



Young Scholars Newsletter

June 2009: Issue 4

Welcome

The workshop program for Term 2 has now concluded and we have received a wonderful response from our Young Scholars. Many of the QA staff have commented on just how much they have enjoyed interacting with this younger age group. The students' enthusiasm and engagement is infectious and they certainly appreciate being part of 'the big kids school.'

The first in the series of parent lectures took place on Sat May 30th and this was very well attended. Our next lecture in this series will take place at the Health Sciences campus at Southport on Saturday July 25th from 12.00- 1.00pm. This complementary lecture will focus on, 'Stimulation: What do children need?'

All YS parents are welcome to attend, regardless of whether their child is attending the workshop program. To register your interest, please RSVP by July 15th to youngscholars@qasmt.eq.edu.au.

In the past nine months, we have made significant progress in addressing the needs of gifted children, with over 900 students registered as Young Scholars and the membership of 59 Associate schools, as well as the introduction of both our parent and teacher gifted education programs. This success was most recently recognised, with the Young Scholars program receiving a Showcase Award for Excellence in Leadership. The Showcase Awards for Excellence in schools was established by the Department of Education, Training and the Arts in 2000, and they are presented annually to state schools with excellent practices that significantly improve outcomes for students.

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce Lindy Warhurst, who next term, will be assisting with the development of this exciting and dynamic program. The contact details for Lindy will remain as they are for the YS project officer. She is looking forward to meeting and interacting with our ever growing Young Scholars community.

Kerry Bullock

Young Scholars Project Officer

youngscholars@qasmt.eq.edu.au

Professional Development Opportunities for Teachers of YS Associate Schools

We are pleased to announce the commencement of our Associate schools G&T professional development program. The first in a series of lectures will be offered on Monday July 13th from 9-10.30 am at the Science, Mathematics and Technology campus, Toowong and also 1.30- 3.00pm at the Health Sciences campus, Southport. This complementary lecture will provide teachers with information on how to engage gifted underachievers in the classroom. All teachers from YS Associate schools are welcome to attend and to register your interest, please RSVP by June 23rd to youngscholars@qasmt.eq.edu.au.

We have also enlisted the services of Professor Miraca Gross to conduct professional development seminars for teachers on the student free day of October 19th. Professor Gross is the Director of GERRIC (Gifted Education Research and Resource Centre), and she is a world leader in the field of gifted education. More information regarding this exciting opportunity will be disseminated to schools in Term 3.

Upcoming Events:

- QAGTC Children's Conference
June 30th & July 1st
- G&T Professional Development
Lecture for Associate Schools
July 13th (SMT & HS)
- G&T Parent Lecture
July 25th (HS)
- GERRIC Parent workshop
sponsored by QA
October 3rd/4th (SMT)
- G&T Professional Development
Lecture Associate schools
October 19th (SMT & HS)

Term 3 Young Scholars (Yrs 5-7) & QA (Yrs 8&9) Workshops: Venue

- 18 July - Queensland Academy for
Creative Industries (Kelvin Grove)
- 25 July - Queensland Academy for
Health Sciences (Southport)
- 1 August - Queensland Academy
for Science, Mathematics &
Technology (Toowong)



Website Update

Next term, we will be introducing two new short courses to our online program. We will be offering 'Fair's Fair' and 'Wild Things in the School Ground' in the field of science; 'Interactive Fractions' and 'Maths- Addition and Subtraction' in the field of Maths; as well as our new courses on image processing using satellite images and a web quest titled, 'Turtle Troubles'.

Details for short course registration are as follows:

- Step 1:** Logon to The Learning Place and open the 'QA Young Scholars' Course
- Step 2:** Click on 'Be Challenged'
- Step 3:** Click on 'Short Courses'
- Step 4:** Click on the Short Course you wish to participate in. The link will take you to a 'Register' window
- Step 5:** Click 'Register'
- Step 6:** Follow the details and shortly after, you will receive an email granting you approval to access the course. This may take up to 1 - 2 days.
- Step 7:** Any queries please contact Carmel Ord on cord2@eq.edu.au

Workshop Update

Attached to this newsletter are our Term 3 workshop programs for all three academies. With an increase in the number of YS students, we are continually seeking to offer a wider variety in our workshop programs; with new inclusions this term in the fields of astronomy, nanotechnology, environmental design, financial mathematics, calligraphy, theatre production and Shakespearean literature.

The workshop programs are available for two age groups. The YS workshop programs are offered to students in years 5-7 and the QA workshop programs are suitable for students in years 8&9. There is no selection criteria for the QA program and all students in years 8&9 are welcome to apply; whilst the YS program is available to our Young scholars, and also non-associate YS students who have met the YS criteria.

As well as introducing new workshops this term, we have also implemented changes to the workshop infrastructure. The first of these changes is a time change. Based on requests that we have received from parents; we have altered the day's program to allow for students to attend their regular Saturday afternoon activities. The workshops at all campuses will now commence at 8.15am and conclude at 1.00pm, with a thirty minute morning tea break at 10.30am.

We are continuing to see a growth in the number of students attending workshops, with over 500 applicants in the past six months alone. The administrative process involved with registering such a large number of registrations has necessitated the implementation of a closing date for workshop applications. This will be instigated next term, with the closing date for applications occurring approximately five working days before the start of the workshop. More information can be found on the workshop application forms.





Academy Insights

Parents often ask me to give them information on what the Queensland Academies are all about, and whilst general information can be found on our website, I thought that I would take the opportunity to give you an insight into just what it is that make each of the Academies so unique. In this newsletter, I will give a snapshot of the myriad of exciting opportunities that we have offered this semester.

Queensland Academies for Creative Industries

Junior Media Crew participate in the Ideas Festival

Here at QACI, we were very excited to provide an opportunity for students from the City Cluster to work as a junior media crew at this year's Ideas Festival, held in late March at the State Library of Queensland.



Students from Ascot State School

Students from Kelvin Grove State College, New Farm State School, Milton State School, The Royal Brisbane Hospital School, Eagle Junction State School, Brisbane Central State School and Ascot State School worked with QACI students to produce "a kids' eye view pod cast" of each of the two days of the festival for its official website. This required all students to test their skills in a real life learning project involving photography, journalism and video editing. They interviewed participants, other students and members of the general public with the latest Ipod Touch devices which were enhanced with microphones for this project, courtesy of Apple.

This provided great scope for creative independence, as there was a strict time line and sense of working under pressure and being observed working. Students from Rainworth State school also worked with students from the Academy using a special music video software called Jam2jam being developed by QUT.

Go to the Ideas Festival website (videos) to see this great real world learning.

Kathy Mackey

Acting Deputy Principal: Partnerships and Student Development
Queensland Academy for Creative Industries



Queensland Academy for Health Sciences

QAHS Creative Challenge- 'My Virtual World'

If you had the opportunity to create a healthy 'utopian' and ideal world, what would it look like and how would it feel? Students in years 5-12 from across Queensland will have such an opportunity in the QAHS Creative Challenge, for the Year of Creativity.

Students are invited to enter 'My Virtual World', to work collaboratively in designing and creating what they consider important for their futures and a Queensland that is strong, green, smart, healthy and fair.

This will allow students to make informed decisions in addressing these challenges and what better people to have a voice than those who will actually be young adults (21-27 years old) in 2020 and the driving force in the decisions for our communities at that time.



Avatars in 'My Virtual World'

How does it work?

Using the 'Brain Sanctuary' as the entry point to 'My Virtual World', students will immerse themselves in the rich media and facts about the challenges in the five key areas. Students will brainstorm their thoughts, ideas and ways to address these challenges on virtual 'sticky note' boards in order to consider, think and decide how to start creating their 'utopian' world. Interesting and challenging concepts will be posed in a virtual world, where everyone can choose what they look like through their avatars. They will fly and be teleported instantly to their desired destinations and be challenged by searching for the objects that best suit their requirements to create their world.



Lissa Hodson

Director of e-learning
Queensland Academy for Health Sciences

Queensland Academy for Science, Mathematics and Technology

SMT Students – Winners at UQ Science and Engineering Challenge

The University of Queensland recently hosted the five day Science and Engineering challenge for more than 1200 high school students. Working in teams, students designed and built innovative models to develop novel solutions to engineering problems.

Hamish McDonald, a year 10 student at SMT, gives an insight into this stimulating project:-



Each group was allocated one or two tasks, which they would work on throughout the day. After a short introduction, we were released into the UQ Centre, which had been converted into something resembling a mad engineer's workshop. We split into our groups and the challenge began. Each group was given a detailed set of instructions for each activity.

For the next five hours, the QASMT team set about designing, constructing and piloting helicopters; restoring power to a city devastated by natural disasters; constructing prototype hovercrafts to race over an alien environment; making a new design for hot-air balloon aircraft; creating Mars vehicles to trek over a Martian environment; constructing catapults, and trebuchets; and engineering houses and bridges.





The competition concluded with the testing of our bridges. The testing was conducted by rolling a miniature, weight-laden trolley down a slope and then over a bridge. If the bridge survived, the weight was increased.

Everyone waited in anticipation to see which team would be crowned the champions. Finally, the winners were announced, and we were thrilled to discover that the QASMT team had achieved first place and we will be contending in the State Science and Engineering Challenge, which will be held August.

Gifted and Talented News

Parenting a Gifted Child

Parenting any child involves challenges, learning and joy. Most parents learn on the job as their children grow, muddle through and manage the task of parenting quite well. However, parents of a child with any form of exceptionality (giftedness or disabilities) are likely to encounter greater challenges.

Gifted students who are developmentally advanced think differently from other children of a similar chronological age. This difference influences their experience of developmental tasks and impacts on how they learn, feel and behave. Intellectual and personality characteristics that are prevalent amongst the gifted may result in additional challenges for the child as well as the parents. Social, emotional and academic issues can arise as the gifted child develops.

It is vital that parents have an understanding of the specific needs of gifted children if the child's abilities, social, emotional and psychological wellbeing are to be nurtured. I have often heard parents say that they wish a child "had arrived with a manual". Parents recognize that gifted children require specialised understanding and differentiation, not only in the classroom, but within the home as well.

Your Gifted Child: A Weekend Information Course for Parents has been developed by the Gifted Education, Research, Resource and Information Centre (GERRIC) at the University of New South Wales and sponsored by QA Young Scholars; to provide parents with information about the specific needs of gifted children. The course will be conducted in Brisbane on the weekend of 17th -18th October. Those who attend will hear Professor Miraca Gross speak about the complex needs of gifted children.

For more information visit the GERRIC website <http://gerric.arts.unsw.edu.au/>

Michele Juratowitch

QAGTC Children's Conference – June 30th & July 1st

The Queensland Association for Gifted and Talented Children (QAGTC) Inc. is conducting gifted children's workshops for students in years Prep to 10, at Brisbane Boys' College on 30 June and 1 July 2009. Details and registration forms are posted at

<http://www.qagtc.org.au/cc2009>

If your school has conducted special events or activities that showcase quality educational practices and innovative learning opportunities for high achieving students, please send me information so that this may be included in our G&T news.

Send to Kerry Bullock at youngscholars@qasmt.eq.edu.au