13 February 2013

EXECUTIVE PRINCIPALS REPORT

Students are back into full swing this year, with the roll-out of laptop computers now taking place. The start to 2013 was as smooth as we have ever had despite the storms that we experienced on the weekend before school started. I was thrilled to see classes move seamlessly straight into a learning environment and see that not only were rooms well organised, but teachers were impeccably prepared. Sometimes we take for granted these things when they are in fact something that we at Varsity College can be very proud of. This year we have around 3125 students. This makes us the largest school in Queensland, and possibly Australia, but it is something that we believe gives us a competitive edge.

Over the last few weeks, the Newspapers have focussed on the size of Varsity College as being a problem. I would be more interested in hearing the debate on relative school performance. Varsity College is a big school, but all of our classes meet Education Department guidelines for size, and each has their own fully equipped learning space. When you add to this that all students at Varsity College have access to a high speed dense wireless network and personal learning devices supplied and maintained by the school from years 4-12 and soon in P-3, then you will see that Varsity College students are not disadvantaged in any way. In fact there is a strong argument to say that Varsity College students are advantaged because of the intellectual capital that is gained when teachers from each year level synergise and work together to build a learning program second to none. What is provided to students at this school is absolutely leading edge from any perspective in the world; this is something that we should be proud of. Too often we can get side-tracked by apparent weaknesses, when in fact we should focus on the positives of our school.

Last week, parents had the opportunity to meet with Class teachers in Years P - 9. These sessions are held so that parents not only know more about what students will be doing in class throughout the year, but to also establish positive relationships with class teachers so that together, we can work to maximise the learning outcomes for all students. We have found that the partnerships that are formed through these nights have been fundamental to the overall success of students throughout the year.

There are a number of events over the next few weeks that will get the year started well for our student, including the Year 9 leadership days and the Senior School swimming carnivals.

I look forward to seeing many parents at these events and also at our first P&C meeting on February 20. Over the next 2/3 weeks, the school will be in a position to highlight and announce exciting opportunities for our students and families throughout the year. Keep watching out for this News Flash and let others know that this is where regular information about the school will be released.

Jeff Davis
Executive Principal
Varsity College

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Junior School

Hello everyone, and welcome to our Junior School students, families and staff! The weather did not hamper our spirits and determination to begin the year positively, and we were very happy to see everyone arrive safely after their break, but more particularly after the unpredictable weather of the long weekend.

I would like to especially welcome new students, families and staff, and hope that everyone has settled in well. New staff members include: Mr Drover (4A), Ms Kenny (4B), Mrs Morgan (4R), Ms Waring (5R) and Mrs Goller (6P), Mr Rankin (4T) and Ms Bevan (5T) have both moved from the Preparatory School to Junior School, and we welcome all new staff members and the wonderful skills they bring.

Last week Parent/Teacher Information Sessions were held giving parents and caregivers the opportunity to meet teachers and to receive information around your child’s learning journey for the year. It was wonderful to see so many parents able to attend, however if you were unable to attend the relevant session, please contact your child’s teacher who will be able to answer any questions you may have.

Our first assembly was held last Friday, and our student leaders did a great job leading the agenda. Please note we have changed our assembly day from fortnightly Wednesdays to Fridays, with awards given either around our TRAKS values program or for academic achievement. If your child is receiving an award, his or her teacher will let you know.

Teachers were engaged in a range of professional development opportunities the week prior to students returning. We have a wonderful depth of expertise in the staff who enjoy sharing their knowledge and skills. After introducing the 1:1 Laptop Program in 2012 in Years 5 and 6 we look forward to the entire Junior School engaging in the program, providing us with access to so much more knowledge and information throughout the day.

Wishing everyone a very successful year.
Salvation Army Appeal December 2012

The Salvation Army Christmas Appeal last December was a huge success! Lead by Ms Guy and her 4R students over 60 boxes full of much needed toys and food were donated, sorted and delivered. We hope all students, families and teachers who donated and assisted felt a deep sense of pride and satisfaction in learning how to give to help others; a little effort goes a long way especially when we unite as a community. Our sincere thanks to everyone who made this appeal so successful!

Captain Braden Spence from the Salvation Army was overwhelmed with our effort. He said that usually schools only manage to fill 3-4 boxes, especially in their first attempt.

Coming Events

School Photos 26-27 February

ACROSS CAMPUS NEWS

Varsity College Winter Fair

This year, Varsity College and the P&C are planning to run a fabulous school fete.

There will be rides, entertainment, great food, exciting stalls, fireworks and more!

You can be a part of this event, and help make it a huge success.

You can:

• Keep the date free – 1 June 2013 from 12 to 6pm – and come along and have fun
• Keep up to date on the Facebook page
• Volunteer to help the organising committee – email fete@varsitycollege.eq.edu.au
• Volunteer to help out with your child/ren’s class stall
• Have a business stall – email stall enquiries to fete@varsitycollege.eq.edu.au
• Be a sponsor or donate prizes – email varsityfete.sponsors@hotmail.com
• Volunteer to help with set up or clean up on the day
• Be part of the entertainment program
• Be a liaison, by putting the fete committee in touch with possible sponsors, donors or local celebrities
• Spread the word about the fete out into the community

Get involved in your school’s fete – and help make it great!

SENIOR CAMPUS NEWS

SENIOR CAMPUS DIRECTOR’S REPORT

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all Varsity College families to the 2013 school year. At the time of writing this article, we have completed two extremely successful weeks in the Secondary School with all students engaging positively in the class learning programs. It has also been very pleasing to see the extremely high standards in the wearing of our College uniform and the positive interactions between the students and staff. I am extremely confident that the short term success of the start of the year will provide a springboard for an incredible 2013 school year. I look forward to sharing with you these achievements as they occur throughout the year.

From the commencement of this school year, minor changes to the Leadership structure have been implemented to enhance the alignment and rigour of programs and processes within our College. These adjustments include the introduction of:

• Secondary Campus Director Year’s 7 to 12: Stephen O’Brien
• Assistant Principal Years 7 and 8: Jeremy Godden
• Assistant Principal Years 9 and 10: Mark Pegram
• Assistant Principal Years 11 and 12: Jo MacDonald
• Assistant Principal Literacy: Megan Roderick
• Assistant Principal Numeracy: Darren Rackemann

These changes include the realignment of existing leaders within Varsity College as well as the addition of highly experienced leaders from other schools. I am certain that as you engage with the Leadership Team you will experience a high level of professionalism and passion towards supporting and enhancing student achievements within our school.
Student Enrolments have continued to grow in the Secondary School. 2013 enrolment figures are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>292</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>279</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>248</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These numbers do not include the many out of boundary applications which could not be accommodated this year. The incredibly high level of interest that is shown in enrolling students into our school showcases the high regard in which Varsity College is held throughout the Gold Coast community.

Providing opportunities for students to develop and engage in leadership opportunities will be a focus throughout 2013. Programs already underway to develop student leadership are the Year 12 QCS Team Building Day and the Year 9 Leadership program with the Year 7 High Resolves Leadership Program to be held later in the term. These programs compliment the selection of our 2013 Year 12 and Year 9 Leadership groups who will be formally inducted into their roles in the coming weeks.

A standard conversation I have with all students at the commencement of a school year focuses on the topic of ‘Opportunity’. One of the advantages of having a large school is the number of programs and opportunities that can be provided to our students due to the high levels of staff expertise. Opportunities that have already been advertised to students include participation in swimming carnivals, 1:1 Laptop Program, College Musical, Year 8 and 9 Cluster Sport, Rowing and Sailing Programs, Hip Hop Dance Group, Year 9 Leadership Program, Kokoda Challenge and the Basketball Program. Further programs will be continually advertised to students as the year progresses. I ask parents to encourage their child to engage in programs that align to student’s interests and expertise to ensure they maximise the learning experiences that are on offer.

The Varsity College Secondary School encourages parents and carers to engage in their child’s progress. Throughout the year, formal opportunities will be provided for parents to meet with their child’s teachers to discuss progress and actions that can support their child’s progress. The Parent Partnership evening for Years 7 to 9 that was held in week 2 initiated this process. I encourage all parents to engage in these formal opportunities that will be offered, and also invite parents to communicate with their child’s teacher at relevant times throughout the year through EMail or contacting the School Office to arrange an appointment. Staff EMail addresses can be located on the College website.

Stephen O’Brien
Director of Secondary Campus

Daily Text Messaging for Student Absences

As part of Varsity College’s approach towards a more interactive way to communicate and give up to date information to parents regarding your child, we have introduced daily text messaging for student absences for Senior Students in Years 10 – 12.

Messages will be personally delivered directly to a nominated mobile phone number at 11:00am daily if your child is absent. To respond to the text message send a reply with a short text message giving a legitimate reason for absence eg sick, family etc. Your response to the text message will be collated and your student’s attendance records will be updated. No further correspondence is required regarding the absence.

Due to the updating of student time tables and entry of data to reflect days off campus, text messaging will commence on Monday 18 February 2013. If there are any questions you wish to ask regarding Text messaging please ring Senior Administration.

School Bus Pass Information and Collection

Students from Years 7 – 12 who have approved School Bus Pass for 2013 can now collect their passes at the Attendance Window at Student Services.

MANAGING QUERIES REGARDING SCHOOL BUS PASSES AND TIMETABLES.

For queries regarding eligibility and applications for a school bus pass under the School Transport Assistance Scheme, please direct parents/guardians to the Department of Transport and Main Roads on 5630 8857 or www.trm.qld.gov.au

For queries about the issuing of a bus pass, the payment of top-up fares, timetabling, or route information please refer to Surfside Buslines at www.surfside.com.au then click on Schools Services tab – if you still need further information telephone 5571 6555, are staff are endeavouring to respond to your enquiry within 48 hours.

News from the School Nurse

Welcome to the new school year. My name is Helen and I will be working at your school with Wendy Woodward as part of the School Based Youth Health Nurse Program for Varsity College School. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I will be available at the school each Friday and Wendy will be here at the end of February working 3 days a fortnight with her days yet to be determined. We are employed by Qld Health and provide a confidential service to young people.

We are both Registered Nurse’s, I have worked as a midwife previously and both Wendy and I have a background in sexual health nursing. We have a broad range of experience and a thorough understanding of the complex needs of young people. I am also a qualified yoga teacher and find teaching self connection through breath awareness and relaxation so important for young people, and actually all of us to master. Once you have this you can use it for life and effectively use it to pause and centre yourself. The main function of our position is to work in a collaborative way with the broader school community to achieve better health outcomes for young people, through:
I will also start some yoga sessions on a Friday. This will focus on posture, conscious breathing, gentle stretching and relaxation.

There are many different areas in nursing. The role of a youth health nurse in a high school is a little different to what many people would think a nurse does in a school. It is not our role to be a first aid person and students are required to access administration for First Aid. However we are always happy to assist. Additionally if your child has any allergies or medical conditions please make administration aware of this.

We are looking forward to getting to know many more of you this year. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any assistance or if you have any health concerns or great ideas for health promotion activities. We are located with the delightful administration staff in middle school. You can make a request to see us and/ or leave a written message in the “message box” and we can follow you up, or alternately you can just pop in for a visit and say hello.

Most of us lead stressful and busy lives and don’t learn how to unwind properly. Tension is also held in our body. It’s so important to be able to relax the body/ mind and rejuvenate oneself. We have an amazing body and brain that just does so many things for us. How we look after ourselves, our thoughts, choices, the food we eat, the relationships we have, in fact everything that we do can impact on our emotional, physical and mental health. If you haven’t already done so set out your intentions and goals for the year ahead, write them down, additionally add, to be kind to yourself and to be the best friend that you can for yourself. Have a Happy and Healthy 2013...

Helen Dredge
School Based Youth Health Nurse
Robina High School Mon Tues, Thurs
Varsity College on Friday’s
5562 3469 mobile 0408 074 779

School Uniform

- All Year 10, 11 and 12 students must wear their dress uniform on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday unless they have changed for a HPE / Drama lesson
- All Year 7, 8 and 9 students must wear their correct Dress / Sports uniforms on the days designated by the Foundation Teacher

Senior Canteen News Update

The Varsity College Senior Canteen is open for breakfast. The opening hours for breakfast will be 7.30am to 9.00am Monday to Friday. Please see the menu attached with our selection and prices.

Just a reminder to Students and Parents that Flexi School is available at the Senior Canteen for purchases only. (not online ordering). Register now with Flexi School and pay with your student ID card instead of carrying cash. This is a very convenient system for parents to monitor student’s purchases, eliminate carrying cash and supporting the school canteen. Please read the attached information with instructions on how to register.

Thanking you for your support.

Sandra Herd
Canteen Manager.
Ph: 07 55 623 514

School Based Youth Health Nurse
Robina High School Mon Tues, Thurs
Varsity College on Friday’s
5562 3469 mobile 0408 074 779

School Uniform

- Individual, confidential health consultation for students, parents & school staff
- Health Promotion activities in the school & classroom (on request)
- Being a health resource person

I will also start some yoga sessions on a Friday. This will focus on posture, conscious breathing, gentle stretching and relaxation.

There are many different areas in nursing. The role of a youth health nurse in a high school is a little different to what many people would think a nurse does in a school. It is not our role to be a first aid person and students are required to access administration for First Aid. However we are always happy to assist. Additionally if your child has any allergies or medical conditions please make administration aware of this.

We are looking forward to getting to know many more of you this year. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of any assistance or if you have any health concerns or great ideas for health promotion activities. We are located with the delightful administration staff in middle school. You can make a request to see us and/ or leave a written message in the “message box” and we can follow you up, or alternately you can just pop in for a visit and say hello.

Most of us lead stressful and busy lives and don’t learn how to unwind properly. Tension is also held in our body. It’s so important to be able to relax the body/ mind and rejuvenate oneself. We have an amazing body and brain that just does so many things for us. How we look after ourselves, our thoughts, choices, the food we eat, the relationships we have, in fact everything that we do can impact on our emotional, physical and mental health. If you haven’t already done so set out your intentions and goals for the year ahead, write them down, additionally add, to be kind to yourself and to be the best friend that you can for yourself. Have a Happy and Healthy 2013…

Helen Dredge
School Based Youth Health Nurse
Robina High School Mon Tues, Thurs
Varsity College on Friday’s
5562 3469 mobile 0408 074 779

School Uniform

- All Year 10, 11 and 12 students must wear their dress uniform on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday unless they have changed for a HPE / Drama lesson
- All Year 7, 8 and 9 students must wear their correct Dress / Sports uniforms on the days designated by the Foundation Teacher

Senior Canteen News Update

The Varsity College Senior Canteen is open for breakfast. The opening hours for breakfast will be 7.30am to 9.00am Monday to Friday. Please see the menu attached with our selection and prices.

Just a reminder to Students and Parents that Flexi School is available at the Senior Canteen for purchases only. (not online ordering). Register now with Flexi School and pay with your student ID card instead of carrying cash. This is a very convenient system for parents to monitor student’s purchases, eliminate carrying cash and supporting the school canteen. Please read the attached information with instructions on how to register.

Thanking you for your support.

Sandra Herd
Canteen Manager.
Ph: 07 55 623 514
Flying Start for Year 7 Students

Varsity College was selected to pilot year 7 students in a high school setting ahead of the statewide move of year 7 to high school in 2015.

The Flying Start Ignite Program at Varsity College will see students enrol in a unique and challenging environment based around the six principals of Junior Secondary, as part of the Flying Start initiative. This program will begin with the end point in mind and cultivate students’ interest in learning and provide essential 21st century skills so students can experience success in fields of study that currently don’t even exist. This 2020 vision (clear, concise and forward thinking) is important to keep at the forefront of all planning as the Flying Start Ignite Program will not be viewed as a one year platform, rather a stepping stone that will ignite students passion for life-long learning and active citizenship.

Homework Club 2013

The Varsity College Homework Club will re-commence on Thursday 14 February 2013 at 3:05pm in the Digital Learning Centre (DLC- formerly the library). The Homework Club will be supervised by a college staff member and, once again, volunteers from Bond University will again be assisting our students with their learning. This program will continue to run on Thursday afternoons with the possibility of expansion to Monday afternoons as well.

The Homework Club is an invaluable, free service for students who wish to receive assistance with their school work, extend their understanding and enhance their academic performance and opportunities. If you have any further queries regarding the homework club, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Jeremy Godden, Assistant Principal- Junior Secondary via the Middle School office.

Musical – Grease is the word!

It is with great delight that I can announce we are presenting Grease as our 2013 musical on the Senior Campus.

Rehearsals are well underway with all of the lead characters familiar with their roles. In fact, rumour has it they have been holding holiday rehearsals at each other’s homes. Some even burst into spontaneous Grease dialogue in my Drama classes. With enthusiasm like this we are sure to have a spectacular production.

The chorus begin rehearsing every Friday at 1.30pm starting in week 3. We cannot wait to see everything come together and our excitement is growing daily.

Our directors are Astin Blaik and Ben Henderson and our choreography will be led by Tiani Bristow and our very talented year 11 Dance students.

We are extremely fortunate to have secured the The Arts Centre Gold Coast as our venue this year. However, we cannot announce the dates of our show just yet due to negotiations with the owners of the musical rights. I will ensure the school community is updated regularly on our progress.

Michelle Murtagh
Head of Department Creative Arts & Musical Producer
Uniform Shop News

Opening Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shop Type</th>
<th>Ph:</th>
<th>Opening Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep/Junior Uniform Shop</td>
<td>5576 9308</td>
<td>Tuesday 8:00am to 10:00am, 2:00pm to 3:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 8:00am to 12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle/Senior Uniform Shop</td>
<td>5562 3512</td>
<td>Tuesday 8:00am to 10:30am, 8:00am to 12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 8:00am to 12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$12 Sport Shorts!!

We still have a few old stock sports shorts available for $12. The sizes are:

- Boys 4 and 6
- Girls 4 and XS

Unfortunately they are non-returnable.

Junior Uniform shop Closure

The Jnr uniform shop will be closed on Tuesday 13 March 2013 8.00am – 10.00am

But will remain open Tuesday afternoon 2.00pm – 3.30pm.

Knitted Jumper – Special price

The senior school knitted jumper is currently at a reduced price of $49.00 whilst current stocks last.

The special is until term 2 only when they will return to the normal price of $59.

These are available size 12 to 20 and are only available at the middle/snr campus uniform shop for year 7 to 12 only.

Telephone Credit Card purchases of Uniform

It is possible to purchase uniform items over the phone which can be collected from the uniform shops or the school office. Purchases can be made by contacting the uniform shop during the opening hours or by leaving a message out of hours. During busy times when we cannot get to the telephone a message can be left and we will contact you as soon as possible.

Junior School – 5576 9308
Senior School – 5562 3512

COMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Years 10,11,12</td>
<td>Monday 18 February</td>
<td>School Photo’s 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>Wednesday 13 February</td>
<td>QCS Team Building Day Burleigh Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 7,8,9</td>
<td>Monday 25 February</td>
<td>School Photo’s 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years P – 6</td>
<td>Tuesday 26 February to Wednesday 27 February</td>
<td>School Photo’s 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 7 – 9</td>
<td>Tuesday 26 February</td>
<td>Cluster Sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 7 – 9</td>
<td>Tuesday 12 March</td>
<td>Cluster Sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 7 – 9</td>
<td>Tuesday 26 March</td>
<td>Cluster Sport</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>