High Schools’ Chappy News

Operation Christmas Child

Chappy Kirsten was recently involved in overseeing this project of Samaritan’s Purse. After donations of boxes and gifts were received, several Year 8 students filled the shoeboxes. Cash donations were received from staff & students which covered shipping costs. It was satisfying for all involved to send off 14 boxes full of gifts for children in developing countries. Thanks Aldridge!


Hot Breakfast to farewell Year 12’s

The smell of sausages and bacon cooking on a BBQ wafted through the air at Aldridge SHS during week 4 at a free cooked breakfast during the last week of Year 12 classes. A huge thanks to Stephen Gillespie and Peter Miles for operating the BBQ, and Uniting Care who donated a generous Woolworths gift card for purchasing the food; which was eaten very quickly!

The Local Chaplaincy Committee wishes you a happy and safe Christmas filled with hope, joy and peace.

Past and present financial supporters, we thank you for your vital contributions.

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Each year, the Salvation Army provides Christmas hampers to the needy. Maryborough High, with help from local businesses, assisted this year by running a Christmas Hamper Challenge. During November, each ‘Connect’ class had the opportunity to donate non-perishable food items in a hamper filled with Christmas decorations, new clothes, CDs or toys, which were judged according to weight, volume, and variety. The result was tremendous. Over 300kgs of product was received, with the winning class, 8D, donating 91.1kgs. These students received a pizza lunch and were presented certificates. The 2nd and 3rd place-getters, 8F and 8A, received prizes of McDonald's vouchers as well as ice-blocks from the tuckshop. Special thanks to Maryborough McDonald’s, Bunnings Warehouse and Olds Engineering for their contributions to the challenge and assisting with judging.

After eight years on the Local Chaplaincy Committee, our Chair, David Collins, has resigned due to his pursuing of a new endeavour — in the Solomon Islands. In twelve months, he will move there to take up a post in facilitating leadership development in theological education. David’s support and contribution to chaplaincy has been significant and hugely appreciated. He will be missed as part of the ‘chappy team’.

Thank You and Best Wishes

Kirsten Long, Aldridge chaplain goes on maternity leave at the end of this term, as her baby is due in February. She’s been a valued staff member this year and plans to return in Term 3, 2014. The LCC wishes her and hubby Botta good wishes on the birth of their second child.

SU is seeking to employ another chaplain for ASHS commencing in Term 1. For position details: application.chappy.org.au/positions/
SU QLD is again being forced to attend the High Court of Australia to defend the vital program of school chaplaincy.

This second challenge has the potential to impact the funding of thousands of chaplains across the nation who support and encourage our students every day.

Once again this is due to one person's desire to take the choice of chaplaincy away from schools across the nation.

During the first High Court case, it was asserted that cabinet-approved payments for chaplains were unconstitutional. The court did agree that something more than cabinet approval of chaplaincy funding was needed, and less than a week after the verdict both sides of parliament responded to correct this, passing new legislation.

It was a great win for the future of chaplaincy in our nation and for the countless students who could continue to turn to their chappy for help and support!

Now, the person who mounted the first case is contesting that new legislation. He is also arguing that, even if the legislation itself is valid, school chaplaincy should not be one of the programs it covers.

And it's not just school chaplaincy at stake here! More than 450 federal programs are at risk; including 82 educational programs such as child care services, autism assistance, student wellbeing services, and indigenous education programs. Of course, by defending the case to secure school chaplaincy funding, SU QLD will also be indirectly defending the legislation which secures these and many more programs.

You may remember that during the first High Court case more than 85,000 friends like you came together to show your support for chaplaincy. This incredible support showed MPs how greatly school chaplaincy is valued.

**Will you to stand with us to ensure our kids continue to have the vital support and encouragement of a school chaplain? (Please see overleaf)**
How is SU Qld School Chaplaincy funded?
Funding for School Chaplaincy comes from a variety of sources, including local fundraising, donations, churches, as well as grants from the Federal & State Governments. Fundraising for School Chaplaincy is a Local Chaplaincy Committee responsibility.

National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program Funding Acknowledgement: This project was funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations under the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program. Any evaluation surveys conducted must ask participants if they are aware of the source of funding for the activity and, if so, how they became aware of the funding source. The Funding Recipient must provide to the Australian Government or its agent, if requested, any National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program materials for placement on the Department’s website, or for use in any other Australian Government or Departmental publication.

Disclaimer: The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Dear Prime Minister and Minister for School Education,

I value and support the worthwhile investment the federal government is making in children and young people through School Chaplaincy.

I urge you to do everything in your power to ensure the federal funding of School Chaplaincy continues and that the spiritual and pastoral care role school chaplains perform in school communities is maintained - because I believe our school chaplains are a worthy and valuable investment in young lives, and because our kids are worth it.

Name (Print):______________________________________________________
Email:____________________________________________________________
Address:__________________________________________________________
Date:______________

Please fill in, cut out and submit to your local chaplain or church

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