From the Principal’s desk ……..

The Byron Bay High School community warmly welcomes the 30 new students who started last week – we are sure they will settle in quickly and come to appreciate the many qualities and opportunities that the school has to offer.

The many activities which are already underway are a clear indication that the school year is now in full swing. Some of these include:

- Nominations for the 2010 Student Representative Council.
- The Year 12 Mentoring Program.
- School Photos on Tuesday, February 9 – students must be in uniform and bring the correct money in the envelope.
- The Gold Coast Titans Rugby League development program at the school on Tuesday, February 9.
- The Swimming Carnival next Wednesday, February 10 – students are encouraged to dress up in their house colours.
- Year 7 Orientation Camp, Wednesday to Friday next week, where Year 11 student leaders will support small groups of Year 7 students as they participate in a camp program that is challenging and lots of fun. It also gives Year 7 students the opportunity to get to know each other, and the teachers, better. Parents are reminded that money and permission notes are due no later than Wednesday February 10.

These activities are just a few examples of the many opportunities that students have at Byron Bay High School in addition to all the teaching and learning which is happening in the classrooms around the school each and every day.

There is a saying, “We do what we do to get what we want”, which I spoke about at the assembly last Tuesday. I challenged the students to think about what they want from the opportunities that they have at Byron Bay High School this year and then commit to doing whatever it is they have to do to achieve that! The students who completed the HSC last year illustrated the truth of this saying. Those who wanted to go to university had to do what was required to satisfy the selection process and I am happy to announce that 39 Byron Bay High students have been offered a university position by the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC). Data about offers from the NSW University Admissions Centre (UAC) is not yet available. In regards to this, to ensure that the current Year 12 students find out what the universities require, a University Showcase is being held in the Byron Bay High School Auditorium on Friday March 5.

Swine Flu update: Swine Flu activity has dropped significantly in NSW over recent months, but continues to have a heavy impact in many Northern Hemisphere countries. It remains to be seen what the impact in Australia will be as we move into next winter, although a resurgence of pandemic influenza activity is possible. Therefore, NSW Health is encouraging everyone to obtain a free vaccination against this potentially life threatening illness. The Panvax® vaccine is available free from most general practitioners and Aboriginal Medical Services. Panvax® protects adults and children over the age of six months from Swine Flu. Immunising a high percentage of the school not only protects those individuals who receive the vaccine, but also reduces the chance that any students or staff with a weakened immune system (for whom the vaccine may not work as effectively) will be exposed to the infection.

Laptops: There have been a lot of enquiries about when the laptops for the 2010 year 9 students will be distributed. The delivery date is expected to be near the end of term 1. Further details will be provided as soon as they are known.

Mr Warrick Simmons, Relieving Principal

SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Byron Bay High School’s Swimming Carnival will be held tomorrow, Wednesday 10th February commencing at 9.00 am. Attendance is compulsory.

Please bring appropriate sun-safe clothing, sunscreen and water, and try to dress in your house colours. Entry fee is $1.50. Take-away food is available at Fisheads.

Only Year 11 and 12 students with permission notes from a parent will be able to leave the pool at lunch time (between 12.45 and 1.30). No other students will be allowed to leave.

House Colours: Tallow - Red Pass - Black Dolphins - Yellow Wategoes - Blue
If you have any school uniforms at home which your student may have grown out of, please bring them into the Front Office of the school. They will be put to good use.

The Uniform Shop is run by a small handful of volunteer parents. It is open on Wednesday mornings only from 8.30 am to 9.00 am. Cost of uniforms is as follows:

- White Polo Shirt with Logo = $23.00
- Sports Polo Shirt = $25.00
- Grey Hooded Zip Jumper with Logo = $37.00
- Girls Grey Skirt = $25.00
- Boys Grey Cargo Shorts = $32.00

For sale from our Agriculture Department:
Honey @ $7.00 per container

Happy Birthday to the following students who have recently celebrated or are celebrating their birthdays this week:

Zak Mardon  Anastecia Beale  Reuben Bryant
Mathilda Tonkin  Audry O’Carroll-McRae
Tess O’Carroll-McRae  Jaiden So
Brendan Hill  Connor Thompson
Nicholas Sherman  Kristie McClennan

Ballina - Byron Family Centre Inc. are holding a communication group for parents. These sessions will be held on Tuesday 9th and 16th March from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. For more information call Jane or Bernie on 6684109.