THE WEDDING SINGER
GREAT FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT

It was a joy to be there for opening night. Great fun throughout the evening’s entertainment of dance, colour and song. An oh so simple boy meets girl, loses girl, gets girl plot, the vehicle for understated gags, full ensemble song and dance and very accomplished set pieces for the leads. It was easy to take the jazz band (hidden in the pit) for granted. They were fantastic. Not quite a sell-out, but it deserved to be. I expect Closing Night to be even better because the company had such fun, the audience had fun and the joy was just infectious. Well done to the company and the Production Team.

STAFF TWILIGHT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Last Monday evening 3:30-6:30pm was the second Twilight Professional Development for teaching staff for 2013. The focus was on evaluation of assessment –

1. How appropriate is the assessment that teachers set for students?
2. NAPLAN and QCS Testing and the rigour of teaching and learning each lesson.
3. Update on Progress in the implementation of LIFE – the learning management system to support online teaching and learning.

Evaluation of assessment is an ongoing process for Heads of Departments and teachers. We want our students to succeed and assessment must align with teaching. Ensuring good alignment and valid testing is critical. Because the Queensland Core Skills Test focusses on the 49 Common Curriculum Elements embedded in Senior Syllabuses, it is also important to evaluate teaching and learning for alignment with the QCS Test. Having teachers sit parts of the test (and some parts of the NAPLAN test) ensures heightened awareness of these elements. Heads of Departments and teachers are consequently better prepared to evaluate their ongoing teaching practice and the rigour of work in their classrooms.

LIFE continues to show real promise as the vehicle for online provision of learning resources, Term and Semester Planners and links to web2 applications for students. We continue to experience delays as teachers work with the software. This may be due to authentication demands our school system requires. Staff are generally not using LIFE at this time because of delays and reliability issues.

Consequently myriad ‘work around solutions’ are evolving as teachers and students find solutions that enable resources to be shared directly and through ‘cloud’ technologies including drop boxes. Our hope remains that the problems with LIFE can be solved because it is an integrated learning management system, linked to our administration data base. If this doesn’t happen in coming months the work around solutions will continue to develop to meet our needs.

Our appreciation to Mrs Hansen, Mr Shaw and Mr O’Shea for leading this professional development program.

Chris Noonan - Principal

YOU CAN HELP – FETE 12 OCTOBER

It may seem a long way off but your help will make the Fete a success. Just come along, browse and buy, have lunch and a drink, enjoy the entertainment while your sons/daughters enjoy the rides. Just volunteer for an hour or two when we call for volunteers. The work will be routine, organised and shared, so you will be able to get on with it and know you made a contribution. Just come to a Fete meeting where you will realise its people like you, and me who make time in our busy lives to organise community events and raise funds for extra shelters and seating to make our school better for the students. Next Fete meeting is 6:00pm Monday 13 May in the Primary School Staff Room.

You can also consider helping in more challenging ways. We need donations : of cash, of goods of services. We need big donations for major prizes and small donations for a wide variety of stalls. Contact Mrs Tracey Dean at the College about this. Its people’s generosity in this area that inspires the committee in their work.

Finally, whatever you do, at least buy (a book of) tickets in the Art Union when these become available through your sons/daughters in Term 3. Funds raised by the Fete will fund shade/shelter and outdoor furnishings to improve the amenity for students during breaks. Thank you in anticipation of your fulsome support.

Visit the Fete Website for more details.