30 July 2013

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Last Wednesday night, the Varsity College community gathered for the July P&C meeting where the main issue for consultation was the relocation of grade 6 students to the Senior Campus for 2014. After a school presentation, the Assistant Regional Director and Regional Facilities Manager also spoke of their support for the school and presented the Regional perspective on this relocation. The proposal was then discussed at length and after extensive debating and questioning, a tour of the proposed facilities was held.

Following the tour, all parents and friends gathered for final consideration of the proposal and a vote was taken to support a motion to accept this relocation for 2014. Parents then had the opportunity to offer feedback on the proposal on a wide range of issues surrounding the relocation process. This feedback is currently being sorted so that final decisions around start times, leadership opportunities, break times and other issues are all considered as part of the implementation process. We will also be surveying student opinions so that we can consider their perspective in the decision making process.

This meeting was an important step for the Varsity College community. Not every decision made in a school this size will be considered correct by everyone, but through collaboration and consultation I hope that we, as a community can continue to have a stronger say in the future direction of this College.

By a simple statistical analysis, it is clear that our school has not reached an enrolment peak and I am pleased that the Government solution to provide an additional two permanent facilities to Varsity College. These will future proof the College in terms of growth for many years to come.

At the next P&C meeting, the topic for consideration will be the College application to become an Independent Public School. I will address this issue again via my next News Flash, but ask that as many of you as possible come to the P&C meeting on 21 August to help make a decision on this matter that will affect the long term future of this school. I look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

Jeff Davis
Executive Principal

Family Fun Night

Dear Parents and Caregivers

We are very excited about the P-6 Family Fun Night that will be held next Thursday, 8 August. Here are some details for your information:

Date: Thursday 8 August
Time: 4.30 – 7.00pm.

**Venue:**

**Junior School Campus**
- LENSE Top Floor
- Book Sales
- Departure Lounge
- Bottom Level
- Lense Building – Story Telling (at intervals, from 4.30pm – 6.45pm)

- Parents may purchase books for their children. **Class Wish Lists** will be on display should you wish to purchase another book to donate for your child’s class to have!
- We have Titans players coming along to share a story with children (between 5.30pm and 6.30pm). Teachers will also read some great books to the children between 4.30pm – 6.45pm
- We will have sausage rolls, pies, hot dogs,

**Assistant**

**Junior School**
(07) 5576 9388

**Middle School**
(07) 5562 3555

**Senior School**
(07) 5562 3575
The Secondary Athletics Carnival was extremely successful with high numbers of students participating in the program. Congratulations must go to Michelle Perrone, Sports Coordinator, who organised the program. Students must have achieved qualifying times and distances to be able to be nominated for District Carnivals.

Week 9 will once again be an extremely busy week for the Secondary Campus. Year 12 OP eligible students will complete the QCS tests during this week. Results from these tests go towards the determination of the students’ OP scores. The Middle School Camp Program is also timetabled for this week. Over 500 Middle School students are booked into external camps such as the ski trip, Lady Elliott Island, surf camp, Canberra trip and Emu Gulley. Students not attending an external camp engage in a school based program throughout the week.

Over the coming month, the College will be hosting a number of International visitors to the school. This includes the Principal of Beijing #1 School. This school is one of the highest achieving and sought after schools in Beijing and is one of our current sister city schools which hosts our China Tour visits every second year. The College will also be hosting a Study Tour group from China. This group will be visiting Varsity for a week. I would like to thank all host families who have agreed to take on students during their stay. Finally, the school will be hosting a delegation from Zhu Hai School in south-east China. This school is based within the city that has recently developed a sister city partnership with the Gold Coast City Council. We are hoping to formalise a partnership with this school and add them to the options that are available for our future Chinese Immersion China Tour Program.

The Secondary Campus continues to enforce the College uniform standards as supported by the school P&C. Please note:

- Canvas shoes are not permitted at any time
- After school detentions are given to any students wearing make-up and / or out of school uniform including incorrect jackets and jumpers
- As per previous communication, students are now required to wear black or predominately white shoes with the sports uniform

We are extremely proud of the manner in which students wear the College uniform and would like to again thank all parents for their continued support.

** Please note, as per the uniform policy, students must wear only a Varsity College jumper or a Varsity College jacket during the Winter Months. Year 12 students may wear the Year 12 jersey on a Wednesday and / or Friday only.

On the Secondary Campus, there are number of Support staff available to support student learning and student welfare. These include the Guidance Officers, School Nurse, Behaviour Mentor, Learning Support Teachers, Pathways Officer, and Year Level Coordinators. Students have the opportunity to access these staff members upon their own request or through parent referral. Parent referrals can be made through the relevant Office area.

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We look forward to seeing you all there! Should you be unable to attend, Book Sales will be on from Monday 5 August till Friday 9 August, both before and after school from 8.00am till 3.15pm.

Thank you for supporting this fantastic family event,
The Gold Coast **Eisteddfod Program** is about to commence with many of our students involved in Strings, Instrumental and Choir groups. I am sure I speak on behalf of the school community in wishing all of these students and the associated staff all the very best with their upcoming performances. Results will be published in later publications.

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

**Offices within the Senior Campus**

To assist families when visiting or contacting the Senior Campus we have provided an outline below of the functions performed in each of the two administration offices. The team at Varsity are regularly suggesting ways we can improve our communication with the community and by providing this overview we believe we can operate more efficiently and improve the time in which we assist you.

**Middle School Administration Office - Assembly Drive**
- Year 7, 8 and 9 general enquiries
- New enrolments year 7 to 12
- Academy of Mathematics & Science
- International Department
- Facility – Maintenance and Contractors

**Senior Administration Office - 198 Varsity Parade**
- Year 10, 11 and 12 general enquiries
- Year 7 to 12 sickbay
- Year 7 to 12 student attendance, absence, late or early departure
- Finance Department

**From the desk of the Director of Learning Senior Secondary**

Please find the latest Options Career Information Bulletin

**Year 10 Advanced Sciences Trip to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary**

On Monday, June 17, the Year 10 Advanced Physics/Chemistry and the Biology/Earth Science students boarded buses and made their way to Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary for the day.

For the Physics students the high ropes course tied nicely into the curriculum bringing to life what the students had studied throughout the second term. It was scary for some, difficult for others, and exhilarating for most.

The Biology students attended a slightly less daunting presentation on the animals being cared for at the sanctuary. The presentation was relevant as the end of the semester had been spent studying the loss of biodiversity on earth. As a bonus, the students had the chance to meet some creatures face to face and give them a pat or two.

**Chinese Language students scoop Awards in Global Competition!**

Varsity College Chinese Language students recently competed in the Language Perfect 2013 World Championships with great success. Competing against 225,000 students around the world, our students demonstrated their proficiency winning a string of awards. This is a testimony to the success of both our LOTE and Chinese Immersion Programs, the hard work of our students and the dedication of our team of language teachers.

**Gold Awards for achieving in the top 2%**
- Year 12: Tyler Parker
- Year 10: Elva Cheng, Keris Lay
- Year 8: Julia Chow, Kasey Fadner, Katrin Delore
- Year 7: Kano Nawagawa

**Silver Awards for achieving in the top 5%**
- Year 10: Grace McKenna, Kristen Slattery, Emma Slattery
- Year 9: Ashley Delore, Benjamin Lei
- Year 8: Brodie Swain, Felix Won, Nicole Xie, Sheldon Simpson, Holly Greenman, Karlie Goltz, Jarod Booth, Sophie Tomassen, Ashleigh Galbraith, Monique Bitzios
- Year 7: Chantelle Florenca, Nicholas Smith
Bronze Awards for achieving in the top 10%

Year 11: Jessica Brockett
Year 10: Raechel Suh, Alicia Jarman, Josephine Jong, Derek Lay
Year 9: Chloe Greaves, Zandra White, Tania Koo Sin Lin, Grace Arnett, Jazmin Rogers, Renee Shike, Jessica Dober, Tiffany Hammans, Alyssa Cooper, Renz Mendoza
Year 8: Kyri Philippou, Ella Fowler, Preston Howells, Kenton Lam, Teresa Lu, Nathaniel Dallas, Jason Dinh, Paras Goffman, Samantha Climo, Georgia Davis, Lani Esp-Morse, Tiffany Samonte, Calista Armoo
Year 7: Georgia Kostanski, Luka Bell, Akira Judd, Abigail Hayward

Credit Awards for achieving in the top 20%

Year 10: Laura Ferris, Marlee Taing, Kelvin Chan, Annika Young
Year 9: Sean Samonte, Lily Tu, Jessica Beveridge, Alex Cassar, Hannah Lord, Minjin Kim, Brittany Knight, Katya Doherty, Samuel Ewart, Ella Kennedy
Year 8: Brittany Quinlan
Year 7: Leilani Stacey, Owen Clark, Fion Law, Jack Bloomfield, Tamara White, Zan Vinek, Ruby Pagram, Jenilla Martin, Sydney Wright, Charlotte Hammans, Leah Smith, Deepank Sharma, Serena Thomas, Ruby Stockham, Flora Chen, Jordan Gardiner, Jacky Yin

Special congratulations go to Peyton Cassar, Top Chinese Student in the world, outscoring 225,000 other students with an amazing 44,668 answers for a total of 20,700 points! This is truly a phenomenal result! Peyton collects an Elite Award, engraved medallion and a $100 iTunes voucher!

2013 Varsity College Athletics Carnival

The wonderful weather capped off what was a fantastic day with the student vs. teachers relay culminating an energetic day where the teachers were just pipped at the post by a very talented student team. We’ll get them back next year!

Below is a list of this year’s female and male Athletics Age Champions:

12 Yrs: Charlotte Hammans & Dylan Carr
13 Yrs: Candice Smith & Jason Roux
14 Yrs: Hannah Summers & Lachlan Suter
15 Yrs: Tenelle Hert & Jasper Freitag
16 Yrs: Taylor McKinley & Dominic Meyers
17 Yrs: Gabrielle Sutherland & Leonard Ong

The overall winning house for the 2013 Athletics Carnival is:

1st: Kirra (659 points)
2nd: Rainbow (601 points)
3rd: Miami (467 points)
4th: Burleigh (463 points)

A huge thank you needs to go out to our very own Varsity College Sports Co-ordinator Ms Michelle Perrone for her tireless efforts in organising what was once again a wonderful athletics carnival that allowed our student athletes to display their amazing talents in the sporting arena.

Adam Darragh
Teacher

South Queensland Schools Championship Regatta

The Varsity College Rowing team competed in the South Queensland Schools Championship Regatta at Lake Kawana on Saturday, 13 July, and Sunday, 14 July 2013.

Varsity College Rowing officially achieved seventh overall in the medal count with two gold, one silver and two bronze medals for an overall tally of five medals. Forty six separate schools entered the regatta and a total of twenty six schools received medals.

Just to put this into perspective, the top six schools have the following numbers of students listed as athletes in their rowing programs:

1. St Lukes Anglican School - 119
2. Coomera Anglican College - 145
3. Somerset College - 207
4. Trinity Lutheran College - 187
5. Brisbane Boys School - 161
6. St Margarets AGS – 178
And...
7. Varsity College - 27

This is an amazing effort from such a dedicated team of rowers to be so high in the medal tally against some of the best schools in Queensland not to mention Australia. Varsity College Rowing
has continued to deliver the results under the coaching and mentoring of Alf Duval.

Thank you to Steve Harriott for coming up and supporting the team even though he is on long service leave.

To all the families and supporters who ventured to the Sunshine Coast for the weekend, a fantastic effort. It was mentioned that when the Varsity boys quad won, we sounded like we had won an Olympic gold medal. We may only be a small team but we are definitely the most vocal.

Full results of the South Queensland Schools Championships at Lake Kawana:

**First:**

- **Girls Open Quad:** Lily Hughes, Ashley Creelman, Gemma (KCLF) and Nikki (TLC) (cox Oliver Stacey)
- **Boys Year 9 Quad:** Cameron Cannard, Michael Spratt, Luke Hutchins and Max Jonathon-Hall (cox Ashley Creelman)

**Second:**

- **Girls Year 8 Quad:** Amy Brown, Hunter Hughes, Leilani Stacey and Alesha (SJCBP) (cox Oliver Stacey)

**Third:**

- **Open Pair:** Lily Hughes and Gemma (KCLF)
- **Girls Year 8 Pair:** Mikayla Young, Olivia Harris, Marina Dowie and Olivia Roberts (cox Ashley Creelman)

**Fourth:**

- **Open Double:** Lily Hughes and Gemma (KCLF)
- **U17 Girls Scull:** Lily Hughes
- **Girls under 14 Scull:** Leilani Stacey
- **Girls Year 8 Double:** Hunter Hughes and Leilani Stacey

**Fifth:**

- **Girls under 15 Scull:** Ashley Creelman
- **Girls under 14 Scull:** Mikayla Young
- **Boys Year 8 Quad:** Oliver Stacey, Mason Dowd, Hayden Kemp and Jake Satherley (cox Olivia Roberts)
- **Girls Year 8 Double:** Mikayla Young and Olivia Roberts
- **Boys under 15 Scull:** Cameron Cannard

**Sixth:**

- **Boys Year 8 Quad:** Ben Satherley, Connor Cliff, Matthew Gardiner and Tom Larson (cox Hunter Hughes)
- **Boys under 15 Scull:** Michael Spratt

**Seventh:**

- **Boys Year 9 Double:** Luke Hutchins and Michael Spratt

All the Varsity College Rowing team are to be applauded for their outstanding efforts throughout the weekend. The entire team represented themselves, their families and their school with pride.

Well done everyone for such fabulous and memorable weekend.

**GO VARSITY!**
A play, you say?

It is with great excitement that I can announce the Secondary Campus will be staging our first College Play “Alice in Wonderland” in 2014.

We will begin the audition process on Friday of Week 7 (23rd August) and all students in years 7-10 will have an opportunity to audition. Information about the audition process will be distributed on student notices, so ask your children to keep reading their notices each week.

I am very proud to be able to offer such a fantastic opportunity to students who would like to ‘tread the boards’.

Keep the following dates up your sleeve:


“There is a place. Like no place on Earth. A land full of wonder, mystery, and danger! Some say to survive it; you need to be as mad as a hatter … which luckily I am.” ~Alice in Wonderland

Michelle Murtagh
Head of Department Creative Arts

Australian Government Assistance for national Capital Excursion

Students from Varsity College Middle School will soon be undertaking an educational tour of our National Capital, as part of the Varsity College Outdoor Education Week. While on this tour they participate in a variety of educational programmes focused on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist parents in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of $60 per student. This funding is provided under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) programme.

We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

We hope that the excursion is a rewarding experience for all students involved.

Shane Thackeray
Camp Co-ordinator

Dental Clinic / Van Offer of Oral Health

Students in grades (10,9,8,7A,7B,7C,7D) 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.

ACROSS CAMPUS NEWS

Final phase of the Daniel Morcombe child safety curriculum now available

The Department of Education, Training and Employment has released the Years 7 – 9 (Junior Secondary) phase of the Daniel Morcombe child safety curriculum.

This is the third and final phase, completing the suite of lesson plans available for Queensland schools in all year levels from Prep to Year 9.

The lessons have been developed by a high-level government working group including Queensland child safety ambassadors Bruce and Denise Morcombe to develop students’ personal safety and awareness including cyber and phone safety.


Buy Smart

Learn to shop smart and win a share of over $11 000

Young people from Varsity College students are encouraged to take part in the Buy Smart Competition 2013, run by the Office of Fair Trading.

This is an exciting opportunity to learn to be smart with money, become informed consumers and learn how to avoid financial problems later in life. You could also win a share of over $11 000!

To take part, all you have to do is identify and research a consumer issue and create an innovative way to present the issue to your chosen target audience. The more creative, the better!

Previous winning entries include a traditional board game with an incorporated computer component, consumer posters, a DVD on buying a car and a wipe on/off activity book for small children.

Prizes will be awarded in three categories:

- Years 4–6
- Years 7–9
- Years 10–12.

There are cash prizes for the winners and runners-up of each category for both the entrant(s) and Varsity College.

- First prize - $500 for yourself and $1500 for Varsity College.
- Second prize - $200 for yourself and $800 for Varsity College.
- Third prize - $150 for yourself and $500 for Varsity College.
Entries close Friday 20 September 2013.
The competition is open to Queensland students currently in Years 4-12.
Entries are judged on their quality, creativity, effectiveness and identification of a fair trading issue.
You can enter on your own or as part of a group of up to six people.
For more information: talk to Nicola Berry or email nberr4@eq.edu.au. For an entry kit and other resources visit: www.fairtrading.qld.gov.au/buy-smart-competition.htm, email: buysmart@qld.gov.au or call the Office of Fair Trading on 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

How many apples will you give in 2013?
QT Mutual Bank’s Staffroom for Improvement is back again this year giving our school the chance to win a $20,000 staffroom makeover.

With the competition kicking off on Wednesday 28 August we are trying to encourage as many staff, parents and friends as possible to vote for our school in the hope of taking out the top honours in 2013.

While the ultimate prize of a $20,000 staffroom makeover will undoubtedly be appreciated by our school staff, there is also a chance for individual voters to share in a $5000 prize pool.

QTMB Marketing Manager Chris Moses said although the competition originally started as a way of giving back to teachers, over the years it has grown to be a much bigger community event.

“We’ve seen the competition gain a life of its own, which is a testament to how much communities want to see their teachers rewarded for everything they do”.

To be crowned the 2013 winners we will need as much support as possible so make sure you register for this years competition by visiting www.staffroomforimprovement.com.au

COMING EVENTS

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