Message from the Principal

Last week saw the release of our first ever NAPLAN test results.

I was delighted with what our students achieved and although it wasn’t a surprise to our teaching staff, we were nevertheless very pleased with the achievements of individual students and also the Discovery Christian College cohort as a whole.

In every single year level (Years 3, 5, 7 and 9) at least 50% of the students scored in the top 2 bands of achievement in one or more areas. Particularly noteworthy were our Grade 3 students, 42% of whom scored in the highest possible achievement band for most of their tests. Even more impressive was the performance of our first high school cohort. The results show that 61% of our year 7 students achieved in the top 2 bands.

As a whole, the Discovery Christian College cohort of students have achieved above the state wide average on the majority of NAPLAN assessment areas. Once again, our High school year groups stand out and as a whole, they performed significantly above the state average in Mathematics, Reading, Writing and Grammar.

Often, we neglect to mention the successes of students who have initially struggled in reading, writing and numeracy only to show great improvements in the first semester. It is not solely about achieving at the top, rather the most important thing is to do one’s best and continually strive to get better.

Although I don’t like to over emphasise the significance of NAPLAN results, I feel that as a brand new school we can be very proud of our student’s performances and it is worthwhile drawing attention to the successes that we have been able to achieve in such a short time since opening in February.

As I reflect on this success and the brief history of the life of our school, I am reminded of how true we are holding to our motto – CHARACTER, EXCELLENCE, COMMUNITY.

Our aim, however, is not to sit back and stay in this mode of reflection. Instead, we will continually strive towards improvement in every area. Our desire is to build strong character in our students, to help them excel and to build a thriving school community where teachers and parents work effectively together to enable their children to enjoy their journey of discovery.

Blessings,

Damian Higgins

Enrol Now for 2016

Have you got friends or family interested in enrolling at Discovery?

Have you got a child joining us in the secondary school in 2016? Come along to our secondary school information night on Wednesday 2nd September at 5:30pm. This is particularly important for Grade 7’s in 2016 and any new secondary students who will be joining us next year. For more information please call the office on 07 4974 7336.

Yr 7 and New Student Information Evening

Come along to our information evening and hear more about what is available for your child as they move into High School.

We will be holding this event for enrolled families and those wanting to hear more about what High School at DCC will be like. This is a great opportunity to meet our teachers, hear about subjects and curriculum and learn about the transition from primary to secondary.

When: Wednesday 2nd September
What time: 5:30pm
Where: DCC campus, 2873 Round Hill Road, Agnes Water

All welcome!
Year 10 ‘Paddle On’ Sea Kayak Expedition

In Week 3 of Term 3 our Year 10 students headed off to Eurimbula National Park for a week of fun, challenges, and some sea kayaking as well.

Queensland Christian Camping Centre, Mapleton, as coordinators and facilitators of DCC’s sequential camps program, ran the camp. Our instructors, Rob and Kerry, did an amazing job at keeping everyone safe and happy, with many riddles along the way to keep us entertained... and slightly frustrated.

Our journey involved around 32 kilometres of sea kayaking. What we thought would be our biggest day of paddling 19 kilometres was trumped by our journey from Pancake Creek through to Rodd’s Harbour where we had to battle against wind and the outgoing tide. We all got knee deep (or head to toe deep) in mud as we made our portage from the creek to dry ground.

Everyone has heaps of highlights from camp, and many of them arose from the challenging times as we came to realise the potential of ‘making good’ in whatever situation life throws at you.

At the end of each day, after our cooking circle was closed, we would sit around and talk about something we enjoyed from the day, something that we could improve on (individually or as a group), and something positive we had accomplished. This was a fantastic time of reflection and helped us soak up every moment of each day.

By the end of expedition everyone was exhausted but the smiles could not be wiped off our faces, teachers included. As the supervising adults on the camp, Mr Murphy and I could not be prouder of the way the Year 10 class conducted themselves and gave everything they had inside them to the opportunities and challenges the expedition provided.

Thanks to the Year 10 class on a fantastic week, and for aptly naming the expedition ‘Paddle On’, now cemented in DCC history!

Miss Priscilla van Brummelen

It was an absolutely unforgettable experience that will be treasured forever. Thank you to everyone and anyone who was involved because it was one of those things that you never want to end. — Kennedee Millar

“I appreciated that QCCC were so willing to teach us new life skills for our future.” — Dillon Cunningham

“I enjoyed being away from our normal lives and having to be completely self sufficient for five days.” — Ryan Chang

“I learnt that the environment is a beautiful place and I haven’t realised this until I put down my phone and saw it for what it really was.” — Cassie Johnson
Christian Schools Athletics Carnival in Brisbane

Seven of DCC’s athletes had the privilege of teaming up with 13 Bundaberg Christian College’s students.

Under the newly devised banner of ‘Wide Bay Christian Schools’ at the CSSA Carnival in Brisbane on Monday 17th August, athletes were given exposure to the world-class tartan track at Brisbane’s QSAC stadium. Here they were able to measure their abilities against the bigger Christian schools in Queensland.

All DCC’s athletes must be commended on their stellar performances.

Ryan Chang placed 2nd in the U16 Boys’ High Jump, 2nd in the U16 Boys’ Discus and he won the U16 Boys’ Triple Jump by a considerable margin, setting a new record. Ryan was also runner up age group champion.

In addition to this, Bianca Johnson placed 4th in the U15 Boys Long Jump.

The trip to Brisbane was not only successful from an athletics point of view, but it was also invaluable in light of the relationship that was built with BCC. We will endeavour to team up with our Bundaberg counterparts at similar Christian Schools’ events and also look to create a healthy sporting rivalry with inter schools sports days in the future.

As well as this relationship between DCC and BCC, the students themselves formed some new and valuable friendships that will hopefully strengthen as students meet up at various sporting events, either as one team, or opposing teams.

Given the success of the two-day outing, we, as ‘Wide Bay Christian Schools’, are certainly looking forward to the 2016 CSSA Cross Country and Athletics carnivals with our BCC team-mates.

Sporting News

After only two and a half terms, Discovery Christian College students have a lot to be proud of on the sporting front.

Cross Country

Last term Lachlan Hazell, Alki Kallas, Jade Gordon and Uma Brennan represented the Bundaberg Cross County team at the Wide Bay trials. Lachlan Hazell did particularly well as he was selected to run for Wide Bay on the Gold Coast during the July holidays.

Athletics

Towards the end of Term 2 the inaugural House Athletics Carnival was held.

Congratulations Keppel, the winning house. Congratulations also goes to the following age-group champions:

- u9 Girls: Piper Philpot
- u9 Boys: Johnny Higgins
- u10 -11 Girls: Pixi Kallas
- u10 Boys: Jackson Skinner
- u11 Boys: Lachlan Hazell
- u12 Boys: Shayla Walker
- u13 Girls: Alki Kallas
- u13 Boys: Edwin Chang
- u14 Girls: Bianca Johnson
- u14 Boys: Archi Doble
- u15/Open Girls: Uma Brennan
- u15/Open Boys: Ryan Chang

Following this, 26 students represented DCC at the BDSSS carnival on the 27th and 28th July. All athletes can hold their heads high following many outstanding individual performances. Special congratulations must be extended to Edwin Chang (4th in u13 boys high jump), Mason Gates (3rd in u13 boys high jump; 3rd in u13 boys 400m), Bianca Johnson (2nd in u14 girls 200m) and Alki Kallas who won his u12 boys 800m.

In addition to these individual feats, DCC came agonising close to winning the average points (or percentage) trophy.

Wide Bay Christian schools: The combined DCC & BCC team form the Wide Bay Christian Schools.
High School Science

Year 7/8
Recently the Year 7/8 Science class have been studying a unit of work on Chemical Change. In their studies students have looked at both the physical and chemical properties of substances and learned that physical properties are those that can either be observed using the five senses (seeing, smelling, hearing, touching or tasting) or be measured directly, whereas chemical properties are the characteristics of a substance that describe its ability to change into a different substance.

The students have done some investigations to observe chemical reactions in which the chemical change causes a completely new substance to be produced. When investigating the chemical reaction that occurs when copper carbonate is heated, students learned that the new substances of copper oxide and carbon dioxide are produced. Students investigating the chemical reaction between steel wool and copper sulphate solution found the steel wool (which is made of iron) dissolves in the copper sulphate solution to form iron sulphate solution and copper!

Year 9
The Year 9 students have been busy in the last few weeks creating 3D representations of the accepted model of the atom from past to present. The results speak for themselves.

Literacy Update

Grade 3/4
This term the Grade 3/4 class have been enjoying reading Charlotte’s Web as their class novel. The children made their own spider sitting in a web and discovered how clever spiders really are being able to make a web only using their feet!

Grade 5/6
The Grade 5/6 class have been studying a variety of interesting English concepts recently. We have focused on synonyms, main and subordinate clauses, noun phrases, adjective phrases and adverbial phrases as well as developing our writing skills. Lots of interesting character profiles have also been created for our narratives. We are using lots of adjectives and metaphors to describe our character’s personalities, ambitions and physical appearances.