PRINCIPALS REPORT

Recently staff in Education Queensland were offered a Career Change program where they could elect to take a voluntary separation package and finish employment with DETE. I am pleased to inform the College community that 3 of our current staff have been successful in receiving these retraining packages and will finish employment at Varsity College at the end of this week. Ms Glenis Williams, Ms Judi Fisher and Mr Terry Mazzar will all finish work for the last time on Thursday prior to starting a new career in the near future. I would like to thank Glenis, Terry and Judi for their many years of dedication to not just Varsity College but also to education in general. They have all set a very high standard in their work and have changed the lives of hundreds of students who have been fortunate enough to be taught and mentored by these wonderful teachers. On behalf of the whole College community, we wish you every success in the future.

We have also had a number of staff receive temporary promotions to other positions which is again great credit to the work they have done at Varsity College. Ms Lisa Thomas will be heading to Regional Office to become the Regional Manager of Employment Services for the next 6 months. Lisa has been the Varsity College BSM for the last 6 years and her work has been integral in allowing this school to build a reputation as one of the most innovative schools in Queensland. She will be greatly missed but we wish her every success in this new role that will affect hundreds of schools in South East Queensland. Mr Tim King has gained the opportunity to become the Acting HOD of Physical Education at Helensvale SHS for Term 2. Tim has been a tremendous leader in our Year 9 program over the last few years and we wish him well in this new challenge for Term 2.

There are a number of key issues that are currently being explored by the College in relation to the future of Varsity College. This school continues to grow in size and popularity and we are now faced with some choices to ensure the longer term viability and strength of the school. These issues that are currently being discussed by College Administration, the College Advisory Board and the P&C include;

- Application to becoming an Independent Public School (IPS)
- The introduction of the Maths/Science Academy
- Future facility needs and options for our ever increasing student profile
- The future implication of College Charges for programs run by the school
- The next iteration of the College 1:1 program

These issues are incredible in magnitude and cannot be solved quickly. The school has grown more than 700 students since I arrived and while we have had some building in that time, there will be a shortage of rooms from this time forward if we do not find new solutions. We are somewhat land locked and we will need to be creative in trying to come up with viable solutions for our future rooming possibilities.

This week we have the College P&C meeting and also the AGM where we elect the new P&C Executive. This is a very important meeting as the P&C have an integral role in the running of the school and the fundraising that occurs to support the developments of so many of the programs that we offer. I would encourage all parents, teachers and community members to come along to the P&C meeting this Wednesday in the Primary School LENSE to support the process of electing the next P&C Executives. There will also be considerable discussion around the topics that are shown above.

Being the last week of Term 1, there are many students completing end of term exams and final assessment pieces. I would encourage all parents to support their children in finalising their assessments and finishing the term strongly. Throughout this week and the start of Term 2 there will be opportunities for all parents to meet with teachers to discuss each child’s performance in Term 1. Please keep aware of these opportunities to book time to meet with your child’s teacher.

I hope that everyone has a wonderful Easter holiday. I look forward to seeing you sometime this week or during Term 2.

Jeff Davis
Executive Principal

PREPARATORY TO YEAR 3 NEWS

Preparatory Director’s Message

Staffing Update

At the end of this term, Mrs Courtney Maitchell will be taking maternity leave. We wish her well as she begins “nesting” for the arrival of her next child. We have secured the services of Mrs Tamarah Crane as her replacement. Mrs Crane is a mother of 3 children and has 12 years teaching experience in the early years. I look forward to Tamarah joining our excellent Prep team.

Getting Excited About the Fete

The Varsity College Fete is only just over 2 months away and we are getting excited about the stalls we will be running. Each year level will be responsible for 2 stalls so I encourage parents...
where possible to get involved in the preparation of these stalls as well as the running of these on the day. This has the potential to not only be a great community event but to raise a large amount of funds that can be put towards school improvement and student learning.

No bullying Day – Varsity Voice Video

Last Friday, our Year 3 classes combined forces to create a Say No to Bullying Video. The children line the walk ways with signs and banners as the teachers walked amongst them with the video camera recording their messages. This making of this video had a major impact on the thinking of these students, really consolidating the message around the negative aspects of bullying and how we as a community can work together to minimise the instances of bullying. This video will be shown at our school assembly as well as be placed on the Primary Community Portal on our website for all to see. This is our first video under the banner "Varsity Voice" - children having a say on important local and global issues. The more we encourage children to have a say and make it public, the greater the impact the message has on them and those around them.

Parent Partnership Meetings

In the first 2 weeks of next term our teachers will be meeting with parents to discuss their ongoing partnership for 2013. At these meetings, you can expect the following messages to be shared with you:

- Overview of social and emotional development
- Over view of Literacy and Numeracy Skills
- Any concerns of learning/behaviour
- How you are catering for the needs of their child
- Parent strategies to assist in the learning process at home

Schedules will be sent out in the first week for parents to book in a time to see the teachers. I look forward to these meetings being meaningful, optimistic & informative.

Twilight PD and Professional Learning

This past Wednesday evening, our teachers partook in excellent professional learning sessions focusing on the teaching of Mathematics. We had a guest presenter, Mr Brian Tickle, come and share strategies with our teachers as well as spend 2 days modelling lessons in classrooms around the campus. The quality of Mr Tickle’s presentation has inspired us to develop a greater repertoire of teaching skills to ensure that our children are gaining high level numeracy skills. One of our teachers and local Maths expert, Mr Marella Zulli, put hours of work into organising the week as well as supporting a process that enabled staff to embed the new strategies into our planning documents. I thank Marella for her outstanding commitment to school improvement in the area of Mathematics.

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

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

From the Principal Junior School

Approximately 50 of our Junior students visited the Senior School on Friday, 15 March to celebrate the opening of the Digital Learning Centre as part of the Flying Start Initiative. Students participated in a range of learning experiences around digital and gaming devices together with technology and media, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. The Centre is a great learning environment for students, and our Junior students were very excited to be part of the day.

Year 5 and 6 students have been lucky to have the sun shining enabling them to participate in sport trials on Friday afternoon. There was a great variety of sports to participate in and Mr Riley and teachers are enjoying their coaching roles.

Those students across the Junior School involved in Camp Rock are also practicing each Friday and enjoying the preparation.

Friday 15 March was Anti Bullying Day and whilst we acknowledged the day, the Supportive School Environment Committee’s job is to ensure the safety of every student every day. The Committee is in the process of holding a poster competition to promote greater awareness, together with Year 6 students being involved in a survey. Students can complete a poster with a message to stop bullying at home or at school. Student Leaders from Year 3 and Year 6 will collect the posters from the Prep and Junior Schools on the last day of term. Winning posters will be judged by the Committee with posters laminated and displayed around the school.

Term 1 has certainly flown by with much achieved, but many goals yet to be met. On behalf of the Junior School I wish our entire community a wonderful Easter break, and we look forward to having everyone return energised for Term 2 on Monday, 15 April.

Year 4 Claymation Program

This term the students in Year 4 have been working on Digital Narratives as part of their English Program. Each class has had half a day to intensely work on developing a digital narrative via Claymation (plasticine), utilising Microsoft Movie Maker.

The students have been studying either the ‘Twits’ or ‘Charlie and the Chocolate Factory’. The project involved developing an extra chapter for the novel and then expressing this via Claymation.

The students built characters and settings from plasticine and then used digital cameras to take up to 100 photos to use in their movie. The students loaded their photos into Movie Maker, set the animation speed, and added titles, music and voice overs.

Everyone greatly enjoyed the experience and will continue to develop their projects in class. I was extremely impressed with student creativity and engagement in the project. We are also working towards displaying the final projects via the data projector in the LENSE building.
Please find below some photos of the Year 4 students at work.

With thanks Ms Ord.

Year 6 Camp at Lake Ainsworth

Whilst Term 4 may seem like such a long way off, much advance booking and planning must be undertaken in the organisation of school camps. Year 6 students will have the opportunity of attending a three day (2 night) camp at Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centre at Lennox Head in Week 2 of Term 4 (Wednesday 16 to Friday 18 October).

An Expression of Interest note went home to parents/caregivers of Year 6 students last week in an endeavour to ascertain numbers for the camp. Please ensure you have returned your initial interest by Thursday, 28 March.

Parent Interviews

Normally parent/teacher meetings would be held in the final weeks of Term 1. However due to the short (9 week) term, meetings will be held during the first two weeks of Term 2. Your child would have received a note from his/her teacher regarding these meetings which provides you with an opportunity to select a time which most suits you to attend. These meetings are part of the College reporting process and provide you with an opportunity to discuss your child’s progress with his/her teacher.

Good Luck

On behalf of the College I would like to wish Kaan Karadag and Michelle Kim all the very best at the Queensland Swim Championships to be held at Chandler Pool between 24 and 26 March. Kaan and Michelle will represent the South Coast in the State Championships – great effort and good luck!

Reminders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuckshop</th>
<th>Students are able to purchase items during the morning tea break.</th>
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<tr>
<th>Bikes and Scooters</th>
<th>Students are not allowed to ride bikes on school grounds, and scooters are not permitted.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animals</td>
<td>No animals are allowed on school grounds.</td>
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Follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/VarsityPrimary
The Twitter feed is also now available on the College Website.

**ACROSS CAMPUS NEWS**

**P&C Associations Annual General Meeting**

The P & C Associations Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 27 March following our General Meeting at 6:00pm. Both Meetings are held in the LENSE Building on the Junior Campus.

At the AGM, all current Executives stand down and the following positions become available:

- President
- Vice President x2
- Secretary
- Treasurer

If you are interested in standing for one of the above positions, please contact Michelle Felderhof at pandc@varsitycollege.eq.edu.au for more information regarding each of these roles. At this time we can elect two QCPCA representatives, and more information is available if you are interested. All positions are voluntary.

The P & C Association is an integral part of the Varsity College Community, and one that has contributed to numerous different initiatives over the years. In 2012 we were able to fund academic & sporting awards, recognition events, rowing club, sailing club, music department and the 200 Lenovo Tablets for P-3, to name a few.

By being part of the P & C, as an executive & member, your contribution to Varsity College is vital in ensuring parents/caregivers/community have a say in the direction, development and future of our school.

None of this is possible without the continual support of you, our parents, and the hard work of volunteers, for this we thank you!

*Cameron, Kath, David, Michelle A and Michelle F Varsity College P & C Executives*

**Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Launch**

You are invited to attend the historic unveiling of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games emblem during a fun-filled, early morning community event at Surfers Paradise Beach on Thursday, 4 April 2013.
The emblem launch will be held exactly five years out from the Opening Ceremony in 2018, and you’re welcome to come along, show your pride and be part of the city’s history.

Set against the Gold Coast’s stunning, iconic backdrop, the launch will take place on Surfers Paradise Beach from 7.00am, with the 30-minute emblem unveiling ceremony and celebration commencing at 7.15am.

The emblem will symbolise to Australia and the world, the Gold Coast’s distinct character and unique attributes, while highlighting the Commonwealth Games as one of the world’s great international sports events.

The emblem will inspire athletes throughout Queensland, and across Australia, to win selection for a “home” Games and achieve the ultimate dream of winning a gold medal.

The Commonwealth Games emblem represents another important and exciting step towards the Gold Coast staging a great Games in a great city, leaving great memories and great benefits for all.

Apart from showcasing sport at its best and revealing new heroes, the Commonwealth Games will provide significant economic benefits, business and employment opportunities for the Gold Coast, and leave outstanding and enduring legacies.

Keep an eye and ear on local media for more details about the morning celebrations.

Visit: www.gc2018.com

Thank you to all our current sponsors and those wonderful businesses that have kindly donated prizes.

### Silver Sponsors

**Network Educational Australia**

Our local stationery, text, books and teacher resources supplier for our Back to School requirements. We thank them for their ongoing support and service to Varsity College.

www.network-ed.com.au

email: info@network-ed.com.au

Unit 4/498 Scottsdale Drive, Varsity Lakes, Qld 4227

**Scene Interior Art**

Graphic Design Service including...

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- letterheads, flyers, brochures etc.

call Nicki for a free quote...

Mobile: 0405 469 776

Email: nicki@sceneart.com.au

**U Can Store It**

Patsy Tierney

Phone: 5593 8355

Email: patsy@ucanstoreit.com.au

### Prize Donations

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<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCYC</td>
<td>Advanced Life Photography</td>
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<td>Dreamy Kids</td>
<td>Place Realty</td>
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### Prize Donations

- McDonalds Restaurants – Mermaid Beach
- Karen Andrew MP – Federal Member for McPherson
- Hair by Nat
- UCan2 First Aid
- “Evie” Inflatable Rashies

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**SECONDARY CAMPUS NEWS**

**From the Director of Secondary Campus**

During the final two weeks of the school term, parents and carers of Middle School students will have the opportunity to meet with their child’s foundation classroom teacher. The Parent Partnership program provides an opportunity to review the student’s achievements throughout first term, as well as identifying goals for the remainder of this school year. Please contact your child’s Foundation Classroom teacher if you are still waiting an interview time. Parents can also request an interview with their child’s specialist teachers by submitting a request with the Foundation Teacher or with Office staff.

Senior School parents will receive a similar opportunity in the second week of Term 2. Parents of Senior students will have an opportunity to book interview times on-line. Log-in details will be distributed in coming weeks.

Recently, Middle School students received the first correspondence of the year regarding the Middle School Camping Program for 2013. The Camp program is available to all Years 7, 8 and 9 students pending up to date school payments and the ongoing display of appropriate school
behaviour. Please ensure forms and payments are made by the designated dates to ensure your child receives a place in one of these fantastic opportunities.

To ensure safety for all students, it is essential that all students **riding bikes** to and from school wear a properly fitted helmet. This is not only for the safety of the child but is a LAW. It is the responsibility of all parents to ensure that their child has an appropriate helmet and is wearing the helmet for their school travel.

As we reach the end of Term 1, parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school on every school day unless there is a reasonable excuse for the student to be away, such as illness. Research shows that students who have a good attendance record are more likely to achieve high results. Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late, being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school. Visit the Department of Education and Training website for more information: www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts.

On Tuesday May 14, Wednesday May 15 and Thursday May 16 this year, all Year 7 and Year 9 students will be required to complete the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (**NAPLAN**). The tests will assess students on writing, reading, language conventions (incl. punctuation, grammar and spelling) and Numeracy. For further information, parents should speak to their child’s Foundation teacher and / or view the NAPLAN website: www.naplan.edu.au.

Thankfully, as a result of a bit of sunshine, the **Year 8 and 9 Cluster Sport Program** has commenced. Over 450 students are engaged in a range of sports including basketball, soccer, netball, indoor cricket, rugby league and touch football. Students in Year 7 are currently trialling to be chosen in an Interschool Sport Team. The Year 7 Program will commence at the beginning of Term 2.

**Stephen O’Brien**  
**Director of Secondary Campus**

**Junior Secondary Student Leaders**

Our 2013 Junior Secondary Student Leaders were officially recognised at the Secondary Campus induction assembly on Friday 08 March. The Captains, Zack Robinson and Kayla Miller-Gorce, have embraced their new roles with great enthusiasm; they have already conducted a Junior Secondary Assembly and spoke at the recent opening of the Digital Learning Centre. The rest of the Student Leadership group have shown an equally admirable dedication towards our School, giving up their time to represent the College at the DLC’s opening ceremony and planning events for the coming year. We wish the Junior Secondary Student Leaders well for the year ahead and thank them for their continued commitment to our student body.

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**Article from our Junior Secondary Captains**

Last Friday, the 15th of March, we had the pleasure of attending the Digital Learning Centre Grand opening. As the Junior Secondary School Captains we had the privilege to look at and learn about the wonderful new facility, the DLC. The DLC is now located in the old library. We were lucky enough to meet some highly respected people including the Minister of Education, Training and Employment, the Honourable John - Paul Langbroek.

At the grand opening there were many highly respected people that are involved with Education Queensland, including principles from other schools and members of Parliament. There were also representatives from Microsoft and from different areas of media. We were happily interviewed by a student from Bond University who asked us about our thoughts of this new learning opportunity.

The DLC is a fantastic new facility. It is a great new, modern way of learning and it enables the students of Varsity College to interact with each other’s learning environment. Students are able to share their strategies and opinions on learning through a wide variety of digital resources, ranging from Touch screen computers, Plasmas, Xboxes all the way to touch screen projectors. It allows the students to do their own research and work either in a group or individually. Today’s way of learning is changing and evolving, so this new digital learning centre is a little look at what the future will be like. It’s a new learning curve that we believe will be effective, and create a great learning atmosphere for the students of Varsity College.

**Zack Robinson**  
**Kayla Miller-Gorce**
Induction Parade

Last week the Senior Campus celebrated its’ leadership group for 2013 in an Induction Parade, involving the year 7-Year 12 students, parents, teachers and distinguished guests.

It was great to see the campus united, recognising not only the Senior Leaders, but also the Middle School Leaders and Sports Captains also.

In the true spirit of Varsity College, the students spoke beautifully about Leadership traits and the bright future for Varsity. We are truly fortunate to have great leaders within the school and it was fantastic to recognise their achievements not only in front of their parents, but also in front of their peers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Captains</th>
<th>Senior Vice Captains</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amy Stonehouse</td>
<td>Maddison Napier</td>
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<td>Katsuhiko Shike</td>
<td>Oscar Davis</td>
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<tr>
<th>The Prefect Team</th>
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<tr>
<td>Keily Davis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ebony Granada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas Kinch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samantha Prendergast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aiden Waring</td>
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<th>Junior Secondary School Captains</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kayla Miller-Gorce</td>
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<th>Junior Secondary School Vice Captains</th>
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<tr>
<td>Renee Shike</td>
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<tr>
<th>Junior Secondary School Leaders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sumara Rogers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Ewart</td>
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The Prefect Team

House Captains

Shave for a Cure

On Friday 15 March the senior campus gathered to witness the Varsity College annual World’s Greatest Shave.

Our team The Varsity College Mullet Militia got to work and raised over $1500 for this wonderful charity. The team members were Mr Bruce Standen, Sho Standen, Jun Standen, Katsu Shike, Gim Dumagat, Antonio Duarte, James Markham, Jeremy, Mr Joel Moore, Mr Haydn Sutherland and Mr John Philistin; with a tremendous effort by Georgia Drevlak our only girl to shave this year.

This day could not have run so smoothly and quickly without the assistance of the mothers and staff who gave up their free time to shave the volunteers. I would like to thanks Marie Fern, Sach Standen, Mellany Gardner, Kathy Camero, Nikki Mc Redmond and Sonia Degeers with special quest hairdresser Mr Russel Williams; who spent time with us and brought some valuable skills.

The event inspired Mr Michael Koka on the Junior campus to get behind the cause and shave his head for a gold coin donation from everyone in his class. I look forward to adding Michael’s contribution to the total.

It is never too late to donate to this cause. Those wishing to can donate online at World’s Greatest Shave, sponsor a shaver and select team, Varsity College Mullet Militia.

Mr John Philistin

Uniform Shop News

**New Opening Hours from Monday 25.02.13**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prep/Junior Uniform Shop</th>
<th>Ph: 5576 9308</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>2:00pm to 3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
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<th>Middle/Senior Uniform Shop</th>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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$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.

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.

2nd Hand Uniform

We can no longer accept shorts and skirts without the varsity tick logo or old style checked and white blouses (Paddington, Binatx or GJK) as these are a shorter length than the current style.

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

2013 Varsity College Blood Drive

Each week in Australia, 27,000 blood donations are needed to save lives. These donations are used to treat cancers and blood disease as well as numerous surgeries and trauma cases, including road accidents.

27,000 donations might sound like a lot but in a population of nearly 25 million people, it is a mere drop in the bucket. Being a large school, Varsity College has the capacity to make a great
impact on the lives of those around us, but only if everyone gets involved - parents, teachers, students - everyone.

So far this year, there have been 14 blood donations registered under Varsity College. That’s 42 lives saved - and we hope to increase this number exponentially throughout the year. For the first time ever, Varsity College has five Red Cross Blood Ambassadors; Katsu Shike, Gim Dumagat, Nikolina Nenadic, Lily Hughes and Taylor Cassar, who will be leading and organising Varsity College’s blood drive donations and regularly providing information across the two campuses. They will be supported by teachers Mr Steve Harriott and Miss Jade Nurthen. Last year Varsity provided 75 donations, putting us in the top 5 donor schools on the Gold Coast.

As our school is a part of the Red Cross School’s Challenge, we urge everyone eligible in the Varsity community to donate and remember to mention ‘Varsity College’ when giving blood (or plasma and platelets) so that donations are added to our school tally. One donation saves three lives. What will you do?

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Harriott (sharr80@eq.edu.au) or Miss Nurthen (jnurt1@eq.edu.au) or phone 55623575.

### COMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Years 4 – 6</td>
<td>Monday 18 March to Thursday 28 March</td>
<td>Life Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11 &amp; 12</td>
<td>Monday 25 March to Thursday 28 March</td>
<td>Exam Shutdown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years 7 – 9</td>
<td>Tuesday 26 March</td>
<td>Cluster Sport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Years 4 – 6</td>
<td>Wednesday 27 March</td>
<td>Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>Wednesday 27 March</td>
<td>P &amp; C Associations Annual General Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>P&amp;C General Meeting 6:00pm – LENSE Building Junior Campus</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 4 – 6</td>
<td>Friday 19 April</td>
<td>Interschool Sport Commences</td>
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</tbody>
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**National Youth Week Event Pizzey Park**

Saturday 6th April

- *live music* 3pm to 6:30pm
- *who’s playing?*
- *be active*
- *be happy*
- *be you*
- *chillout area*
- *‘have a go’ displays & workshops*
- *youth expo*
- *skate demos*
- *outdoor movie*
- *interactive fun*

...and loads more fun things to do so why not come along and check it out.