27 May 2013

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Primary News

It has been a real pleasure to visit classrooms across the Primary campus over the last two weeks. The engagement of the students and the learning they are undertaking is evident with teachers providing excellent learning experiences – congratulations to students, teachers, aides and volunteers.

There have been many events occurring this term, and if you glance down to Coming Events you will see that it is certainly a busy time! It has been wonderful to hear the very positive feedback from community members about our students when they are on excursions or attending events – well done!

Teachers are commencing the formulation of student reports for the end of this semester. If you have a child in the Prep year you will be interested in the article around reporting changes. If you have any questions about this, your child’s teacher will be able to assist with any information you may require.

As part of the College restructure the Prep and Junior Schools will now come under the umbrella of Varsity Primary School with the following administrative structure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Director</th>
<th>Jenni Thew</th>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Director (Prep)</td>
<td>Amanda Fairhall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Director (Junior)</td>
<td>Peter Dallas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOD (Prep/ 3 days per week)</td>
<td>Kellie Norris and Kylie Dansey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOD (Junior/ 3 days per week)</td>
<td>Justine Meech</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learning Leader</td>
<td>Camilla Balym</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum Leader</td>
<td>Justine Meech</td>
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Ms Fairhall and Ms Balym will be located in the Prep Administration Building. Ms Fairhall will oversee most activities for Prep to Year 3 students together with any behaviour management for Years 2 and 3. Ms Balym will look after our Prep and Year 1 students together with her learning leader role with teachers.

Both the Prep and Junior Administrative offices will continue to function as usual, with myself, Mr Dallas and Curriculum leaders located in the Junior administrative building.

Sadly Mrs Sue Ellen Carroll has had to take sick leave. Ms Renae Kermond will take on Mrs Carroll’s teaching fraction in 4D with Mrs Julie Freeman. We wish Sue Ellen all the very best for a speedy recovery!

Mr Andrew Grant (5B) has returned Monday to Wednesday from maternity leave. Mr Gary Creasey will continue on 5B for Thursday and Friday until the end of term. Mr Creasey is presently replacing Mr Craven (3S) from Monday to Wednesday whilst Mr Craven enjoys his long service leave.

Chinese Immersion and LOTE classes have also experienced staffing changes with Ms Karen Chuang taking maternity leave. Ms Teresa McGuire is now delivering Chinese Immersion in Year 6 together with some LOTE classes; and we welcome Lillian Yeh and Lily Chen who are enjoying teaching LOTE across the Primary Campus.

As I complete this newsletter our Prep, Year 1, 2 and 3 students are enjoying Under 8s day and the many activities provided. I look forward to some great reflections of the day in our next newsletter!

Jenni Thew
Director, Primary School

Volunteer Sign-In

We would like to remind all volunteers in classrooms to collect an Induction Booklet from the Preparatory Office. The Induction Booklet covers all relevant policies and procedures within the College, and it is necessary that all volunteers read and sign-off acknowledging same. One of the very important procedures is to ensure that anyone assisting in classrooms signs in and out, providing administration with an accurate account of who is at the school at any time of the day. Thank you for your assistance.

Mother’s Day Pamper Cafe

To help celebrate Mother’s Day, Prep Aqua invited their mums, aunts and grandmas into the classroom to be pampered.

We spent the weeks leading up to the café making presents and cards, learning songs, dances and poems and cooking for our mums.

We put on a performance for our special guests and gave them some presents to begin with, then we took them to the café, did their hair, gave them a massage, did their make-up and painted their nails. Our guests looked absolutely beautiful by the time we finished with them!
We had such a fantastic day and we loved having the mums, aunties and grandmas visit us!

Miss Kleidon & Prep Aqua

Reporting Changes for our Prep Students

The preparatory year has been recognised as the first year of schooling in Queensland from 2012. Prep is equivalent to the Foundation year of the Australian Curriculum. With the implementation of the Australian Curriculum the changes in Preparatory reporting are:

- An Early Learning Record is no longer required.
- The use of a five-point scale as identified below to report student achievement in the Australian Curriculum English, Mathematics, Science and History:

### Applying (AP)

The student applies a thorough understanding of the required concepts, facts and procedures. The student demonstrates a high level of skill that can be transferred to new situations.

### Making Connections (MC)

The student makes connections using the curriculum content and demonstrates a clear understanding of the required concepts, facts and procedures. The student applies a high level of skill in situations familiar to them and is beginning to transfer skills to new situations.

### Working With (WW)

The student can work with the curriculum content and demonstrates understanding of the required concepts, facts and procedures. The student can apply skills in situations familiar to them.

### Exploring (EX)

The student is exploring the curriculum content and demonstrates understanding of aspects of the required concepts, facts and procedures. The student applies a varying level of skill in situations familiar to them.

### Becoming Aware (BA)

The student is becoming aware of the curriculum content and demonstrates a basic understanding of aspects of required concepts, facts and procedures. The student is beginning to apply skills in situations familiar to them.

There is insufficient evidence to make a judgement.

The Queensland Curriculum will be used to report on student achievement in the early learning areas of: Social and personal learning; Health and physical learning; and Active learning processes (Early Years Curriculum Guidelines).

Reporting scales from 2013 will be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievement</th>
<th>Prep Years 1-2</th>
<th>Years 3-10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applying</td>
<td>Australian Curriculum:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Making connections</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with</td>
<td>Sound</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploring</td>
<td>Developing</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becoming aware</td>
<td>Support Required</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland Curriculum</td>
<td>Comment</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effort and Behaviour</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very High</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing</td>
<td>Needs Attention</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Required</td>
<td>Unacceptable</td>
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Year 12 Social & Community Studies Supporting Prep to Year 5 Students

Currently Year 12 Social and Community Studies students are working to support students from Prep to Year 5. This term, the focus of their study is community involvement. Groups of Year 12 students have been allocated to classes and attend twice a week instead of attending their normal class for that session. Their job is to perform work as a volunteer helping in the classroom and therefore achieving an understanding of the value of volunteer work in the community.

Before starting the program, the year 12’s were taught basic skills and strategies that could be helpful when assisting younger students to read. It is expected that students could help with a range of activities besides reading.
Last week a group of Year 12 students helped administer an online PAT Reading and Math tests with Year 1 students. It was clear both groups really enjoyed working with each other.

Marty Sultmann & Carmel Ord

Cyber Safety

Over this term’s assemblies in the Junior School Mrs Ord has focused on cyber safety and the use of social media. The internet, mobile phones and instant messaging provide wonderful opportunities to learn, be creative and socialise online. However, like communicating in the real world, there are risks associated with interacting online. There are many issues that pose challenges for young people online such as cyber bullying, scams and inappropriate content.

Knowing how to use online technologies safely is essential to having positive experiences online. It’s important for children and young people to learn about cyber safety and know how to deal with issues. For example, it is important that children never use their real and full name, disclose the school they attend or home address online. Children should never befriend someone online that they do not know in person.

So, parents, how much do you know about being cyber smart? Test your knowledge on the cyber smart website below to find out what children are doing in their digital world, learn what children do online and identify some strategies to help them be cyber smart as they grow up.


Some simple strategies parents can use to assist cyber safety:

- Locate your computers in spaces which are visible and open, like a family room.
- Monitor or supervise your child on the internet and conduct some “shoulder surfing” or “spontaneous” observing when your child is online. Be aware of what your child is doing on the internet and display an interest in their cyberspace knowledge and experience.
- Discuss a plan with your child to address cyber safety and cyber bullying. Ensure they know you will be supportive if they report something to you.
- Reassure your child they will not lose access to their technology if they report anything to you. Many children see this as punishment.
- Review the age suitability of any social networking sites your child joins.
- Review your child’s ‘friends list’ on social networking sites to help you manage their safety and reduce the risk of them associating with inappropriate contacts.
- Educate yourself on the latest threats facing children online.
- Try to keep communication with your child open and positive so they trust you viewing their profile.
- Become a member of the social networking site and become an online friend of your child.
- Reinforce the need to keep passwords private and updated regularly, but consider having access to your child’s password yourself.
- Ensure your child understands the implications of posting images and other content on the internet.

How can I promote my child’s cyber safety?

- Educate your child about appropriate online behaviours. Take time to sit with your child and participate together on the internet. Assist in developing the knowledge they need to communicate responsibly and respectfully with friends, family and other internet users.
- Set clear rules about your child’s mobile phone and online activities. Talk with your child about which websites and internet activities they are allowed to access.
- Consider installing appropriate software which has the ability to limit internet usage times and monitor/restrict website activity.
- Consider installing on your computer the ‘cyber safety help button’, available from the Commonwealth Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy’s website: www.dbcde.gov.au/online_safety_and_security/cybersafetyhelpbutton_download
- Ensure you are aware of the software and app features installed on your child’s mobile phone, music or tablet device. Many apps have age suitability recommendations and require age confirmation prior to downloading/use. Additionally, many devices support parental controls which prevent access to specific features or content. These controls can be enabled in the settings menu on your child’s device. Consult the device documentation for further information.

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

Coming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 1 June</td>
<td>College Fete</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 5 June</td>
<td>Prep School Athletics Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 5 June</td>
<td>ICAS (Science)</td>
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</table>
Dental Clinic / Van Offer of Oral Health

Students in grades 1,2,3,6,7,3S,3O,3P,3R have been provided with an offer of oral health care pack to take home.

The pack includes:

- Child & Adolescent Oral Health Service Brochure
- Examination Card

If your child is enrolled in one of the grades listed above and did not receive an offer of care pack and you would like to arrange for your child to receive oral health care please contact the Oral Health Call Centre 1300 300 850. Monday to Friday 8.00 am – 4.30 pm Excluding Public Holidays.

If your child requires disability access please identify this requirement with the Call Centre Operator.

### SECONDARY CAMPUS NEWS

From the Campus Director

The upcoming month will be extremely busy for students and staff on the Secondary Campus. As assignment and testing schedules approach, I encourage parents to take the time to discuss time management processes with their child and to support them through encouragement and due recognition of their achievements. Added to the general teaching and learning programs, we also have ongoing Musical preparations, the continuation of the Regional Debating competition, teams competing in the finals of Cluster Sport, ICAS Competitions, Fanfare, and the list goes on. To all students and staff involved in the many upcoming programs, thank you and all the best for your respective activity.

Preparations for the launch of the Varsity College Maths & Science Academy are well underway. 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. Over the coming weeks, processes will be implemented to identify the candidates for this program with relevant information distributed to parents.

The third annual Varsity College Leadership Dinner was held on Thursday, May 23. The dinner was a great showcase of leadership we have within the school and the wider community. An important aspect of the night was recognising the 2013 inductee to the Varsity College Wall of Honour. For the first time, a past student was given this honour. I am extremely pleased to announce that Dane Marley was presented with this award. Dane was a model student throughout his schooling at Varsity and has left a legacy for other students to follow. On behalf of the school community, I would like to congratulate Dane for achieving this recognition.

We are now in the final stages of preparation for the Winter Fair. I would like to thank all families who have supported the Fair through donations and their showcase of support for the event. If we get fine weather, the Fair promises to be a fabulous event for the school community. I would also like to remind parents that the pre-purchase of ride tickets is cheaper than purchasing the tickets on the day and also allows for additional rides to be incorporated if pre-ticket sales reach a set level. Ride wrist bands will be distributed for pre-purchased tickets the day prior to the fair.

Thank you to all families for supporting the College Uniform Policy. The uniform standards have been fantastic in recent weeks, especially the wearing of the Varsity College jumper or jacket as the weather cools down. The Varsity College community is extremely proud of the high standards with the wearing of our uniform which can only be achieved through an ongoing commitment by all students and families.

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

### Bond University Trading Room Visit

**Top Year 10 Economic Students**

On the 23 April 2013, the top twenty students from year 10 Economics classes were selected to represent Varsity College and attend a morning tea and lecture at Bond University. We arrived at Bond University, to a delicious morning tea with everything you could imagine; from scones, to sausage rolls and everything in between.

Stomachs full, we then entered the Trading room of Bond University. Each student sat at a desk with two large screens. We listened to two lecturers who spoke about Trading and Accounting; they explained how studying economics can lead
to many occupations in the future, such as being an accountant and working in finance.

Overall, going to Bond University was a great experience for everyone, and opened a horizon of opportunities for most students who did not know that studying Economics could unlock such doors.

_Tatiana Lim_  
Student

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_In Flanders’ Fields, the poppies blow / Between the crosses, row on row…_  

Every year, our brave ANZAC (Australia and New Zealand Army Corps) soldiers are commemorated. Significant poems like ‘In Flanders’ Fields’ are read aloud, marches and parades line the streets, and the spirit is clear in all Australians young and old.

This year, on April 24, Varsity College held its annual ANZAC day ceremony; despite the fact that the biggest public school on the Gold Coast was only founded twelve years ago, it has become a great and time-honoured tradition. Over 1600 students from the Senior Campus, along with staff and honoured guests, took part in the esteemed ceremony.

 Attendees from the community included:

- Representatives from the Australian Air Force Cadets;
- David Greenhalgh, who played the bagpipes;
- Jenna Arnold, an ex-student of Varsity College;
- Major Corinne Jones from the Canungra Land Warfare Centre;
- Peter Franklin, Vice President of the Mudgeeraba RSL;
- Peter Board from the Vietnam Veterans’ Federation;
- Jean Eldridge and Marjory Gard of the War Widows’ Guild (Gold Coast North Sub-Branch);
- Norm Anderton from Legacy;
- Allan Mahoney from the Ex-P.O.W.s Association and:

  - Ray Stevens, Member of Parliament for Mermaid Beach.

Inspiring speeches from war veterans, ex-students and current serving members of the armed forces only fuelled the students’ passion. Students of all ages were united in their speeches to their peers, from the 2013 school captains, Amy Stonehouse and Katsu Shike, to the Prep students that made many of us smile with their youthful rendition of the ANZAC legend.

The Varsity College Wind Symphony Ensemble gave illustration to the legacy of the ANZACs with a powerful Tchaikovsky piece, Legend, whilst the Chamber vocals sung the two national anthems in both English and Indigenous versions, honouring both the Maori people and the Australian Aboriginals.

The traditional last post was played, followed by a minute’s silence then the reveille, and any participant could have heard a pin drop. Students at Varsity College have a great amount of respect for these soldiers and their sacrifices, wearing the poppies proudly on their collars and standing tall during the anthems.

Every year, this revered ceremony has been organised by Mr Ivan Brkich, teacher of Modern History at Varsity College. Unfortunately, Mr Brkich was forced to step down from his position to take sick leave from the end of the first school term. The position of ANZAC day organiser, consequently, was handed over to Mr Martin Sultmann, who had also taken up some of Mr Brkich’s teaching roles.

Mr Sultmann had a pair of deep shoes to fill, but the innovation in this year’s ceremony – characteristic of the school’s 21st-century learning approach – added an extra touch of flavour to something that has always been and will always continue to be an outstanding event. Ms Michelle Murtagh, Ms Carolyn Mills and Ms Megan Roderick also provided invaluable assistance in the organising of the ceremony.

From Gallipoli to Flanders, and from Vietnam to Afghanistan, the spirit of the ANZAC lives on and is embodied in every Australian. Every student taking part in the annual ANZAC ceremony at Varsity College will always remember the significance of the date and the honours that should be afforded to every man or woman who ‘gave their all’ in defence of our free country.

_Rachel Tomassen_  
_Year 11 Student_

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_Generations of Australians unite on ANZAC day._
Social Science Department - Geography Excursions

The main aim of Geography is inform and excite students about the world around them. With a range of topics from weather, Great Barrier Reef, transport, coastal features and the impact of tourism students certainly get a wide range of views and opportunities to learn about the natural world.

The culmination of Geography week saw senior Geography students undertaking field work to enhance their understanding of theory taught in class.

Year 11 students visited Burleigh Beach to investigate the impact of erosion on the beach landscape in light of adjustments made by human settlement. The excursion started with a swift walk to the top of Burleigh Hill to complete sketches of the coastal features they could see. After morning tea on the beach students undertook activities that investigated long shore drift, wave motion and identifying coastal vegetation.

Year 12 students travelled further afield to beautiful Fraser Island. Rainforest walks, swimming in pristine Lake McKenzie and trekking through the sand dunes were favourite memories for most. Students collected and collated data on the impact of tourism on Fraser Island. The buffet food and dingo spotting was a close second. While Fraser is sadly “in danger of being loved to death”, the main advice students took away is to “leave only tracks” when visiting this World Heritage Area.

Following this theme Year 10 students have completed a unit on weather and natural hazards and wrote a report on transport patterns and solutions for the local area. Students in Year 10 have competed in the National Geographic Competition and while this was outside of some students comfort zone we are proud of their efforts and look forward to the results that will follow.

Philosophy Shop Opens for Business

A group of secondary students have begun to explore the discipline of philosophy through an innovative digital learning environment. The program, named Philosophy Shop and facilitated by Varsity College’s Enrichment Head of Department, Mark Buzolic, is the first of its kind in the world and allows students from different year levels and different schools to participate in deep and meaningful discussion about real world philosophical issues. Philosophy Shop operates through Education Queensland’s secure Learning Place website and allows students to work at their own pace through a range of thinking skills applied across a selection of teacher and student-generated discussion topics.

As part of their course, several students recently took part in a special video conference, connecting from our own Digital Learning Centre to professors from the University of Queensland and UCLA in the United States, as well as over ninety other students. Participants learnt about the role of philosophers and enjoyed discussing issues of life, truth and knowledge.

Mr Buzolic presents the Philosophy Shop concept at the International Middle Years of Schooling Association International Conference on May 24.

My Story- My Lucky Day

In my endeavour to become a nurse in Aged Care, I spoke to Mr Haydock (Guidance Officer) who advised me to speak to Mrs Ryan who was preparing her students for an event at the college with aged care residents from The Terraces.

Mrs Ryan suggested I not only went along and assist, but open the event with a talk explaining to the visitors who I am and why I joined the Year 8’s. It was a great afternoon as you can see by my pictures; however the most exciting part for me was that the Diversional Therapist Julie Wolsey pulled me aside as they were leaving. Ms Wolsey said she was so impressed with my speech and participation that she invited me to apply for a traineeship at the terraces aged home.

Olivia Cropp
Student 11B4

It wasn’t only a happy experience, I left feeling as though I had just won a major prize!

Congratulations all Cluster Sport Teams & Coaches

A special congratulations to the following teams who were Winners on the day and have made it through to the Cross Over Finals, which will be played on Wednesday 5th June at locations and times to be advised ASAP.

Girls

• 14 & 15 Years Tennis (Coach: Helena Kovacevic & Lee-am Young)
• 13 Years Touch (Coach: Sheryl Alexander & Joel Moore)
Boys

- Open Basketball (Coach: Adam Darragh)
- 13 Years Soccer (Coach: Russell Williams)
- 14 Years Tennis (Coach: Glenis Williams/Matt Miller)

A Community Experience

The year 8B and 8C classes invited residents from The Terraces aged home to visit the new Digital Learning Centre at our college. We entertained our visitors by showing via the use of digital technology how times have changed from their time as a student/teenager to today’s lifestyle and opportunities.

Pictures were digitally presented for comparison of the times. This included birth places, social/political/economic events of that time, games people enjoyed then and now, organised sport, fashion and types of transport.

We made Cup Cakes before school then served them for afternoon tea along with a cool drink.

ACROSS CAMPUS NEWS

Junior Secondary Disco – Grease Theme!

The P&C together with the Secondary Campus Musical Crew are hosting the end of term Junior Secondary Disco!!! Naturally, our theme is ‘Grease 1950s’ to lead into our pre-production week of the musical. Dressing up will make it even more fun!!

Please help us raise as much as possible and drop your Junior Secondary son/daughter off to celebrate the end of term. Once students have arrived the venue will be secured therefore they will be unable to leave until the disco finishes at 9pm. We have security, lots of staff and senior student leaders attending to make a safe night with lots of fun.

Junior Secondary Disco

- Thursday June 20, 6-9pm
- Senior Campus Sports Hall
- Entry $10 (Includes sausage sizzle, drink and snack)
- Student ID needed for fast entry

“Every day brings a chance for you to draw in a breath, kick off your shoes, and dance” ~ Oprah Winfrey

Musical – Grease is the word!

Our Grease Musical rehearsals are becoming quite crowded as we begin to piece the band and the performers together. We will be moving into the Sports Hall in the last two Friday’s this term to have enough space to replicate The Gold Coast Art Centres stage.

Tickets will be sold through the Senior Campus Payment office and will be available from Tuesday week 8.

- Child $5
- Adult $10

To cater for those who cannot access the payment office on the Senior Campus we will have some tickets on sale at the Junior Office in week 9 only.

Show dates and times:

- 6.30pm Saturday Evening June 29
- 2.00pm Sunday Matinee June 30

There are only two shows and limited seating, so get in quickly for this incredible show.

“Why, this car is Auto-matic. It’s System-matic. It’s Hyyyyydro-matic. Why, it’s Greased Lightning” ~ Danny

Michelle Murtagh
Dean of Creative Arts & Musical Producer

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC Prep to Year 12

Our Junior School Instrumental Program continues to gain momentum. The number of students participating in the program has grown to over 250 with a total of seven bands and string ensembles rehearsing weekly.

The formation of our first junior chamber strings (selected from students in years 4 – 7) has at last established a link between the Junior and Middle School musicians. This ensemble provides students within the music program the opportunity to extend their skills to a very high level of performance.

The secondary chamber strings ensemble performed at the annual Leadership Dinner on Thursday May 23 at the Princeton Room, Bond University. This was an excellent opportunity for these students to demonstrate their outstanding musical talents to our wider community and school leaders. This group will also be performing at Parliament House and Southbank in Brisbane on Tuesday May 28.

All Secondary instrumental students and Primary vocal students are preparing repertoire and looking forward to performing at the school’s winter fair on June 1. Please come along and witness their fantastic performances and don’t forget to enjoy a slice of delicious cake and sample the snack food on offer from the two stalls that the Friends of Music are operating.

The Instrumental Music Department would also like to invite you to our End of semester Primary Instrumental Music Concert. This concert will be held on Tuesday June 11 at the junior school hall. All primary (and some secondary) ensembles will be performing. The first concert starts at 4:30pm with an interval at 5:15pm. Please come and enjoy the fantastic music that our young students will be playing as well as supporting the Instrumental Music program through the fundraising efforts of our Friends of Music parents selling drinks, sausages and even a coffee.

Special mention must go to Zandra White in grade 9. Zandra achieved 97 out of 100 for her Trinity grade 5 saxophone exam in September 2011. Zandra has received an ‘Exhibition Award’ for this exceptional result which has now been recognised as
one of the highest results of any saxophone student for this level in the world. Zandra also achieved ‘Top of the State’ in grade 5 for any instrument as well as a ‘Centre Award’ for gaining the best result in the Gold Coast area. And it doesn’t stop there, over the weekend, Zandra received news that she was awarded a 92 out of 100 for her grade 7 saxophone exam that she completed in November, 2012. This has again been recognised as a ‘Top of the State’ award in any instrument during this examination session. This is an outstanding result for a very talented and hardworking young lady. Well done Zandra!

Instrumental Music Department Upcoming Dates:
The Musical dates for ‘Grease’ are 29th & 30th June.

Varsity College Rowing Makes Waves at Recent Regattas

The Varsity College Rowing team have competed in two regattas this season and all of our rowers have performed brilliantly. Everyone has had an enjoyable introduction to the sport even though all rowers have had to brave the elements and cold weather when out training early in the mornings.

The first regatta was held at Coomera on 4 May and the Varsity College rowing team won nine races, came second in five races and placed third in six races. This was a perfect start to the season and many of the Varsity College Rowing team were promoted into higher divisions after their efforts from this regatta.

At the second regatta held on 18 May at Coomera, the Varsity College rowing team continued their success with five wins, eight seconds and five thirds even with many of our rowers competing against stronger competition in higher divisions. We even had our first ever “First Four” result with all the first four placing’s going to Varsity College rowers.

So far this year, Varsity College rowing has amassed an amazing thirty eight placing’s including fourteen wins.

Varsity College rowing is heading for its best year ever and there are many more to come.

For further information about the Varsity College rowing program, this is available for students in year 7 and above, please see Steve Harriott, HOD Practical Arts, at the senior campus.

GO VARSITY!!!!

Flexi Card Cashless System is Here!

Senior students can now purchase goods from the tuckshop using their student card, via a system called FlexiSchools. This system allows parents to budget an amount on their students’ card for spending at the school. Cashless payment is also safer and faster for the tuckshop to process, and we would therefore like to encourage all students to use this system rather than send cash to school.

How Does it Work?

Parents set up a FlexiSchools account online and pre-load their account with funds. Students can make purchases at the canteen by swiping their student card at the cash register. The register shows a photo of the student for added security. Parents can view their students’ purchases online and can set a daily spending limit on the student’s card.

Set Up Your Account

Setting up an account for either Online Ordering or Card Payments is done online and only takes a minute. Simply go to www.flexischools.com.au and click “Register Now”. You will be sent an email with further instructions on how to complete the registration. Once registered, be sure to top up your account with some funds. Add your Senior student to your account and enter your card number below:

The system operates via a pre-paid account, so you don’t need to scrounge for coins in the morning and can easily budget for your spending throughout the term. There are a variety of payment options supported, including Visa, Mastercard (credit and debit), Bank Transfer and Payclick. Some top-up methods have fees or restrictions – please check online for details.

Existing FlexiSchools Accounts

If you already have a FlexiSchools account, you can add your Senior student to your existing account. If your student has registered for junior school previously, update their class on the Home screen to a Senior year, and enter their card number.

What does it cost?

There is no cost for setting up your account and no transaction fees for student card payments. If you have any questions, FlexiSchools provide a great help desk on 1300 361 769, or you can contact them via their website.

If you have any questions, please ask the administration office for more information.

Homestay Families Wanted

Expression of Interest for Tentative Chinese Study Tour:
29 July to 4 August, 2013

We are looking for families to add to our Homestay Data Base to host students who are visiting our school.

You will be providing a caring family environment for students who will be 13 to 14 years of age and a long way from home.
You will be asked to:

- Introduce your family to another culture
- Develop language skills
- Make international friends
- Share our Australian culture & lifestyle
- Receive funds per student / escort

**REQUIREMENTS**

- Complete a homestay application form
- Have a property inspection to ensure EQLI requirements including liability insurance and full comprehensive for vehicles carrying students.
- Able to take a double placement for 7 days minimum, (this is a specific request so please consider travel arrangements if you are considering applying).
- Three escorts require triple placement
- Caring English speaking family
- Supply all meals and snacks.
- Separate beds for each student / escort
- Drop off and pick up at Varsity College Senior Campus or as required
- 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.)

Have you previously hosted students and would like to do so again? Please contact me as soon as possible as we are gauging interest.

If would like to apply to be part of this wonderful experience, please contact via phone or email Sue Jones our International Student Co-ordinator, as soon as possible at sjone416@eq.edu.au or 5562 3522.

**Study Abroad and International Student Program**

Varsity College also hosts students who come to our school for periods ranging from three months to several years. If you are interested in a long term homestay please contact me for the appropriate application.

The Study Tour is a great way to see if you would enjoy opening up your home to a teenager from another country. If this seems like something you would love to be a part of please contact Sue.

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**Step Right Up! Step Right Up!**

The Varsity College Winter Fair is Saturday June 1 from 12 noon to 6pm at Central Park Oval, Assembly Drive, Varsity Lakes (that’s the HIGH SCHOOL oval).

Ride wristbands are still available at the low price of $25ea online at www.varsity.collegefete.com.au

5 hours unlimited rides between 12:30 & 5:30pm. 

*(Remember if you leave it until the day, they go up to $30ea)*

Come and join in the fun. Amusement rides, live entertainment, games, showbags, cakes, jams & pickles, home made sweets, trash’n’treasure, books, toys, hamburgers, sausage sizzle, scones, snow cones, coffee and lots more.

**YES! There will be a dunk tank.**

**Make sure you check out the dunk tank and see if you can dunk your Teacher or a Principal!**

We have a huge variety of prizes for the silent and cent auctions including a holiday valued at up to $1000, One year’s gym membership to Jett’s, a signed Bronco’s jersey, a family portrait, gift vouchers and much, much more.

Bring your gold coins, to have a go at winning a prize and enjoy a day with your family and friends.

And what’s a brilliant day without brilliant fireworks. Proudly sponsored by Kip McGrath Education Centres, the fireworks display will light up the sky at 6pm.

**N.B: This is an alcohol and pet free event.**

This event is proudly brought to you by the Varsity College P&C Association.

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**Gold Sponsors**

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It should also be said that Kip McGrath are the official sponsors of the Fireworks Display.
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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.

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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!

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Thank you for your continued support.

Varsity College P&C

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