Hello everyone

The start of the term has been a busy one!

This term we welcomed Corinne Milton to our staff. Corinne is an experienced teacher who has joined us to teach Maths and Science. There have also been some staff movement internally to better suit the needs of the students at Brooks High School. Miss Stevens and Mrs Gibson have swapped roles. Miss Stevens is now working with the students in 7B and Mrs Gibson with the students in the Pathways Hub. Mr Erwin has now taken up the work with the 8A class after Mr Austin moved to Port Dalrymple School. Unfortunately we were unable to tell parents about some of these moves earlier due to the processes necessary for the Department of Education. You will also notice a new member of our administration team if you visit our office area. Mrs Steel has moved to Trevallyn Primary School for terms 2 & 3. This week we welcomed Tania Williams to the role at Brooks.

Most people will know that attendance has been a big focus at Brooks during Term 1. In 2015 the average attendance was 78%. For term 1 in 2016 we had an average attendance rate of 85%. That is a fantastic improvement. The challenge is to keep this up in the colder, wetter terms. Let's all make a big effort. Students need to be at school for learning.

Next week will be NAPLAN testing. NAPLAN testing is a series of tests focusing on basic skills. The test assess students reading, writing, spelling and grammar and numeracy. The test offers us a useful diagnoses of our school’s performance in English and Mathematics. This is an important week for our School. This new data will give us an excellent idea of how our teaching programs are working and give us important information about what we are doing well, where we are improving and where we need to focus our efforts for further improvement.

This week students began using our new kitchen area. This is a continuation of the redevelopment. The new facility is wonderful and will give our students the best facility for cooking and hospitality classes.

Sport is again in the news at Brooks. This week we have been organising teams for Saturday morning netball rosters. Rosters begin in the next couple of weeks. Today a group of our students have been competing in a schools mountain biking competition at Kate Reid Reserve. Details will be published in our next bulletin.
Anzac Assembly

This year, due to interruptions from school holidays, Brooks High School held our Anzac day assembly on Thursday the 7th of April. It is to be highly commended of staff and students regarding the way we as a whole school moved into the assembly and sat during the commemorative service. Not a sound was heard and that is something to be very proud of. We thank our special guest Captain Brian Harper OAM, chairman of the Australian War Veteran Association of Tasmania and president of the Northern Tasmanian Sub-branch RSL Club, who gave us a fantastic perspective on the meaning of Anzac and why we remember them, and also former Brooks High School student Shaun Dearing who performed The Last Post and The Rouse for us this assembly. Thank you to Ms Rose for all her organisation and the prefects, special performers, wreath layers and all who helped make the 2016 Anzac assembly the best Brooks High School has ever seen.
2016 Anzac Day March

It was a fantastic turnout for Brooks’ students at the 2016 Anzac Day march. This year marked the 101st year commemoration of the Anzacs landing at Gallipoli in Turkey to commence the First World War. The occasion was a sombre affair, with primary schools, high schools and colleges from across the north of the state turning out to remember those who have fought and died for our country – past and present. We began our march at Princess Square in town and walked down the streets of Launceston in near silence and full school uniform, passing the mayor of Launceston on the way, to arrive at the cenotaph. A traditional Anzac day service followed, with fantastic speeches and accounts from war time by soldiers and captains, and a great speech about the importance of commemorating this anniversary by a grade 12 St Patrick’s College student. Each special guest laid a wreath at the base of the cenotaph as did each school, with two grade 9 representatives from Brooks placing the wreath in respect for our fallen diggers who sacrificed everything. The Last Post and Rouse was traditionally played and the minute of silence in between was almost haunting as everyone fell quiet and payed their respects as two fighter planes flew overhead. It was truly an amazing service to be involved in and the level of maturity and respect that our students showed was something to be highly commended. The service finished by playing the New Zealand national anthem followed by the Australian national anthem. A huge turn out by Launceston citizens and a service to remember.

Lest we forget

Matthew and Imarnie Fatnowna from Grade 9C and 9A, played in the Esk Band (Launceston College) Symphonic Band at the ANZAC Day service at Evandale. Matthew plays the euphonium and Imarnie plays the flute. Below is an extract from the Esk Band newsletter, from Mr Peter Quigley, the band’s conductor.

“I would like to begin by saying that community service is special because it gives us all an opportunity to give something back to all those that help and support us in many of our daily personal and group endeavors.

Your musical contribution to this year’s ANZAC Day service at Evandale was memorable because you enhanced the ANZAC Remembrance Service in so many ways for so many people. The wreath laying ceremony stands out to me because of the strength and meaning of the hymns we played. Many people commented to both your parents and myself about your wonderful music making and how professional you all looked.

It was also special because Tasmania’s first female Governor listened to your performance: Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Kate Warner AM, Governor of Tasmania.

The Governor did say to me that she would like to have us play at Government House.”
The end of term 1 and over the holiday break Brooks High School have been busy with the renovations of kitchen 1 to match our lovely school facilities and bring it into the 21st century. Mrs Frerk and Mr Oliver are happy with the new space to work in. Grade 7, 8, 9 and 10 classes have been utilising the space to maximise their learning. Thank you to our handy Brooks High Staff and tradesmen who completed an enormous job on a tight schedule.

Under Construction

Kitchen Creations
Health and Physical Education

As a lead into cross-country, which is on the 26th of May, during HPE lessons students were set an orienteering style treasure hunt around the grounds of Brooks High School. All grades took part in this activity that required them to work in teams, using a map and their wit to locate a range of numbered tickets around the school. Mr Bonney and Mr Erwin were particularly impressed by the efforts of all 7A and 7B students, who despite the weather, participated and demonstrated great team work.

Also just a reminder to everyone please make sure that you are bringing a change of clothes for your HPE lessons.

Brooks High School Association
Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Brooks High School Association Inc. will be held on Tuesday, 10th May, 2016 commencing at 5.00 p.m. in the Conference Room at Brooks High School. All Welcome. Nominations are sought for two (2) Parent representatives and one (1) Community representative and two (2) Staff representatives. Nominations close on Monday 9th May, 2016 and should be forwarded to the Returning Officer, Leonie Johnston – email leonie.johnston@education.tas.gov.au

Congratulations

Imarnie Fatnowna has been named as the goalkeeper for the Tasmanian Under 15 girls’ Football (Soccer) team. Imarnie will compete at the National Youth Championships in Coffs Harbour in the July school holidays.
School Uniform

We have been very impressed with how well our students have looked in school uniform during term 1. As the winter months approach students will be looking for warmer options. We have included a range of images here to help with organising school uniform for the colder terms.

Some simple guidelines;
- Plain black pants (no logos etc)
- Correct school uniform on top – polo shirt, School hoodie, School jumper, School rugby top

Coats need to be removed in school buildings where heaters will be on to keep students warm.

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That breakfast is the most important meal of the day? It breaks the overnight fasting period, replenishes your supply of glucose and provides other essential nutrients to keep your energy levels up throughout the day.

The Australian guidelines to healthy eating state breakfast should consist of the following: a serve of wholegrain cereal or bread, a serve of milk or yogurt and a serve fruit or vegetables.

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The Breakfast Club operates between 8.15am to 8.45am and is located in the Coffee Pod in the Café, it is a lovely warm space in the morning.

Students have the opportunity to have a nutritious breakfast. The breakfast club provides cereal, toast and fruit to start their busy school day.

The Breakfast Club is also doing a daily special once a week, keep an eye out!

Thank you to this year’s sponsors Woolworth and The Foodbank.

Thank you to our volunteers for running this program, if you are interested in volunteering please contact the school office.

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DID YOU KNOW?

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Naplan

The following letter was posted home to parents on Wednesday 4th of May outlining important information regarding the Naplan testing.

4th May 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

Next week, your child/ren will be participating in NAPLAN testing. Each year, all students in Years 7 and 9 participate in these common national tests.

At Brooks High School, teachers have thoroughly prepared students for the NAPLAN testing throughout Term 1 and into Term 2. We are confident that our students will continue to improve on previous year’s results, reflecting the exceptionally high quality teaching and learning practices at our school.

This year, the tests are scheduled for the following days:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday 10th May</th>
<th>Wednesday 11th May</th>
<th>Thursday 12th May</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Block 1</td>
<td>Block 1</td>
<td>Block 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar &amp; Punctuation)</td>
<td>• Reading</td>
<td>• Numeracy (calculator)</td>
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<td>40 minutes</td>
<td>65 minutes</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Block 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Writing</td>
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<td>• Numeracy (non calculator)</td>
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<td>40 minutes</td>
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NAPLAN results provide valuable information on how your child is progressing against national minimum standards of literacy and numeracy skills expected for each year level. Later in the year, you will receive an individual report that shows your child’s results. Teachers will use the results to determine your child’s strengths and areas for future focus; and it will inform school planning and resourcing to support student learning.

The best way you can assist your child is by helping them to feel comfortable about the tests. Reassure them that the tests will give them an opportunity to show what they have learned in class. We aim for all students to approach the testing with a positive attitude, determined to give their best shot. We urge you to send your child to school during this week – high attendance is vital to the accuracy of our results. We thank you in advance for your support with this.

If you have any questions regarding the testing, please do not hesitate to make contact with your child’s teacher or a member of the school leadership team.

Kind regards

Cilla Keenan
Raising the Bar Assistant Principal

Peter Bird
Principal
Communication and Information

◆ Absences - Phone office on 6324 7200
  SMS mobile phone number 0416 907 090
  For advising the school of a student’s absence

◆ Photos and News - Facebook
  Brooks High School Page
  Brooks High School Sports Page

◆ Brooks High School App - Information for students and families
  Including copies of School Newsletters
  (Free to Download)

Office Hours: 8.00 am to 4.00 pm