14 May 2013

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Last week the Courier Mail highlighted the incredible success that our year 12 students had last year. This article showed that across Queensland, we ranked 3rd in the % of students with an OP 1-15, this is the benchmark measure, we also had nearly 1 in 3 of our students achieve an OP 1-5, this ranks us with the best schools in the State and clearly shows the incredible improvement we have made in the last few years. I am thrilled that Varsity College has finally been acknowledged for these achievements. This is the start of a new era for this school, where we can legitimately be compared to the very best Public and Private schools in Queensland.

For those of you who have not heard the exciting news, James Forrest has been asked to become the Acting Principal of Mt Cotton State School for the rest of this year. This is a great opportunity for James to display his outstanding leadership at another school. We had a wonderful week of celebrations for James four years of work at this school and wished him every success in his new role.

Jenni Thew will now assume the role of Campus Director of the Primary School. This is a new role that will help to better align the operations of the Prep and Junior Sub-schools. While Jenni will be very busy running the Primary School campus, we have put in place a leadership team that is focused on the development of teaching and learning. This is essential for every teacher and this additional support will allow us to provide better tracking of all students throughout the year. New job descriptions for the Senior Leadership team have been defined and there will be no reduction in the service offered to parents due to this change. I am sure that you will find this new structure led by Jenni, will be an exceptional innovation for our students and teachers. Parents should contact the office with any of their concerns and the appropriate appointments will be made if required.

This week we have a very important P&C meeting where we will be looking at the next stage of development for Varsity College. The Queensland Government has a new direction for education and part of this agenda is the inclusion of a number of Independent Public Schools. There are many considerations that need to be thought through before an application is submitted to this program. I would like to present some possibilities to parents and community members on Wednesday night, to ensure the whole school community understands the rationale behind key decisions that are being made in the best interests of the College and the surrounding community. Please make every effort to come along to this meeting and be part of the decision making process.

I have recently seen a decline in uniform standards across all year levels. This is a concern and something that as a school we value very highly. I rarely address this to parents through my editorial, however in this edition, I am compelled to make a point of doing so. It is important that parents support the uniform policy, this will ensure teachers are not spending valuable teaching time addressing uniform issues. This is unfair and unreasonable and I implore all parents to take strict action immediately to make sure each child arrives at school in the appropriate uniform or has a pass explaining why not. This is not a case of trying to be a Private School, consistent uniform is a very high value of this school and I ask all parents to respect this value and support our teachers in ensuring that your child is appropriately dressed in school uniform every day. With your help, teachers can spend their time focusing on the learning program at this school to ensure it is second to none.

Jeff Davis
Executive Principal

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Primary School

It was wonderful to see our students preparing to spoil their mums with purchases from the P&C Mother’s Day stall, and I hope all our mums and grandmothers had a wonderful day on Sunday!

A big thank you to the P&C for their organisation; they really did a fabulous job organising the stall.

The Primary School farewelled Mr James Forrest, and celebrated his many achievements whilst here at Varsity College for the past four years. We thank James immensely for his drive and impact and wish him all the very best in his new school.

Under the new leadership structure of the College, I look forward to leading the P-6 Primary School and supporting teachers, students and parents in achieving the best possible educational outcomes we can. Ms Amanda Fairhall and Mr Peter Dallas will continue in their roles as Assistant Directors in the Prep and Junior Schools respectively.

A great deal of preparation has gone into the College Fete and we hope to see our community out in full force to enjoy the day on Saturday 1 June. We have lots of exciting events coming up over the next month, and we look forward to sharing these with you.

Jenni Thew
Director, Junior School
Class 4 Sarina are Mathletics World Champions

Three and a half million students and over ten thousand schools worldwide and we did it! Sunday, 5 May, the students from 4 Sarina, with a total of 381,047 points, proudly claimed the dual titles of Mathletics Australian and World Champions.

What a tumultuous week? We started the week on a high with 4 Sarina successfully achieving an early placing on the Mathletics World Champion leader boards. What a great achievement, however to maintain this position, we certainly had some teamwork to do if we were to hold onto this prestigious title.

Friday morning, we were stunned to see that a student from South Australia had earned over 75,000 points in one day, yes, that is not an error, alone he had tallied up 75,000 points. Swiftly, we calculated that this student alone could stand in the way of us and the title. Teamwork was the answer. If each student did a little then as a class we could achieve our goal. Many students set goals of personal weekly points, and once these were ascertained they reviewed and reset realistic goals. Teamwork was achieved by, logging in, completing a few tasks and logging out throughout the weekend. The dedication shown by the students to achieve our goal of WORLD and AUSTRALIAN MATHLETICS CHAMPIONS was amazing.

Yes we have the title, but our learning was more than that.

- We set achievable goals and reassessed and reset new goals as we progressed.
- We discovered the importance of teamwork and how important it is to achieving goals.
- We became autonomous learners who were empowered to change our maths results and develop self-belief.
- We learnt that we are in the ‘driving’ seat when it comes to being proactive about completing tasks to assist our understanding.

It is a significant achievement to attain a World Championship Title, at any age, and even more astounding when you are a 9 or 10 year old. We are proud to hold Mathletics Australian and World Championship Titles, we worked hard but when we set goals, dreams do come true.

Buddha’s Birthday Celebrations

On 3 May 2013, Year 6 Chinese Immersion classes went on an excursion to Southbank in Brisbane to celebrate Buddha’s birthday. The festival was a feast for the senses. Students participated in some activities which included calligraphy, martial arts, puppet-handling, Taiwanese games, origami and tea sampling. The Asian food smells from the many stalls offered a delicious variety for lunch.

One of the highlights was the Lion Dance because of the energetic music, performance and the interaction with the crowd where the lions appeared to nibble at students, which made everyone laugh.

It was lovely to see a Buddhist monk dressed in red robes, holding the cutest white puppy talking to people about it. Some students got the opportunity to place their handprints on a poster to show and record multiculturalism at the event. We all had a great time at the festival.

Alexandria 6S

NAPLAN

Just a reminder regarding the assessment in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) which will take place for all students in Years 3 and 5 as follows:

NAPLAN testing for Years 3 and 5 is scheduled in Week 5 of this term as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 14 May</td>
<td>Language Conventions and Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 15 May</td>
<td>Reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 16 May</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further information can be obtained from the following website:

National Walk Safely to School Day

Active Kids are Healthy Kids

National Walk Safely to School Day was initiated fourteen years ago to emphasise the importance of a healthy childhood. Friday 24 May is set aside to encourage students to make those important steps towards a healthier life and participate in the Day.

The objective is to encourage each Australian child to achieve at least 60 minutes of exercise a day to help prevent obesity and other health problems.

This year, organisers have introduced the Walk Safely to School Day application for Apple and Android phones. The application will allow children and parents/carers to track their kilometres travelled to and from school, time spent walking and their average walking speed.

Follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/VarsityPrimary
The Twitter feed is also now available on the College Website.

Community Service

In our involvement with the local community, students from our Year 8B and 8C classes visited two of the aged homes in our local area. We firstly went to The Terraces followed by a visit to The Domain Aged Care Home. We demonstrated how we use our laptops to do our assignments which amazed the people, after which we presented a concert of dance and song. To conclude the activities we sang a few of their old time songs with the residents and for those who could, we got them up for a little gig and dance.
‘One College – One Vision’

The Year 8 Chinese Immersion students invited two representatives from each of the nine Year 3 classes (all of whom study the Chinese language) to join them in the Middle School kitchen to prepare, cook, and eat together. The recipe selected for the day was Honey Stir Fried Rice Noodles.

In preparation for the event the Year 8 students assisted Ms Ryan in cutting out and sewing 20 red aprons on which the Year 3 name tags were attached, including a picture of a little baby Panda. While over in the Primary School the Year 3 students prepared for the event by learning Chinese words appropriate to the lesson and decorating the outside of the 40 noodle boxes. The aprons and boxes were exchanged to their buddy at the start of the lesson.

SECONDARY CAMPUS NEWS

From the Campus Director

The past fortnight has been extremely successful on the Secondary Campus. To compliment the quality teaching and learning taking place in the classrooms, students have engaged in the Moving Opera Program, Cluster and Interschool Sport, Cross Country Carnival, the ANZAC Day Assembly and Debating Competitions. The list of learning experiences for our students is endless and is only possible as a result of the support of the teaching staff and the school community. Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved in contributing to the success of these programs.

In Semester 2 of this year, the Varsity College Maths / Science Academy will be launched. The Academy will initially cater for Year 9 and 10 high achieving students in Maths and Science. This will be expanded to more year levels for the commencement of the 2014 school year. Information including identification processes will be communicated to students and parents in coming weeks.

Later this month, the third annual Varsity College Leadership Dinner will be held. This dinner will be attended by elected Year 3, 6, 9 and 12 student leaders and their guests, staff, P&C representatives and special guests. The event supports the culture of celebrating leadership within the school and the wider community.

From May 14 to 16, Year 7 and 9 students will be completing the 2013 NAPLAN tests. The tests assess students’ levels of achievement in spelling, writing, grammar and punctuation, reading and numeracy. Individual student and whole school results are made available by the end of Term 3.

Students in the Secondary School have the opportunity to store personal items within school lockers. Year 10 to 12 students have the opportunity to access a personal locker that is situated within internal corridors of the general learning building. These lockers are large enough to fit the student’s school bag and laptop. Students in Year 7 to 9 have access to personal storage areas within their Foundation classroom. This includes lockable cupboards for laptops and space for the storage of non-essential items. Students are encouraged to utilise these facilities to minimise the weight and number of items that need to be carried within school bags.

As the cooler weather approaches, it is vital that the College uniform standards are maintained. This includes the wearing of the Varsity College jumper, the Varsity College jacket or the new Varsity College blazer for senior students. Students out of school uniform will receive detentions.

Stephen O’Brien
Director of Secondary Campus

Musical – Grease is the word!

Our Grease Musical rehearsals are in full swing. Friday afternoons have never been more exciting on the Varsity College Senior Campus. Musicians are rehearsing in one space, intense dancing rehearsals in the dance room, with both lead characters and chorus blocking scenes and learning songs in the auditorium. It is a hive of creative activity and it is fantastic.

Please keep the following dates free, so you can watch our production at the Arts Centre Gold Coast:

- Saturday Evening 29th June
- Sunday Matinee 30th 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!

“If you can’t be an athlete, be an athletic supporter” ~Principal McGee Grease

Or, as I like to put it...

If you can’t be in the musical, be a musical supporter♫

Michelle Murtagh
Dean of Creative Arts & Musical Producer
Opera Queensland Residency Week

Opera Queensland has an in-school program for Secondary Schools called Open Stage (formally known as Moving Opera). Varsity College was the first school on the Gold Coast to offer this one week workshop to our students in 2011 and we have continued to run this program annually. Thirty students participate in 25 hours of training delivered by Opera Queensland’s professional singers. They work on current repertoire from the Company’s Opera season, as well as selected Contemporary Popular Culture and Musical Theatre pieces. It is an intense week of performance training and concludes with a culminating concert.

Our 2013 culminating concert was held at the Varsity College Auditorium on Friday 3rd May with the largest audience to date. We were delighted to have Jeff Davis, Stephen O’Brien, Jenny Thew and Peter Dallas from Varsity’s executive team, along with Ray Stevens MP and Jason Barry-Smith (Opera Queensland’s Open Space, Creative Director). The concert was followed with a beautifully displayed light supper provided by Varsity College P&C.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Astin Blaik for her assistance throughout the week and Sue Horkings for her coordination of the supper.

We hope to run this program again next year and would be delighted to share the results with you all.

“Without music, life would be a mistake.” ~ Friedrich Nietzsche

Michelle Murtagh
Dean of Creative Arts & Musical Producer

Over the course of the inaugural interschool competition, Kobi, Jasper, Courtney, Jasmine and Ali all showed remarkable improvement in their table tennis skills, demonstrating more controlled execution of forehand and backhand, topspin and backspin along with intelligent shot selection, concentration and teamwork in doubles play.

Their determined never-say-die attitude often enabled them to record victories over more fancied and experienced opponents. Considering four of the team had never played the sport prior to this season, the result is a credit to their application and willingness to learn new skills. Congratulations to the whole team for such a successful and enjoyable season!

2013 Talent Quest

The annual Varsity College Talent Quest was held on Wednesday 7 May with an audience of 200. The talent quest was organised and hosted with flair by Kelly Davis and Danielle Puetter and the Year 12 Student Council. The acts ranged from singing, dancing, playing musical instruments to rapping. While all performers were nervous the audience was entertained and responded with ovations, smiles and many positive comments. The quality of the acts was very high, making the judges adjudication very difficult.

The committee and student council would like to thank the following people;

Judges: Mr Ben Henderson, Ms Astin Blaik & Miss Bianca Noka
The Tech Crew: Luke & Tyler; Ms Szekeres, Ms Murtagh & Mr Grace for assisting in organising the event.

Congratulations to all performers on a wonderful night.

Varisty Table Tennis Team serves up smashing success!

The Varsity College Interschool Table Tennis team recently completed its first season of competition, finishing in third place, just one win away from the grand final.
ACROSS CAMPUS NEWS

Class Stalls

As you are aware, this year we will be holding the ‘Varsity College Winter Fair’ on Saturday 1st June.

Year levels and faculties have selected stalls to run and are now asking parents/caregivers to assist with supplies, donations and help.

To make the fair a great success we are requesting any of the items listed below:

- Trash and treasure items
- Potted plants for Plant Stall
- 1.5 – 2L bottles of soft drink for Spider Drink Stall
- Books and DVDs for 2nd Hand Bookstore
- Raffle donations for Cent Sale / Major Raffle
- Toys for a Used Toy Stall
- Unopened packets of flour / sugar for Cake and Fairy Floss Stalls
- Packets of drinking straws
- Snack foods such as cans of soft drink, chocolate bars & small packets of potato chips for the Snack Stall
- Packets of paper plates and serviettes
- Photograph printing paper
- Second hand glamorous frocks / designer after 5 clothes

These items will be greatly received at the Middle School Office or the Junior School Parent Hub from Wednesday April 24 – Friday May 24 during the hours 8am – 8.30am.

Ride Tickets Sales

Ride Tickets are on sale for the Varsity College Winter Fair on June 1.

Tickets can be purchased by going to www.fete.varsitycollege.com.au, click on “tickets” and follow the instructions. Wrist bands can be collected from school on Friday 31 May and Saturday 1 June.

Gold Sponsor

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.


U Can Store It

Patsy Tierney
Phone: 5593 8355
Email: patsy@ucanstoreit.com.au

Optimal Health Chiropractic


YMCA Family Day Care

Prize Donation Sponsors

PCYC
Advanced Life Photography

Dreamy Kids
Place Realty

McDonalds Restaurants – Mermaid Beach
Karen Andrew MP – Federal Member for McPherson

Hair by Nat
Steve Halligan – Halligan Fitness

“Evie” Inflatable Rashies
Ambarella Fine Foods, Burleigh Homespace

Christine Corner Newsagency
Cold Rock, Christine Avenue

CBD Hotel, Varsity Lakes
Dan Murphys

Diamonds Tavern, Christine Avenue
Massage One, Varsity Lakes Shopping Centre
**Uniform Shop News**

**Opening Hours**

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8:00am to 10:00am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:00pm to 3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:00am to 11:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle/Senior Uniform Shop</td>
<td>Ph: 5562 3512</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8:00am to 10:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>8:00am to 11:00 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8:00am to 11:00 am</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Winter Uniform**

Winter uniform should be varsity jumper/jackets/trackpants only.

Plain navy or any other colours are not acceptable. Items are available now at both shops.

- Fleece Jumper - Prep to Yr 12
  - Size 4 – 14 $36.00
  - Size 16 – 24 $39.00
- Jacket – Prep to Yr 12
  - All sizes $49.00
- Trackpants Prep to Yr 12
  - All sizes $49.00
- Knitted Jumper – Yr 7 – Yr 12 only
  - Size 12 – 22 $59.00

**School Blazers**

These are now available for Senior years only

**Size 12 - 20 $110.00**

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.

**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

**GOLD COAST HOSPITAL AND HEALTH SERVICES – ORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**ORAL HEALTH CARE MATTERS**

Did you know that Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services – Oral Health Services in both the community and school dental clinics accept Teen Dental Vouchers?

Good oral health care is important for young people. The government has provided Teen Dental Vouchers to help enable and maintain good oral health and preventative care. These vouchers can be presented to private dentists or Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services – Oral Health Services, including a community or school dental clinic.

Children attending schools up to the end of Year 10 who present a Teen Dental Voucher with Gold Coast Oral Health Services will receive a comprehensive examination, x-rays, scale, clean and a full course of care. Children in Years 11 and 12 in receipt of a voucher can only be seen by Gold Coast Oral Health Services if the eligibility criteria are met. They will then be placed on a waiting list to receive a comprehensive examination, x-rays, scale, clean and a full course of care.

If the Teen Dental Voucher has been used at a private dental practice, completion of the private dentist’s treatment plan will need to be undertaken privately at your own cost. Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services will only be able to provide emergency care for these children, not a full course of care as prescribed by the private dentist.

Gold Coast Hospital and Health Services – Oral Health Services have qualified and experienced dentists, oral health therapists, dental therapists and dental assistants who work together to provide a range of oral healthcare services to meet your child’s specific oral health needs in a caring environment.

As the Teen Dental Voucher expires by 31.12.13, it is important that you arrange your appointment as soon as possible by telephoning the Gold Coast Oral Health Services Call Centre on 1300 300 850. Oral health services are also provided during all school holiday periods.
For more information on the nearest community or school dental clinic, the Oral Health Call Centre will be able to assist you with your enquiry.

Help us raise funds for Varsity College!
Purchase an Entertainment™ Book from us today and 20% of your Book purchase goes towards our fund-raising for the P&C!

**The NEW Entertainment™ Books are here!**
We’re selling Books to raise funds for our P&C

Buy a Book now to discover the many valuable offers in the NEW Gold Coast and Northern New South Wales Entertainment™ Book.

Books are packed with hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for the best restaurants, cafes, attractions, hotel accommodation, travel and much more!

Selling for only $15, you’ll receive $15,000 worth of valuable offers that you can use right away, up until 1 June 2014!

Plus, the good news is that $15 from your Book purchase goes towards our fund-raising for our P&C.

The more Books we sell the more we raise so please forward this email to your family and friends!

Thank you for your continued support.

Varsity College P&C


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**COMING EVENTS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>Friday 24 May</td>
<td>Choral Fanfare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep - 12</td>
<td>Saturday 1 June 2013</td>
<td>Varsity College Fete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep – 12</td>
<td>Tuesday 4 June 2013</td>
<td>Cross Country South East Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep - 3</td>
<td>Wednesday 5 June 2013</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary School</td>
<td>Tuesday 11 June</td>
<td>Instrumental Music Concert (4-730pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Tuesday 11 June 2013</td>
<td>Year 4 Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior &amp; Prep School</td>
<td>Wednesday 12 June 2013</td>
<td>Maths Olympiad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Wednesday 12 June 2013</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Thursday 13 June 2013</td>
<td>Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep - 12</td>
<td>Wednesday 19 June 2013</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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