From the Executive Principal

Our first term is almost over and I am delighted to report that there is an extremely positive whole school purpose evident in every area of the school and learning community. Our young people rely on their parents/carers, teachers and family members to support them in their learning. The success of the whole school, as well as individuals within the school, is only possible through the commitment from everyone.

Brisbane School of Distance Education is committed to maintaining strong community engagement and partnerships and at a school as large and diverse as BrisbaneSDE, it is critical to have parents/Home Based Supervisors involved, informed and consulted.

The staff, students, parents/careers and the school community rely on your input regarding the optimal functioning of the school and we encourage all parents and carers to be involved in this exciting learning environment.

Our first ‘Picnic in the Park’ is being held at Caloundra on the Friday 26 April 2019 and I invite all BrisbaneSDE families living in the Sunshine Coast area or anyone that may like to take a day trip to attend this great event. It will be a great opportunity to meet other home supervisors from your area and make important connections. If you are interested in attending, please contact communityengagement@brisbanesde.eq.edu.au and for more information visit the link: https://brisbanesde.eq.edu.au/Calendarandnews/News/Pages/Picnic-in-the-Park.aspx.

To facilitate a strong sense of community engagement I highlight the events that have occurred this Term:

- Year 11 Study Workshop and Languages Practices
- French Film Festival
- Taste of Spanish, German and Japanese
- Swimming Carnival
- Year 10 Camp at Noosa North Shore Retreat
- Swim Schools: Brisbane, Wide Bay and Toowoomba
- QAGOMA Excursions
- First Aid courses
- QCS Workshop practice
- Year 6 Enrichment Day
- Online Information Sessions

A visit from the ABC News

2019 has seen a significant growth in student enrolments at BrisbaneSDE.

We have experienced a growing interest in our school with many families making the change to home-based education.

Our enrolment numbers have grown by 10% since this time last year and we have recently been featured in the media for this reason. In week 7 we had the ABC News interview myself and take some footage of teachers working in their classrooms. This positive story was based on our increased enrolments and why parents/caregivers are choosing to educate their children through distance education. You can read the written article by clicking on the hyperlink.

This enrolment growth has prompted a review of our enrolment procedures to ensure that we are providing an efficient and effective service that supports the learning for all students.

All families will be invited to provide feedback on our enrolment services using the link below: https://brisbanesde.eq.edu.au/Calendarandnews/News/Pages/Review---Enrolment-Processes.aspx.
Swimming Carnival

On Tuesday 5 March 2019 we held our annual Swimming Carnival at Anglican Church Grammar School. It was great to witness the passionate school spirit, lots of students participating, cheering each other on and achieving their personal successes. Thank you to all of the staff who assisted at the event and a big congratulations to the Red House for being overall champions on the day!

Prestigious award

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) is an independent statutory body of the Queensland Government. It develops and revises syllabuses and provides assessment, reporting and certification services for all Queensland schools.

Each year, the QCAA recognises and rewards Queensland's top performing students for outstanding academic achievement in their senior years of schooling.

I am pleased that Emily Appleby, one of our students, received one of the 34 prestigious awards. This is especially valuable when you consider that there were more than 50,000 students involved in senior schooling across the State. It's a wonderful achievement for Emily; one that acknowledges her hard work and we congratulate Emily on her results and the recognition she receives through this prestigious award.

International Women's Day

I had the great pleasure and privilege to be invited along with BrisbaneSDE School Captain, Viana Guerin to attend an International Women's Day event at the Government House. Viana and I found the theme of this year's International Women's Day 'Balance for Better' to be informative and inspiring to all women. It recognises the important roles we all play as women, men, non-binary and gender diverse people in achieving gender equality.
2019 BrisbaneSDE Annual Improvement Plan

Our 2019 Annual Improvement Plan (AIP) reflects our commitment to Each Student Succeeding through Innovation, Inspiration and Inclusion.

At BrisbaneSDE, we believe that every student has the ability to learn and should be able to demonstrate progress in their learning.

This year we have taken active steps to further realign our support processes across the school to maximise the learning opportunities for our students. A whole school approach works to ensure that a coordinated and systematic approach is employed to support diverse learning needs in an environment of ongoing improvement. This approach sets high expectations, monitors student progress with analysis and discussion of student achievement data and supports student learning with quality teaching focused on improving the achievement of every student.

We are utilising a collaborative teams approach at the school which sees our staff working collaboratively to plan and implement improvement programs for all students. I am very much looking forward to seeing the improvements and gains that are achieved with this whole school approach to supporting learning where EACH STUDENT SUCCEEDS.

Australia’s National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

On Friday 15 March 2019, BrisbaneSDE participated in Australia’s National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. The whole school community were invited to take a stand and we have had overwhelming support and commitment demonstrated to this agenda.

All members of our school community were invited to take a stand together against bullying; to make a difference at our school and in our community; so that we can all feel safe.

Bullying and violence at school is not okay, and at BrisbaneSDE we promise to take a stand together; to make a difference; and to take action against all bullying.

The definition of bullying has three components — firstly, it is a repeated behaviour (it happens over and over and over and over again); secondly, it comes from one person wanting to be more powerful than someone else; and thirdly, it is behaviour that causes harm.

Bullying behaviour can be physical, verbal or social. Bullying can be obvious or hidden. It can take place in person or online. A student should never have to feel intimidated or harassed while they are trying to learn. Parents should never have to see their child tormented from bullying. Staff should never have to be distracted from their core role of teaching by incidents of bullying.

As students and staff, as parents and members of the community, we can all take steps; all of us; to help prevent bullying and to create an environment in which everyone feels safe.

A national day of action allows us all — students, staff, families, and members of the wider school community, to say we will ‘Take a Stand Together’ against bullying. It allows us to stand up and say that there is no place for bullying or violence inside or outside our school.

Our commitment is to respond to bullying with strength — on a school level; class level; student level and with strong links between our school, our parents, and our community. This is a collaborative effort, and we all need to play a role. Everyone plays a part in ensuring the safety and wellbeing At BrisbaneSDE, we do not tolerate bullying.

Our teachers; our families; and our students do not tolerate bullying.
Welcome to Melinda Johnson

I am delighted to welcome Mrs Melinda Johnson to our executive team. Melinda has been appointed as a Head of School and will have responsibility for Special Education and P–6. Melinda has extensive experience and has a strong commitment to inclusive practice. She commenced with us on 4 March, replacing Perry Trattos.

Term 1 2019 has been a very busy and successful term. We have welcomed many new families to our school and have celebrated many learning achievements for our students.

These events and successes at BrisbaneSDE would not be possible without the dedication and commitment from parents, staff and students. We are very proud of the achievements of our students this term and thank all staff and parents for working together to create an extraordinary learning environment for all students.

The school term will finish on Friday 5 April and Term 2 will commence on 23 April 2019. I trust that you all enjoy a restful holiday and look forward to everyone returning to learning, ready to start another busy term.

Judy Menary
Executive Principal
News from the 2019 BrisbaneSDE Executive Team

Years 7 and 9 news

Cheryl Wilson, Head of School Years 7 and 9

It is hard to believe that Term 1 is almost done. All students should be settled into their learning routines by now and some will already have completed assessment. It is important for students to have an organised routine and study space at home. Attendance and engagement are priorities for our students at BrisbaneSDE, so please ensure you are attending and participating in all scheduled lessons and set learning activities including assignments, homework and revision.

Literacy is a key focus at BrisbaneSDE and at this point in the term we are starting to analyse reading data gathered through the completion of PAT-R (Reading) tests. Our teachers engage in focussed data conversations with the Literacy Advisors and then plan for supporting student literacy development using strategies that will support reading to learn through a deeper engagement and understanding of the curriculum! It is important that all students read for leisure as well as for learning. What is your child reading for leisure?

We are looking forward to welcoming students later this term for Enrichment Days. Personally, I look forward to meeting many of the Years 7 and 9 students who attend. There is a fantastic array of activities planned for students who do attend. See you there!

Have a relaxing and enjoyable vacation (when it arrives) and we look forward to learning and reading together next term.

Year 12 news

Janelle Ambrose, Head of School Year 12

A positive outcome from last year was evidenced in the latest data on students who applied to QTAC for a tertiary pathway. 100% of our students who applied to QTAC in 2018 received a tertiary offer for this year. Congratulations to all of our past students — this was a great outcome.

We believe in strong partnerships between home and school. We welcome and encourage parent/supervisor connections with the Senior Team. Online Information sessions were recently run for BrisbaneSDE families. The recorded sessions will be available on our school’s website shortly. Please continue to check the website for the latest news and opportunities for students.

Queensland has introduced a new QCE system starting with Year 11 students this year. Comprehensive information is available on our website. The QCAA also has information for both Years 11 and 12. By selecting the links below you will be redirected to QCAA for the latest updates.

- For implementation with Year 12 students in 2019
- For implementation with Year 11 students from 2019

I encourage all parents to review the comprehensive information now available regarding the new QCE system.

Next Step is a state-wide post-school destination survey of all students who completed Year 12 last year in Queensland. Insights gained from Next Step assists schools to review and plan their services for students, and school system personnel to evaluate education policies as they affect the transition from school to further study and employment.

We invite the 2018 Year 12 cohort to participate in this survey, which helps capture information about the journey from school to further study and employment. The survey is now open and is available at www.qld.gov.au/nextstep/.

Finally, I encourage Year 11 and 12 students to attend the Senior Camp in May. Every year connections and friendships are made at camp. The camps are a great opportunity for students to enjoy a suite of activities and work together. The camps are organised at Maroon Outdoor Education Centre. Please see there link for the types of programs that students engage in. https://maroonoec.eq.edu.au/Pages/default.aspx
Leadership of Year 8 and Year 10 staff, students and parents leading to the achievement of quality learning outcomes for all students.

Simon Wingate, Head of School Years 8 and 10

The 2019 school year is well and truly underway. Term 1 has almost, as if by stealth, crept up upon us with the end of term looming. Students have now settled in to the routines of their timetable and navigating their learning in an online environment. As a new comer to BrisbaneSDE this year, I have been amazed and impressed with the work of all school staff to ensure that students can access classes, are engaged in the relevant curriculum and achieving to their potential.

As impressive as the online learning environment is, it was nice to step out of the school briefly in Week 6 and meet some of our students face to face. It was great to see many of our students participating in the Swimming Carnival and taking the opportunity to meet some of their teachers and other students. I also took great pleasure in attending the Year 10 camp at Noosa North Shore. In my two days and one night on camp, it was great to see students developing relationships with others they have never previously met, except in classes online. Friendships were developed, study buddies were created and most importantly, fun was had.

As mentioned previously, the end of term is looming. With it comes exams, assignments and other modes of assessment. This can be a challenging time for students, teachers and parents / home-based supervisors. The best advice when approaching this time is be prepared, be organised and communicate clearly and frequently. Consult with work rate calendars, check deadlines, communicate with teachers to manage due dates and organise your time. Most importantly, if you’re unsure of what to do or when it’s due, communicate with teachers, the earlier the better.

Lastly, and continuing the theme of being prepared and organised, NAPLAN will be taking place next term. For students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 this free diagnostic test will take place over three days in Week 4. Details and documentation about NAPLAN for 2019 can be found on the school website. This diagnostic test provides valuable information back to the school about literacy and numeracy capabilities and helps inform planning for future curriculum delivery. Some students and families may wish to familiarise themselves with what the tests involve and prepare for the test formats. Student / parent resources and sample tests can be found at the following website http://www.nap.edu.au/home.

Good luck with all assessments, happy Term 1 and happy holidays.

From the Business Manager’s desk

Steve Warwick, Business Manager

We have had a very busy start to the school year with an enrolment of over 2000 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) this year; an increase of over 9% from 2018. Thank you for your patience and understanding with the delays some of you experienced — rest assured the multiple teams involved in the enrolment process were working very long hours to ensure our students were enrolled as soon as possible.

Our school budget has been finalised and approved, and managers and HODs have been happily spending, ensuring the resources are available to our students as early in the year as possible. Our budget is aligned to our Annual Improvement Plan (AIP) and is allocated to ensure each student is succeeding. It really is our focus to see all of you have the best chance of success.

A few of the office team were involved in the swimming carnival and enjoyed meeting the students and parents. I would recommend to those that have not attended to try and come to the next one. It was a lot of fun. Early next term sees the first of our ‘Picnic in the Park’ days and this will be at Caloundra, right on the water’s edge! We would love to see as many families as possible and our Community Engagement Team are looking forward to meeting lots of families and students. We would love to see a large crowd there supporting this initiative so these days can continue.

(continued over)
From the Business Manager’s desk (continued)

As we move in to the cooler weather, you may see some garden construction occur. We are always striving to make our school welcoming and a pleasant environment for all that visit so to that end you will see some new signage and minor improvements around the grounds as well.

Our Finance Team will commence the payments of Textbook Allowances and Information Technology (IT) subsidies in Term 2. If you have not provided your banking details, please ensure you do so by end of Term 1, otherwise your payment will be delayed.

We have commenced a new initiative this year with many more of our Teacher Aides engaged in online lessons supporting the Teachers in their faculty. If you are lucky enough to have an Aide in one of your classes, please make them feel welcome and get to know them. They are there to assist you and the teacher in making your lesson as productive as possible.

I would like to welcome all new students and families to our fantastic school and hope that Term 2 is a productive one for you.

Prep – Year 6

Melinda Johnson, Head of School Prep – Year 6

It has been a privilege joining the BrisbaneSDE school community part way through this term as Head of School Prep – Year 6. I have worked within the primary, secondary and tertiary schooling sectors over many years with much of my experience spent both teaching and leading in the P–6 sector. It has been a pleasure getting to know our BrisbaneSDE staff, students and their families and I look forward to continuing to build these important relationships this year. Our commitment at BrisbaneSDE is to work with all key stakeholders to nurture the growth, success and wellbeing of each learner. Along with Mrs Melinda Norman (Head of Department P–6) and our P–6 team of dedicated teachers and teacher aides we look forward to partnering with students and their families this year. Critical to our partnership with our students and families is sharing our journey together through acknowledging the great work and achievements of our students and highlighting the various events and celebrations that further support the growth of our learners.

Term 1 has been an exciting and productive term for our P–6 students. Some of the highlights of the term include:

- **Eastern Alliance Cluster Primary Leadership Program**
  
  This outstanding program provided an opportunity for student leaders from primary schools to participate in a rich, authentic Young Leaders Program. The program was purposefully developed as a learning and leading journey for young newly elected leaders. Activities aimed to provide young leaders with the insights, experiences and confidence to excel in leading this year and beyond.

- **P–6 Enrichment Day**

  What an exciting day for all involved! Our P–6 Enrichment Day provided a great opportunity for students and Home Supervisors to engage in a variety of fun and engaging learning experiences. A highlight was our guest speaker, Jackie Narracott who is an athlete from Olympics Unleashed. Students were also able to participate in physical activities that aim to keep us healthy, as well as channel their creativity through visual art, music and dance activities. Home Supervisors could participate in sessions aimed at building knowledge about supporting student learning at BrisbaneSDE, learning some reading and writing tips for students, and hearing from our Speech Language Pathologist Bernadette about how language development can be further supported.
Term 1 update

Amy Wood, Head of School Year 11

The year is well underway. Approximately 3500 students started with us this year and the applications for enrolment at BrisbaneSDE continue.

For our Year 11 students this has been an important start as the first cohort in the new QCE system. Take confidence in the fairness, consistency and transparency of this system. Visit the QCAA website for more information, including AARAS (Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments) https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/senior-qce.

With a focus on each student succeeding, we have an expectation for all students to attend scheduled lessons and be actively engaged in learning. Ensure you have a dedicated learning space free from distractions. Have your timetable and work rate calendars visible. Create a study plan. Set yourself a goal to work towards and celebrate each step of success towards your goal. These are all ways to be organised, prepared and motivated for learning.

Your connection with BrisbaneSDE can be enhanced beyond your scheduled lessons. We have an active Student Council, meeting weekly to ‘grow our innovative, inclusive and inspirational school culture’. Contact your Year Level Coordinator to find out how you can be involved.

School carnivals are a fantastic opportunity to meet other students, see your teachers and experience school spirit. The Swimming Carnival was an excellent example this and the feedback from students, parents and staff was positive, with the opportunity to connect, have fun, participate and celebrate success. Your next opportunity will be the Athletics Carnival in Term 2. Look out for updates via school media and Blackboard Courses.

Senior Camp is coming up next term from 7–9 May. As leaders within the school, Years 11 and 12 students have the unique opportunity to connect and support each other in this senior phase. This is a highly valued camp and I encourage you to attend.

BrisbaneSDE students also have the opportunity to represent our school at Sporting events. Congratulations to the following students for their dedication and commitment in these events:

- Matthew R: Sunshine Coast Region U19 Basketball Team
- Shyla S: South Coast Region U18 Golf Team
- L M: Sunshine Coast Region U18 Rugby League Team
- Amy D: Bayside District Swimming Team

Finally, for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9, go to our website to find out how you can be involved in NAPLAN. It is a great opportunity for students and we encourage your participation.
2019 Swimming Carnival

For the first time at BrisbaneSDE we held our annual Swimming Carnival at the Lorrimer Swim School Pool. This year students were allocated into Houses based on their preferred surname; Blue House (A–L) and Red House (M–Z). Upon arrival primary school students received a ‘Brag Tag’ to put onto their lanyards and secondary students received a Certificate of Attendance as a recognition of their attendance. All students that participated in activities on the day will have this recorded in OneSchool as a recognition of their participation. This will occur for all whole school carnivals.

During the carnival, student had the opportunity to swim in Competition events, which had their points go towards Age Champion results and House results, or Non-Competition events, in which points were allocated to House totals only. Throughout the day, Ms Taru Bullock gave students opportunities to participate in novelty activities which also contributed to House totals. This carnival catered for everyone.

Congratulations to the following students for achieving Age Champion for their respective ages.

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<tr>
<th>Age Champions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mixed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years 10–11</td>
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<td>Alyssa S</td>
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Thank you to our School Captain, Viana G and Student Leaders, Julia P, Gabriel D, Aaron Z and Olivia S for assisted in various roles throughout the day and as leaders of the Houses.

Congratulations to the Red House on being overall BrisbaneSDE Swimming Carnival Champion House.

Our next carnival is the BrisbaneSDE Athletics Carnival which will be held on Monday, 29 April. We look forward to seeing you there. Keep checking the school’s website and your student’s Blackboard courses for details and permission forms.
Swim Schools Report

With water safety as our focus, we use the Royal Life Saving Society Queensland (RLSSQ) Swim and Survive program. This term, 28 students in total attended our program.

Josh Sinclair and Claire Criaco went to a new location for us to the Glennie Aquatic Centre; a beautiful heated indoor facility in Toowoomba which everyone is happy about given the cold up there even at this time of the year.

Beth Glover and Rosemary Sheen spent a day in Caboolture, followed by a day in Kingaroy with an overnigher in Maryborough.

We had one boy participate at Maryborough — but what an impact we made on each other!

This is why we do what we do — if we can make an impact on one person’s life — then our job is done. (Declan attended the Swimming Carnival as a result of our visit!)

Taru Bullock, Nicole O’Brien, Beth Glover and Rosemary Sheen took the program at another new facility for BrisbaneSDE — the Clem Jones Centre in Carina. What an amazing facility it is.

Our program focuses on the importance of swimming and water safety.

If our Swim Schools can save just one life then it will have been well worth it!
The Most Outstanding Swimming Achievement Award goes to Willow H.
Willow has gone from a Level D3 to Level 7 since our last Swim School. Willow began swimming lessons with the Laurie Lawrence Swim School. The lessons have really paid off Willow!
This is a truly amazing achievement!

Best Picture Award
Caboolture — the photo ‘says it all’ — two brand new students and one who has been part of our swim schools for years!
Jasmine is a Doctor–for–a–day

Jasmine, a Year 11 student, participated in a program run by the University of Queensland’s Rural Clinical School in Rockhampton. The Doctor-for-a-day Program provided an opportunity for school students to work with health care professionals where they experienced some of the duties which doctors can face in a day. These included suturing of wounds and plastering of limbs. Jasmine has now enrolled with Education Queensland and Industry Partnership (EQIP), a training provider in Gladstone, to study Certificate II in Health Support Services. We wish Jasmine all the best on this journey.

External VET programs

Did you know that BrisbaneSDE supports students in accessing Vocational Education and Training programs run by external providers, such as TAFE? Check out the BrisbaneSDE VET Portal (the VET page on the BrisbaneSDE website). Click on the STUDYING EXTERNALLY icon for more information about external VET programs. If you’re interested in a School-based apprenticeship or traineeship (SAT), click on the SATs icon for more information.

If you have an interest in a particular vocational area and would like to chat with someone about accessing an External VET Program or a SAT, contact the Coordinator, Elena Simmons on 3727 2682 or esimm10@eq.edu.au.

Annabel’s practical placement day

Desiring a future working with animals has seen Annabel, a Year 10 student, commence a trial for her work placement at a veterinary practice. Annabel had a very busy first day as she cleaned cages, mopped floors, fed and comforted the cats and even assisted in admitting a new feline guest! Annabel is studying a Certificate II in Animal Studies online, with Applied Vocational Training who are based in Perth, WA. The duration of the online course is 18 months but Annabel has the option of completing it sooner and then progressing to a Certificate III in Animal Studies. We wish Annabel every success.
2019 Queensland Training Awards nominations

The nominations into the 2019 Queensland Training Awards closed on Sunday, 17 March. We wish all our nominees the very best of luck to make it through to the first round. The writing of the nomination required students to review their journey from deciding on their external course of study, through to working and training in the industry. Some insightful comments written by our students include:

‘I felt supported every step of the way to learn new skills and knowledge that will stand me in good stead for a career in aviation.’

‘I enjoy working in the cooking industry and learning new skills, from knife skills, to actual cooking, to presentation, to customer service. It’s a fun industry with many employment opportunities, which can be difficult to find for people in my age group across other industries.’

‘This course opened up a whole new world of opportunities and career options I hadn’t yet considered.’

‘By studying the Certificate II in Health Support, it only enhanced my will to continue down the path of becoming a paediatric nurse.’

‘This year I have decided to complete a Certificate III in Health Assistance Services through TAFE at School, which will qualify me as a registered assistant nurse once completed, therefore I aim to get a job in the health industry after I graduate.’

‘Overall, VET has taught me life skills that I am excited to put into practice in my everyday life, and in the workplace.’

‘I am a hands-on person and want to learn all I can from the basics of vehicle maintenance right through to more complex vehicle diagnostics. I believe there is no better place to learn the basics than in a workshop either in the workplace or TAFE.’

‘I am able to navigate my way around a workshop confidently and feel useful to the mechanics.’

‘One important message I would tell all new students as boring as it is sitting and listening to the theory and completing all the handwritten exercises in the workbooks it eventually pays off when it is time to pick up the tools.’

‘Finally I now have a nationally-recognized qualification — a stepping stone to a Diploma.

‘Don’t lose sight of your passion. I’m grateful for my VET pathway and would encourage students to find out what they’re looking for in a potential career. You will excel if you apply yourself to your commitments.’

‘I chose the course as it was a dual certificate, as I have always wanted to work with animals, and the Certificate II in Animal Studies was the perfect way to get a glimpse into the industry and start my higher level education in that field. I also wanted to do the Certificate II in Horticulture as it seemed to me to be a natural fit to have it alongside my animal studies course.’

CONTACT INFORMATION

BrisbaneSDE contact details

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Postal address GPO Box 1308, Brisbane Qld 4001
Office hours The school office is open between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm, every school day.

Keep up to date

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/BrisbaneSchoolofDistanceEducation
Twitter https://twitter.com/BrisbaneSDE
Dancing All The Way To Las Vegas!

Sophie MacKay from Tully who is studying Year 12 Dance through BrisbaneSDE recently competed in the National Dance Competition ‘Get The Beat’ Finals where she came away with remarkable results across all sections. She placed first in Jazz, second in Ballet, third in Lyrical and fourth in Contemporary. However her most remarkable achievement was coming Runner Up in the Senior Champion of Champions section which has won her an invitation to perform with the Dream Dance Company in Singapore at the ‘Get The Beat’ Finals and to travel with the National Australia Team to the USA to compete in KAR Kids Artistic Revue in Las Vegas. Both of these trips will take place in June and July of this year. We congratulate Sophie on this fantastic achievement and wish her all the best for her exciting voyage ahead.

SENIOR NEWS

Academic integrity — a course for students (and parents)

What is plagiarism? How do I avoid it?

How much feedback should my teacher give me on my draft?

Can I get my parents to help me do my assignment?

What is ‘integrity’, and why is it important? Why is it particularly important to display academic integrity during your school studies?

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) has released an online Academic integrity course for students which will answer these and many more questions. The course has four separate parts, and is designed so that all four parts can be completed in a total of around one hour.

We strongly encourage students and their parents and carers to go through this course together to build a shared understanding of the importance of practising academic integrity, particularly in secondary schooling as students are expected to take greater responsibility for their own learning.

The course can be found via the myQCE portal on the QCAA website: https://myqce.qcaa.qld.edu.au/index.html

On this site you will also find a wealth of information about the new Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), which will be issued to students completing Year 12 from 2020 onwards.
Noosa North Shore Camp

Thirty one amazing students headed to Noosa North Shore for the BrisbaneSDE Year 10 Camp for three action-packed days from Wednesday 6 March to Friday 8 March. Students were able to connect with peers, make new friends and enjoy the great outdoors. The first day was spent getting to know one another by building rafts in team challenges followed by a session hanging out by the pool. Later students ventured out on a night hike and enjoyed some moments of silence and darkness to take in the beautiful surroundings and wildlife. The second morning was adventurous as students went abseiling and lived life on edge of the cliff taking in the magnificent views from Mount Tinbeerwah. On the second afternoon, students learnt valuable surf safety tips and went for a swim in the ocean spotting rips and giving body boarding a go. The last evening was a trivia night which was hard fought out by five student teams especially to win bonus points by completing interesting challenges. On the final morning, students participated in an obstacle course requiring a whole team effort to get everyone through and followed by archery shootouts. There were no sad farewells at the end of camp. Students ventured home with a buzz of connectiveness knowing they now have many virtual study buddies and friends for life.

Camp highlights

‘The cabins were the best I’ve ever been in on a camp. The best two activities were the surfing and abseiling. It was scary to go over the edge in abseiling but I was so happy to have done it. The food was good too. It was great to meet the other students and it was hard to go home.’

‘Abseiling on the edge went from terrifying to not so terrifying. I didn’t die. Everything was trying to kill me … arrows, mozzies, sun, rips … and I survived. I got the OMG award at the end.’

‘The abseiling was fun and so was meeting real students in person and not virtual ones.’

‘It was great on camp to enjoy the outdoors and exercise. I loved the night hike and looking out at the magnificent view from the edge of the cliff whilst abseiling.’

‘I really enjoyed this camp. I had an amazing time, from getting to know people, catching up with students from previous camps and the great activities were all really fun! I blitzed abseiling and everyone in the pool playing tag.’
‘The best thing about camp was meeting everyone and putting faces to the people in our classes. The students and teachers at camp were friendly and they made me feel welcome. I enjoyed the raft building, working in teams and accomplishing a pretty good raft in the end, with us all trying to squeeze onto it. The facilities and the food were top-notch. Camp was challenging, but I’m really glad I participated.’

‘I really enjoyed the camp at Noosa North Shore. It was so nice to finally put faces to names that I had seen over the last couple of years just in chat. The activities were well planned out and I enjoyed all, even though I didn’t end up abseiling down the cliff face. I still enjoyed the experience of getting to the spot and watching the others do it. I mostly enjoyed the raft building as I enjoyed working as a team on this activity. The supervisors from the activities and from BrisbaneSDE were all so nice and funny at times. I would highly recommend it to all students to attend this camp if they get the opportunity.’

‘I had a great time at camp. The highlight was joking around with my amazing team, winning at the trivia night.’

‘I was excited when I got a 9 at archery. The abseiling was so cool — it went from terrifying to fun!’

‘I met so many new friends and put faces to names. I loved body boarding and being part of the winning trivia team.’

‘I enjoyed hanging out with other students.’

‘It was a really, really fun camp. I liked the abseiling a lot. It was great to meet such a fantastic bunch of students and everyone was really nice and friendly. In the raft building, everyone got to have their say and share ideas. Our raft sank, but I really liked this group activity! I hope no-one saw me getting dumped in the surf!’

‘I had lots of fun on camp and will definitely remember it forever. :)'
Parents’ comments

‘My child really enjoyed the camp and meeting peers/classmates, he had some nice stories to tell when he got back.’

‘Thank you for the care and kindness that you showed towards the kids on the Year 10 camp. It was a resounding success, and clearly a wonderful time was had by all.’

‘My child got to enjoy the best bit about school camps, meeting other kids as strangers and leaving as friends. I really appreciate everything you are doing for my child, thank you very much.’

‘I am really grateful to you and the team who supported my child at camp. I really am very appreciative of you and your team’s professionalism and supportive approach.’

Thank you to the BrisbaneSDE staff for organising and supervising camp — Anna Savage, Rose Sheen, Caroline Jepsen, Julie Haughton, Elliott Claven, Tristan Baskerville and Simon Wingate and thank you to Toby and other instructors and staff from Total Adventures for leading camp activities and the superb camp food and accommodation. Students are looking forward to catching up together and in social sessions for senior students held every Friday from the BrisbaneSDE Senior Bugle Blackboard course. Camps are coming up soon for other year levels – senior camp is scheduled for May and Junior Secondary Camp is scheduled for August. These will be advertised via the Events Calendar on the BrisbaneSDE website and the BrisbaneSDE Bugle and Junior Connect Blackboard courses so look out for this information coming your way soon.

A Taste of French at UQ

On Monday 11 February a small group of Year 12 French students, Makissi, Amy and Jacob, and their French teacher, Madame Thomas, attended ‘A Taste of French’ at the University of Queensland (UQ). Students were able to visit the UQ campus through a team ‘Campus Race’ and take part in some university style French lessons and get a ‘taste of French’ at University. Here is one student’s account:

Bonjour!

My name is Makissi. I come from Guinea where French is the national language. I studied French in Guinea for thirteen years.

At Yeronga SHS I have studied French through the School of Distance Education for Years 11 and 12.

The University held a welcome day for all senior French students in Brisbane. The day was great fun and I was finally able to meet my teacher and my virtual classmates. We learned about French courses at the University. Some students win scholarships to travel to France and live there for a short time. I would love to do that one day.

We enjoyed all the activities and food and it was wonderful to speak French for a whole day!

Vive la France!

Makissi Year 12
eKIndy is an ‘at home’ kindergarten program for eligible Kindy-aged children who fall under the geographical, medical or traveller categories. We currently have 228 children registered with eKIndy Queensland and another 34 children who access the eKIndy program while patients in the Queensland Children’s Hospital and the Mater Hospital in Brisbane.

eKIndy teachers work alongside the seven Queensland Schools of Distance Education and in most cases, have an early childhood teacher based at each geographic location to provide support for families in each region. In each newsletter, we’ll include a brief outline below of what’s been happening in a few of our regions.

**Mount Isa**

It’s been a difficult start to the year for a number of families in the Mount Isa School of the Air eKIndy catchment. Our geographical area includes families living up in the Gulf of Carpentaria, over the Northern Territory border, down to Winton and across to Richmond. As you would have seen in the news, parts of our area region suffered severe flooding earlier in the year after record rainfall fell in a very short period of time, while other families still struggle with drought. Although there has been such widespread devastation across our region, the eKIndy families are enjoying working on the program and we’ve had a number of successful and enjoyable Play Days held in small towns across our region.

**Longreach**

The ‘Bear Hunt Play Days’ for Longreach School of Distance Education eKIndy took place in Longreach in Term 1. These Play Days saw children from right around the Longreach area travel into LSODE for three days of fun and learning. Our eKIndy kids enjoyed a teddy bear’s picnic, a bear hunt and water play fun to name but a few activities.

**Wide Bay**

We started two new eKIndy pods in Wide Bay region this year, one based in Bauple and the other in Tiaro. It’s been a smooth start and the children have transitioned well to learning through play experiences. The children seem to love learning and socialising with new Kindy friends.

**Yelarban**

eKIndy children in Yelarban have been reading the book ‘Have you filled a bucket today?’ and learning all about kindness to others. This is photo is of the children with their own little buckets that they have putting pompoms in to represent the times they have filled each other’s and their own emotional buckets.

**Rockhampton**

What a FANTASTIC time we all had at the Rockhampton eKIndy Play days. Throughout the week, we were involved in many fun activities that saw us investigate, explore, play and socialise with our eKIndy friends. We used our fine gross motor skills to thread beads, create pictures with the hammer and shapes board, use the crocodile tweezers to find the hidden animals in the coloured rice, squirt and squeeze with the pipettes and syringes, squish, squeeze, roll, cut and chop the playdough. We even had magic playdough that started out white but when we used our big strong finger muscles to squash it, it turned a colour — AMAZING!
Somewhere over the rainbow at BrisbaneSDE

Did you know rainbows have been a symbol of the LGBTIQ+ community since the 1950s?

BrisbaneSDE staff have spent Term 1 ‘somewhere over the rainbow’ by improving their understanding and awareness of LGBTIQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer and More) identities!

LGBTIQ+ staff and student inclusion are priorities for the Department of Education. We currently have an LGBTIQ+ subcommittee working on inclusion specifically at our school.

Term 1 Student Free Days kicked off with a PD about staff inclusion from BrisbaneSDE teacher and department Rainbow Liaison Officer (RLO) Emma Di Bernardo.

This was followed by a rainbow filled staff morning tea where staff shared rainbow coloured treats. The Discovery Centre team also displayed some of the LGBTIQ+ resources in their collection. Everyone is welcome to borrow them so talk to our friendly Discovery Centre staff about what is available.

Be on the lookout for inclusive events and initiatives at BrisbaneSDE this year!

Connecting with Community

BrisbaneSDE students, Krista and Jorge-Ella first met when Krista joined Futures Academy last year. Krista is studying in Bali and Jorge-Ella was studying in Nepal. Recently they got to meet in person for the first time while Jorge-Ella’s family were visiting Bali! Today they schooled together.
National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA)

Schools across Australia took action on the ninth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence (NDA) on Friday 15 March 2019. BrisbaneSDE supported this great imitative by wearing orange and holding morning teas across the school to increase awareness.

BrisbaneSDE Languages Department say ‘No way’ to bullying!

We are often asked...

How do we meet other families studying with BrisbaneSDE?

Picnic in the Park!

- Meet other Home Supervisors from your area!
- Make your own connections!
- Network • Sausage sizzle

Friday, 26 April — 11.00 am – 1.00 pm

Where is it? ‘Clarke Place Park’ (Happy Valley)
Esplanade, Bulcock Beach, Caloundra

Email communityengagement@brisbanesde.eq.edu.au if you plan to attend.