11 March 2013

EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Recently I attended a Queensland Education Department conference held in Brisbane for all Principals throughout Queensland. Of the 1239 State Schools, a select few were asked to present their improvement stories. Varsity College was asked to present our story, and I told the Principals in my sessions about the path that we have been on leading to the improvement that we are experiencing in student learning outcomes. Both of my sessions were booked out and the feedback about what we have achieved at Varsity has been incredible. Principals from all over the State are now calling me to arrange a time to come and talk further with me and to see what innovations look like in a classroom environment. This level of interest shows what we are achieving at Varsity is of the highest standard.

On Friday, the Minister of Education, Mr John-Paul Langbroek, will officially open the new Digital Learning Centre on the Secondary Campus. This centre has been created to showcase the skills and expertise that are now required by our school leavers as they move into a world that is totally digitalised. This centre will give them the chance to practice these essential skills in an environment that has been created for this purpose. We like to think that this may look something like the classroom of the future. We will be showing parents through this facility later on in the year.

I am pleased to report that the Varsity College 1:1 program is in full operation with only a few outstanding late orders to be allocated. The technology team at Varsity College are amazing in the way they manage the roll-out of our computers to the 2400 students who have requested to be part of our program. At least 96% of students in years 4–12 have elected to take up the 1:1 offer and this has resulted in more than 2200 computers being handed to students for this year. This is a significant achievement and I believe that the team led by Anton Tomassen, have made a tremendous effort in ensuring that all students at Varsity College have access to the very best program that we could possibly offer. At the State Principals conference last week, one of the significant topics of conversations was around how our school has grown and the incredible use of technology. I am sure that in some way these two are related.

Last week, the College underwent a complete update of the whole technology hub and spine by replacing all switches and hubs. This will cost the school considerable finances, but the end result will be a network that we can expand to handle the complexity that is required to run our system. We are currently exploring the possibility of increasing the Bandwidth we use at Varsity College to 1Gig. This sort of connection would future proof the school for at least the next 3–4 years and while it may seem expensive, the connection speed that this would enable would significantly improve the student use of our system while at school. The upgrades implemented this week will make a large difference to the Primary Campus who have been experiencing connectivity problems when large numbers of students are simultaneously connecting to the network.

We are looking at ways to improve our 1:1 program for 2014 and beyond. Anton and his team are currently considering other ways that the integrity of the system can be maintained while the number and types of devices that are available for students to choose from is added to our program. This has some strengths and disadvantages, but we will present a proposal to the next P&C meeting for further discussion. With the continued growth in student numbers, we need to find a cost effective measure to ensure that all students can access our amazing digital learning platform with some choice, often reflected by the subjects they may be studying. Please make sure you are available to help discuss this issue at the next P&C Meeting.

Many parents and community members have asked me about how big our school will grow as they are concerned that we have yet to reach the peak enrolment. The peak enrolment will not take place till around 2031 if the demographic predictions are correct. We are however much bigger than was ever expected and therefore the growth will most likely slow and the difference in student numbers from year to year will not increase as it has. Much of this however will be dependent on product. If we continue to build a school that has high expectation, high standards and high outcomes, then I think many more parents will elect to move into the area to get their students into this school. This is a positive, but does create some significant accommodation issues for the school. We are currently looking at ways to grow our facilities on the very limited footprint that we have on both campus. The Education Department has completed two feasibility studies and the final report has been submitted for consideration. This report indicates that the College will continue to grow and that we will need another 15-30 rooms in the next 4-10 years. As such, we are looking at all possible ways that this can be achieved. The parents who attended the last P&C meeting started discussing their preferences and will continue this at the next meeting, so this will be another reason for you to come along and be part of the discussions about the future of Varsity College.

The next P&C meeting will be the AGM. This where we elect the new Executive team members. I would again encourage as many parents as possible to come to this meeting to have a say in who will be leading the parents in our community. It is
In leadership news, our Student Leadership Group coordinated by Mr Kolk have been meeting each week talking about ways in which we can improve our school and support our students during their time in the Prep school. They have been also doing a wonderful job running the assemblies and taking responsibility for organising activities during the lunch break.

**Twitter, Email & The Community Portal**

Some changes are going to occur over the next 3 weeks leading into term 2. You will have received a letter regarding email addresses. We are updating our systems so that each year level will have an email address that I can send bulk emails to parents with messages specific to that year level. Teachers also will be taking advantage of this method of communication. This will significantly reduce our carbon footprint, as we will save thousands of dollars in printing each year using this mode of communication.

On our website, we have almost finalised our new Primary Community Portal which we will be populating with information over the coming weeks. This will become your one-stop shop for information, to find out what is happening at the college and what is coming up. You will be able to find out up to date real time information through our new Twitter feeds which will come up on that community portal page so regardless of whether you follow us on Twitter or not, you can access information at this portal. The new Twitter feed will be a P – 6 Twitter rather than sub-school specific. Changes to this Twitter method will come out to families soon. Please note that our feeds currently have been disabled to develop our new Twitter site, hence the lack of information coming through them at this stage.

**Car Park Issues**

Our car park area continues to throw up issues in the afternoon, with people parking in no parking areas when permitted parks are available. For those people who are early to the pick-up but can’t get a park and the Stop Drop and Go zone is full, there is no alternative at this stage but to leave the car park area and double back through the traffic until the children come out and families begin to leave the school. By 3:05 there are many spaces available, however I am noticing more and more children not being picked up until well after 3:15pm. Please note that the administration stay supervising this area until 3:05pm which is 25 minutes after the school bell. The playground and oval are public play areas and the kids access these after administration leaves their supervision duties.

**Every Day Counts-Data Tracking**

Over last weekend, I was part of a group of Principals who organised a conference at Bond University and one of the key messages was about our partnership with parents and the community. Our Director General, Lyne McKenzie, shared with us information around student success linked to student attendance at school and the findings were quite striking. In summary, if you have poor attendance in the first 2 years of school, your chances of future success through the rest of your schooling is significantly compromised. This supports my messages from last fortnight, that Every Day, Every Hour, Every Minute counts. You can read more on the Parent And Community Engagement (PACE) website – there is a really good clip for parents on this site titled:
Research – Project Based Learning RESEARCH

Our research over the past few weeks has taken us into the area of Project Based Learning which is in essence an approach involving Flipping the Classroom, Self-pace student learning, Student Choice & Inquiry/ Investigation as the main driver. Teachers have been meeting before and after school developing Project Based Learning opportunities for students in year 2 & 3 next term. If you Google Project Based Learning, there are numerous websites that give great explanations of this learning style, which I think will be very engaging and differentiated for all students.

It has been a busy few weeks – I thank you for your support as we continue to grow as a school and as a community… next newsletter… Getting Excited About Our Fete… how you can get involved to make this event a great one… June 1st is not too far away.

James Forrest
Principal - Preparatory School
jforr12@eq.edu.au

Library Awards

The Junior Library this year is issuing an award on a weekly basis to the class that is the most Proactive with the library rules and manners.

The recipients so far this year have been:
- Week 3 1 Aqua
- Week 4 Prep Purple
- Week 5 3 Emerald

Congratulations and keep up the great work.

Thank you to our Book Club Volunteer

I would like to thank Wendy Cousins who has for the past 4 years given up her time to distribute the Scholastic Book Club Catalogues, place the orders and collate the orders when they arrive to each classroom. Thanks to Wendy’s hard work the Prep school this week has been able to purchase over $2000.00 of Scholastic Key Links guided readers using our reward points.

Thank you Wendy your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Vision Screening for Preparatory

Good vision is important for a child’s educational, physical and social development. With approximately 1 in 4 Australian children suffering from an undetected vision problem, vision screening is vital for your child’s learning to give him/her the best chance of reaching their full learning potential. Many children try to adapt to their vision problem without knowing they could see better.

The Child Health Nurse will commence Vision Screening for all Prep Year children within the next two weeks. If you wish to have your child participate in this very important health screening, please complete and sign the Vision Consent form sent home with your child and return this to your child’s class teacher as soon as possible. All parents will be advised in writing of the outcome of your child’s screening.

Enquiries to: Child Youth and Family Health Primary School Nurses
Telephone: 5519 2600
Facsimile: 5519 2636

Terese Spry
Clinical Nurse
Child Youth and Family Health
Student Leader Profiles

The Junior School recently held a special assembly to present the School Leaders with their badges along with the Class Representatives and House Captains. The role of our School Leaders is very important as they are both representatives of our school in the community and provide a student voice within the school environment. We thought you might like to know a little more about our School Leaders, so we asked each of them to tell us about themselves and what they think makes a good leader.

Jai Simmons – I am proud to be a 2013 School Captain of Varsity Junior School. My favourite subject at school is maths. At home I am interested in everything to do with cars. I am looking forward to organising many fun events for the school throughout the year. To me, a leader is someone who has a lot of responsibility, good organisation skills and takes pride in what they do.

Mya Cassar – I am 10 years old and am a 2013 School Captain of the Junior School. I am in the Chinese Immersion class and my favourite subject is English. At home I spend time playing with my pets and I love all types of animals. I think a leader is someone who doesn’t just wear a badge, but is honest, kind, caring and can lead by setting a good example for others.

Ben O’Brien – In the role of Junior Vice-Captain I will lead by example and support and encourage students throughout the school. I enjoy engaging in a wide range of sports outside of school and my favourite subject is maths.

Jessica Grech – I’m very pleased to be a Junior School Vice-Captain. I am the oldest in my family and have two sisters and one brother. I love playing the clarinet, piano and dancing. I’m excited to be a role model for other students throughout 2013 and believe that a leader should represent their school with honour and enthusiasm.

Bohdi Thwaites – I am happy to be a 2013 School Leader and I am 10 years old. I like being a school leader because I want to make Varsity College the best it can be. I believe a school leader needs to be responsible, courageous and intelligent. These are traits I have. In my spare I like to play basketball and AFL.

Siera Dufty – I was recently elected as a School Leader for 2013. To me, being a leader means helping and supporting people. In my spare time I love to play netball and at school my favourite subject is Maths because I love having a go at new things.

Thomas Baddeley – I am a 2013 School Leader and have been at Varsity College for just over a year. I am in the Chinese Immersion class and work hard in my schoolwork. I am looking forward to the year ahead and the challenges that I will face when representing the school. My interests include playing AFL and soccer and doing Tae Kwon Do.

Jasmine Soulsby-Baker – My friends call me Jas and I am a School Leader for 2013. I love listening to music and playing soccer and I also love chocolate. I hope I can help people and want to let everyone know that they can come and talk to me if they have any concerns or issues.

Junior Sports Bulletin

‘The show must go on.’ Never has this quote been more apt than in the Junior PE Department with cancellations, reschedules, venue changes all intermingled with consistent torrential downpours. Many thanks must go to the parents of the children who have had to deal with these situations and have still managed to get their children to the many trials and carnivals that have taken place over the last few weeks.

Swimming

Congratulations to the Varsity team that competed at the District South Primary Schools swimming carnival held at All Saints. We had some excellent individual performances with Michelle Kim (5E), Kaan Karadag (5R) and Dominic Santer (7E) being chosen to compete at the Regional Carnival at Miami on the 25 and 27 February.

These students again performed admirably against strong competition however special mention must go to Michelle Kim and Kaan Karadag who were successful in being selected for the South Coast team to go to the State Titles.

Michelle Kim

1st – 50m Butterfly
1st – 100m Butterfly
5th – 50m Freestyle
2nd – 100m Freestyle
3rd – 100m Backstroke

Kaan Karadag

9th -50m Freestyle
5th - 100m Freestyle
7th – 50m Backstroke
7th – 100m Backstroke
9th – 50m Butterfly
8th – 100m Butterfly

Dominic Santer

13th – 100m Backstroke

District Netball

Congratulations to Bella Dufty and Tyla Brown who were selected in the U11 District South Netball Team. Good luck girls at the Regional Carnival.
Interschool Sport

We have started the process of selecting teams to go to Interschool Sport commencing 19 April (Week 1, Term 2). Your child will be asked to sign-on for a sport they are interested in and then be given the opportunity to trial on a Friday afternoon. While we endeavour to find every interested student a place in a sports team sometimes this is not logistically possible. Please be aware that if your child is not selected for a sports team they will still be involved in a school-based sport program. The sports that are on offer are:-

- Hockey –Boys and Girls
- Soccer - Boys and Girls
- AFL – Boys
- Netball – Girls
- Rugby League - Boys (This is aged based not year level)

Matt Riley
PE Teacher

Leader Boards in Mathletics

Varsity College is very fortunate to have Mathletics included in our curriculum.

Students in 4 Sarina have set a personal class goal to become World Champions. We understand it takes teamwork to achieve this goal. It looks like we are well on our way to achieving that target. In our second week on Mathletics we have finished 9th in Australia and 45th in The World.

This is no small feat with over 3.5 million students and 10 000 schools, worldwide, vying for these weekly titles. That’s right 10 000 schools, not classes, worldwide and 4 Sarina finished 45th. Mathletics empowers students by enabling them to identify their strengths and weaknesses and provides them the opportunity to strengthen those weaknesses and turn them into strengths.

Some of the advantages of Mathletics are:

- Easy to use
- Students are engaged and motivated to learn
- Improved results
- Students consolidate their learning
- Prior exposure to concepts taught
- Students have access to Mathletics 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Provides the perfect link between home and school

4 Sarina plan to continue to illuminate the leader boards and we will be looking for Varsity classes and students to join us there.

Coming Events

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Life Education</td>
<td>18-28 March (Class times to be released shortly)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>20 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day of Term</td>
<td>Thursday, 28 March</td>
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<td>Term 2 Commences</td>
<td>Monday, 15 April</td>
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ACROSS CAMPUS NEWS

Varsity College Winter Fair

Ride passes went on sale last Friday and are selling fast! Go to www.varsity.collegefete.com.au now to purchase your early bird ride pass. Just $25 for 5 hours unlimited rides – this increases to $30 if you leave it till last minute! The more passes we sell, the more rides that the company supplying them will provide on the day.

A BIG shout out to our amazing teachers who have come up with some fabulous stalls for the fete. Homemade fudge, face painting, cakes, chocolate bed, sausage sizzle, hamburgers, raffles, second hand books and much more! Ask your teacher what your class has signed up to do and get behind your class’s stall and volunteer to help.

The school stall who raises the most money will win a prize for the children to enjoy!

Would you like to sponsor the Varsity College Winter Fair?
Contact Jenni varsityfete.sponsors@hotmail.com for a package.

GREAT NEWS!!! We have our FIRST Fair Sponsor.

Welcome and a huge thank you to Nicki Ning of Scene Interior Art & Graphic Design. Nicki has done a brilliant job designing all our fair graphics for flyers, banners and advertising material. Scene Art provides logo design, business cards, letterheads, flyers, brochures and much more. Visit the website at www.sceneart.com.au or call Nicki on 0405 469 776.

Homestay Families Wanted:

Varsity College has an International department where students from around the world apply to come to our school. Presently we have 28 students, from various countries such as Germany, Japan, Korea and Portugal, to name but a few.

These students can come to an Australian school through Education Queensland international programs. One is called the “Study Abroad” program. This enables the student to
experience living and learning in an Australian home and school environment. Traditionally it is for a six to nine month period.

A Graduate student comes to study at an Australian school to enhance their knowledge so that they can continue their studies in their chosen fields. A Graduate Student can be here with their family if they are young and continue on to high school or they may commence part way through high school and stay with a homestay family.

Homestay families are required for our high school students. Interested families apply to their school to be considered however, families of the students can also have a private arrangement with a family member that lives in Australia.

Our International Department within Varsity College, is growing a data base of families who wish to host students from other countries.

Full details of becoming a homestay family are available at www.eqi.com.au however these are the basic requirements:

- Caring English speaking family
- Ability to monitor and assist student in school work as needed such as attend parent teacher interviews, homework etc
- Provide separate bedroom and comply with EQI home requirements( inspection of home required)
- Supply nutritious breakfast, dinner and weekend meals and snacks
- Drop off and pick up at Varsity College or as required
- Acknowledgement of Risk Management Strategy for International Students
- Blue Card for any adult over the age of 18 that resides where student will be (See Sue for more details regarding Volunteer applications. They will be provided but need to be completed & lodged prior to the arrival of students.)
- No more than two international students at any one time to reside at home

**Benefits:**

You will be providing a caring family environment for a student who is a long way from home and in turn, you will be able to:

- Introduce your family to another culture
- Make international friends
- Share our Australian culture & lifestyle
- Receive $245 per week to assist you with hosting a student

Once you have looked at the EQI website, you may feel this is something you would be interested in applying for.

If you would like to complete an application form or get more details, please email Sue Jones, International Student Co-ordinator, as soon as possible at sjone416@eq.edu.au or call 5562 3575, Senior campus.

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**Musical – Grease is the Word!**

I am very excited to announce the dates for our Grease production...

Saturday Evening 29 June
Sunday Matinee 30 June

Tickets will be sold through the Senior Campus Payment office and will be available from mid-term 2.

- Child $5
- Adult $10

I must say, this is a very inexpensive theatre trip to the Arts Centre Gold Coast, so start saving your pennies and start spreading the news to family and friends. Tickets are by allocated seating, so first in best dressed. What am I saying? It’s the Art Centre, every seat is the best seat!

“Yeah, well if you don’t watch it you’re gonna be spending all your time in McGee’s office” ~ Doody

**Michelle Murtagh**
Dean of Creative Arts & Musical Producer

**Varsity College Mullet Milita Kicks into Gear**

Once again the Varsity College senior students all teachers are supporting the Leukaemia Foundations fundraising event; World’s Greatest Shave.

We have a good number of students and teachers prepared to get rid of their locks for this very important cause. The student ranks are Sho The Fro Standen, Jun Standen, Bruce Standen (Dad), Katsu Shike, Gim Dumagat and Antonio Role Duarte.

The teachers are represented by Mr Bruce Standen, Mr Haydn Sutherland and Mr John Philistin.

We also have one very special shaver this year; a brave Year 10 young lady, Georgia Drevlak, who is shedding her locks for this great cause.

The great shave will be happening on Friday 15 March on the morning assembly. The volunteers will be shaved by a great team of staff, teachers and parents, who have hairdressing experience.

Those wishing to donate can do so by getting on line, going to the website, World’s Greatest Shave and donating to our team, Varsity College Mullet Militia. You can choose an individual or sponsor the team.

Middle and senior students can donate at school during form or on parade next Friday.

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**SENIOR CAMPUS NEWS**

**Flying Start to Science**

The Gold Coast City Council visited the year 7 Flying Start students demonstrating many scientific processes concerning healthy water ways. Students worked through two experiments titled ‘Filtration and Flocculation’ as a part of the term one curriculum. Students inquired, investigated and applied findings
through these experiments. They are currently conducting their own investigations further in identifying and maintaining healthy water ways within our region. Year 7 students are also working in collaboration with the GCCC on a digital competition titled ‘Wateration’ which uses animation as a digital platform to demonstrate learning.

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**High Resolves Global Leadership Program**

The High Resolves Leadership Program promotes global citizenship and leadership which I believe is a healthy message for all young people. The program shows us new ways to think and gives us the skills to handle any situation. Although it is a great learning experience individually, the program also teaches us how to work in a group.

One of the group focuses was integrative thinking which was demonstrated though a game. Split into groups, each group member looked at a different picture and as a team they had to try and figure out what the pieces together made. The purpose was for us to work together and use integrative thinking to work out the item. In conflict resolution we were shown that to solve conflict we should focus on mutual interests. We were shown several consultation skills that can help in influencing others which we used in a game we played called the CO2 Game. The CO2 Game is where each student represents a different country’s ambassador in a UN summit for reducing CO2 in the environment while reducing the cost. The aim of the game is to get the lowest score possible to win. In order to get the best result you have to balance personal interests with collective interests and in the end every person in the room would have earned a higher score if we were to just focus on collective interests. The consultation skills we learnt were:

- To gather information from all sources
- Dig deeper to find out what is driving people
- Listen without criticism to come up with a solution that works for everyone
- To maintain group harmony and trust, identify a common focus and purpose
- Discuss the discussion by having an order in which to talk and to see all options on the one page
- To separate the people from the problem and not let emotions get in the way

- To listen actively and respond.

The program has taught me to see the bigger picture and that a short term loss can be a long term gain.

In the game called Looking Out for Number One, we were in pairs and had to get the highest score possible by showing either blue or white on a card to gain points. My strategy was to gain my opponents trust and in the end which was a 10x bonus round to trick her in order to get a lot of points. This worked and I went from losing to winning by far. I had lots of short term losses for a long term gain.

Effective leadership was another point we looked at. In each situation we have to decide what type of leader we should be according to the type of followers. This is important because in our school action project which we will start next term, we have to tackle a certain issue at school; we have to lead lots of different people in various situations.

Through their motto ‘Our World, Our Choice’, the High Resolves Leadership Program has shown us as a group of young people that what we do does matter and that we can make a difference.

*Renee Shike (Yr 9 High Resolves Participant)*

**Creative Arts 7-12**

Creative Arts is buzzing with creativity and we cannot wait to see the results of our students’ first pieces of assessment.

Year 12 Drama students participated in a workshop with the world renowned ZenZenZo Physical Theatre Company last week and they are still recovering. Even the sports stars in the class felt the pressure of four hours of physical theatre. It is wonderful to have such incredible artists in our school and working with our students. These opportunities demonstrate how artists shape theatre in our community and students become more connected to the wider Arts community.

Our Film, Television and New Media space will be transformed over the next week to incorporate more equipment to ensure students can more effectively work with in a real world environment. During his visit to open the Digital Learning Centre, the Minister for Education, John-Paul Langbroek, will also visit our FTV room.

Dance students in year 11 now undertake a course that allows them to be more active in the school and wider community. At present they are choreographing pieces for our musical Grease and once these numbers are complete, they will begin work on pieces for the Eisteddfod. Later in the year, these students will be able to work across the campus with the Junior School to enhance their dance programs.

Our senior classroom Music students will be entertaining staff and students at the secondary campus induction assembly. I am really looking forward to the performance assessment of the Extension Music students next term and would encourage the community to attend as the quality of musicianship is outstanding.

At present the Art teachers are preparing for an excursion to the Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA). There are also opportunities for one of our top Art students to work together with Artists from
TAFE and Griffith University to exhibit their work at Gallery on the Lane.

Our links to the Creative Industries are becoming broader and there are some amazing opportunities developing within the Creative Arts on the Gold Coast. I look forward to sharing our developments throughout the year.

“All of the arts, poetry, ritual, the visible arts, the theatre, must singly and together create the comprehensive art of all, a humanised society, and its masterpiece, free man.” – Bernard Berenson

Michelle Murtagh
Dean of Creative Arts

Success for Varsity Students

Ben and Jake Satherley recently competed in the the State Surf Life Saving Competition in Hervey Bay. Their club, Northcliffe came away winning the 2013 Junior Queensland SLSC Title, which was an amazing effort from everyone on the team! Although it was wet, wet, wet, everyone had an amazing weekend and even though Ben and Jake didn’t walk away with a medal they did extremely well and put every bit of effort into everything they went into!

Congratulations to you both on a successful weekend.

Starting a New Life at Varsity

Starting in a new school itself is daunting, but enrolling into a high school is more than just daunting. I can honestly say that I was very frightened, to say the least, about coming to Varsity College. Coming to a high school meant new people, new teachers, new grounds, new times, new everything. I was against the thought of coming to a new school for Grade 7 and not being able to graduate at Robina State School, but I’m glad my parents made me enrol in Varsity. I was over-worried for sure, and I forgot that I was going into a school and class with people my age, people who were around my height and people who were just as scared as me.

Varsity is very welcoming. The people here are very friendly and easy going, the teachers are understanding and supportive, and Varsity itself is a very good school. There are no bells in the Senior School, which surprised me greatly, because my past school relied very much on bells for time. I thought it would be very hard adjusting to the no-bell system, but it was actually a lot easier than I thought. I had already learnt the times by the second week! High school really isn’t what it’s like in American movies; with the snobby popular groups and big, strong bullies. Sure there are popular groups in Varsity, I’m sure all schools have them but they aren’t snobby at all, and are very friendly as well. As with the bullies, honestly speaking, I have not come across any bullies here in Varsity. Everyone is very welcoming and friendly.

Sari Sugano 7J

Being a “Newbie” at Varsity College!

Being a “newbie” was quite a scary experience. Well that is what I thought anyway. The thing is, at Varsity you don’t feel like the new kid. It is like you have been here for ages. The people are very accepting and welcoming, I am treated like everyone else and not like a new kid who doesn’t know anything. The first day was a little scary. When I turned up on my first day I saw my class list and was left thinking about all the bad things that could happen, but once I took my first step into the classroom of 7J, I was instantly welcomed by both my teacher and my fellow class mates; one classmate in particular by the name of Leah McCotter. I had recently met her a few months earlier at the Varsity College orientation day. From that moment that I stepped through the door to now Leah and I have become close friends.

My first impression of Varsity College has definitely been a good one. It has been captivating, fun and interesting. I am thankful that I was put in 7J as my teacher Mrs Maddison, has welcomed me to Varsity very nicely. Mrs Maddison has enforced a class money system. To earn money for this you can have a job. I was given the job of Pet Detective. I really enjoy this job as I love animals. In this position, I have acquired the responsibility of looking after the class pets that I have been organising. These pets consist of seven fish, 3 water snails and some shrimp. 7J is also in the process of building an ant farm. I am very thankful for being put in such a great class with a great teacher and great peers.

A New Start…..

Beginning at Varsity College has been a fantastic experience. The orientation day was a great way to meet new people and I am glad I participated in the event. The first day of Varsity was a little scary I didn’t know anyone at first but during the past few weeks I have met many new people. I am very grateful to have the opportunity to attend Varsity College. The learning system is fun and easy to adapt with. I am glad I had the chance to attend the orientation day because I met a fellow student named Abby Martin. My teacher Mrs Maddison has made my experience at Varsity College very welcoming.

By Leah McCotter

Uniform Shop News

**New Opening Hours from Monday 25.02.13**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep/Junior Uniform Shop</th>
<th>Ph: 5576 9308</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8:00am to 10:00am</td>
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<td>2:00pm to 3:30pm</td>
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**Junior Uniform Shop Closure**

The Jnr Uniform Shop will be closed on Tuesday 12 March 2013 8.00am – 10.00am

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

The Jnr uniform shop will be closing early on Tuesday 19 March 2013 at 3.00pm

2nd Hand Uniform changes

Please note that we are no longer able to accept shorts and skirts for second hand without the Varsity tick logo or the older style check blouses and white blouses as these have now been lengthened

$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 6
Unfortunately they are non-returnable.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday of each month</td>
<td>Varsity College P&amp;C Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Primary School – LENSE Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years 7 – 9</td>
<td>Tuesday 12 March</td>
<td>Cluster Sport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 7 – 12</td>
<td>Friday 15 March</td>
<td>Official Opening</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Digital Learning Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years 4 – 6</td>
<td>Monday 18 March</td>
<td>Life Education</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(Class times to be released soon)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years 4 – 6</td>
<td>Wednesday 20 March</td>
<td>Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years 7 – 9</td>
<td>Tuesday 26 March</td>
<td>Cluster Sport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years P – 12</td>
<td>Friday 29 March</td>
<td>Commencement School Holidays – Easter Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years P – 12</td>
<td>Monday 15 April</td>
<td>Commencement of Term 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years P – 12</td>
<td>Thursday 25 April</td>
<td>ANZAC Day – Public Holiday</td>
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</tbody>
</table>