16 October 2013

EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

The term has started quickly and the highest standard possible has been set by the Junior School students as they presented their musical, Camp Rock last weekend. Everyone who attended any of the sessions was treated to an incredible display of talent as students sang, danced and acted their way through a humorous script that had all of the audience in awe of their abilities. It was truly hard to imagine that the students in each part were only 9 to 11 years old. It was the best musical I have seen from students so young, by a long way. My congratulations go to all of the students, staff and parents involved in this presentation. We as a school can be extremely proud of this production and I hope that this is just the start of the amazing things to come.

The last few weeks of year 12 are frantic as students complete their final assessments, have their final tests and then get ready to say goodbye. I congratulate all of our students who have put in an exceptional effort this year and wish all families well as the year draws to a close.

The journey through school is an incredible one. At Varsity College we are in the unique position of seeing the students enter as little girls and boys and leave as young men and women. It has been interesting to reflect through the photos that show this journey as we get ready to say goodbye to these students. I am sure that the celebration events in the next few weeks will also allow families to reminisce about the many wonderful events and activities that they have shared.

Next Thursday we are holding our annual Varsity College Awards night. This is a very special night where we have the opportunity to acknowledge the incredible achievements of our students. I would like to congratulate the recipients of these awards and look forward to personally congratulating you on this celebratory evening.

As an administration team, we are well into the planning for 2014. The staffing profile is currently being finalised and this will allow us to make great plans for the programs that will be running next year. The school peaked at about 3200 students last term and as could be expected, this number will increase slightly next year specifically because the number of students entering Prep and grade 7 exceed the number of students leaving year 12. There is also a small amount of growth in each year level. As such, we are working with the Facilities department to ensure that the school has plenty of classrooms for all students at this school. I am extremely confident that we have excellent plans laid for every contingency no matter how many students arrive at our school on day 1 next year.

Some parents are wondering where students will be housed in the future and I am pleased to inform you that we are in the process of designing two new multi-story facilities, one for each campus, that will house future student growth well into the coming years. These state of the art buildings are in the pre design phase and will begin construction early next year. The design team is innovative, creative and, most of all, effective in creating learning spaces specifically designed to cater for students of any age. As the plans come together, I look forward to holding parent consultation sessions where you are able to see what is being proposed for the future of this school.

Jeff Davis
Executive Principal

JuniOR SCHOOL NEWS

Primary Campus News

Welcome to Term 4 on the Primary Campus. We hope everyone had a fabulous holiday and are energised to commence the term. We start the term with our Camp Rock musical, an event not to be missed, and providing many of our students with a fabulous opportunity to entertain us. A huge thank you to staff and parents for their support of this event, which no doubt will be a great success!

We are very excited to be meeting many of our Preparatory students for 2014. It is wonderful to be able to share the commencement of their learning journey, and we particularly welcome new families to our College. Below you will find information regarding the Making Connections sessions which will provide you with invaluable information for a smooth start to 2014.

The 2013 Swimming Program has commenced across the Primary School with classes operating on varied times as per the note that went home with all students last term. Thank you for having your child/ren organised for these lessons.

As we move through Term 4 and begin preparations for 2014 any information you would like to raise concerning your child and their class placement for 2014 can be submitted by letter and delivered to Administration Office. Please note this information will be taken into consideration but is not a guarantee of action. Submissions will only be accepted until Friday 15 November and should not include requests for specific teachers.

Please note that Monday 21 October is a gazetted student free day with teachers involved in professional development for the day.
Enjoy your final term of 2014, particularly with the many learning activities available each day. We hope the weather remains fantastic for the Year 6 camp in Week 2.

Preparatory Year for 2014

We wish to extend an invitation to all parents with children starting Prep in 2014, to attend our Prep information day / evening on Wednesday 16 October 2013.

As we commence the journey towards the beginning of your child’s education at Varsity College our transition program Making Connections is designed to ensure that your child has the best possible start to their education in the Preparatory Year.

The information day/ evening sessions will give you an opportunity to meet our staff and hear our vision and philosophy on early education. This important first step is vital in developing a shared understanding between us and yourselves as partners in your child’s social, emotional and academic development.

We would like to meet as many of you as possible so we have decided to offer a choice of sessions for you to attend. Child minding will not be available.

The details for the event are as follows:

| Venue | Varsity College Primary School Hall  
Located at the Primary Campus, Bridgewater Drive, Varsity Lakes |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1 9am</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet at the Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.15am – 10.15am</td>
<td>Making Connections</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.15am – 10.45am</td>
<td>Information in Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 2 6pm</td>
<td>Meet &amp; Greet at the Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.15pm – 7.15pm</td>
<td>Making Connections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.15pm – 7.45pm</td>
<td>Information in Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.15pm – 7.45pm</td>
<td>Supper - Meet the P&amp;C</td>
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</table>

Please register for one of these session times by calling 55 769333.

We look forward to meeting you at one of the sessions and then getting to know you and your child in the coming months.

Premiers Reading Challenge 2013

The 2013 Premiers Reading Challenge is now complete and it appears it has been another remarkable year for the Varsity College. Overall we had 825 students complete the Challenge throughout the Primary Campus which was a massive achievement, smashing last year’s record of 618 students.

Special congratulations must go to the three classes that won $150 book pack (kindly donated by our P&C). Those classes were Prep Emerald, 2 Orange and 6 Portugal. In recognition of all the efforts of the students, a certificate of achievement will be presented to each student who completed the Challenge.

I would personally like to congratulate and thank all the students, teachers and families within our school community for their huge efforts to ensure our participation and success in the Challenge each year. The Challenge has grown from humble beginnings, to now become a major event within our school calendar.

It has been great to witness so many students rediscover their love of reading, a love that we entrust will continue right into their future years.

Kellie Norris  
Teacher

Healthy Eating

At the end of Term Three, 4C and 4B learned about the food pyramid. We learned that there are different categories of foods and that we need to eat a variety of all of them.

The categories we learned about were: grains, proteins, fruit and vegetables, dairy and “sometimes foods”. 4C and 4B got to put together a breakfast, lunch and dinner menu plan filled with all of the types of foods. We had to make sure that we had enough of each food group over the entire day. For example we needed to make sure we had planned to have 6 – 11 servings of grains and 2-3 servings of dairy.

After a while we all seemed to know what we were doing with the food pyramid so we decided to have a treat – we got to make fruit and veggie creations! On Wednesday morning all the students came in with a piece of fruit or veg and were put into groups of five. Some of the students’ parents came in to help with the cutting. At the end of the session all the student’s fruit and vegetable creations were made and we got to dig in and eat!

4B & 4C had a great time learning about healthy eating and can’t wait to go home and eat well.

By Lucia Gray 4C
Tournament of Minds State Finalists

On Sunday, the 8th of September, a group of seven Year 5 and 6 students participated in the State Final of Tournament of Minds in Brisbane. It was a huge day for the team where they were locked in for an unassisted 3 hour challenge where they needed to create a play, props, costumes and a solution to the Maths Engineering problem ‘Flight’. The students had to build a device that would take the longest amount of time to fall from the top of a set height.

The students had to perform in front of a crowd of 100 students, teachers and families. During the day they also had to solve a spontaneous challenge where they needed to be creative and display effective teamwork skills. We are so proud of the Varsity team who didn’t make Nationals but finished in the top 7 of Queensland Maths Engineering teams.

Congratulations to Bohdi Thwaites, Noah Chapman, Dashelle Reid, Kaya Mukai, Kate Bodley, Alexandria Waldhornall-Sherwin and Zachariah Goodall.

Mrs Veal and Miss Waring, TOM Facilitators

Primary Sports Update

Good luck to our students who will be competing at the State Athletics Championships in Brisbane this month - Jaeda Leyshon, Connor Dowd, Charlotte Hammans, Peta Fiola.

Swimming has now kicked off along with some brilliant sunny weather to accompany it. Please remember to check when your child is swimming and assist them to bring all the necessary equipment and clothing. This is a valuable part of child’s physical development and it is important they don’t miss lessons along the way.

Matt Riley
Junior PE Coordinator

Chinese Pre-Immersion Program - Year 6 2014

On Wednesday, 23 October at 6pm in the Senior Learning Centre, Secondary Campus an information session will be held for parents of students interested in participating in the Pre-Immersion Program for 2014.

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

Current Year 5 students enrolled at Varsity do not need to apply and will be offered places in the program based on selection criteria. Possible candidates will receive a letter prior to the Information Evening as per the timelines outlined below.

Timelines for Term 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1 - 3</th>
<th>Possible candidates identified and notified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Wednesday 23 October Information Evening at 6pm, Senior Learning Centre Secondary Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Selection and notification of successful applicants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 - 6</td>
<td>Interviews for successful external applicants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Coming Events

| Year 4 Music Recruitment       | Tuesday 15 October |
| Year 2 Music Recruitment       | Thursday 17 October |
| Year 6 Camp, Lennox Head       | 16 – 18 October    |
| Preparatory Year 2014 Making Connections | 9am and 6pm Wednesday 16 October |
Dental Clinic / Van Offer of Oral Health

Students in grades (6,5,4,3,2,1,PREP) have been provided with an offer of oral health care examination card 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

News from the Arts Department

Alice in Wonderland

Our inaugural College Play “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” and “Through the Looking Glass” will be performed in term 2, 2014.

Auditions are nearly finalised with last call backs taking place this week. Rehearsals begin in week four.

To be a part of the audience, please keep the following dates up your sleeve:
- May 30th 2014 - 6.30pm
- May 31st 2014 - 2.00pm and 6.30pm

“If I have gone mad? ... I’m afraid so. You’re entirely bonkers. But I’ll tell you a secret. All the best people are.” ~ Alice in Wonderland

Arts Excellence Night

On Friday 8th November we will hold an evening of Arts Excellence on the Secondary Campus. We will have ‘A standard’ curriculum work from the senior school from the areas of Drama, Dance, Music, Film and Television, as well as an exhibition of Artwork from our Visual Art students.

Our evening begins at 6pm with an Art Gallery in the foyer of the Sports Hall. The P&C will provide some light snacks and you will even be able to purchase a glass of wine to enjoy while you appreciate the artworks. At 6.30pm we begin our performances in the Auditorium. Our evening will conclude before 8.30pm.

I look forward to sharing our incredible talent with you.

“Without art, the crudeness of reality would make the world unbearable.” ~ George Bernard Shaw

Michelle Murtagh
Head of Department Creative Arts

Year 12 Graduation Ceremony and Formal 2013

This year’s Graduation Ceremony will be held at the Sports Hall on Tuesday the 12th of November, starting at 6.30 pm. Please arrive early to ensure you get a seat, as there is no reserved seating at this function.

The Senior Formal will be held at Versace Hotel, Main Beach on Thursday 14th of November.

Arrivals are from 5.30pm, with the commencement of ceremonies at 6.30pm. Payment is now open for this event.

Award for Excellence in the Arts.

One of our current year 12 Art students, Chelsey Hansson, has achieved a first for Varsity College. In the 23rd year of Creative Generations (previously known as the Minister’s Award for Excellence) Chelsey has been selected from the 475 submitted artworks across the state to exhibit her work in the upcoming exhibition at Queensland’s GOMA (Gallery of Modern Art at Southbank Brisbane).

Only four students were selected in our region, 40 awards were given across the state. This is obviously quite impressive and she has quite modestly been surprised by her achievements.

Megan Olive
Teacher

Basketball Excellence Update

During the holiday break the Senior Basketball Excellence teams competed in the Champion Basketball School of Queensland Tournament in which 105 teams took part from all over QLD over four days.

The senior girls, coached by Dave Gurney competed well in Second Division against 24 other teams. Our girls finished 6th place, a great effort considering the majority of the team are in Year 10.
However, it was our Senior boys competing in the Championship Division who did something that no other Varsity College team has done and battled their way into the ‘Elite 8’ or final 8 teams of the Championship.

To do so they had to take on the might of John Paul College (JPC) who were ranked in the top 5 teams in the Nation.

On day one, we played JPC in our very first game of the tournament, they gave us a 34 point whooping! But it was on the Saturday night of the tournament that our paths crossed again, but this time it was a different story!

No Varsity team had ever made the ‘Elite 8’… until now….. they stood in our way and our boys pushed them down to run away with a 12 point win. You would have thought we won the Grand Final the way the boys and the crowd celebrated.

The Senior boys finished in 6th place falling to a very solid Brisbane Boys College outfit in the 5th and 6th playoff game the next day but we were the only State School or non-scholarship school to finish in the Elite 8, and now we can proudly say we have the number one program on the Gold Coast!

Both teams represented Varsity College with the utmost respect and did themselves, the College and their coaches very proud.

I would like to say a huge thank you to Dave Gurney and Ben Henderson for their time and effort they have put into the teams and I would also like to make a special mention of Cal Agius, Gio Bassini, Darren Rackemann and Jeremy Godden who all took the time to come and support the boys on the final day of the tournament. Thanks guys, the boys appreciated your support.

The excursion allowed the students to experience the smell, taste and texture of Chinese food in a restaurant setting. Students ate in the common Chinese way by sharing out the dishes on the table. It was wonderful to see students sharing, offering food to others before helping themselves and (of course) saying thank you in Chinese!

Food is an integral part of doing business in China, celebrating festivals etc. To eat out as a whole class is actually a common bonding experience for students in China. We thank all involved for giving our Grade 7 students a taste of Chinese life (without even having to leave the suburb)! 谢谢！

**Varsity College Academy of Mathematics and Science**

**Invitation to Parents of Students – Years 8 to 10 in 2014**

The Varsity College Academy of Mathematics and Science was established in 2013, under the educational philosophy of putting students first and maximising student learning potential. The Varsity Academy focuses on academic excellence, leadership and encouraging the development of values that will apply to all aspects of life beyond school.

**What will the Varsity Academy offer my child?**

- Opportunity to work in a collaborative culture with other high achieving students who have a similar passion for learning in the Mathematics and Science fields.
- The chance to make early links with universities and provide industry experience linked to their performance and future degree.
- Access to the National Curriculum with emphasis on a problem based learning approach that will enhance real-world skills, building upon an extended content base.
- Extra curricula activities that will build an enriched mind, enhancing students’ overall capabilities.
- Opportunities to work in a specialised facility within the college and access to hand-picked staff who share the common goal of leading all students to the elite range of an OP1-5 by the end of Year 12.

Applicants for Years 8 to 10 in 2014 will be considered in two rounds as outlined below. The application form, available from the college website or administration office, must be completed and sent to the college before the entrance examination can be administered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Round 1</th>
<th>Round 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications due</td>
<td>October 18</td>
<td>November 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Testing Date and Time</td>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>November 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
<td>4:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applicants Notified</td>
<td>October 28</td>
<td>December 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you are interested in finding out more about the Varsity Academy, please come along to the parent information evening on Thursday 17 October from 6:00pm in the Student Learning Centre on the Varsity College Senior Campus.

**ACROSS CAMPUS NEWS**

**Important information to parents with Students leaving Varsity College**

If you have a student not continuing with their studies at Varsity College in 2014 could you please advise the relative Administration Office as soon as possible. This is to ensure the smooth transition of your student to their new school.

**Flexicard Cashless System is Here!**

**Parents of Year 6 students coming over to the Senior Campus in 2014**

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

**How does it work?**

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

**Set up your account**

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

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

**Existing FlexiSchools Accounts**

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

**What does it cost?**

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

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

**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>Wednesday 16 October</td>
<td>College P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>Wednesday 16 October</td>
<td>Prep Information Day / Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Wednesday 16 October</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>Thursday 17 October</td>
<td>Varsity College Academy of Mathematics and Science Information Evening.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>Thursday 17 October</td>
<td>Year 2 Music Recruitment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>16 – 18 October</td>
<td>Year 6 Camp, Lennox Head</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparatory Year</td>
<td>9am and 6pm Wednesday 16 October</td>
<td>2014 Making Connections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prep to Year 12</td>
<td>21 October 2013</td>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>Wednesday 23 October – 6pm</td>
<td>Chinese Immersion Information Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>24 October 2013</td>
<td>Academic Awards Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep to Year 12</td>
<td>25 October</td>
<td>World Teacher’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>Thursday 24 October</td>
<td>Year 5 Y Lead Day (Selected Students)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>Thursday 31 October</td>
<td>Sports Awards Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>4 – 8 November</td>
<td>Pre-Prep Screening Week</td>
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</table>