EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Throughout the last three weeks, the Gold Coast Eisteddfod competition has been held and students from all areas of our instrumental music and choral programs have been competing in different sections of this competition. In the main, it has been a very successful competition for our students with many of our ensembles winning their respective sections.

Congratulations and thank you to our staff for their hard work in getting our groups ready for this competition. They have worked tirelessly from the early hours of the morning to late afternoons to work with students in refining their skills. Tony Rae has been with Varsity College for the last four years and will finish his teaching at Varsity College straight after the Eisteddfod competition to pursue other career options. On behalf of the entire Varsity College community, I would like to publically acknowledge the tremendous work that Tony has done in this time and to also wish him every success in the future.

On the weekend, a group of grade 5 students from this school competed in the “Gold Coast Tournament of the Minds”. The students performed exceptionally well and placed second overall, qualifying themselves for the State finals later this year. Once again, we wish them every success, and especially thank their teachers, Karli Brosman and Morgan Waring who volunteered their time and efforts to train the students in readiness for this competition. Without their support, our students could not compete in this competition.

The College is progressing with changes to support the movement of grade 6 to the Senior Campus next year. Negotiations with the Department of Transport and Main Roads are continuing, but the additional drop off bay option in front of the Middle School office is a high priority that looks like being created to support this transition. Work will begin on classroom refurbishment during the upcoming holiday period and this will be something that will ensure that our grade 6 students will have the best learning environment possible. Further planning involving the students is regularly taking place and parents from the grade 5 group are being regularly updated on developments in the College plan.

This week Varsity College submitted an application to become an Independent Public School. This is an exciting development in the school’s history, as overall, the community has been very supportive of this application. The application was very comprehensive; once again highlighting the amazing things that have been achieved at this school over the last few years. We, as a community should feel proud of what our students have achieved and also the way in which all members of the College staff have worked to build exceptional learning programs and activities to support students. The final decisions for successful Independent Public Schools will be announced early in term 4.

I would like to wish the year 12 students the best of luck in their QCS tests next week. The students have worked tirelessly throughout the year to hone their skills for this test and we wish them every success. I would also like to acknowledge the incredible work that has been done behind the scenes by Karla Reid and her QCS team who have implemented a thorough program to enhance student skills. Without this hard work, our students would have been ill prepared for this program.

Next week will also see the annual Middle School camping program take place. This is a highlight of the year for many staff and students and as such many months of planning has gone into the different camps. I hope that all students enjoy their camps as much as they have in previous years. Thank you to all of the staff who have committed their time to run different camps. Without this dedication this program could not possibly run. A special thank you should be made to Shane Thackeray for his organisation of the whole Middle school camping program.

Jeff Davis
Executive Principal

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Primary Campus News

Varsity College Book Week celebrations were a huge success. The positive message about the love of reading was evident throughout all the festivities held during the week.

Celebrations began on Monday with the Titans visit engaging students from Prep to Year 4 in a program called “My Hero Reads Too”. A couple of the Titan players shared their love of reading with the students by reading their favourite stories to the class and discussing what reading means to them. The delight on the students’ faces was certainly reflected by the inspiration they received while sitting with their idols.

Books were brought to life with our amazing costumes on the Character Parade. Our winners were delighted with their Book Fair vouchers and books donated by our P&C. This year showcased the most amazing costumes and we were very impressed by the effort of families in designing these unique outfits. We certainly have many creative people amongst us!

Book sales were held right throughout the week with a large range of engaging texts for varying readers. At the Book Fair Celebration Night we were entertained with special guests including Clifford the Dog, Varsity strings, senior dances and
our guest teachers reading to the students. During the night students had the opportunity to put in a free raffle ticket for a signed Titans jersey; and we congratulate Brianna from 3 Orange on being the lucky winner.

We had amazing book sales and are excited to use the profits to benefit the school in the purchasing of resources. We are also grateful to the generous parents who purchased books for their classrooms. This will certainly be appreciated by the class teachers and all students.

Congratulations to two students, Sarah from 6S and Emmy from 2P who won the book voucher draw just by making a purchase during the week.

We would also like to give a special mention to all the classes that entered the robot competition. The robots brought a lot of attention to the LENSE and students were delighted to see their class robots on display. Congratulations to the winners: 5A, 5B, 3R, 5P, PY, 3P and PA.

Overall, Book Week was a huge success and we thank all the teachers, students, parents, P&C and community members for making this a special time at Varsity College and creating excitement for reading.

We are constantly reminding students about before and after school behaviour to ensure their safety. Students are not permitted on play equipment before or after school. Students who arrive prior to 8.30 am must sit quietly in the Tuckshop undercover area which is supervised from 8.00 am. Please discuss before and after school behaviour and routines with your child(ren) to avoid confusion. Thank you for your assistance.

The Titans visit 2 Aqua and 2 Red

Wednesday 7 August saw 2 Aqua and 2 Red receive a visit from two Gold Coast Titans players. Sam Gee and Matthew Beddow, players from the under 20’s squad visited the year two students to read two of their favourite books, ‘Vicky The Very Silly Vet’ and ‘Room On The Broom.’

The Titans players also quizzed the students asking them to name all seventeen teams who play in the NRL competition. The children were able to name all seventeen in just over a minute!

The children were then given the opportunity to ask the boys some questions and also discuss why reading is so important. 2 Aqua and 2 Red felt very lucky to have some of their idols visit their classroom.

Miss Utick, 2 Aqua.

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Chinese Pre-Immersion Program for Year 6 Students 2014

It is time to commence the process of selection of students for the 2014 program.

Why Study Chinese?

- Chinese is the world’s most widely spoken language
- Chinese language and culture have contributed deeply to the cultures of East and South-East Asia
- The Chinese community has been a significant part of Australian society since the 19th century
- Modern China’s exponential economic growth underlines its eminent role in the world of the 21st century
- Proficiency in Chinese leads to: broad career travel opportunities; confidence and competence when interacting with Chinese people in Australia and overseas

Year 6 and 7 students are pre-immersion years, where students study Mandarin intensely for an hour per day, five days per week. From Semester 2 in Year 7 students participate in a full immersion program. This involves students receiving approximately 50% of their schooling in Mandarin. Students involved in this program must also complete their regular curriculum requirements, necessitating a strong work ethic from all students in the program.

Benefits for students include:

- Proficiency in the most commonly spoken language in the world
- Improved career and travel opportunities
• Improved study skills
• Greater confidence when interacting with people from other cultures in Australia and overseas

The selection criteria for students is based upon their academic performance; behaviour and effort and Year 5 NAPLAN test results, with external applicants also considered through an Expression of Interest application.

Immersion is learning in another language, not just learning the language. Students who participate in the program experience personal and educational enrichment with enhanced thinking and linguistic skills together with greater intercultural competence.

**Timelines**

**Term 3**
- Weeks 8 - 11: Compilation of school-based data; behaviour & effort levels; and NAPLAN data of Year 5 test results. Acceptance and consideration of external students through the EOI process.

**Term 4**
- Week 1 - 3: Possible candidates identified and notified.
- Week 3: Wednesday 23 October Information Evening at 6pm, Senior Learning Centre.
- Week 4: Selection and notification of successful applicants.
- Week 5 - 6: Interviews for successful external applicants.

Applications for external students are available now with Expression of Interest packages available from the Junior School Office.

**Year 5 Camp**

Wishing our Year 5 students a great time on their three day camp! Group 1 attend from 27 to 29 August and Group 2 from 10 to 12 September. Students will travel by bus each day to the Tallebudgera Beach School to participate in a variety of skill and team building activities.

Students will need to arrive promptly at school by 8.30 am, and will return each day by 2.50 pm.

**Tournament of Minds**

A small group of Varsity Junior School students from Year 5 and 6 have been working hard for the last two months in preparation to compete in the Tournament of Minds competition.

These amazing students, Bohdi, Alexandria, Kaya, Kate, Dasheille, Noah, and Zach, have been given a long term challenge in Maths Science Academy where they have to work collaboratively to prepare a solution, and then will present this solution on Tournament Day to a panel of judges and an audience. The team has been preparing props, costumes and writing their own script. Additionally they have been busy constructing a timed sound device to meet the challenge criteria.

They took part in this tournament this past weekend, August 25th. They also have to take part in a spontaneous challenge on the day, where they are scored on creativity, complexity and group thinking skills.

We wish them all the best for the Regional Finals.

**Miss Waring and Mrs Veal**

**Myth Busters**

As part of Science Week celebrations (Week 6) the students from the Maths Science Academy ran a competition under the topic “myth busting”.

Myth busting was an exciting way to get involved in the ‘behind the scenes’ of scientific discovery. Students worked in groups or individually to investigate a myth they found particularly interesting. There were three criteria: innovativeness (creativity), scientific validity (is it repeatable) and presentation.

**South East Queensland Championships Year 5 Boys Soccer**

The Year 5 Boys Soccer team has had a very successful season this year. Within their local pool (Zone B) they finished top after beating Elanora, St Andrews and Mudgeeraba SS. As a result of the boys winning their zone they went on to play the winners of Zone A, Broadbeach SS, known for their sporting excellence.

We travelled to Broadbeach where the team encountered strong opposition and with excellent defending from Jayden and goal keeping from Noah the teams were in a 3-3 draw at full time.

It was an enthralling game which ended with Kaan delivering the perfect corner which Reece Sully completed with a precise header into the back of the net. This result qualified the boys for the South East Queensland Championship.

We travelled to Brisbane on 9 August. The boys faced a tough group of schools with the ambition of reaching the final. Ormiston College was their first game on a full size pitch and underneath a scorching sun they managed to secure a 0-0 draw. Only an hour later they faced McDowall SS. This second game was a ‘must win’ situation. The boys played like warrior poets and destroyed them with two goals from Reece Sully and one from Jaydn resulting in a 3-0 victory. They had made the final!

The boys played with their hearts on their sleeves and from being 1-0 down managed to scrape back a 1-1 draw with Deon Nelson slotting one home. This took them to golden point which unfortunately ended in a loss. The Year 5 boys were proud of their amazing achievement and they were a pleasure to coach.
They look forward to winning this competition when they are in Year 7.


Great work boys. You played with quality and showed great commitment and fitness throughout the whole season.

Written by a very proud coach: Mr Gary Creasey

Varsity Classes Dominate Mathletes Leader Boards, 4S Claims 3rd World & Australian Titles

Throughout the year, proactive students have made sure Mathletics Club has become a popular place to hone their maths skills, especially amongst the Year 4 students. It appears that some friendly rivalry has inspired students and ensured Varsity continues to dominate the Mathletics’ leader boards. It is quite amusing to hear current Mathletes motivating and challenging their peers to ‘meet them’ on the leader boards.

What are the benefits of this program? Most importantly, it is empowering students to be proactive and for them to realise they are the ‘driver’ of their education, in that they have the power to ‘plug the gaps’. Once they recognise their strengths and weaknesses they have the power to turn their weaknesses into strengths. Over the last couple of terms, many students have appeared on the student leader boards, but it takes teamwork for classes to ‘climb onto the boards’ and appear in the Hall of Fame. Recently, Varsity has certainly had its fair share of classes starring in the Hall of Fame.

Our students are innovative, committed and proactive, with one student setting their alarm early in the morning and rising to use the internet to engage in this program whilst the internet and computer are available.

Watching students continue to climb the leader boards after school has finished for the day is most rewarding and certainly indicates that students ‘own’ their learning. At 6:35pm, on 13 August I had the pleasure of seeing our Varsity children dominating the leader boards, (almost a perfect photo) just a little hiccup with position seven. Then on Sunday 7:19pm the world could see six Varsity classes in the Top 10 Australian Hall of Fame. Yes, amazing when there are now over 4 million Mathletes world-wide, and 10 000 schools participating.

With potentially 52 World Titles to be claimed each year, it is almost unbelievable that a ‘little Year 4 class’ from Varsity College Junior School has claimed the World and Australian Titles three times in 14 weeks. World Champions in Term 2 Week 3, Term 3 Week 3 and Term 3 Week 6. They did this with team commitment and a little inspiration from a ‘new friend’ Richie Parker. For a little bit of inspiration and motivation to not take things for granted we would encourage you to ‘Google’ Richie Parker, Engineer. We would like to leave you with our new class motto, a quote from our new friend, “There is nothing I can’t do yet, just things I haven’t tried” (Richie Parker).

Student Council

On Monday, 19 August the Primary Campus took part in the annual RSPCA Cupcake Day to raise much needed funds for the RSPCA. Students were able to purchase a homemade cupcake at morning tea for a gold coin donation. All money raised goes directly to the RSPCA to help with all the amazing work they do for animals around the country. Great effort to Year 3 for their organisation of the very successful fund-raiser!

Junior Musical Update

Can you believe that Varsity’s Junior school musical, “Camp Rock” is only 8 WEEKS away!!! What an exciting time, as the cast, crew and production team work together to produce this family friendly musical. The weeks ahead will be hectic, but a whole lot of fun and it will all be worth it when the Camp Rock cast hit the stage.
Tickets will go on sale shortly at the Junior School finance window. Adults - $10 and Children - $5
We look forward to sharing our wonderful show with you at the Junior School Hall on October 11 – 7pm or October 12 – 1pm and 7pm.

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

Coming Events

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<td>12 August – 29 August</td>
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<td>Tournament of Minds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5 Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6 2014 Transition Information Session</td>
<td>Wednesday, 28 August 3:30 pm</td>
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<td>Gold Coast Show Holiday</td>
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<td>Year 3 to Minjungbal</td>
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Year 5 Djibouti explore “Incy Wincy Spider”

Mrs Smith and 5 Djibouti have been exploring the effects of descriptive devices in writing and students were challenged to transform the poem, “Incy Wincy Spider,” into a narrative, within 10 minutes.

Incy Wincy Spider by Kate Bodley (5 Djibouti)

Most people know the story of Incy Wincy Spider who climbed the spout and got washed out then climbed it again. What would you say if it wasn’t true? Well, it’s not … This is the real story:

It was a cold and stormy day and agent Wincy was sent on a mission to save Mrs Long-leg’s cat that was trapped at the top of the water spout. Agent Wincy knew it would be tough for it could rain at any time but saving the day was what he did best. So agent Wincy started the long and dangerous climb, he was about half way when he heard a pitter-patter. It was raining! Anxious Wincy slowly looked up... a huge rapid of water was rushing toward him carrying Mrs Long - Leg’s cat!

TO BE CONTINUED...

**Incy Wincy Spider by Matthew Hammans (5 Djibouti)**

One morning Incy Wincy spider felt the strong urge to climb up the water spout. As she climbed, she felt a slight tapping outside and a few small drops of water falling on her head. She knew what this meant; the rain would be coming, very soon.

As the sky darkened, Incy readied herself hoping she would be able to resist the forces of the thunderous droplets. Lightning flashed, and the heavy rain began. It was just too overwhelming for Incy’s weak little legs and she was washed down through the pipe and came out the bottom.

In despair, Incy waited anxiously for the sun to come out so she would be freed from the imprisonment of the puddles. Just as Incy was about to give up on all hope, a beam of light shot down from the skies and it dried up all the rain and freed Incy.

With courage and determination, Incy Wincy spider climbed up the spout again and stayed there happily. Incy joyously lived there, until the rain came back.

*Megan Smith*
*Teacher 5D*

**Dental Clinic / Van Offer of Oral Health**

Students in grades (6,1,2,3,4D,4P,4R,4F) 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

**Year 6 2014 Planning**

- A modified timetable for 2014 has been developed to accommodate the relocation of Year 6 students to the Secondary Campus. The modifications to the timetable have taken into account the feedback regarding Year 6 students not being around Year 9 and 10, not isolating Year 6 students on their own, and the ability to adequately staff lunch break supervisions.
- Discussions have been held with Council representatives regarding the creation of a drop off point to assist with the relocation of Year 6 students.

**Eisteddfod Commences**
**Tournament of Minds**
**Year 5 Camp**
**Year 6 2014 Transition Information Session**
**Gold Coast Show Holiday**
**Year 6 Transition Days**
**Year 5 Transition Days**
**Prep Paradise Country**
**Year 5 Camp (2nd Group)**
**Year 3 to Minjungbal**
**Year 2 Mini Beasts**
zone area in front of the Middle School Administration, the creation of a formal zebra crossing between the school and the oval, and the reduction of the speed limit to 40km/hr permanently.

- Feedback has been received from the Council that they would not consider fencing the Secondary oval
- Consultation process has started with staff and students regarding furniture and learning environment requirements for next year.

The College is also planning a two day transition program for current Year 5 and Year 6 students in week 9 of this term. Students will have the opportunity to engage in Foundation classroom learning with their current classroom teacher as well as some specialist lessons delivered by specialist Secondary staff. The program will provide students with an opportunity to become familiar with the Secondary environment whilst most Middle School students are absent due to Camp Week programs. Detailed information will be sent home with students.

First round offers for the Year 6 and Year 7 Varsity College Academy of Mathematics and Science have been distributed to selected students. Further offers will be provided to students as they are identified through systemic data such as NAPLAN results and school based assessments. Entry into the Academy at these year levels will provide students with an enrichment package to enhance their learning of Mathematics and Science.

Year 12 OP pathway students will complete their QCS Tests in week 9. The College has conducted an extensive preparation program to provide these students the best possible opportunity to succeed in this program. The QCS results impact the OP scores that students receive at the end of Year 12.

The Middle School Camp Week will be held during week 9. Over 600 students and 40 staff attend a variety of camping venues such as the ski trip, Lady Elliot Island, surf camp, Noosa, Canberra trip and Currumbin.

Many students and staff are engaged in Instrumental, Strings, Dance and Choral performances at the Gold Coast Eisteddfod over the coming weeks. Achievements will be communicated at the next P&C Meeting.

Stephen O’Brien
Director of Secondary Campus

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### Chinese Speech Competition

On Sunday, August 18, a Varsity College student, Nicholas Smith (7C) was awarded FIRST PLACE in the Grade 8 Chinese Division of the MLTAQ Gold Coast Speech Competition, held at Griffith University and hailed as the largest language competition in Australia. Undaunted by the older competitors and unfamiliar competition setting, Nick won this prestigious award having competed for the first time in this event. (As Nicholas is in our Chinese Immersion program he has an advantage even over private school students studying Chinese from Prep, and therefore was required to complete in the year level above his own.)

The competition is a whole day event at Griffith University with judging from 10am to 2pm. Names of winners were posted in random order at 2:30pm and an official ceremony was held at 3:00pm to award the places. When the Grade 8 Chinese winners were announced, we did not hear Nick’s name for the third or second prizes meaning that he had won the first place! His name was called last to receive the highest possible award from the Chinese dignitary.

Varsity College students, Peyton Cassar (10B2) and JJ Pilarinos (6S) were also awarded Highly Commended certificates. Congratulations Nick, Peyton and JJ!

The event includes many public and private schools from across the Gold Coast and with competitors even travelling from Brisbane.

Teachers from the other schools were thrilled to see Varsity College students participating again in this competition. They felt that our school students raise the bar and provide an exceptionally high standard of competition.

A number of Varsity College students came along to Griffith University to compete in the event. All students represented the school with honour.

Special thanks go to the families of the contestants for their support of the event and to the teachers (in particular Debbie Li and Teresa McGuire) for their hard work behind the scenes. The competition is an annual event and Varsity College will aim for continued success in the future!

加油！
Year 7 get involved in the 40 hour Famine

Last week 7D and 7H decided to “go without” to raise money for World Vision.

Last week our class did the 40 hour famine and one thing that we gave up was our classroom and the other things we chose were to give up; food, laptops and speaking (Miss Nurthen was a big fan of no speaking!) The first day of doing no classroom, we sat in the green Quad and I thought that was so fun sitting there on the card board. The second day we sat at the SLC, and that day was so windy, the third day we sat on the grass by the playground and that was so fun sitting somewhere like what the poor African kids do. I wish that they could just have a classroom just like us.

Olivia W. 7D

The things that we gave up were our classroom as a whole and everyone else gave something additional up. Some of the things people gave up were technology, speaking and eating. The spots we sat for the three days changed each day but always included sitting on cardboard boxes only...to get the feeling of going without. It was a very good experience of how people live over in Africa and other places but it was also very fun to get out of the classroom.

Jade S. 7D

In 7H we decided to go without a classroom and use no technology to see what it would be like for school children in Malawi. Many of the school children in Malawi have no classroom and no technology. Most of the families in Malawi work for a whole day and only earn only 50 cents! Because of that, they don’t have enough money to buy food or build houses. Mrs Mac showed us a video about some children in Malawi and we decided we wanted to help them.

Natasha D 7H

Going without a classroom or technology was actually quite fun as well as helping the poor people in Africa. We sat on cardboard boxes because the concrete was really cold but it was nice to be in the sun. Some of us gave up eating as well as the classroom and technology so that we could really understand what it would be like to be a school child in Malawi. We chose to raise money for the people in Malawi because just $40 will feed a family of six for a month. It felt really good to be helping someone else and I hope we do it again next year. One girl in our class, Millie raised $350.00 on her own.

Ryan M 7H

Varsity hosts Regional Year 8 Maths Quiz

On Thursday 1 August we hosted the annual QAMT Year 8 Maths Quiz that saw 12 visiting schools compete to represent the South Coast region in the State titles later in the year. This was an amazing event that showcased not only our students, but also our college as a venue and many parents and students went out of their way to express their thanks for the organisation of the event.

Our team of three Year 8 students did an incredible job of representing the school and finished the night in fourth place just 5 points out from first place. Their team work was extraordinary and our team finished in first place through many of the differentiated rounds during the event.

Congratulations to all staff and students who helped with the event and we look forward to the challenge again next year when we can hopefully take out the title.

News from Social Science Department

During Economics Week (last week of July), students in Year 12 Economics sat the QETA “UQ Economics Test”. Students complete a set of forty multiple choice questions in 40 minutes about micro and macro-economics. I am very proud to release the following results.

Distinctions: Kain, Nick Kinch, Emily Smith, Lauryn Critchley, Ebony Granada, Jordan Hourigan, Kristen Smith and Lena Wang.

Credits: Kathy Li, Joel Smith, Adam Fern, Tyler, Kristy Kim, Samantha Prendergast, Tania Stockman, Gemma Wainwright, Jana Mema, Jaycob, Ellie Cardle.

Certificates will be awarded on the next full school parade. Well Done!

Year 11 Social and Community Studies students are travelling to the Brisbane Law Courts as part of their current unit “Legally it could be you”. Students will be given the chance to watch a real court case and see the running of law courts,
putting their knowledge of the law into context. Ms Berry has also organised guest speakers in the form of local police and lawyers to enhance the students learning experiences. I am sure the students will enjoy their experience.

Year 11 & 12 Certificate III in Children’s Services and Certificate III Business students have been undertaking work experience at local childcare centres and businesses. Students are applying the high level of work they have been completing in class in real world situations. Ms Munro in particular has been very pleased when contacting the childcare centres and hearing the positive comments on students’ progress. Keep up the good work. Any students who have not undertaken their work placement should do so as soon as possible; please see your classroom teacher, Ms Sirett or Ms Reid for assistance.

All students in Certificate courses (Retail, IT, Business, Children’s Services) are reminded that they should be up to date with their certificate course units of competency at all times. I will be sending out letters for those few students who are behind this week.

New offering in 2014 – At the Year 10 Careers evening last week our faculty announced the inclusion of Certificate IV in Justice Studies. This course directly links to careers in the Police Force, Law Courts and many other legal careers. The course does cost $600 but this is much less than undertaking the course as post-secondary schooling at TAFE and may lead to credit for University courses in legal studies. We are very excited about this course and look forward to offering it next year. For more information please see a member of the Social Science Department.

Basketball Excellence Program News

The 2013 Varsity College Basketball Excellence program are ramping up their training in preparation for the Champion Basketball School of Queensland Tournament which is held in the Logan and South Brisbane area during week 11 and the first two days of the September school holidays.

This year will see 105 High School basketball teams battling it out to see who will be the champion basketball school of Queensland over three separate divisions. The Senior boys team will be once again competing in division one also known as the championship division alongside seventeen other teams from around QLD including last year’s champions TSS and other basketball power houses John Paul College, St. James and of course Townsville State High.

The boys teams, coached by Mr Adam Darragh, consists of five year 12 students including captain and Queensland representative Tyler Allen and a mixture of future stars from years 10 and 11.

The senior girls have a new coach this year in Mr David Gurney who is in his fifth year teaching at Varsity College and brings a wealth of basketball knowledge and experience to the girls program who this year consists of only two year 12 students and a large contingent of year 10 girls who are this year competing in division two and will be battling it out with 33 other teams from around the state.

Both teams will be playing a series of exhibition games leading up to the week 11 tournament to assist their preparation for the CBSQ tournament. We wish the Basketball Excellence program the best of luck for the next few games and of course for the upcoming State Championships!

From the Desk of the Director of Learning
Senior Secondary

Year 12 OP Students and their Families

QCS Test dates for 2013

Queensland Core Skills Testing will occur on Tuesday 3RD September and Wednesday 4TH September 2013.

Please ensure that you do not book family holidays or appointments on these days for Year 12 OP Pathway students.

Parent Letter on how to help your student prepare for the QCS test days was mailed out Friday 23rd August. If you did not receive this letter please email k Reid16@eq.edu.au with the subject of the email 12 QCS PARENT LETTER REQUEST to obtain a copy.

Important QCS details for 2013:

1. The school is providing breakfast and lunch on the two QCS test days.
2. The start time for Tuesday and Wednesday is 7:50am which allows for breakfast at school.
3. Students will also be provided with a bottle of water and some sweets during each of the four tests.
4. Students have been issued with materials lists if they are not purchasing a QCS Stationery Pack ($10). Please ensure your students have the correct materials on the day. QCS Stationery packs are still available for purchase from Karla Reid, for $10.

All Year 12 Students and their Families

Direct Entry to TAFE

Applications are now open. Students in the Personalised Pathway will be introduced to this in their Work School Connect class in Week 2 of term. Students are required to put together an application and they will be given the opportunity to complete this in Work School Connect classes.

Applications close 5pm 6th September. No exceptions. Students interested should let Karla Reid know of their intention to apply so that their application can be supported by the school.

QTAC – Queensland Tertiary Entrance

Applications

Students have been introduced to the QTAC application process in Pathways Week last term. Please find below the outline of how Varsity College is supporting students through this process:

- Term 3 Week 9 - Parent letter mailed out outlining process
- Students will be required to sign up to a small group QTAC session to commence their QTAC application with the Guidance Officers.

8
• Term 3 Week 11. Small groups of Year 12s at time on Top Floor SLC with the Guidance Officers to complete their SIX preferences (no payment compulsory at this time)
• Term 3 Week 11 AT HOME – students must complete the payment for their application. LATE FEES APPLY AFTER THIS TIME.
• Students must print out TWO copies of their confirmation and bring one in to either Mrs Reid/Mrs Neilsen/Mr Haydock/Mrs MacDonald

Application for 2014 study at any diploma or bachelor level course at any institution open on August 1 and close 27 September 2013

Queensland University of Technology 25-26th September – Discover QUT in the Holidays Programs

Dates and venues:

Wednesday 25 September 2013 - Gardens Point campus - 8:30 am – 2:00 pm
For students interested in: engineering, information technology, mathematics, science, urban development, business, law and justice, health (biomedical science, medical imaging science, medical laboratory science, radiation therapy, pharmacy), and creative industries (architectural studies, industrial design, interior design, landscape architecture).

Wednesday 25 September 2013 - Kelvin Grove campus 3:00 pm – 8:00 pm
For students interested in: creative industries (except Bachelor of Design), education, and health (clinical exercise physiology, exercise and movement science, health information management, human services, nursing, nutrition and dietetics, paramedic science, podiatry, psychology, public health, social work, vision science).

Thursday 26 September 2013 - Caboolture campus 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
For students interested in: business, creative industries, education and nursing.
More detailed programs for each campus will be available in August.

Contact
For further information, contact Susan Thomas or email exploreevents@qut.edu.au .

Opening Doors to University – new website for students
The Australian Government has launched a new site to help young people find the support and resources they need to overcome barriers to university study. It allows potential students, families and teachers to search for information about different types of Government assistance they can apply for.

Women In Engineering – University of Queensland Information Evening

University of Queensland: Engineering Futures Evening.
9 September. 4:30pm to 7:30pm. St Lucia, Advanced Engineering Building (49).
Explore your future in engineering and discover how UQ provides exceptional futures for young women that enrich the lives of our global community. The University of Queensland’s Women in Engineering program invites you to attend the Engineering Futures Evening.
For more information, Contact Mrs Meghan Stephensen and Mrs Donna Lynn, (07) 3365 3934 or (07) 3365 3574 or wie@eait.uq.edu.au
Check this event out at: http://www.eait.uq.edu.au/engineering-futures-evening
For full program and events go to: http://www.eait.uq.edu.au/engineering-futures-evening

BOND UNIVERSITY: Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine Scholarship Information Evening

Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine Scholarship Information Evening
The Bond University Faculty of Health Sciences & Medicine Scholarship Information Evening is an opportunity for you and your parents to meet our faculty academics and staff, tour our facilities, discuss your program options and meet some of our current students.
Students will be able to register for this evening and two other guests. RSVP closes midnight Friday, August 30.
When: 3 September 2013 - 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Where:
Bond University
Gregor Heiner Foyer
Faculty of Health Science & Medicine
Bond University QLD 4229

BOND UNIVERSITY: Institute of Sustainable Development & Architecture Scholarship Information Evening

16 September 2013. 6 to 8pm. Soheil Abedian, School of Architecture Building, Bond University.
The Bond University Institute of Sustainable Development & Architecture Scholarship Information Evening is an opportunity for you and your parents to meet our faculty academics and staff, tour the facilities, discuss your program options and meet some of the current students.
Students will be able to register for this evening with two other guests. RSVP closes midnight on Wednesday, September 11.
Contact for further Information: Laurie Guthrie on 07 5595 1067

Queensland Police Recruiting - Information Seminar dates

Students in Years 11 and 12
Please find up and coming Recruiting Seminar information dates listed below:
These sessions are heavily and quickly booked.
Wednesday 28 August 6.30pm Nerang PCYC Click for link to bookings
Thursday 29th August 6.30pm Currumbin RSL Click for link to bookings
Bookings are made by online submission.
Feel free to visit the link below to keep up to date with police information sessions.

Year 10 Students and their Families – SET Plan and Year 11/12 Subject Selection

Parents should have received a letter from the school on how to book your 20 minute SET plan appointment online. This letter also indicated who the SET Plan interview would be with and where the interview would be held. Most SET Plan meetings will be held in the Digital Learning Centre but please consult your letter for further information.

If you have not received a letter please contact Karla Reid: kreid16@eq.edu.au

Subject Selection Book Year11/12 2014/2015 out now on website or
Applications for Off Campus Study 2014

Personalised Pathway option studying off campus STEP program @ SBIT

Process for application is as follows:

Prior to 2nd SEPTEMBER
1. Discuss options with parents – including cost of courses and travel to Brisbane every week on the train.
2. Email Mrs Reid with your intention to apply so student attendance, grades and application can be examined.
3. Mrs Reid will then email the school’s approval to student EQ webmail addresses only. Email will include:
4. Student LUI number
5. How To Apply for STEP handout (application Part 1 is student online application)

Between 2nd to 14th SEPTEMBER
1. Students are then to apply online
2. Online application will then come to Mrs Reid to approve

30th SEPTEMBER to 18th OCTOBER (some dates during the school holidays)

1. Students (not Mrs Reid) will be notified when heir ACER testing dates are. It is the student’s responsibility to notify Mrs Reid when these dates are so students can be marked as approved absence at school that day.
2. Students will be notified via email of their acceptance into a course. Need to check EQ webmail address and keep their inboxes cleaned out.

4th NOVEMBER onwards
1. Students are to notify Mrs Reid when they are accepted into a course and the day of their courses ASAP.

Personalised Pathway option studying off campus Gold Coast TAFE – Schools Program

Electronic Application
1. Students email kreid16@eq.edu.au to request an electronic application to be emailed to them.
2. Students complete the electronic application
3. TAFE notifies the school of the application and seeks endorsement letters
4. School submits application
5. Offers made in October

PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO TAFE FUNDING ARRANGEMENT CHANGES THE CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS HAS NOW BEEN MOVED OUT TO FRIDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2013 5PM

Options – Careers Information Bulletin

Varsity now subscribes to this very useful and user friendly publication for Senior Students. Students have been emailed a PDF version of this document; however, the information has been included in this newsletter for your perusal.

If you have any queries regarding any of the information in this section please feel free to contact me via email kreid16@eq.edu.au . A three day email response time will be in place this semester due to the busy nature of this particular term. Your support will be appreciated in this matter.

Karla Reid
Director of Learning Senior Secondary

Careers Dashboard

Everything You & Your Senior Student Need to Know in One Place

Determining a career or career pathway, understanding all the terminology and finding all the information that might help you, whether you are a senior student or parent, can be a daunting task. Acronyms alone read like a mystery novel; UMAT, SATs, VETiS, QCE, LUI, OP, HECS, WE, QTAC…

‘Careers Dashboard’ contains everything you will need to refer to during the three Senior School years with us in relation to careers, study options, opportunities, personal, social, pastoral assistance and much more. ‘Careers Dashboard’ is accessed via OneNote on your child’s laptop.
You will find the content of this Notebook to be extensive, and current. Topics covered include Scholarships, UMAT, How to Vote, HECS, Student for a Semester, Student Exchange, Volunteering Options, Challenges, Help 4 You, Interview Outfits, Fairwork Australia, LUI Numbers, Rank Information, Open Days, Current Traineeships, Schoolies and that’s just the tip of the iceberg. I’ve also included separate sections for Indigenous and SEP students.

This ‘book’ is a living document so it will continue to change and grow. Students can access ‘Careers Dashboard’ via:

- iVarsity
- Senior / Middle Students
- Synced OneNotes
- Careers Dashboard
- Careers Dashboard Master
- Open Notebook

In order to access ‘Careers Dashboard’ from home, students simply open it at school and leave it open when closing their computer down and it will still be there when they wish to use it at home.

Using this resource should guarantee you an easier time of accessing, understanding and unlocking some of the mysteries of senior schooling.

Linda Dallas
Industry Liaison Officer

New smartphone app helps young people with jobs and career opportunities

The Career Hunter app, developed from a young person’s perspective, is a simple way for young people and their parents to explore career opportunities.

Believed to be the first career exploration app of its kind, it provides information about occupations and industries, job descriptions, training and qualification requirements, and job vacancies. It makes tangible links from school to the world of work and highlights the industries where skills are most needed.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment; The Smith Family; Regional Development, Australia; Busy at Work and Group Training Australia worked together on the development of the app — now available from the Apple app store.

Learn more about available DETE Apps at http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/app/index.html

The Premier’s Anzac Prize 2014 for Years 8 to 11

Students interested in the Anzac tradition are encouraged to apply for the chance to visit Gallipoli, Belgium and France as part of Anzac Day 2014 commemorations. The Premier’s Anzac Prize 2014 covers students’ travel, accommodation, meals and insurance.

The five winners from this year’s trip have posted photos, reports and a video covering their experiences visiting historical sites in Turkey and the Western Front which are available from: www.education.qld.gov.au/anzac-prize/

The student application pack, guidelines and criteria are also available from this site. Be sure to check the resources section which includes application tips.

Student entries for the 2014 prize close on 20 September 2013, the anniversary of the 1917 Battle of Menin Road.

ACROSS CAMPUS NEWS

Myth Busting Science

Not every child is interested in science. Houston, we have a problem! However, the year 10 academy science class has made themselves a mission; a mission to spread the joys of the scientific world to the younger students of our school.

The academy science students have visited the junior school on numerous occasions throughout this term. In our eyes, it is so incredibly important for us to evoke the love for this subject in the future generation.

Throughout our visits, we have made colours vanish, rainbows appear and rockets soar. There is no doubting that every student was in complete awe of our ‘magic’ ways. However, they were even more amazed at the actual science behind the concepts.

On the 15th of August we had the honour of being able to visit the junior school for Science Week. Students had the opportunity to enter a myth-busting competition which many students participated in. I had the privilege of judging the year 4 entrants. I was amazed as to just how bright our younger grades’ science capabilities shone.

The year 4 myth-busting winner provided a fully structured report on whether or not teeth actually dissolve in Coca-Cola. It was great to see just how interested and capable these students are in the scientific field. This in itself makes it all worthwhile.

From this I feel we must continue to spread this interest and prove just how vast and astonishing science can be. We can inspire the next Albert Einstein for all we know. For they, in the end, may one day be the ones to create the most amazing scientific discoveries to date.

Sally Gorman
Head of Department - Science
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

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