Amalgamation Update 19
Week ending October 14, 2011

The amalgamation of Moreton Bay Boys’ College (MBBC) and Moreton Bay College (MBC) is a dynamic move for the future of education on the bayside. In an effort to keep our school community informed every step of the way, we discuss a variety of topics relating to the amalgamation in an email to parents every Friday.

LATEST NEWS

Heads of College Announcement
The appointments as announced last week are a coup for our Colleges with both successful candidates coming from senior positions at two of Queensland’s top independent schools.

In the months leading up to their commencement I will be meeting regularly with Mr Wood and Dr Priest to ensure they are able to hit the ground running in 2012.

In the meantime, our current Acting Heads of College, Mrs Diana Patchett (MBBC) and Mrs Jan Howatson (MBC), and teachers in backfill positions will continue in these roles until the permanent Heads of College commence next year and a formal handover can take place.

I am looking forward to working with both Heads of College and I have no doubt they will perform exceptionally well in these roles.

Below is more information about Mr Wood and Dr Priest that provides a more detailed professional and personal picture of each of them.

Arrangements for them to meet staff and become more familiar with both communities are now being developed. Mr Wood will meet MBBC staff next week at Tuesday's whole staff meeting. Arrangements will be made shortly for Dr Priest to meet with MBC staff.

Mr Tony Wood
Head of Moreton Bay Boys’ College

Mr Wood is currently the Principal of Fraser Coast Anglican College in Hervey Bay, a position he has held for seven years.

Fraser Coast Anglican College (FCAC) is a co-educational day school for approximately 800 students from Prep to Year 12.

In his time at FCAC, Mr Wood was responsible for implementing a range of successful initiatives including the establishment of a dedicated Middle School program, an innovative model for ongoing staff professional development, a student laptop program and the integration of technology across the curriculum.

During Mr Wood's tenure as Principal, FCAC was also named 2010 Education Provider of the Year at the inaugural Hervey Bay Business Awards.

Over the past few years, Mr Wood has overseen the successful completion of several major capital works projects at FCAC including a new Technology Precinct, the construction of a Library Resource Centre and a specialised Languages Centre as part of the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program.

Mr Wood has been a teacher for 30 years and said he knew it was his calling from an early age.
"It's in my blood - both of my parents were teachers so they were keen to see me follow them into the profession," he said.

Mr Wood attended the University of Sydney where he studied a Bachelor of Education with a double major in Physical Education and Geography. Upon graduating in 1981 he was appointed to a position at the prestigious Sydney Grammar School for boys, where he taught for 13 years.

He then made the move north to Toowoomba Grammar School, an independent boarding school for boys, where he was the Director of Sports & Activities for seven years. From 2001 to 2005 he also held a Deputy Principal position at the Whitsunday Anglican School in Mackay.

With more than 20 years’ experience in boys' schools, Mr Wood said he was an advocate of single-sex education.

"Curriculum for boys requires a specifically tailored approach and I’m keen to build on MBBC's success in this area," Mr Wood said.

He also holds the belief that happy and secure students perform better academically and will be working to instil this philosophy in his new role at MBBC.

Mr Wood brings an abundance of educational experience to this position in addition to his Bachelor’s degree including a Master of Education - Administration from the University of New South Wales. He is also currently working towards a Graduate Certificate in Theology from the Charles Sturt University.

Mr Wood, who will be relocating to the Brisbane bayside from Hervey Bay, said he was excited about returning to a metropolitan appointment after 18 years in regional schools.

He has been married for Dianne for 28 years and they have two children - son Ben, 23, and daughter Tahlea, 24.

His hobbies include running, golf and reading. He also has a passion for outdoor adventure having completed the Kokoda Trail in Papua New Guinea and the Overland Track in Tasmania.

Dr Deborah Priest
Head of Moreton Bay College

Dr Priest has been a teacher for 30 years and is currently the Head of Senior School at Somerville House, a position she has held for four years.

Established In 1899, Somerville House is a day and boarding school for 1260 girls located in South Brisbane. In her role as Head of Senior School, Dr Priest is responsible for the recruitment and retention of all staff as well as curriculum development and pastoral care of the senior school.

Her leadership experience at Somerville, which has an established Middle School program, will be most beneficial to MBC when it formalises the Year 7 move into the Senior School by 2015, in line with the Queensland Government's initiative.

Dr Priest has a proven track record of success in leading positive change and driving improvements for better student outcomes. In 2009, she reviewed Somerville's QCS test preparation program and the Year 11 and 12 senior curriculum. The changes she implemented as a result of this investigation resulted in substantial improvements to the school's QCS means.

From 2002 to 2007 Dr Priest held a leadership role at Bond University on the Gold Coast as the Head of Education and Assistant Professor in Education Studies. Prior to this she was employed at Somerset College in Mudgeeraba for seven years, during which time she held a range of positions including Head of Mathematics, Academic Counsellor and Year 12 Coordinator.
Her outstanding commitment to teaching has also been publicly recognised with two national awards including a National Excellence in Teaching Award administered by the Australian Scholarships Group and a Meritorious Service to the Gold Coast Region Award from the Australian College of Educators.

“Teaching is something I’ve always been drawn to. My sister is also a teacher and she is married to a teacher,” Dr Priest said. “It’s so important what we do with young people. Alongside parents, it’s our job to inspire and nurture them.”

Dr Priest also brings an abundance of educational experience to this position, including a Bachelor of Science Education from the University of Melbourne and a Masters of Education, majoring in Leadership and Management and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), both from the Queensland University of Technology.

In her PhD study, Dr Priest created an eight week problem-posing teaching intervention with the aim of improving problem-solving competence of students. This year, her full thesis was published internationally as a book by Lambert Academic Publishers.

Her key educational philosophy is that a balance of a healthy mind and a healthy body allows students to be the best they can be and achieve excellence in their endeavours.

Dr Priest said her first goal as Head of Moreton Bay College would be to focus on building relationships with the students and staff and to understand what is most important to them.

Dr Priest also said she is a big believer in the benefits of single-sex education for girls.

“I have worked in both single-sex and co-educational schools so I am able to make informed comment about the benefits of single sex education for both boys and girls,” she said. “I also know from personal experience that particularly for my youngest daughter, sending her to an all-girls school was by far the best choice we could make for her future.”

Dr Priest lives in East Brisbane and is married to John. They have two daughters Ashley, 18, and Megan, 22.

HOW TO KEEP UP TO DATE

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If you have any additional concerns or questions, please email feedback@mbbc.qld.edu.au or feedback@mbc.qld.edu.au and we will endeavour to respond to you as quickly as possible.

Ms Jennifer Haynes
MBBC Principal
MBC Principal