EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

In the last few weeks, two of our outstanding students have been recognised for their incredible academic achievements. Firstly Peyton Cassar was the International winner of the “Language Perfect” Chinese language section. Peyton is in her final year of the Chinese Immersion program and her achievement acknowledges her profound understanding of the Mandarin language. This assessment was based on her on-line progression through a series of language based problems over a set period of time. Congratulations Peyton for your success in this competition.

Last week the school was informed that year 11 student, Rachael Tomassen was recognised through the ICAS testing program, as the highest achieving year 11 student in Queensland in the area of literacy. Rachael is an outstanding student and a great role model to all students at this school. Over her many years of study at Varsity College, Rachael has shown a commitment to her studies, and has made exemplary use of the digital technology to support her learning. This is a great testament to her hard work and dedication. I would like to congratulate Rachael on this achievement.

Many parents ask why Varsity College places such an importance on building a world leading digital platform. From the very beginning I stated that the advantages of such a learning platform would be cumulative and that the longer a student remained in this program, the better their learning outcomes would be. It is difficult to specifically attribute improved learning directly to the use of computers, but we can start to plot trends and in the future we will be able to look back and see if the overall learning of students has improved year after year. Anecdotally, we can see that last year’s Year 12 outcomes were the best we have had, which was also the case in year 9 NAPLAN. Interestingly, the scores in years 3, 5 & 7 were not as high as previous years and these students all had limited ICT access in the years leading up to this testing. This is by no way a compelling argument, but when a trend emerges like this, we start to look hard and see if there are data sets to further support this trend. I will keep parents informed of this over the next two or so years.

The biggest issue on our agenda at the moment is whether Varsity College applies to become an Independent Public School (IPS). Last year when the P&C considered this proposal, there was not a great deal of clarity in regards to the purpose and ongoing requirements of schools entering the IPS program. Over the last few months, it has become apparent that IPS schools are significantly advantaged in terms of decision making autonomy, financial gain and the ability to operate with fewer bureaucratic restrictions, while still adhering to the same accountability measures. Last year we joined the Australian Government’s “Empowering Local Schools National Partnership” initiative, which was established to help inform the range of issues that could benefit from local decision making in all schools. The school received $50,000 grant funding for this initiative which has been spent on a range of local programs that have all been of tremendous success to students, staff and parents. To be able to make local decisions based on the needs of our community has been exciting and resulted in more opportunities applicable to our students.

I believe the time is right for Varsity College as one of Queensland’s leading public schools to apply for this status and to take further control of the future we want for this school. Over the past year, I have been discussing this issue with the P&C and staff. Last week the staff, (both teaching and non-teaching) voted overwhelmingly in favour of applying to become an IPS school. In 2014, an additional 34 schools from across Queensland will be selected to join this program with the 30 existing schools that are part of the 2013 trial.

I have provided some details below for consideration to assist parents in their understanding of what this means for Varsity College. However the best source of advice will come from accessing the following website;


Becoming an IPS school would provide considerable advantages for Varsity College moving into the future;

1. Staffing appointments managed by the College
2. Financial flexibility to invest in programs that improve student learning
3. Decision making for the College to be made at school level through school and community based consultation
4. Developing College policies to meet community expectations and needs

There are many other concerns that have been raised; however these are quickly addressed by the following points;

1. IPS schools are still public schools
2. Increases in school charges will follow the same processes that we currently adhere to
3. Varsity College will not become a Private School
4. The overwhelming point is that everything would occur through this school via consultation with all members of the community

13 August 2013
In response to the most commonly asked questions;

**How do Queensland Independent Public Schools differ from other state schools?**

Queensland Independent Public Schools have greater flexibility to enable innovation that improves performance through:

- managing their planning and review processes
- determining staffing options
- determining the departmental policies and procedures that best suit their individual communities.

All Independent Public Schools remain part of the strong state school system. They need to operate within the system enacting the same core values, beliefs and priorities.

**How can schools become an Independent Public School?**

All Queensland state schools, irrespective of size, geographical location or school type, can apply to become an Independent Public School in 2014 through an open Expression of Interest (EOI) process.

Prior to submitting an EOI, it is essential that principals undertake broad consultation with their school communities. Principals may use existing consultative groups to ensure the whole school community has the opportunity to provide input and to gain an understanding of all stakeholder views. Consultation will gauge community interest in becoming an Independent Public School.

When submitting an EOI, schools need to provide documentation of no more than three A4 pages to demonstrate:

- the consultation that has occurred across groups, including a summary of their views
- the school’s capacity to assume greater responsibility for their affairs
- the potential benefits for students and the broader school community
- the innovative educational programs or practices that the school will implement to improve student performance.

**How are schools selected for the initiative?**

A Department of Education, Training and Employment internal panel considers all Independent Public School applications. Schools that are in the best position to use increased autonomy to improve student outcomes are selected. Additionally, the schools selected represent the diversity of state schools across Queensland.

**How many schools are involved?**

There is an opportunity for at least 120 schools to become Independent Public Schools over a four-year period from 2013 to 2016. This includes the selection of 26 schools for the program in 2013. Thirty-four schools will be selected to take part in 2014. Further opportunities to express interest to become an Independent Public School will be provided each year, with a minimum of 30 schools to be selected annually until 2016.

From 2017 the IPS program will be expanded through Great Teachers=Great Results.

**What does school governance look like in an Independent Public School?**

Independent Public Schools are required to have a school council. This enables greater involvement of the school community and other stakeholders, such as industry, in setting the strategic direction of the school. School councils approve and monitor the school’s strategic direction, strengthening local decision-making. In addition, principals have a performance agreement with the Director-General.

**How do staffing processes differ for Independent Public Schools?**

Principals at Independent Public Schools can choose between directly recruiting teachers (where vacancies exist) or by filling vacancies through existing department applicant pools or the transfer system. They can also access the relocation process for classified teaching staff.

**Do Independent Public Schools follow departmental policies?**

While Independent Public Schools are not required to follow a number of operational procedures, they are required to operate within legislation, industrial instruments, directives, delegations, whole-of-government policy and national agreements.

The biggest difference that will result from a successful application to the IPS program will be the establishment of a School Council for Varsity College. The following extract details what this would look like in our context;

*Under the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 the chief executive may establish a school council for a state school.*

**Composition**

- The number of members of a school council must be at least six and not more than 15.
- A school council must include at least:
  - one elected parent member
  - one elected staff member (the number of elected parent members and elected staff members of a school council must be equal).
- A school council must include not more than:
  - two elected student members
  - two appointed members.
- A school council must include at least:
  - one elected student member (if the state school provides Years 10, 11 or 12).
The official members of a school council are:
- the school principal
- the Parents & Citizens’ (P&C) Association president.

All members of a school council (except co-opted student members – that is, students not in Years 10, 11 or 12) are able to vote at council meetings.

Chairperson

A school council must elect one of the council’s members as chairperson of the council. The school’s principal may not be elected as chairperson; however the P&C president is eligible.

Functions

The role of a school council is to:
- monitor the school’s strategic direction
- approve:
  - plans and policies of the school of a strategic nature
  - other documents affecting strategic matters, including the annual estimate of revenue and expenditure for the school.
- monitor the implementation of the plans, policies and other documents mentioned above
- advise the school principal about strategic matters.

The council must perform its functions in a way that achieves the best learning outcomes for the school’s students.

Term of office

Each elected member, or appointed member, of a school council holds office for the term, not longer than two years, stated in the council’s constitution.

However, if newly established, the council’s constitution may provide for half of the first elected members to hold office for a term of not longer than three years.

Meetings

- A school council must meet at least twice in each semester.
- The school council’s chairperson must preside at all council meetings at which the chairperson is present.
- A question at a school council meeting, other than a question about an amendment of the council’s constitution, must be decided by a majority of the votes of the council members present.

Legal accountabilities

- A member of a school council does not incur civil liability for an act done, or omission made, honestly and without negligence under the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006.

Role of the P&C

- School councils will have the responsibility to approve the strategic documents that set the direction, culture and tone of the school. The P&C president will be on the school council to represent the views of the P&C Association.
- The Independent Public Schools initiative will not have any impact on the functions of P&Cs.

Out-of-scope

A school council cannot:
- interfere with management by the school’s principal of day-to-day operations of the school and its curriculum
- make operational decisions about the use of teaching or learning resources at the school
- make decisions about the individual teaching style used, or to be used, at the school
- make a decision that is contrary to law or a written policy of the department
- control funds
- enter into contracts
- acquire, hold, dispose of or deal with property
- sue or be sued
- establish a committee or subcommittee.

In essence, becoming an IPS will greatly enhance the overall performance of Varsity College while the community will see very little difference. As the largest school in Queensland, we are ideally placed to receive maximum benefit from inclusion in this program.

I will be holding a public information session at 6pm on Wednesday 21 August in the Primary School LENSE building to allow parents further time to understand the implications of this program. This will be followed by the P&C meeting at 6:30pm where this topic will be discussed and voted for.

I look forward to seeing as many parents as possible at these meetings.

Regards,

Jeff Davis
Executive Principal

Junior School News

Primary Campus News

On behalf of the Primary School I would like to wish our entrants in the Eisteddfod all the very best. Our Arts staff and students have worked extremely hard in ensuring everyone is well prepared; and the experience of performing in front of an audience at the Gold Coast Arts Centre is a great opportunity.

We welcome Pre-Service intern teachers from Griffith University who have commenced their final practicum before they graduate. They will be working collaboratively with their classroom teacher mentor over a thirty day period across the Primary campus.
Many of our students are looking forward to participating in the World Vision Challenge on Friday 16 August. Thank you to Mrs Peta Johnstone and Ms Brittany Barr for their organisation and continued support of Student Council activities.

**Year 5 Camp**

On August 27 to 29, (Group 1) and September 10 to 12, (Group 2) Year 5 students will be attending a 3-day Adventure Program. This program involves the students travelling by bus each day to the Tallebudgera School to participate in a variety of skill and team building activities.

To maximise the amount of time to participate in the activities we are asking the students to arrive promptly at school by 8:30am on the three days of camp to allow for an early departure time from the school of 8:45am. Students will return each day at 2:50pm.

The permission note, medical consent and payment of $88.50 for the adventure program needs to be returned to school by Monday 12 August.

Due to the Tallebudgera Beach School’s requirements regarding final numbers and paper work, this payment cut-off date will be final and late payments will not be accepted.

This camp has always been found to be beneficial both educationally and socially for the students who have gone in the past. Please ensure that your child does not miss out on this wonderful opportunity and return your notes and payments before the cut-off date.

Group 1 students who are participating in the Strings Eisteddfod from 27 to 29 August will be able to attend the Group 2 Adventure Program from 10 to 12 September so as not to miss out on these wonderful activities.

**ICAS Results for Years 3-6**

Students from Varsity College achieved outstanding results when they participated in ICAS Computer Skills testing. Those students whose achievements were outstanding were rewarded with Certificates of Credit, Distinction and High Distinction.

ICAS testing is developed by Educational Assessment Australia. At Varsity College, parents are given the choice to enter their child in ICAS testing.

Congratulations to all students who participated in ICAS testing. Below are the students who were awarded the Certificates of Credit, Distinction and High Distinction.

**Student Council**

On Monday, 19 August the Primary Campus will be holding the annual RSPCA Cupcake Day to raise much needed funds for the RSPCA. Students will be able to purchase a homemade cupcake at morning tea and lunch (supplies permitting) for a gold coin donation. All money raised will go directly to the RSPCA to help with all the amazing work they do for animals around the country.

Student Council will hold the annual 8 Hour Challenge on Friday, 16 August as part of World Vision’s 40 Hour Famine. We have close to 100 students from the Junior School signed up. These students are collecting donations to support them in giving up something that’s important to them for 8 hours. All funds raised will go directly to World Vision to combat hunger in Malawi, Africa.

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

**UniFy - Design 3.0**

UniFy is a course run through web conferencing. Each week we log onto our computers and connect to our teacher through i-connect. Twenty eight students from Year 5 and 6 were selected to participate in the course.

Each week we are given design challenges using the Design Thinking Process of Empathise-Investigate-Ideate-Produce-Evaluate.

We have been working diligently on some exciting projects. It is a fantastic and interesting program where we have designed an animated cartoon using the ‘Scratch’ program, a Ruben Goldberg Machine and lights using circuits. We have really enjoyed the course so far and are looking forward to completing more design challenges.

*By Alexandria 6S*
Senior for a Day

Senior for a Day is an interesting extension program for a selected group of grade six students. Every Thursday when school finishes we take a fine, calm walk to the Senior Campus. When we arrive we participate in a variety of lessons which the Senior School students complete.

On our first visit to the high school we did Geography. Our teacher was Mr Standen. He was very funny and dramatic. On that day we learnt how to do mapping on the computers and we also learnt why the Red Sea is red. We loved learning with him and look forward to being with him when we are senior students.

On our second trip to the high school, we learnt how to make movies. Our teacher was Mr Reid. He trusted us with the advanced movie-filming cameras and told us how to use the special effects. When we were there, we learnt how to cast the “focus” and how to use the “dead cat” (the sound recorder).

Entrepreneurship is what we got to experience on our third lesson at the Senior Campus. Our teacher was Mrs Berry. We learnt about famous entrepreneurs and what they’re famous for. We learnt what abilities and characteristics we need to be an entrepreneur and what kind of business people we are, by taking a really cool test on the internet.

We have learnt so much already and we’re all looking forward to doing more.

By Suri and Ada

Water Wise Presentation

Last Tuesday all of the Year 2’s went to the Water Wise presentation held by Miss Street and it was in the Science lab. We learnt how to conserve water instead of wasting water. We even learnt some new science words such as, evaporation, condensation and precipitation.

Written by Serena 2S

On July 30, last Tuesday, every Year 2 class went to a Water Wise presentation by Miss Street. We learnt how to conserve water and about the water cycle. We learnt a song and it goes like this:

The water cycle goes round, yes it does.
The water cycle goes round yes it does.
It goes up, evaporation,
Forms clouds, condensation,
Falls down, precipitation.
Yes it does, Yeehaaa!

Written by Tin 2S

Coming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eisteddfod Commissions</td>
<td>12 August – 29 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Vision Challenge</td>
<td>Friday, 16 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSPCA Cupcake Day</td>
<td>Monday, 19 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5 Camp</td>
<td>27 August – 29 August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast Show Holiday</td>
<td>Friday, 30 August</td>
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SECONDARY CAMPUS NEWS

From the Campus Director

The first round of offers to current Year 5 and 6 students have been distributed for the 2014 Academy of Mathematics and Science Program. These students have been identified through analysis of systemic and school-based data. Further identification of capable students in Years 5 and 6 will be conducted throughout the remainder of the school year. Identification of current Year 7 and 8 students will be conducted over the next couple of weeks. A prospectus outlining the Academy program will be available by the end of this month.

This year, Julie Little has been nominated as the school’s teacher representative for the Secondary Teacher of the Year Award. Julie is currently undertaking the Year 12 Coordinators role additional to her classroom teaching allocation. The initiatives that she has implemented have enhanced the engagement and achievement of a number of students. I am sure I write on behalf of the school community in wishing Julie all the best for this award.

Camp Week is now only three weeks away. All students have either been assigned to one of the external camps on offer or the school-based program. External camp options include Ski Trip, Sydney / Canberra Tour, Lady Elliott Island, Noosa North Shore, Emu Gulley and Surfing Camp. So that all camps can function effectively and to allow a wide selection of camps to choose from, over forty staff have committed themselves to attending an external camp. This is an amazing number of staff who are happy to commit their time for 24hrs a day for in some cases up to five or six days.

This term, Middle School students have the opportunity to engage in the year level Sporting Program for one afternoon a week. The program allows students to compete against students within their year level in a range of sporting options. Students will have the opportunity of engaging in the Club Sport Program in Term 4. Information regarding this program will be distributed later in the term.

The Careers Expo Program for Year 10 students and their parents will be held on Tuesday, August 13. The Careers Expo provides attendees with information that will guide subject selections for Year 11 next year. The program commences at 5pm in the Senior Learning Centre.
Planning is underway for the transition of both the current Year 5 and 6 students into the Secondary Campus for the 2014 school year. Over the coming weeks, information will be provided to parents to clearly outline transition programs and to communicate details of the 2014 Program in response to feedback provided by parents at the recent P&C Meeting.

Stephen O'Brien
Director of Secondary Campus

Year 12 Information

GRiffith University Information

Griffith University - Guaranteed Admission Scheme

Applications for the 2013 Griffith Connect Guaranteed Admission Scheme are now open and will be closing on Friday 20 September. We will be introducing an online application process soon, and will notify you when this is available. In the meantime, we will accept any hardcopy applications.

Contact the Future Students team on 1800 677 728 for more information.

Griffith University - Aptitude for Engineering Assessment

Registrations are open until 10 September for the Aptitude for Engineering Assessment http://www.griffith.edu.au/engineering-information-technology/griffith-school-engineering/future-students/aptitude-engineering-assessment the test offers students a pathway into engineering. Successful students will receive admission into the Bachelor of Engineering or the Bachelor of Engineering Technology at either the Nathan or Gold Coast campus.

Find out more about the Aptitude for Engineering Assessment, including key dates, how to register, and eligibility criteria. http://www.griffith.edu.au/engineering-information-technology/griffith-school-engineering/future-students/aptitude-engineering-assessment

Griffith University 2014 Scholarships now open

Applications for scholarships for 2014 are now open. Griffith offers more than 600 scholarships available with a total value of more than $4 million dollars. Scholarships support and encourage students from different backgrounds, and are available across a range of categories, including: academic, equity, sports, study area, accommodation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander. Find out more about how to apply, key dates and eligibility for Griffith University Scholarship. Scholarship applications close on 15 November. http://www.griffith.edu.au/scholarships

GOLD CoAST TAFE INFORMATION

Gold Coast TAFE – Direct Entry

Gold Coast Direct Entry into Diploma programs for 2014 is now open. Students have had information sessions with the TAFE School Liaison Officer this term and applications close at 5pm on 6 September 2013. Find out more on the Gold Coast TAFE website. For an application form visit http://gcit.edu.au/resources/pdf/gcit-direct-entry-scholarship-application.pdf

Southern Cross University Information – STAR Program Applications

Southern Cross University’s Star Entry Program is now open for online registration.

Access it via www.scu.edu.au/star

Instructions:

1. Select a first and second preference course
2. Match this preference with your first preference in QTAC to be made an offer
3. You will be notified of the outcome by email after 15 October
4. You will receive the formal offer via QTAC offer rounds

Please note the following:

Engineering, Law and Teacher Education require students to have a very high level of academic achievement.

Courses not on offer through STAR in 2014 are Occupational Therapy and Midwifery

QTAC

Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre – Application now open Year 12s only

QTAC has opened for university applications - Thursday 1 August 2013. The due date for on-time applications is Friday 27 September 2013; higher application fees apply after this date.

Year 12 students: http://www.qtac.edu.au/

Varsity College process to support Year 12s through QTAC Applications

• Week 10 Parent letter mailed out outlining process
• You will have to sign up to a small group QTAC session to commence your QTAC application with GOs

• Week 11 6-8 Yr 12s at time on Top Floor SLC with GOs complete their 6 preferences (no payment compulsory at this time)

• Week 11 AT HOME – complete the payment for your application.
• Print out 2 copies and bring one in to Mrs Reid/Mrs Neilsen/Mr Haydock/Mrs MacDonald

QTAC guides have now been distributed. Please see Mrs Reid if your student has not received their copy.
Year 11 Information

Griffith University Early Start to Tertiary Studies Program (GUESTS)

The Griffith University Early Start to Tertiary Studies (GUESTS) Program is for senior students who wish to undertake a single course (subject) at Griffith. Students in Year 11 can now apply for the Summer Semester (closing 15 September) and Semester 1 2014 (closing 15 October).

Find out more on the GUESTS website http://www.griffith.edu.au/admissions/guests-program

Diploma of Business 2014 – King’s UniTech

Students were emailed this flyer on Tuesday 5 August.

Year 11 students must follow this process in order to access this course for 2014:

1. Attending the meeting at 4pm on Tuesday 13 August 2013 at Varsity College
2. Arrange an interview with a school Guidance Office BEFORE applications submitted; attendance, work ethic and SET Plan review with parents/guardians will be conducted prior to enrolment.
3. Apply via Mrs Karla Reid
4. Make payment to King’s UniTech before the commencement of the course in 2014.

Year 10 Information

Careers Expo – Tuesday 13 August 5pm

SET Plan Interviews – Year 10 into 11 Subject Selection Meetings

Year 10 families will receive a letter in the mail within the next two weeks outlining the dates and times for the Year 10 SET Plan interviews. These interviews comprise of the compulsory Student Education and Training Plan which every fifteen year old student in Queensland is required to complete.

This meeting will form the culminating activity for the Year 10 SET plan activities currently being undertaken in the Year 10 Futures time. Pathways options and subject selection will be discussed and completed at this meeting therefore it is imperative that all students and their guardian attend.

If you do not receive a letter outlining how to make your appointment online by Friday 23 August, please email Mrs Karla Reid. kreid16@eq.edu.au

Alice in Wonderland

In case you missed our last newsletter, our inaugural College Play “Alice in Wonderland” will be performed in term 2, 2014.

Our audition process takes place 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 has been distributed on student notices, so ask your children to ensure they have their audition pieces ready.

To be a part of the audience, please keep the following dates available:

- May 30th 2014 at 6.30pm
- May 31st 2014 at 2.00pm and 6.30pm

“You would have to be half mad to dream me up.” ~Alice in Wonderland

Michelle Murtagh
Head of Department Creative Arts

1:1 Office Information

Information for parents and students on caring for their laptop.

Take care of your device

To ensure reliable device function, certain basic rules must be followed. Students are responsible for the care of their device.

General Precautions:

- No food or drink is allowed next to your device while it is in use.
- Drinks or other liquids are not to be carried in the same bag as your device.
- Never remove plugs or cords by tugging at the cable. Cords, cables and other devices are to be inserted and removed carefully.
- Students must not carry the device with the screen open – unless directed by a teacher.
- Ensure the battery is fully charged each day.

Carrying the Device:

- Screens must be closed prior to transporting the device.
- Devices should always be carried within their protective sleeve.
- Carry the minimum amount of paperwork in the same carry bag as the device to prevent pressure on the screen.
- Students must not carry drinks or other liquids in the same bag as the device.

Screen Care:

- The screen can be damaged through pressure.
- Do not poke at the screen.
- Do not lean on the device when it is closed.
- Do not place anything on the keyboard before closing the lid.
- Do not place anything in the carry case that could press against the cover.
- Clean the screen with a soft dry cloth or anti-static cloth.
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

ACROSS CAMPUS NEWS

Varsity Mathletes – Already ahead of the rest

The recent introduction of the Academy of Mathematics and Science in Years 9&10 has already started to produce some outstanding results with a large number of students entering regional mathematics competitions in the last two weeks.

A mix of Academy students and other Varsity Mathletes competed in the Canterbury Mathematics Team Challenge on Thursday 25 July and received some outstanding results. Teams participated from Year 6 right through to Year 11 and all finished in the top 10 in their division. This is an outstanding result given that most schools participating were private schools who had participated in previous years. The following article is from Zoe Tebbutt who competed on the day.

On Thursday July 25, a small group of Varsity students headed off to Canterbury College in Waterford. We participated in two rounds of intense mathematics in the annual Maths Team Challenge. These rounds consisted of a Team challenge first up and then a relay after lunch. We had several teams competing including two primary teams, a year 8 team, two junior teams and a senior team. In the first round of competition we had forty five minutes to answer twelve difficult and challenging maths problems. Time management was key to completing all questions and obtaining the most points. Each correct question was worth a different amount and after the first round, two of our teams were tying first place on the score board for their division. We had a brief lunch break and then straight back to business with the commencement of the team relay event.
In this round, there were five competitors in each team, with two completing one question at a time. After every four questions were either answered or passed, the team would rotate around the table in a clockwise fashion, meaning a different pair would form to answer the next lot of complex questions.

In order to complete the twenty questions in one hour, teams would have to set aside an average of three minutes per question. Every time a team provided an incorrect answer the question would be worth one less point. If a question was passed, then no points were awarded for that question and the team could not go back to it later on.

All Varsity teams did substantially well in this event, considering the limited preparation time for the whole competition. During this round, our team (Varsity A, Junior Division) succeeded in answering most of the questions correctly, and miraculously answering a question or two within twenty seconds.

The presentation took place shortly after the scores were finalised and medals as well as perpetual trophies were awarded to teams that placed first to third in their respective divisions. All Varsity teams placed in the top ten in all the divisions and our team placed third, receiving medals and certificates. We were the only non-private school to place in the top three in any divisions. Overall the day was outstanding and a great experience.

Congratulations to all of the students above and we look forward to updating you with more student results from the Australian Mathematics Competition and Year 8 QAMT Maths Quiz in the next few weeks.

**Darren Rackemann**

A Golden Day for Varsity College Rowing.

It was a Golden day for Varsity College Rowing at the 2013 University Challenge and Griffith Regatta held at Coomera. Our rowers who will be attending the State Championships competed against other rowers who are rowing with universities or a club.

The Varsity College Rowing team has continued its domination by officially coming fourth overall from the 49 clubs and schools competing. Our rowers won seven gold medals, four silver medals and five bronze medals.

The results from today are as follows:

**Gold Medal Winners:**

- Schoolgirls Scull: Lily
- Schoolgirls U16 Scull: Ashley
- Men’s Group 4 Scull: Michael and Max
- Men’s Group 4 Double: Cameron and Michael
- Schoolgirls Quad: Ashley and Lilly plus composite crew (coxed by Oliver)
- Men’s Group 4 Quad: Cameron, Max, Michael and Luke

**Silver Medals:**

- Women’s Group 4 Double: Leilani and Olivia
- Women’s Group 4 Double: Hunter and Mikayla
- Men’s Group 4 Double: Max and Luke
- Women’s Group 4 Quad: Leilani, Olivia, Mikayla and Hunter

**Bronze Medals:**

- Women’s Group 4 Scull: Mikayla
- Schoolgirls Double: Lily and composite

This was another brilliant effort by the Varsity College Rowing team.

Varsity College Rowing will be hosting the next regatta on 24 and 25 August at Murwillumbah. Our rowers would like to...
all Varsity College staff, students and families to attend this fun event on the beautiful Tweed River.

The address is Murwillumbah Rowing Club, 33 Tumbulgum Road, Murwillumbah NSW 2484.

For more information on our regatta and our raffle, go to www.varsitycollegerowing.com

GO VARSITY!

P – 12 Instrumental Music News

The Gold Coast Eisteddfod is on again!

Our instrumental and vocal students have been working hard all year on developing their musical skills and repertoire which they now have the opportunity to showcase at the Gold Coast Eisteddfod.

The Gold Coast Eisteddfod is an excellent performance opportunity that also allows students to watch and learn from other ensembles. Varsity College has a tradition of exemplary participation in the Eisteddfod.

Parents and family are welcome and encouraged to attend their child’s performance. All performances will take place at The Gold Coast Arts Centre, 135 Bundall Road, Surfers Paradise. There are a number of ticket purchase options available. This information can be found on the website www.goldcoasteisteddfod.com.au

All session times have been indicated on the links, entitled “Primary Eisteddfod Timetable 2013” & “Secondary Eisteddfod Timetable 2013” This information along with an Eisteddfod explanation letter and permission form was handed out to all participating students at their ensemble rehearsal last week as well as emailed home to all parents of instrumental and vocal students.

If by chance, you haven’t received the necessary notification, please email mshir11@eq.edu.au and ask specifically for the Primary or Secondary Eisteddfod information.

If you require further information please contact the appropriate ensemble director by email:

Ms Michelle Wilson  
mcdo232@eq.edu.au

Mr David Maddick  
dmadd38@eq.edu.au

Miss Astin Blaik  
ablai38@eq.edu.au

Mr Tony Rea  
trea19@eq.edu.au

Mr Mat Caulton  
mcaul7@eq.edu.au

Miss Nicole Elkins  
neiki1@eq.edu.au

Geoff Watson  
Instrumental Music Coordinator

Dental Clinic / Van Offer of Oral Health

Students in grades (10,9,8,7A,7B,7C,7D,7E,7F,7G,7H,7I,7J,7K) 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.

Uniform Shop News

Opening Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prep/Junior Uniform Shop</th>
<th>Ph. 5576 9308</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8:00am to 10:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:00am to 3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle/Senior Uniform Shop</td>
<td>8:00am to 11:00 am</td>
<td>Ph. 5562 3512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8:00am to 10:30am</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>8:00am to 11:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8:00am to 11:00 am</td>
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Winter Uniform

Jackets, Jumpers & Track pants are now back in stock.
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

Calling all student filmmakers, animators and video game makers

Entries are now open for Screen It 2013, Australia’s largest moving image competition for primary and secondary students.

The Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) Screen It 2013 Competition is proudly supported by Bullying. No Way! (http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au/index.html) and this year’s theme looks at how people connect.

Registration is free and entries close 5 pm, Friday 13 September. More information is available on http://www.acmi.net.au/screenit.aspx.

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 28th 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep to Year 12</td>
<td>12 August 2013 onwards</td>
<td>Music Eisteddfod performances commence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>12 to 14 August 2013</td>
<td>Biology Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10 to 12</td>
<td>13 August 2013</td>
<td>Career Expo &amp; Information Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep to Year 12</td>
<td>16 August 2013</td>
<td>World Vision Challenge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep to Year 12</td>
<td>17 to 23 August 2013</td>
<td>Children’s Book Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>19 August 2013</td>
<td>RSPCA Cupcake Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep to Year 12</td>
<td>21 August 2012</td>
<td>Maths Olympiad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep to Year 12</td>
<td>21 August 2013</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>27 to 29 August 2013</td>
<td>Year 5 Tallebudgera Camp (Group 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep to Year 12</td>
<td>30 August 2013</td>
<td>Gold Coast Show Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle School</td>
<td>2 September 2013</td>
<td>Commencement of Middle School camp week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>3 &amp; 4 September 2013</td>
<td>Year 12 QCS Tests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>10 to 12 September 2013</td>
<td>Year 5 Tallebudgera Camp (Group 2)</td>
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<td>Prep to Year 12</td>
<td>11 September 2013</td>
<td>Maths Olympiad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep to Year 12</td>
<td>12 September 2013</td>
<td>R U OK? Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep to Year 12</td>
<td>18 September 2013</td>
<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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