17 February 2014

EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Last week many parents took the opportunity to meet with their child’s teachers on both the Primary and Secondary campus. These information nights are critical in developing the connections between yourselves and the classroom teachers that will be used throughout the year. I would like to thank all of the teachers who led these sessions and also to the many parents who took the time to come to these meetings. As we seek to develop an even stronger partnership between the classroom teacher and the parents, it is essential that we take every opportunity to build upon this cultural expectation and build a strong platform to support each child in their learning.

Last week the Senior School Physical Education team ran both the Middle and Senior School swimming carnivals. Both of these events were incredibly successful building upon the culture of this school to highly value sport as one of the “4 Pillars of Success”. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Physical Education team. They worked tirelessly as always to put together a comprehensive program that allowed all students, irrespective of ability to participate in the swimming program. Many parents took the opportunity to attend these carnivals to add to the atmosphere. Thank you for coming along to share in this event.

Last Friday night, the Varsity College P&C held the 2nd Varsity Vibe Market. As with the first one last year, the market attracted a huge number of people with estimates of somewhere between 4,000 and 5,000 people attending the night. This market, held on the first Friday of every month is incredible and has started to develop a very positive and friendly culture. I would like to acknowledge the amazing work of Michelle Adkins, Cheryl and Ben Gilroy, their sons Jake and Luke, Sue Horkings, Nadine Toussaint-Hayes, Mandy Miller, Emma Stawicki, Bec “Adams” Campbell, Mary Hulst, Max Dunlop, Adrian Smith, Julia White, Zandra White, Tamara White, Lynne Davis, Sharlei Grace, Samantha Manson, Emily Stonehouse, Caitlin Butler, Ally Holmes, Dion Bello, Brian Phillips, Alberto Arroyo, Rikki Ngata, Zane Gravesande, Zane Powell, Michael Paul, Emma Lehtinen, Charlie Maxwell, Emmanuelle Oliveri, Tungane Poa, Kobi Lane, Todd Lane, Matthew Bishop, Chris Yalden, Matthew Osborne, Kiah Pender, Ila la BonJames and the Varsity College Hip Hop team for their volunteering efforts.

Michelle, Cheryl and Ben in particular put in countless hours of work in preparing for the market and they were also the last to leave the venue after the clean-up. Without their efforts, the market could literally not run. The Varsity Vibe Markey has a chance to become a significant fund raising option for our school and I would encourage all parents to make themselves available to help in the preparation and pack up on these nights. If you can volunteer some time for the next event, please contact Sue Horkings at the P&C office for further details.

The leadership team is currently considering how we can best make use of the more than $500,000 that has been allocated to this school as part of the Great Results Guarantee program, http://www.education.qld.gov.au/resultsguarantee . I am very conscious of the responsibility to invest this money wisely to ensure the long term learning of students at Varsity College has been best catered for. The leadership team are currently meeting to discuss options that will be presented at the next P&C meeting for consideration. The ideas are extensive and while they actually cost more than the allocated sum, we are looking to invest this money over the entire 4 years of the program. I look forward to the opportunity to sharing these ideas with you next week.

Regards,

Jeff Davis
Executive Principal

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Primary Campus News

Hello everyone, and a warm welcome to our Primary School students, families and staff for 2014!

I would like to especially welcome new students, families and staff, and hope that everyone has settled in well. New staff members include: Ms Abigail Sawyer (Dean of Early Years), Ms Shame Miller (Year 1), Ms Suzee Dearlove (Year 2), Ms Michelle Crawshaw (Year 4), Ms Suzanne Henah (Year 5). Returning staff members include: Ms Nicole Brown (Year 1), Ms Bridget Rodham (Year 2) and Carly Walton (Year 3)

Last week Parent/ Teacher Information Sessions were held giving parents and caregivers the opportunity to meet teachers and to receive information around your child’s learning journey for the year. It was wonderful to see so many parents able to attend, however if you were unable to attend the relevant session, please contact your child’s teacher who will be able to answer any questions you may have.

Teachers were engaged in a range of professional development opportunities the week prior to students returning. We have a wonderful depth of expertise in the staff, all of whom enjoy sharing their knowledge and skills. Last Wednesday night teachers engaged in a Twilight professional development session on 21st Century Learning Design. This session extended on from the student free day’s professional development.
The purpose of the 21st Century Learning Design professional development is to assist teachers in identifying and understanding the opportunities that learning activities give students to build 21st century skills.

These skills include: collaboration; knowledge construction; self-regulation; real-world problem-solving and innovation; the use of Information Communication Technologies for learning; and skilled communication.

Wishing everyone a very successful and productive year.

**Jenni Thew**
**Campus Director**

**Junior Swimming Carnival/District Swimming Carnival 2013**

Congratulations to all the students who competed in the Junior Swimming carnival late last year. It was a fantastic day that was wholeheartedly supported by the Junior School with over 300 students participating in a mix of competitive and social events.

The age champions are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Champions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Years</td>
<td>Esther Kim, Rueben Wadman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Years to 10 Years</td>
<td>Sara Tazaki, Owen Burns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Years</td>
<td>Michelle Kim, Kaan Karadag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Years</td>
<td>Kayla Purcell, Tom Baddeley</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Varsity swimming team to compete at the District South Carnival (Age10-12) on Tuesday 18 February at Somerset College will be selected following the completion of the Middle School Carnival on Wednesday 5 February.

**Record Attempt – December 2013**

A huge thank you to all staff and students for participating in the record attempt held on Friday 6 December last year. It was a fabulous sight and the total number of participants was 1171! (Prep had many students go home after their concert).

While it is an unofficial record and there were some books that didn’t quite stay in place, it was a wonderful activity to unite all the students in the Primary School.

Students received participation certificates to acknowledge the event.

A celebration was held at the end of the year to acknowledge the years’ success.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Titans for their support during 2013 in their many appearances at school events.

The Titans offer a host of programs including coaching clinics, assembly visits, my hero reads and dream, believe, achieve program.

We look forward to working with the Titans again this year.

**Year 4 Bike Safety**

Year 4 had a wonderful time at Ashmore PCYC Bike Safety. The Centre is a great place to learn about how to be safe on our bikes and use our hand signals. There are real traffic lights, give way signs and stop signs on the course.

Whilst we had a lot of fun, we did learn some valuable lessons and skills.

**2013 Thank You**

The Primary School would like to thank volunteers involved in the Kids Hope Program. This program has been such a success with students, and the relationships developed between the volunteers and students have been invaluable.
2 Harlequin Launch Their Buddy Bench to Year 2

During our back to school discussion 2 Harlequin mentioned that sometimes it was difficult to find new buddies or even our old ones. Mrs V told the class about a ‘Buddy Bench’: a place where children can go when they need a ‘new’ buddy.

On Monday, 10 February at first break the students of 2 Harlequin, and two helpers from 5B, launched the Buddy Bench for the Year 2’s in the Year 2 Adventure Playground area. During this one play session we assisted over ten children to connect with a buddy from 2 Harlequin who included them in their games.

During this lunch break session 2 Harlequin will collect and analyse data and consider ways to develop this new program. It is our intention to provide support to our peers as well as meeting new friends and even reconnecting with old friends.

We are already learning that we have to use our communication and social skills to negotiate solutions which may arise. It is one thing to volunteer to be a buddy and we will be drawing on all of our social skills to connect with and support our peers. Look for the bright coloured seat cover and posters near the Year 2 Adventure playground on Mondays and Fridays. Once we have mastered this program we hope to extend it to other areas and grades.

Year 5 Imagery

The Year 5 classes have been learning about poetic devices and how they can be used to enhance their writing.

5 Greenmount and 5 Coolangatta explored imagery last week, using their senses to help create poems that arouse the readers mind to feel, see, smell, hear and taste. The students participated in different activities such as being blindfolded and having to describe what they felt, such as tinned peaches, cotton balls and pasta.

Another activity was to describe what they could hear when they listened to certain sounds. Finally students took part in listening to and smelling popcorn as it cooked, then felt and tasted it, concluding in an imagery poem about what they experienced. Some are shared below:

I see magnificent golden popcorn, a little like golden nuggets
I smell buttery joyfulness popcorn exactly like the movies
I taste crunchy gorgeous, melting in my stomach
I hear the popcorn screaming in the steaming hot microwave
I feel oily warm popcorn sizzling in fingers

By Annique Swayn

I see a soft golden glow covering the popcorn
I smell the delightful buttery smell as it is cooking
I taste a delightful crispy buttery flavour
I hear the soft sweet popping in the microwave
I feel a hard crispy buttery surface

By Keely Crane

“Nanda (Lakes) Talk”

Jingerri and welcome to my first, but soon to be regular entry into the newsletter for 2014. My name is Michelle Davis and I support all of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students here at Varsity College.

My assistance comes in many different forms for our students, from in-class support to introducing the students to future employment opportunities and supporting student’s future learning beyond Varsity College by involving the students in varied University programs.

My goals this year are to provide engaging programs for the students and their families and keep you updated with
significant dates and community events that take place in our
Yugambeh community.
If I can assist you with any enquiries I am located in the Junior
Administration Office on Monday and Wednesday and the
Senior Office on Tuesdays, or you can email me directly on
mdavi38@eq.edu.au.

I look forward to yarning with you
Michelle

Helping Children Succeed at School
As parents and educators, we all want our children to be happy
and successful at school. We want them to be competent in
social settings, be able to relate well with other children, be
respectful and tolerant, and we want them to achieve to their
potential academically.
Parents can help their child or children succeed at school by:

- Building a positive attitude toward school in your child.
  Regularly talk with them about the importance of
  school and how a good work ethic can help them
  achieve their goals in life. Remind them that teachers
  and other school staff are there to help them learn.
  Your child needs to understand that the school
  curriculum, procedures and rules are designed to help
  them get a good education to help them succeed in
  the future. If your child is clear about the purpose
  of school, then they will be more likely to focus on
  putting the necessary effort into their schoolwork.
- Maintaining regular, positive contact with your child’s
  teacher. If your child sees that you and the teacher are
  working together and that you both have the same
  purpose, then your child will be more likely to work to
  the best of their ability.
- Modelling tolerant, respectful and calm behaviour.
  Children who realise they have to consider the needs
  of others, and who know how to cooperate and
  compromise when necessary, usually have little
  trouble making friends.

School Reminders

Before School:
We ask all students who arrive at school before 8:20am to go
straight to the Undercover Area near the tuckshop and wait until
they are dismissed. There is a staff member rostered on in this
area at this time. Once dismissed from this area, students are
to go to their class area.

Bicycles/Scooters/ Skateboards/Roller Blades:
Bike racks are provided for students to lock their bikes to.
Students who ride bikes must have a safety helmet. Once in
the grounds students are to dismount and walk their bikes to
the rack area. Scooters, Skateboards and Roller Blades are not
permitted on the school grounds due to workplace, health and
safety considerations.

Uniforms:
Students wear their day uniform on three days of the week and
their sports uniform twice a week – for PE lessons and Sports.

All students now know their days. If for any reason your child is
out of uniform, please provide a written note as your child will
be approached if seen in the incorrect uniform.
The Varsity College uniform is regarded by the community as
being very important. The P&C support that our college is a full
– uniform school.

School Payments:
Please contact the Office to obtain your child/ren’s EQ ED
number to enable internet banking direct deposits – pay on-line
and avoid the queues.

Updating of Student Information:
Please ensure your child/ren’s details such as address,
emergency contact and medical information are updated and
correct. If there have been any changes in your details, please
advise the Office in writing or visit the Primary Administration
Office for the necessary forms.

Interschool Sport Years 5-7
The interschool Sport season will run from 21 March -13 June
2014 on Fridays from 12pm - 3pm.
The cost will be approximately $70 and Soccer, AFL, Rugby
League, Netball and Hockey are the sports that will be offered.
Trials and sign-ons for these sports will begin in Week 4 this
term.

Getting Creative in 1 Cherry!
The children in Grade 1 have settled in beautifully and have
been very busy! In 1 Cherry we have been studying the primary
colours and what happens when we mix them. The group
below were experimenting with yellow and blue. We were
amazed at how many different shades of green we were able to
create. Come in and have a look at our beautiful artwork in the
classroom.

Coming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Month</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 4 Bike Safety</td>
<td>10 – 20</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport Sign On for Year 5</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Photos</td>
<td>26 - 27</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
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</table>
**SECONDARY CAMPUS NEWS**

**From the Campus Director**

I am extremely pleased to report the continuation of an amazing start to the 2014 school year. This has been the result of extremely high levels of student engagement in classrooms, the establishment of high expectations of student behaviour, and the commitment to the high standards of wearing the College uniform. I would like to thank and congratulate all students and parents for your support of our safe and supportive school culture and request your support in maintaining these standards throughout the school year.

Thank you to all parents who took the time to attend the recent Parent Partnership evening for Middle School classes. For those parents who could not make it, I encourage you to send in your Email contact with your child to give to their Foundation Teacher for future communication purposes. A parent – Teacher Interview Program will also be conducted at the end of Term 1.

The College is extremely proud of the structures that are in place to support student well-being within our school. These structures include:

- A year level coordinator for each year level to monitor behaviour and uniform standards as well as the coordination of year level programs such as leadership days
- A full Guidance Officer allocation for both the Senior School and Middle School
- A positive Behaviour Mentor to support students both in the classroom and playground
- Foundation Teacher structure through Years 6 to 9 to develop relationships and monitor student progress

Parents are encouraged to contact any of the above-mentioned staff as required throughout the year. Contact details can be obtained from the school office or the College Website.

Congratulations to all students who participated in the recent Middle and Senior Swimming Carnivals. The Carnivals were a huge success thanks to the high levels of participation from students and the tireless efforts of Mrs Perrone and the staff of the College who coordinated and supported the running of the events.

Over the past month, team work and leadership programs have been initiated for our Year 9 and Year 12 QCS pathway students. In Week 5 of this term our elected Year 6, Year 9 and Year 12 student leaders will be inducted into their roles at a whole campus assembly. Additional programs such as High Resolves will also be conducted with a select group of students to develop their leadership and teamwork skills.

Trials have commenced for the Year 8 and 9 Cluster Sport Competition for Semester One. Later in the term, Years 6 and 7 students will trial for the Primary Interschool Sport program. These programs provide students an opportunity to compete in their chosen sport against students from other schools.

The first meeting about the 2014 Chinese Immersion China Tour was held last week. The China Tour is open to all Year 6 to 10 Chinese Immersion students. Tour groups visit out three Sister Schools in Beijing and Zhu Hai who will also be visiting Varsity College during the year.

After the success of last year, the College will be holding another College Fair at the end of May this year. We look forward to any assistance the school community can provide leading up to the event. Ongoing call outs will be made for donations closer to the day. Please mark down Saturday, May 31 on your calendars for what promises to be another fabulous community event.

**Stephen O’Brien**

**Director of Secondary Campus**

**Success for three Varsity Students**

I am proud to announce that three of our Senior Students at Varsity College were successful in their application for a RSL Youth Development Program Grant. Congratulations to Sonya L in year 11 and our two school captains, Alex Ewart and Rachel Tomassen, on their grants. Only 20 students on the Gold Coast were successful this year.

Sonya was awarded $2500 to assist her in attending the 2014 Australian National Gymnastics Championships, staged in Melbourne in July. Sonya will be competing in the Junior International category, for gymnasts aged between 13 to 16 years of age. She will also use the grant to purchase gymnastics apparatus. We wish her luck in her goal to compete in the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, and in the 2014 Youth Olympics.

Alex is excited to have been successful in his application for a RSL Youth Development Program Grant for 2014. His motivation for applying for this grant was to enable him to travel
to New Orleans, where he will have the opportunity to combine his love of music with his dedication to community service. The $5000 grant will enable him to visit The Ellis Marsalis Centre for Music in New Orleans. After the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, this village was constructed by over 70,000 volunteers, and epitomises the value of volunteers and how they can contribute to make an enormous difference to the community. It highlights the way that music can be an incredibly effective tool for people to unite and rebuild after a disaster.

Finally, Rachel’s $5000 grant will give her the ability to attend a Queensland Youth Conference run by the internationally-recognised United Nations Youth Organisation and, if successful in advancing to a national level, the ability to travel interstate to a capital city of Australia to attend the National Conference, with the majority of expenses paid for. At both of these conferences, she will not only acquire the knowledge she needs to be successful politically and in an international human rights sense, but also practically experience these potent debates firsthand with some of the brightest young Australians, with whom she can make invaluable connections. She also is planning on using the remainder of the grant to attend the Global Youth Envision conference in New York.

I encourage all students to apply for the various academic, community and sporting grants available, the application process is a valuable exercise to undertake. Congratulations, Sonya, Rachel and Alex.

**Jeff Davis**  
**Executive Principal**

**Year 6 Leaders Welcomed to the Senior Campus**

After being voted in by their fellow students on the Primary Campus last year, the Year 6 Student Leadership Team was welcomed to the Senior Campus with a special morning tea and collaborative discussion about the role they will have as leaders throughout 2014.

As well as attending special events and assemblies at the Primary Campus and presenting year level assemblies at the senior campus, the eight Year 6 Leaders will form the executive committee for “Year 6 TEAM LEAD”.

This model of leadership will run similar to the very successful Year 7 program run last year in the Middle School. The meaning behind TEAM LEAD is **TEAM Leadership, Encouragement, Acceptance and Direction** and aims to include any students in Year 6 through an opt-in system of participation.

The team will organise a variety of events and activities throughout the year including Year 6 newsletters, talent show, oval and quad activities and competitions, special events as well as chill zones and spaces for year 6 students to call their own. Meetings will be held fortnightly from week four.

**Year 6 Leadership Team enjoying a welcome morning tea**

Students from L-R: Will Ewart, Matthew Hammons, Gemma O’Toole, Anya St James, Kate Bodley, Caitlin Relph, Lachlan Bryson, Noah Chapman

**Academy of Mathematics and Science Grows**

“Our care of the child should be governed, not by the desire to make him learn things, but by the endeavour always to keep burning within him that light which is called intelligence.”

**Maria Montessori**

In what is potentially a first for any Queensland school, Varsity College is proud to announce, that in 2014 our Academy of Mathematics and Science will grow to include six year levels. Starting with the pre-Academy program in Years 6 and 7, through to our inaugural Academy students who are entering Year 11, we aim to provide a unique and innovative curriculum that focusses on enriching and enhancing student learning through real-world experiences. The many established partnerships with local universities and other professionals will challenge students to achieve at the highest level while being mentored in a safe and community minded environment.

With this growth, we introduce Mirella Zuli, as Academy Co-ordinator. A Varsity College teacher, Mirella brings with her invaluable experience with students, teachers, Heads of Curriculum and Heads of Department from Prep through to Year 9. Mirella will connect our Academy community together. If you have any queries regarding the Academy, please contact: academy@varsitycollege.eq.edu.au
Varsity College Students Star in Cultural Celebrations Local Dignitaries and Gold Coast Mayor in Awe-dience!

It was a milestone occasion, to see our Chinese Immersion students performing at Surfers Paradise and Southport to welcome the Year of the Horse!

To sing in Chinese (as a foreign language) to crowds of locals, including dignitaries such as the Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate (pictured) and many native Chinese speakers, is a language and cultural feat our students, teachers and parents can be very, very proud of.

In addition to performing, Varsity College students also led a Chinese Corner and wore the garments of the God of Wealth.

Such opportunities exemplify the community, cultural and academic strength of our school.

A special thanks goes to Angelina Cheung (pictured far above with Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate and Varsity College student Ben Cousins) for extending us the invitation and for her coordination of the event. To our wonderfully dedicated teachers: Ms Jolly Sun, Ms Selina Zhao, Ms Candice Zhou, Ms Flora Chen, Ms Debbie Li, Ms Teresa McGuire and Ms Iris Zhang; and to our talented students and supportive families, thank you and congratulations!

OUR INCREDIBLE CHINESE IMMERSION STUDENT PERFORMERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 6 and 7 Choir</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kasey Kristalyn; Holly Mehegan; Jemma Reay; Zinzan Swayne; Nik Vinsek; Anastasia Baker; William Ewart; Larni Filip; Matthew Hammans; Lara Hildebrand; Sophie Jenkins; Anika Langley; Kaya Mukai; Asha Murtagh; Ami Nakazawa; Gemma O’Toole; Caitlin Ralph; Anya St James; Yuki Suzuki; Monique Laczkó; Bronte Buckley; Aimee-Lee Mills-Hart; Thomas Moss; Alexandria Waldhornall-Sherwin; Zoe B; Richard Fong; Noah Chapman; Jade Dearlove; Kori Mavin; Callun Harverson</td>
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<tr>
<th>Chinese Corner</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brianna Varcoe; Holly Greenman; Tegan Forward, Tiffany Samonte; Samuel Ewart; Benjamin Lei; Sean Samonte; Georgia Kostanski; Abigail Hayward; Charlotte Hammans; Tiffany Hammans; Ivy He, Tim T; Jasmine Irving; Lily Tu, Ahzweeta Kaur Saindhu; Crystal Law; Alyssa Cooper; Renz Mendoza</td>
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<tr>
<th>Da Zhong Guo Choir</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ibraheem J; Sebastian Holub-Huttunen; Nathan Christidis; Alex Kern; Deepank Sharma; Charlotte Hammans; Kimera Naidoo; Akira Judd; Lao Li; Jordan Gardiner; Jemila Martin; Cedric Tan; Samuel Che; Fernando Khouw; Shannon Hayes</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Solo</th>
<th>God of Wealth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tiffany Hammans</td>
<td>Ben Cousins</td>
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</table>
Varsity College Celebrates Chinese New Year

We will host our very own New Year celebrations for the Varsity College Chinese Immersion students and their families here at school on Thursday the 27th of February from 5.30pm in the Senior Learning Centre. The Varsity Community is invited to attend.

We hope to invite the families of our Chinese Immersion students to experience Chinese arts such as calligraphy, tai chi, kung fu, cooking and games. The highlight of this interactive event will be the Lion Dance to celebrate the New Year and welcome the Year of the Horse. Stalls selling Chinese food will be a new feature this year.

We would also like to invite members of our Varsity College community to share their Chinese talents and skills with us. If you would like to run a workshop please contact Katherine Sirett on (07) 55623575 or email ksirett@eq.edu.au.

Welcome – Miss Iris Zhang

The Varsity College community would like to welcome Miss Iris Zhang from the People’s Republic of China. Miss Zhang arrived prior to Australia Day weekend (forgoing Chinese New Year celebrations with her family in her homeland) and is joining our Chinese teaching team in the role of Teaching Assistant in Immersion and LOTE classes. Miss Zhang will be working with students across a number of year levels to share cultural knowledge and as an aid to improve the listening, speaking, reading and writing abilities of our students.

We know that the students of Varsity College will show their respect and appreciation to her. If you see Miss Zhang around the campuses you can say, “Ni hao Zhang laoshi!” or “Zhanglaoshi ni hao!” [Ni hao means hello, laoshi means teacher, Zhang is her surname, a common surname in China].

The Varsity College community would like to thank the people who made it possible for Miss Zhang to be working with us. Firstly, Louise Whitcher and her family for hosting Miss Zhang, thank you for your effort, time, and commitment to providing opportunities for our students to improve their language; and for enabling guests from other countries, such as Miss Zhang, to experience our country, our city and our school. Also thank you to Mr Mark Buzolic for his organisation of this program last year.

Happy Year of the Horse!
The Varsity College Chinese Teaching Team

Varsity Student meets NBA Star.

On Friday Feb 1 Varsity College year 12 student Gav Sipka got to live one of his sporting dreams and had the opportunity to meet a former NBA & EURO Basketball Superstar  Vlade Divac. Divac, a Serbian born player, played with the Great Ervin “Magic” Johnson as an LA Laker for many years through the late 80’s and early 90’s and is out here in Australia visiting with Serbian communities and raising awareness for his foundation who provide housing to the refugee families that remain living in collective centres in Serbia. Gav, also of Serbian heritage, got to spend some time talking hoops and taking some photos.

Gav and his family have kindly donated a signed Basketball (from the photo) to Varsity College which will be on display in the sports hall shortly! Great work Gav!

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Varsity Student meets NBA Star.

On Friday Feb 1 Varsity College year 12 student Gav Sipka got to live one of his sporting dreams and had the opportunity to meet a former NBA & EURO Basketball Superstar  Vlade Divac. Divac, a Serbian born player, played with the Great Ervin “Magic” Johnson as an LA Laker for many years through the late 80’s and early 90’s and is out here in Australia visiting with Serbian communities and raising awareness for his foundation who provide housing to the refugee families that remain living in collective centres in Serbia. Gav, also of Serbian heritage, got to spend some time talking hoops and taking some photos.

Gav and his family have kindly donated a signed Basketball (from the photo) to Varsity College which will be on display in the sports hall shortly! Great work Gav!
ACROSS CAMPUS NEWS

2014 School Photos

Advanced life Photographers will be photographing our school on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Photos Taken</th>
<th>Year Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17 February, 2014</td>
<td>10 - 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 24 February, 2014</td>
<td>6 - 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25 February, 2014 – Catch-up photos if required</td>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25 February, 2014</td>
<td>Junior Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26 February, 2014</td>
<td>Junior Campus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You will receive a Flyer/envelope for each of your students explaining the products available.

Please ensure that each student returns his/her own envelope even if payment is made in the eldest child’s envelope. Envelopes are not to be placed inside other envelopes. Do NOT place cash in envelopes.

**Students are to bring envelopes on Photo Day.**

We have an auto-mated system for payments by credit card. You can go online to www.advancedlife.com.au for easy to understand payment instructions. You will receive a receipt number which MUST be written on the order envelope in the space provided. You can also make payments by cheque or money order. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.

Sibling Photos are available for students on the primary campus only. Please collect a “family order envelope” from the Prep Admin on the Junior Campus & return it to the office. Please note these are only available for Students attending the Junior School.

Please don’t hesitate to contact Advancedlife Photographers directly if you have any queries, on:

Ph: (07) 3216 8280 or Fax: (07) 3216 8850

We look forward to seeing all your smiling faces!

Check out the available packages from the Advance Life flyers below:

**Instrumental Music - Band**

Welcome back to 2014! I hope everyone has settled back into the instrumental music routine for Term 1.

As you know, there was a change to rehearsal times on the senior campus. Thank you to everyone for being patient with us while this change took place. Below are the rehearsal times for all ensembles within the Multi (Band) program from years 5-12.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ensemble</th>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jazz Ensemble</td>
<td>7 - 9</td>
<td>7:20 – 8:20am</td>
<td>Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginner Concert Band</td>
<td>5 - 6</td>
<td>7:20 – 8:20am</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage Band</td>
<td>8 - 12</td>
<td>7:20 – 8:20am</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Concert Band</td>
<td>6 - 7</td>
<td>7:20 – 8:20am</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind Symphony</td>
<td>7 - 12</td>
<td>3:00 – 4:30pm</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concert Band</td>
<td>7 - 9</td>
<td>7:20 – 8:20am</td>
<td>Friday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is very important that if your child is not at the rehearsal (especially the afternoon rehearsal) that we have written confirmation either by email or written note the absence before the rehearsal please.

Currently in all ensembles, your son/daughter has been given new repertoire from last year. It is very important that your son/daughter looks at this new material at home to make rehearsals more enjoyable. This repertoire will be looked at in lessons; however the main focus of lessons this year is instrument specific repertoire.

If you have an instrument not being used at home (either strings or band) and you would like to sell it, please get in contact with any of the music staff and we will happily advertise it on the notice boards. We have new parents to the program wishing to purchase frequently.

My email is mcaulton@eq.edu.au if you require any further information.

**Mathew Caulton**

**Instrumental Music Teacher**

International Department News

**First Chinese Study Tour for 2014**

Our first Study Tour from China arrived on Monday 4 February. They were welcomed to the school and then commenced six days of Integration classes with buddies from Year Eleven. They shadowed these students and participated in a variety of subjects as per the buddies’ timetable. Specialist English classes were provided by Mrs Vickers and Mrs Wood to improve their English which was at quite a good level. On the Friday of the Senior Swimming Carnival they experienced class integration with Year Eight buddies.

The feedback we received from students was that they were impressed with the participation and interaction that students have with their teachers. They enjoyed the help and support of their buddies and also were impressed with the laptop program. They liked the Senior Campus and especially liked
watching the Basketball programs in the afternoons and are all keen to come back and play basketball!

We had a Farewell Ceremony and a highlight was the students sing “Kookaburra Sits in The Old Gum Tree” as a round, in three lessons, the students sang incredibly. A round is hard enough to sing, for anyone who speaks English, let alone as a second language! Boomerangs were given to the schools to symbolically hope the students return however the highlight were the Tim Tam biscuits which were included as part of the students gifts.

The Year Eleven Buddies were invited to the Farewell Lunch and we thanked them for their exemplary skills in being ambassadors for Varsity College. We would also like to thank the teachers for welcoming these students into their classes, as we appreciate it is a very busy time of the year.

Our next Study Tour is tentatively booked for April when we will have approximately 21 students from Ateneo De Manila University High School. We will be looking for homestays for this tour so if you are interested please see the information in the Newsletter regarding Homestays.***

2014 New International High School Students:

We have four new students in Year 11 this year. We are very excited to welcome these students to our International Program that is run through Educations Queensland International.

Please let me introduce our new students:

Olga Chemilovskaia is from Russia and she is a Graduate program student here for Year 11 and 12. She has already completed some studies at Bond University and is keen to have a career in the International business world.

Sae Taniguchi is a successful scholarship winner from Japan. Sae is excited to be here and is one of fifty students who have come to Australia under an initiative with the Tokyo Board of Education and EQI to come and study as a Study Abroad student for twelve months in a Queensland school.

Bruna Spadotto Rodrigues is from Brazil and is studying with Varsity College as a Study Abroad student for six months. Whilst it has been a very new experience, Bruna is a long way from home. Bruna is keen to see many sights that the Gold Coast and Brisbane have to offer. Her school in Brazil makes sure that she continues her studies so that she can pursue her career, which possibly could be in an engineering field.

Sofia Salinas Gutierrez is from Chile and will be with us for Term One. Sofia has blended in so well that sometimes you forget she is an International student!

If you get a chance to speak to Sofia, she is enjoying her stay here in Australia and would like to thank her friends for making her so welcome. Sometimes it is difficult but being able to ask questions makes it so much easier.

Homestay Families Required

Homestay Families Required

Varsity College is looking for families who are interested in applying to become a homestay family for our International Students.

Our International Students can be Study Abroad students, here for six to nine months, Graduate Students, here to study for one to two years, or Study Tour students who may be here for one to two weeks.

If you wish to open your house to a student the requirements are as follows:

Requirements

- Complete a homestay application form (see the link below)
- Caring English speaking family
- Provide supervision and guidance as needed
- Supply all meals and snacks
- Private fully furnished separate bedroom with desk
- Access to bathroom and laundry facilities
- Internet access
- Current Blue Card (This card is required for any person over the age of 18 where homestay students will reside. It is a no cost application form and is available from Commission of Young Children and Guardians)
- Have a property inspection to ensure EQI requirements and agree to a six monthly visit once hosting students.
- Access to private and public transport
• Introduce your family to another culture
• Develop language skills
• Make international friends
• Share our Australian culture & lifestyle
• Receive funding as per EQI website

By becoming a host family, the benefits for you and your family are:

• Introducing all members of your family to another culture
• Develop language skills
• Make international friends
• Share our Australian culture & lifestyle

More information about becoming a Homestay family can be found from the Guidelines of being a Homestay family (see the link below), the Homestay family code of conduct (see the link below) and also the application form (see the link below). If you wish to apply, please complete the form and email it to our Homestay Coordinator, Sue Jones as soon as possible at sjone416@eq.edu.au

Alternatively, contact Sue to discuss any queries you may have on 5576 9522. Successful applicants are then added to our database and we will contact you as students arrive at our school.

Primary School Finance

The Primary School Finance window will be operating with new hours from Tuesday 18 February 2014. New trading hours are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Finance Window</th>
<th>Ph: 5576 9333</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday to Thursday</td>
<td>8:00am to 10:30am</td>
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</table>

Uniform Shop News

Opening Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prep/Junior Uniform Shop</th>
<th>Ph: 5576 9308</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8:00am to 10:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2:00pm to 3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:00am to 11:00am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Middle/Senior Uniform Shop</th>
<th>Ph: 5562 3512</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8:00am to 10:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>8:00am to 11:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>8:00am to 11:00am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Second Hand Uniform

We will no longer accept items to be sold on consignment. They can be donated to the school or sold privately. All items currently on consignment will be sold under the existing arrangement.

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

After School Care

Welcome back Parents to 2014,

A big welcome to our new families we look forward to you joining our community.

We have hit the ground running and we have a fabulous programming running and have Active After School Care coaches coming out to teach Basketball on Tuesday’s and Hip Hop Dance on Thursdays, make sure you book in for these days, so you don’t miss out.

If you would like to enrol with our Varsity OSHC please visit www.campaaustralia.com.au or call our wonderful team on 1300 105 343.

So come on in and say Hello, We look forward to meeting you all.

Briony Winters and the Varsity Team
OSHC Coordinator

P&C - Thankyou

These are our extraordinary volunteers who made our Varsity Vibe “love” Market an incredible evening & a huge success:

Michelle Adkins Cheryl Gilroy Ben Gilroy Luke Gilroy Jake Gilroy Peter Gilroy Nadine Toussaint-Hayes James Grace Mandy Miller Emma Stawicki Bec “Adams” Campbell Mary Hust Max Dunlop Adrian Smith Julia White Zandra White Tamara White Lynne Davis Sharlei Grace Samantha Manson Emily Stonehouse Caitlin Butler Ally Holmes Dion Bello Brian Phillips Alberto Arroyo Rikki Ngata Zane Gravesande Zane Powell Michael Paul Emma Lehtinen Charlie Maxwell Emmanuelle Oliveri Tungane Poa Kobi Lane Todd Lane Matthew Bishop Chris Yalden Matthew Osborne Kiah Pender Ila la Bonya Judy Hammans Tiffany Hammans Kerri Young

You are all equally amazing, thank you!
Special thanks to:

- Force Electrical for your continued support in providing our power boxes & the testing and tagging.
- John Paul College for donating nearly 200 chairs – amazing!!!

Cameron Markham
President, Varsity College P & C Association

COMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>17 Feb 2014</td>
<td>School Photos Years 10 - 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>18 Feb 2014</td>
<td>Bike Safety 4G</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Across Campus</td>
<td>18 Feb 2014</td>
<td>District Swimming Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>19 Feb 2014</td>
<td>Bike Safety 4D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>20 Feb 2014</td>
<td>Bike Safety 4B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>20 Feb 2014</td>
<td>Oceanic Carnival Miami Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>24 Feb 2014</td>
<td>School Photos Years 7 - 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Across Campus</td>
<td>24 Feb 2014</td>
<td>Wipe Out Waste WOW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>25 Feb 2014</td>
<td>Catch Up Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>25 Feb 2014</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>26 Feb 2014</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>3 – 4 Mar 2014</td>
<td>Year 4 - St Helena’s Convict Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>5 Mar 2014</td>
<td>South Coast Carnival – Miami Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>7 Mar 2014</td>
<td>Year 11 - Grin and Tonic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>11 Mar 2014</td>
<td>Year 7 - Starlab Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Across Campus</td>
<td>14 Mar 2014</td>
<td>Shave for a Cure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Across Campus</td>
<td>14 Mar 2014</td>
<td>Women’s International Day Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>24 Mar 2014</td>
<td>Relay for Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>3 April 2014</td>
<td>Year 8 &amp; 10 Immunisations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>