FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK...

What a fantastic year we have had at Corinda State High School. Our International program has continued to go from strength to strength and our International students contribute a wonderful dynamic to our school. I have enjoyed seeing our International students really immersing themselves in the life of our school particularly our extra-curricular programs. This has been a really good opportunity for our students to make new friends with common interest and to enjoy the social aspect of school while engaging in meaningful learning. The support offered by our International staff continues to develop and they are very passionate about making the Corinda State High experience a special one. I know our students also value having International students in their classes and learn from the exchange of culture. This is highly valued by our school community. Our focus on Academic success is at the forefront of our work here at Corinda and we continually strive to improve our student outcomes to ensure they graduate successful and proud of their achievements. It is our aim to Exceed All Expectations!

We continue to maintain contact with some of our past International students and I really enjoy hearing from them and the journeys they are all on. We really feel a great sense of pride in our students even after they graduate and that is what is so special about Corinda State High School. This year we farewell 7 students from our program who have completed year 12. We eagerly await their results and hope that they achieve their desired results. We wish these students all the very best for the future. These year we hosted a range of Professional visits from International delegations. This has forged new relationships with educators in other countries and we welcomed this opportunity to have a professional exchange with International Educators. We value this experience as part of our own ongoing learning about our global community.

Helen Jamieson
Principal

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YEAR 12 GRADUATING STUDENTS...

Seven International Students will graduate from Corinda SHS this year.

Overcoming language and cultural challenges, these wonderful international students studied at Corinda SHS on a Graduate Program and graduate this year. Students’ aspirations range from studying Pharmacy, Industrial Design, IT Networking, Dentistry, Engineering and Fashion Design. All students loved studying at Corinda SHS and would have it no other way. We wish them all the very best for the future.

We have welcomed so many new International Students to Corinda State High School during 2013. Our wonderful Corinda Homestay Families have welcomed our students into their homes and they have become important members of their families. From Japan, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Italy, Germany and Hong Kong we have learnt so much from these special visitors and been simply amazed at their transformation. Each International Student living with our Corinda Homestay Families has their own story but each one benefits so much from the love and care your families provide. Aren’t we lucky we can have new family members from all over the world? These students teach us and our own families as much as we teach them.

Margaret Charlton summed it very well when she stated, “...our son is only 9 and is an only child. It was a fabulous opportunity for him to experience having another child in the home and more importantly, someone from another culture. Our Homestay student was a delight and at all times exhibited a high level of consideration, politeness and good manners which was a terrific example for our son.” The Charlton Family have homestayed many different International Students from Corinda State High School in the past 12 months. Pictured are two female students the family welcomed into their home, Sara Poli from Italy and Rio Matsui from Japan. This photo is of the girls at Tangalooma where they enjoyed swimming, snorkeling and discovering Australian marine life with the extended members of Charlton Family.

The Schoonbeek Family (pictured below with their homestay student from China, Mike) shared the following, “This weekend we went on a house boat on the Gold Coast. We visited South Stradbroke Island for a walk and swim and had to row in a little boat to get off the houseboat and onto the beach. Then at night we anchored the boat in the waters at Sovereign Island, which is on the Gold Coast. Mike cooked breakfast for everyone this morning and we had a great time. Mike really enjoyed himself and loved celebrating his birthday with us on the Friday night. We were so proud of Mike this weekend. “ The Schoonbeek family will welcome a female Korean student into their family in 2014.

Enjoy a healthy, happy, festive season with your own families.

Please keep the Emergency Mobile Number handy should you require it 0448 600 983.
I will be checking emails during the Christmas holiday break (16th December 2013 until 28th January 2014) so please feel free to contact me via email, kbent29@eq.edu.au if you have any queries during this time.

**CORINDA WELCOMES JAPANESE SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS**

The Tokyo Board of Education chose to send twenty five scholarship students to Corinda State High School above all other state high schools. The twenty five scholarship students were chosen among more than 600 applicants across Japan, to participate in a year-long scholarship. They arrived in Australia in January this year and were placed in various schools across Queensland. On March 17, the students were brought together to Corinda SHS to participate in an intensive week-long leadership seminar. As all leaders must be confident speakers and present material in front of audiences, the students were asked to stand in front of an audience on the last day of their stay and present to an Australian audience. And present they did.

Many tears were shed as the reality of having to go back to the base school approached. Many Japanese students commented on the warmth and friendliness of the Corinda students and homestay families and wanted to stay.

Many of these students still keep in contact with the Corinda Homestay Families who looked after them during this time. They became very special to all of us.

**CORINDA GOES TO FAM FAIR**

Corinda State High School International Students and Staff participated in the Familiarization Fair for International Agents at Cleveland in April 2013. Forty two schools participated in the fair that attracted agents from all over the globe, including China, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, Thailand, Philippines, Vietnam, Korea and many more. The agents visited various schools in Queensland looking for appropriate schools to send their international clients, and Corinda SHS certainly appealed to many. Agents were particularly impressed with Corinda’s excellent academic record and tightly run homestay program. The International Student Program (ISP) Team were inundated with questions and were kept busy for the entire day.

From left: Yuki Asano, Kim Marquard, Phoo Nguyen, Kylie Bentley
BOTANICAL GARDENS EXCURSION – TERM 2 2013

Our new International Students experienced an Aboriginal Perspective at the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, Mt Coottha in May 2013. As a group we explored how rainforest plants were/are used by some Aboriginal communities, tasted rainforest foods, made bush string, visited the native stingless bee hive and pondered survival in the rainforest.

Nguyen VO wrote, “...I really liked this trip. It’s interesting and exciting. “

Akari WADA said,”...we had so much fun and had the opportunity to talk together. I got to taste the leaves, jam and honey. I had a great time with all the International Students, especially at lunch we had such a good conversation!”

Katherine WANG mentioned, “...I like the leaves that can make soap. That’s amazing! It’s something new I learnt today about Australia.”

DREAMWORLD EXCURSION – TERM 2 2013

With much anticipation, the entire group of International Students from Corinda State High School headed to Dreamworld for a fun day out. The students were challenged to compete in the ‘Dreamworld Amazing Race’. Many thrills were had by students who ventured onto rides such as The Claw and the Giant Drop! The also oohed and aahed over the kangaroos and koalas and laughed together as they got to know each other better experiencing an unforgettable day out.
For the third year we welcomed our friends from Suzhou Ivy school in China, to Corinda State High School. The students were welcomed into their Homestay Families who received Chinese cultural training and an extensive orientation about this very special International Group. Many still keep in constant contact. The Suzhou Students highlights during their time at Corinda State High School were going to the Gold Coast, the Ekka, Toohey Environmental Centre, Dream World and Under Water World, just to name a few. They were so happy and relaxed at the conclusion of their 8 weeks with us and their English had improved so much. Each Suzhou Student was so appreciative of the hospitality they received at Corinda State High School and from their very attentive Homestay Families.

We are looking forward to welcoming another group of students from Suzhou Ivy in 2014.

Our 9 European students and 2 Vietnamese International Students that joined us in Term 3, 2013, enjoyed their day out at Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary. The excursion is a great opportunity for our new Study Abroad Students and Graduate Program International Students to get to know the International Staff from Corinda State High School, and each other while being introduced to our Australian native animals, flora and fauna. Pictured with the kangaroo are Maria Kattner and Jan Budd.
IN CONCLUSION…..

Momoe Wajima, our Japanese International Student from Tokyo who lived with Homestay Parent, Mrs Shirley Cushley for the year sums up her Corinda experience beautifully in her farewell speech.

“I would just like to say thank you so much to everyone. I have been in Australia for 1 year and I couldn’t have these amazing days without the support of friends. When I came here, I didn’t even understand what people are talking about, it just sounded like magic!

I started from nothing. At first my dream for the end of this year was just to make friends and to have normal random conversations. To laugh from the bottom of my heart.

I could feel my English improving day by day.

One day I was able to understand what friends where saying, one day I was able to have a conversation with friends and laugh.

One day I saw a dream in English! What a joy it is!”

Phuong Nguyen, one of our Graduating Vietnamese 2013 Seniors sums up the care our International Staff give to the students by saying the following in her Thank you card,

“..you help me a lot since I am an International Student. You take care of me, you give me advice and take me to places outside of school. I really appreciate your care. You are like my second Mum in Australia and I feel like I can talk to you about anything. Thanks for bringing out the best in me!”

Kim Lisa Marquard, a Graduating ISP Senior says, “The ISP Team at Corinda is very friendly, welcoming and supportive. As far as I see there is nothing to improve since they are already ‘exceeding expectations’ “.

Lisa Pessina, a Study Abroad student from Italy stated, “..my experience at Corinda State High School was different to what I imagined. This experience helps you to learn how people live in other parts of the world so my time was awesome and maybe much better than what I imagined. Miss Kylie was very helpful and tried to make my stay always better. I really liked talking to her but I also want to say a big thank you to Miss Angela and Ms Asano”

A fellow Study Abroad Student from Italy, Enrico Bergamini said, “The International Program delivered at Corinda State High School is really good. The team that cared about us was completely prepared and available for any meeting”
We will welcome more new International Students in 2014 and look forward to the new adventures that each of them bring. We feel privileged to be a part of their education journey. We watch them grow as individuals and share so much joy with them as they succeed in their Australian Education Pathway. It is an honour to help these students create such wonderful memories of their time with us at Corinda State High School.

We wish you all a wonderful, safe and happy Christmas with your loved ones.

We look forward to working with you in 2014.

Kind regards
The ISP Team at Corinda State High School

CRICOS Provider Number 00608A
Department of Education and Training