience, decision making, communication and assertiveness.

In Queensland, the law requires parents to ensure their compulsory school aged child is enrolled at school and attends school for the educational program on every school day. The compulsory school age starts when a child is at least 6 years of age and finishes when the child turns 16 years of age or completes Year 10, whichever is sooner. After this until the age of 17 years, they either have to be learning at school or another institution such as TAFE or gain an apprenticeship or traineeship.

The enrolment of any post compulsory age student (age 16 OR in Years 11 and 12) may be cancelled if the student displays persistent refusal to participate in the program of instruction. A pattern of unexplained absences or persistent lack of effort is evidence of this refusal. There are new rules this year regarding cancellation of enrolment. A student would receive a single notification that cancellation is being considered and then, if the non-attendance or lack of effort continues without valid reason, the enrolment is cancelled. Previously there was a risk of cancellation notice then a show cause notice and then cancellation. If enrolment is cancelled the student may enrol in another state school.

With the above in mind, please ensure your student attends every school day and that you notify the school immediately of the reasons for every absence. Your timely response to any text message regarding unexplained attendance is welcomed.

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Bob Logan
Deputy Principal - Senior School
Welcome all new students and families to Yeronga State High School! We have over 60 new students whom we are welcoming into our EALD Unit this year. The countries they have come from include Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Philippines, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India, China, DR Congo, Burundi, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan and Eritrea. We are beginning this year with a population of students who were born in over 55 different countries – we are very proud of our harmonious diversity.

You can see from the photos that our new students are fitting into our extended Yeronga SHS ‘family’ and enjoying becoming part of the “best school in the universe!”

I am looking forward to what I am sure will be a wonderful 2016.

Jessica Walker
Head of Special Education Services
07 3249 1433
jwalk382@eq.edu.au
From the Chaplain

Welcome back to school for a new year. As I’ve walked around school in the last couple of weeks talking with students, I’ve found many who have found it difficult getting back into a good routine for school and in particular, having enough sleep. Over the long break, some bad sleep patterns developed including 4:00am bedtimes!

Having a good sleep routine helps to set us up to cope with school to engage in learning and social interactions, maintain higher concentration levels, increased energy and an improvement in memory. Encourage your teenagers to develop a good pattern of sleep (between 7 and 9 hours) by going to bed and getting up about the same time each day. They should also avoid caffeine and heavy meals late at night, and this will be the hard bit to do, have them leave electronic devices outside the bedroom, or at least switched to airplane mode to remove distraction from text messages coming in through the night.

Here are some ideas for getting to sleep:

- read a book
- take 10 minutes to process the day’s events
- write down the things on your mind
- drink a glass of milk or a cup of decaffeinated tea
- play soft, gentle music
- sleep in a well-ventilated room that’s not too hot or cold.

I hope that it is a great year for your family and that everyone settles quickly. Please feel free to contact me if you would like any help, connection or support. I am at this school on Mondays and Wednesdays and at Yeronga State School on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Jennifer Bennett
“Chappy”
Jenniferb@chappy.org.au

From the Youth Support Co-ordinator

Welcome back! I hope you all enjoyed your holidays and are ready for a very fast Term 1. My role at Yeronga SHS is to provide counselling support to students who are experiencing difficulties at school, home or with mental health issues.

It’s already been a very busy start to the year and I have had the opportunity to meet several parents who are getting young people motivated and ready to re-engage with schooling and social activities. Communicating and developing relationships with parents is very important in this role, not only when things are difficult, but also when things are going well for young people. I look forward to meeting many more parents during the year.

Taraka Sticha is the FHeal Art Therapist at Yeronga SHS. Together we are busy planning the Respectful Relationships Program for Year 8 and The Love Bites Program for Year 10 students during 2016. We will be introducing ourselves to the Year 7 students over the next few weeks with some fun mindfulness activities.

We are excited to be working with all students around creating healthy and respectful relationships.

Tracey Beck Gude
Student Welfare Worker
Ph. 3249 1446
(Monday to Thursdays)
tbeck80@eq.edu.au
Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) Summary

- 97 students from the 2015 senior cohort submitted a tertiary application through QTAC. This includes eight International or Visa students who receive offers directly from the universities and therefore are not included in the data below.
- 85 students received an offer of a tertiary place in one of the offer rounds.
- Three students applied for courses which commence in Semester 2 2016 and therefore will not receive their offer from QTAC until June 2016.
- Only one student did not receive an offer to a tertiary place through QTAC.
- Of the students who received an offer, 76% were offered their first course preference and 90% received an offer to either their first or second preference.

Overall, an outstanding result for our students who now have the opportunity to pursue their career goals.

Gurumba Bigi Update

The Gurumba Bigi Program for 2016 commenced on Wednesday, 3 February when the Year 11 leaders met with small groups of Year 7 students. These Year 11 students are to be congratulated for both their commitment to the program and the courage to facilitate a group activity. Small group sessions will continue on a weekly basis throughout Term 1.

Australian Defence Force (ADF) Careers Information Sessions

The ADF conducts regular information sessions at the Recruiting Centre in Brisbane City. Events scheduled for February are presented below. Those wishing to attend must register their interest with the ADF.

ADF Gap Year Information Session

The ADF Gap Year program provides an opportunity for young Australians, who have finished Year 12 or equivalent, to experience military training and lifestyle whilst gaining skills andpy over their lap year. Second round Gap Year opportunities are available in the Navy, Army and Air Force. The life skills and job training acquired during your Gap Year experience will be valuable regardless of what career the results ultimately undertake.

Date: Wednesday, 17 February 2016
Time: 6:00pm
Where: Defence Force Recruiting, Level 13, 295 Ann Street, Brisbane CBD

To book your seat call 13 19 01 or email cptqfd@dfc.com.au

Expressions of Interest are now open – please visit http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/educate/GapYear to register your interest

Applications for the 2017 Gap Year Program open in March 2016

For more information please visit www.defencejobs.gov.au or call 13 19 01
ADF TRADE CAREERS INFORMATION SESSION

Australia's Navy, Army and Air Force can give you experiences money can't buy -- a career that not only improves you personally, but means doing something worthwhile for your country.

The Australian Defence Force is now recruiting for a wide range of trade and apprenticeship positions such as Marine Technician, Electrician and Avionics Technician. In these jobs you will be able to work on some of the country's most advance hardware - from F/A-18 Hornet Fighters to M1A1 Abrams Tanks to Seahawks.

You will also receive many great benefits, such as free healthcare and subsidised accommodation. Currently serving ADF Trade Personnel will be on hand to provide valuable information to help assist you through the recruiting process and into a rewarding ADF Trade Career.

To learn more, attend the ADF Trade Careers Information Session.

When: Tuesday, 16 February 2016
Time: 6:00pm
Where: Defence Force Recruiting Brisbane - Level 13, 295 Ann Street, Brisbane

To RSVP please call 13 19 01 or email cdo_tld@dfr.com.au

DEFENCE FORCE RECRUITING

welcomes you to attend the

Australian Defence Force Academy Information Session

The Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) combines military and leadership training with a world class degree from the University of New South Wales for the future leaders of Australia's Navy, Army and Air Force. The key benefits of studying at ADFA include:

- Range of undergraduate degrees available
- The best student-to-teacher ratio in the country
- No HELP debt and paid a salary to study
- Guaranteed career upon successful graduation

To find out more about ADFA attend the next information session:

When: Wednesday, 24 February 2016
Time: 6:00pm
Where: Defence Force Recruiting Brisbane - Level 13, 295 Ann Street, Brisbane CBD

To RSVP please call 13 19 01 or email sptsld@dfr.com.au
Junior Secondary News

It was wonderful to meet many of our new parents and carers last Tuesday evening at our Welcome Evening. I shared a message of encouraging and developing a “Growth Mindset” which according to Dr Carol Zweck is the idea that we all have the ability to improve through hard work and dedication – brains and talent are just a starting point. You can read more on Mindset at www.mindsetonline.com/. Productive partnerships between students, parents / carers and teachers are vital to the overall success of our students over the course of their secondary schooling. If you were unable to attend this meeting or did not get the chance to ask any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by calling or emailing – details below.

In Years 7 – 9 at Yeronga SHS our vision is Paving the Pathways to Success. Literacy and Numeracy skills are the foundations for success at Yeronga SHS and there is an explicit improvement agenda in this area across all subjects. Our Accelerated Literacy and Numeracy classes (ACL and CAN) focus on the development of key knowledge and skills to enhance understanding of the curriculum and everyday problems. I can not emphasize enough the importance of sharing positive experiences through reading and using numbers in the real world with your students in as many situations as possible. This shows them that literacy and numeracy are life-long skills and helps them to find meaning in their learning at school.

I would also like to encourage parents and carers to regularly check student diaries and assist them with their organisational skills as they make their transition to high school and increase their independence. In addition to being an organisational tool, our diary is filled with school policies, study, health and well-being tips as well as some general reference material. It is an excellent resource that should be used daily.

I would also like to encourage all Year 7 – 9 students to get involved in an extra-curricular activity this year. Whether it be Performing Arts Club, debating, or one of the many sporting clubs on offer, extra-curricular activities support development, are social and help students to achieve balance of school work and fun.

Matt Petersen
Head of Department - Junior Secondary

Literacy – Featured Reads

We all know the long term benefits of reading. Even 10 minutes a day can help improve critical thinking skills and enhance every day vocabulary. Remember reading is a lifelong skill needed across all subject areas and fields of study. Reading is a skill like any other sport and you need to practise in order to be great at it. Roger Federer and Kobi Bryant practised in their specialised sporting areas day in and day out to become the elite athletes they are today. It was only through constant practice that they then became successful.

Parents, I encourage you to spend 10 minutes a day reading with your child to help them build on their own individual successes, so that they too can become great. Check out these recommendations below and start reading today.

Tiffany Ostwald
Head of Curriculum - Literacy
Senior Schooling News

In 2016 many of our students are continuing school based traineeships/apprenticeships (SATs) that they started last year. There will be a number of new SATs advertised in the coming weeks for senior students who are keen to apply for the opportunity to gain a national vocational qualification whilst at school. Most students who undertake a SAT go to work one day per week (and get paid!) and attend school on the remaining four days and study their school program. On the work day students receive on the job training and then have to complete a number of competency booklets to reflect their learning. SATs come in many disciplines from Certificate III Business Administration to Certificate II Automotive. The key is for students to apply for SATs in areas of interest.

TAFE

Numerous Year 11 and 12 students are undertaking TAFE studies this year. Successful completion of a TAFE in schools course gives guaranteed direct entry into any of the TAFE’s Diploma courses when they graduate – giving them a great qualification and a university pathway. They will also receive points towards their QCE.

University

Currently there are eight students starting the START QUT Program and five starting the Griffith GUEST program this year where they will study a university subject this semester. START QUT provides students with an opportunity to study one or two university units whilst at school and get a head start in their chosen undergraduate course. They will also receive two bonus QTAC entry ranks, one for each unit successfully completed, added to their OP or rank through the Entry Bonus Scheme. Through the Griffith GUESTS Program, students who complete one university course and achieve a Pass grade or better are eligible to receive a Guaranteed Offer or Entry to a wide range of undergraduate degree programs at Griffith University. I wish all students participating in the programs all the best.

Senior Support Teacher Aides

All students who undertake any additional programs have access to support from the Senior Support Teacher Aides, Mrs Dibble and Ms Kallis who are located at the Senior Schooling Office (library). Mrs Dibble and Ms Kallis are more than happy to help students with their resumes and cover letters, applying for part time jobs, completing application forms, etc. If students or parents have concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Year 12 students

I have reviewed the results of all Year 12 students and it is pleasing to see that most of the students are on track to gain their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) at the end of the year. I will contact individual students who need to alter their subjects in order to gain a successful outcome.

Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation

There will be a number of opportunities for Years 10, 11 and 12 students to sign up for over the coming weeks. Currently on offer is a Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation (SIS20213), a national qualification that provides students with practical skills and knowledge to work in the outdoor recreation/tourism industry. Students will have the opportunity to develop skills in snorkelling, SCUBA diving, bushwalking, canoeing and kayaking. The course is VET funded which means there is no cost to students. Any interested students are encouraged to see Ms Truong in Senior Schooling.

Phuong Truong
Year 10 Co-ordinator
Head of Department - Senior Schooling
From the Year Co-ordinators

**Year 7**

Welcome to our 2016 Year 7 students and what a fantastic start to the term we’ve had. Term 1 is full of many events including camp, which is just around the corner, and the swimming carnival last week. The swimming carnival is also often a highlight of the year and it was great to see many of our Year 7 students participating and having fun.

Thank you to all parents and carers who came to our Year 7 Welcome BBQ. It was a great opportunity to meet and greet you all. This is also the first year of our Gurumba Bigi Program where our Year 7 students participate in various activities with our senior leaders as a part of our school’s student wellbeing program. We look forward to many more exciting events in 2016.

**Tiffany Ostwald**
Year 7 Co-ordinator

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**Year 8**

Welcome to the new parents of Year 8 students at Yeronga and welcome back to those of continuing students. The role of the Year Co-ordinator is to provide a clear communication channel between parents and carers, students and teachers and be proactive in assisting students to always strive for their best. Whist I have spoken with the students about my role and that I am available to talk to about any concerns they have at any time, I would also like to encourage parents and carers to contact me with any issues they have with their student’s well-being or education.

The Year 8 group have settled very quickly this year. They are enjoying their Semester 1 elective of either Art, Drama, Industrial Technology or Textiles and Food Studies and will change to their second elective in July. I look forward to working with Year 8 students, parents and carers throughout the year. Once again if you have any concerns, no matter how minor they may seem, please contact me using the details below.

**Matt Petersen**
Head of Department - Junior Secondary
Year 8 Coordinator
mpete21@eq.edu.au  Ph: 3249 1454
From the Year Co-ordinators

**Year 9**

Welcome to the Year 9 students and parents of 2016. Welcome back to all our wonderful returning students and I would like to personally extend a very warm Yeronga hello to all our new students who are starting their Year 9 journey at Yeronga this year.

Before we get into all the excellent programs for our Year 9s this year, let me first introduce myself. My name is Lexie Buswell and I am a HPE Teacher and the Teaching and Learning Coach at our school. Just like the Year 9 cohort, last year was also my first year at Yeronga SHS, spending time teaching in both Cairns and Gladstone before I arrived at Yeronga at the start of 2015. I am very pleased to be following this wonderful bunch of students into our second year at this school. I feel as though 2016 is going to be an exceptional year, full of quality learning experiences for all.

**GOALS**

Year 9 opens up many new and unique opportunities for our students. Students at Yeronga get the exciting opportunity to participate in the GOALS program. GOALS is a program that aims to raise awareness of the wider range of personal, educational and vocational choices for students in structured group mentoring sessions. These sessions are mentored and run by business people working in a range of roles and businesses.

The GOALS sessions are held during school time at different corporate venues and are split into five separate sessions. Unfortunately only a maximum of 16 boys and girls will be chosen to gain this excellent opportunity. During this last week, students had the chance to complete an application form to register their interest in these events.

**Preparation and Pride**

In Semester 1, Year 9 is focussing specifically on **PREPARATION** and **PRIDE**, two of the school’s 5Ps.

- **PREPARATION** - bringing our planner, pen, book and laptop to school every day so we are all ready and prepared to learn.
- **PRIDE** in our appearance - ensuring we have the correct uniform every day and looking smart and sharp at all times, both in and out of the school grounds.

**Swimming Carnival**

The school swimming carnival has already been held for this year where I witnessed the great house pride amongst the Year 9s as they proudly donned their red, green or blue.

If you have any questions / inquiries / concerns regarding Year 9, please feel free to contact me on any of the details found below. Looking forward to a wonderful year as coordinator!

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Lexie Buswell  
Year 9 Co-ordinator  
larmi13@eq.edu.au    3249 1462
From the Year Co-ordinators

**Year 10**

I would like to welcome the Year 10 students to the senior school. This is a very important year for the cohort as it lays the foundation for their studies in Years 11 and 12 and into the future. By now students have settled into their classes and daily routines.

Students are reminded about our 5 Ps, in particular being Proud and Prepared. Being **Proud** relates to their uniform and appearance. As part of the senior school, all Year 10 students are expected to wear the senior black tie. I would like to congratulate the students and their parents on how wonderful they appear in their formal uniform. Students also need to be **Prepared** for school which means bringing their computer tablets, daily planners and writing equipment to classes every day.

All Year 10 students will be attending the QUT Explore Uni day at Gardens Point Campus on 16 February. This is an annual sojourn for Year 10s and includes a range of talks from current university students, hands-on activities and role model interaction to dispel some of the myths about university and TAFE.

In Forum this year, all Year 10s will complete a Certificate I in Information, Digital Media and Technology. Students will need their laptops (charged), a USB and headphones for the course. At the completion of this course they will gain 2 points towards their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

I look forward to working with the Year 10 students and wish them all the best for the new school year.

**Phuong Truong**  
Year 10 Co-ordinator  
Head of Department - Senior Schooling

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**Year 11**

With the holidays now a distant memory, the Year 11 students have well and truly begun their two year journey as senior students. Our cohort has strong numbers with around 165 students at last count. It is hard to imagine that in two years' time, our Year 11s will be graduating from school. It will go very quickly.

Year 11 brings about an increase in expectations for the students. For some students, the increase in workload may come as a surprise. It is important for students to stay on top of their studies, ask their teachers for help and get their assessment work started early and in by due dates.

This year many of our students are attending TAFE or doing traineeships and apprenticeships one day a week. It is very important that these students stay up to date with their school work while they complete their studies off campus.

I have spoken to Year 11 students about consistently doing the little things well and the results will look after themselves. Be at school, have your equipment, study regularly. We also ask that they make some sacrifices for the long term goal of a great future. If students do their best teachers notice and are never disappointed.

We again ask for your support in ensuring our students are role models and wear the correct uniform to and from school showing pride in themselves and our school. I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with such a diverse and talented group of students. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time at gpalm8@eq.edu.au

**Geoff Palmer**  
Year 11 Co-ordinator
**Welcome to the new school year at Yeronga SHS. There is always a sense of anticipation for students, parents and teachers with the start of school. To all the new families, I would like to welcome you on behalf of the school community. To returning families, welcome back to what I'm sure will be another fantastic year.

The P and C Association has a great relationship with the school and we work in partnership in order to give our students the best education possible.

We meet on the second Monday of the month at 6.30pm in the Professional Lounge, top floor of the Administration building. All parents/carers are most welcome to attend. We have already had our first meeting for the year but please plan to be at the March meeting. The meeting in March will be our Annual General Meeting and will start at 6.00pm instead of 6.30pm. The P and C is your voice in the school. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Jennifer Wrigley
0432434495
gopsy48@gmail.com

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**Year 12**

2016 will be a year to remember for our Year 12 students. They celebrated their last ever first day of school. I took a photo of them in the Auditorium with their smiley happy faces, so excited about the year ahead. The year will fly by. Before we know it, we will be waving goodbye far too soon. I am so thrilled to be working as Year 12 Co-ordinator again this year. They are such an inspiring group of students.

The Year 12s were inducted as leaders of the school on Monday 8 February at the Senior Induction Ceremony. The Senior Leaders, Sports House Captains and all Year 12 Students received their senior badges. These badges mark the start of the Year 12s’ senior year and their pivotal role as leaders within the school. The Year 12s recited the Pledge of Office in front of the entire school student body.

The senior jackets have arrived and are ready for collection. The students are all excited and eager to get their hands on their jackets. I will be placing another order for new students and those who missed out last time next week. If you have ordered a jacket the remaining amount will need to be paid as well as your school fees before you can pick up your jacket.

It was awesome to see so many Year 12 students participating at the swimming carnival last week. The Year 12s demonstrated outstanding leadership to the whole school and set a very high standard for the rest of the students. Thank you to all the swimmers and participants, as well as the students who cheered on their friends, those that organised the house teams and helped teachers on the day.

Whilst there is lots of exciting things happening this year it is also very important for the Year 12 students to focus on their school work and study hard to achieve the results they would like.

I look forward to working with the Year 12 students this year on their final journey through High School.

Karina Bray
Year 12 Co-ordinator

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**From the P & C President**

Welcome to the new school year at Yeronga SHS. There is always a sense of anticipation for students, parents and teachers with the start of school. To all the new families, I would like to welcome you on behalf of the school community. To returning families, welcome back to what I’m sure will be another fantastic year.

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Jennifer Wrigley
0432434495
gopsy48@gmail.com
Early Childhood Studies and Home Economics News

Year 11 Early Childhood
We begin at the beginning in Year 11 Early Childhood - developing an understanding of conception, pregnancy and birth. Understanding how a new baby grows and develops forms the basis for study in this subject. We are very excited at the prospect of a visit from Ms Riddell and her new baby Amelia who was born a couple of weeks ago.

Year 12 Early Childhood
Year 12s have embarked upon a unit learning about children’s acquisition of literacy and numeracy skills. The students have explored a range of children’s story books before the task of creating a story of their own choosing.

Junior Home Economics
Year 8 students have been exploring Hygiene and Safety in the kitchen. As well as personal safety in the kitchen, we have been testing for cleanliness both on our hands and around the school. Our practical work in the kitchen has commenced with the refinement of knife skills.

Karen Bate
Teacher

Celebrating Chinese New Year 2016 - the Year of the Monkey

What an exciting new year for our students at Yeronga SHS. We are welcoming another group of Year 7 students into our Confucius Classroom in 2016, the Year of the Monkey. Those born under the sign of the Monkey are said to be characteristically happy, confident, clever, intelligent and polite.

The Chinese program at Yeronga SHS was only established two years ago and has become very popular with our students. We are now teaching Chinese to students in Years 7, 8, 9 and Year 10 as well as a combination Year 11/12 class.

Our anticipated China study tour will be happening in September this year. Our students are going to participate in the Chinese New Year celebration at the Brisbane City Hall on 20 February with their parents.

Happy Chinese New Year everyone - Happy Chinese Spring Festival.

新年快乐， 恭喜发财！

Contributed by students - Confucius Classroom at Yeronga SHS
StartQUT 2016

Congratulations to my fellow students Henry, Rehana, Kelly, Danny, Kathryn, Vinh and Duc Tien who achieved a B grade average in Year 11, enabling us to participate in the Start QUT Program for 2016.

We will be completing BSB110 Accounting, a first year university subject this semester. This subject is a prerequisite for any business degree at QUT and this program enables us to complete the subject without paying HECS. On successful completion, one subject from our degree will be completed and we will gain one bonus OP point and two bonus QCE points.

We are looking forward to experiencing life as a ‘university’ student, attending lectures, weekly workshops, accessing the QUT library and being welcomed to the real world.

Mariz, Year 12 student

Griffith University GUESTS Program

Griffith University is ranked in the top 5% of universities internationally. The Griffith University Early Start to Tertiary Studies Program (GUESTS) provides students with an opportunity to experience the exciting and daily life of a Griffith University student, whilst still at school. Successful completion of the GUESTS Program will award students with guaranteed entry to Griffith University and a bonus admission rank towards Griffith University degrees.

Currently five Year 12 students have qualified to participate in this amazing program. Haitham, Ben and I are studying an International Tourism and Hotel Management degree. Congratulations to Raina and Chi who are beginning a Bachelor of Commerce degree.

Chris, Year 12 Student

International Students Program (ISP) News

Welcome back to Term 1, 2016. We trust that you all enjoyed a well deserved break with family and friends and have returned to school full of enthusiasm and ready to embark on serious study and ISP adventures at Yeronga High.

We welcome three new students for 2016. They are Phong and Khiem from Vietnam and David from China. We also have six students at Whites Hill College studying with the HSP (High School Preparation) program and we are eager to welcome them in Term 2. Currently our numbers are very positive at 23! Thank you for welcoming our new students into your classes for the 2016 year.

The students study at Yeronga High and live with homestay families, gaining an understanding of the Australian culture and lifestyle whilst improving their English skills. They stay for many years completing their secondary and tertiary studies here in Australia. The students make a valuable contribution to the multicultural community that makes Yeronga High such a special place.

We are so lucky to have our Centre (top of D block) which provides a very comfortable, friendly and relaxed atmosphere for our fee paying students. They are very fortunate to receive support from staff - Mr Huang to discuss any schoolwork problems and Ms Pudlyk deals with their homestay families and living away from home problems.

We are very privileged to have our overseas students attend this great school of ours.

Maria Pudlyk and Song Huang
ISP Department
Sports News

Upcoming Sports Dates

- **Friday, 19 February**  
  Term 1 Week 4  
  District Swimming Carnival (13 - 19 years)
- **Wednesday, 2 March**  
  Term 1 Week 6  
  Senior Summer Gala Day
- **Friday, 18 March**  
  Term 1 Week 8  
  Junior Summer Gala Day
- **Thursday, 24 March**  
  Term 1 Week 9  
  School Cross Country

Sports Clubs are run as a social sport that all can attend. The following clubs meet after school:

- **Soccer**  
  Every day after school except Tuesday  
  (Mr Presland)
- **Gym**  
  Monday and Thursday after school starting Week 3  
  (Mr Bray)
- **Badminton**  
  Wednesday after school  
  (Ms Nguyen and Ms Askin)
- **Table Tennis**  
  Wednesday after school  
  (Ms Nguyen and Mr Warren)
- **Cricket**  
  Wednesdays first breaks in the Sport Centre (Mr Palmer)

Congratulations to House Captains for 2016

Swimming Carnival

Age Champions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 years</td>
<td>Nathan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>Ella</td>
<td>Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 years</td>
<td>Lione</td>
<td>Coen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 years</td>
<td>Namuli</td>
<td>Khan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 years</td>
<td>Chloe</td>
<td>Jarrah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Kathryn</td>
<td>Nhan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Final Scores**
  - **Kadumba**: 532
  - **Avoca**: 497
  - **Shottery**: 388

New Swimming Records 2016

- **Nathan - 12 years boys**
  - 50m freestyle: 40.66
- **Khan - 15 years boys**
  - 100m butterfly: 1:12.43
- **Coen - 14 years boys**
  - 100m freestyle: 1:03.19
- **Chloe - 16 years girls**
  - 50m freestyle: 31.03
  - 50m backstroke: 36.31
  - 100m butterfly: 1:10.71
  - 50m butterfly: 31.91

See photos on pages 18 - 21
Senior Leaders Induction Ceremony
Congratulations to our 2016 Leaders!

School Captains
Mariz Sapon & Gad Tshitenga

School Vice Captains
Kelly Nguy and Kathryn Wrigley

Student Council President
Loraine George
Student Council Secretary
Christopher Oculto

Sports Captains
Jada Cerneka and Diamond Davies

Cultural Captains
Kimberly Bowman and Ben Walker
Swimming Carnival
**YConnect News**

YConnect is Yeronga’s collaboration and innovation project. The funding we were awarded last year will allow us to use arts education to support student engagement and enrich curriculum. Throughout the year there will be many artists and projects integrated into our curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

Our principal partner is the Griffith University Drama Department and Associate Professor Julie Dunn was in the school this week delivering expert drama workshops to the Year 7 classes. These workshops are designed to support literacy outcomes.

Liesel Zink, an international performer and choreographer will be working with the Year 9s using movement to explore poetry.

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**New Staff**

I have been an educator for 31 years, teaching Geography, History, SOSE, and most recently English. Passionate about leadership, I have also worked as HOD, both in Australia and South Africa. As a lifelong learner, I am keen to learn more from, both, staff and students. It is an honour to serve as HOD Business & SOSE, at an institution that was a Showcase Winner in 2013 as well as a Finalist in 2015.

*Manuj Gokul - Head of Department - Business/SOSE*

My name is Rachael Huguenin and my passion is encouraging students’ social and emotional resilience in the classroom as I believe that when children are happy and confident, they not only achieve academically but socially too. I am so happy to be working at Yeronga SHS, teaching Year 7 and 8 Mathematics and Science. In my spare time I love spending time with my family enjoying the outdoors as much as possible.

*Rachael Huguenin - Teacher*

I am originally from Virginia, USA. I studied English Language and Literature and Studio Art with a film photography concentration. I taught ESL and coached swimming in China for two years before moving to Australia to get my secondary teaching qualification.

*Ian Vogt - Teacher*
I came to Australia in 1989 to do a PhD in chemistry. I then worked in pharmaceutical research for 15 years, mostly at Griffith University where I also taught undergraduates for 10 years. I started teaching in high schools in Queensland in 2011. Having a 30-year old teaching degree from Brazil, I felt “rusty” and during 2012 I decided to update my skills. I then taught at Indooroopilly SHS for 2 years (Biology, Science and Maths) and took a number of short contracts in other schools teaching Chemistry, Science, ICT and Maths. Back in 2012 I had the privilege of working at Yeronga SHS for a couple of weeks, teaching IT. I am delighted to be back and I look forward to working with you all.

Priscila De Almeida Leone - Teacher

I’m really enjoying teaching Design Technology and Horticulture here at YSHS. I’ve done teaching overseas quite a while ago. I have worked as a Horticulturist and Landscape Architect for a number of years, before deciding to go back to teaching.

Ermina Janssen-Skripic - Teacher

I have been teaching in non-state schools for the last 5 years and I am very excited about the move to Yeronga State High School in 2016. My main teaching areas are Business, English, Drama and Vocational Education and Training. I am looking forward to the new challenges and rewards at YSHS, especially working with the Year 7 students and Year 10 and 11 VET students.

Matt Jensen - Teacher

My name is Alex Grodecki and I am Yeronga State High School’s new Instrumental Music teacher. For the past four years I have been teaching music in remote South West Queensland. I enjoy live music, gardening and Korean food. Please come to the hall on Mondays during breaks if you would like to sign up for Instrumental Music.

Alex Grodecki - Instrument Music Teacher

My name is Andy Tran. I grew up in Vietnam and have been in Australian for seven years. I graduated from Monash University majoring in Mathematics and completed my teaching degree from USQ. I have been teaching for two years specialising in Mathematics, Science and Vietnamese. It has been a pleasure to be at Yeronga State High School and would love to contribute my knowledge and passion of teaching in years to come.

Andy Tran - Teacher

I have worked with students with diverse learning needs for over ten years, both in Australia and abroad. I will be teaching EALD English in Year 8 and EALD ICT to Year 10. I am very blessed to have been given the privilege of working at the “best school in the universe!”

Nici Morey - Head of Curriculum - Student Support
Term 1 - 2016

15 Feb Catch up for school photos
15-17 Feb Year 7 camp
16 Feb Year 11 & 12 Visual Art excursion
16 Feb Year 10 Careers Expo - QUT
18 Feb Year 11 Legal Studies excursion
19 Feb District swimming carnival
23 Feb Y-Tour - Enrolment information session
23 Feb Year 11 & 12 CUV excursion

25 & 26 Feb Year 7 Science excursion
2 Mar Senior Summer Gala day
7 - 9 Mar Year 11 Rec Studies camp
14 Mar P & C AGM followed by regular meeting
14-17 Mar Exam block
18 Mar Junior Summer Gala Day
21 Mar Harmony Day
24 Mar School Cross Country

ENROLMENT INFORMATION SESSION

Y - TOUR
for new enrolments in 2017

Tuesday, 23 February from 9.00am - 10.30am
in the Professional Lounge (top floor of Admin block)

Your chance to meet Senior Administration staff and key people, tour the school and see it in action on a school day, talk to senior students and have all your questions answered.

Morning tea provided - For more information, please call Tracey on 3249 1400 or email twalk78@eq.edu.au

Have you changed your address, home telephone number, mobile numbers or emergency contacts recently?
Please contact the office so that records can be kept up to date in case of an emergency.

All players welcome at
Souths Graceville Junior Rugby League southsgraceville@gmail.com

Prepare for Adventure – Prepare for Life!

Scouting provides an important extension to formal education, all based around outdoor activities. There are many opportunities to develop leadership skills and connections regionally, nationally and internationally. Kurilpa Scout Group has a strong connection with Yeronga State High School, with many YSHS families joining over the years. We cordially invite you to join us in 2016!

For more information contact kurilpaScouts@gmail.com and see www.kurilpa.scoutsnil.com.au

Kurilpa Scout Group - ages and times:

Venturers 15 – 18 year olds (meet every Mon 6:15 to 8:15 pm)
Scouts 10 ½ - 13 year olds (meet every Mon 6:15 to 8:15 pm)
Cubs 7 ½ - 11 year olds (meet every Wed 6:15 to 8:00 pm)
Joys 6 – 8 year olds (meet every Wed 5:30 to 6:30 pm)

Where:
Kurilpa Scout Den
Cnr Park Rd and Vilia St
Yeronga

Scouting is all about teaching children and young adults to "Be Prepared" for life’s challenges and helping them to develop a strong sense of self and community responsibility skills having a great time. Scouting encourages kids to have fun, make new friends, to get involved in outdoor adventure, to participate in community service and pursue fulfilling personal interests.

Can Saver Plus assist you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and watch your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:

- school uniforms and textbooks
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 6 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or studying yourself.

Contact David Smit, your local Saver Plus Worker;
07 3195 6202 / 0417 936 183
or david.smit@thesmitfamily.com.au

Saver Plus is a not-for-profit organisation and is the Knowledgeable Agent of the Federal Government’s School Fees Rebate Program.

Saver Plus is an ATO Approved Deductible Gift Recipient, approved charity number 2043470.