18 March 2014

EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

I have returned from Barcelona with a myriad of stories about how the best digital schools in the world are transforming learning through a digital learning platform. Hearing from these leaders was inspiring and as the chief organiser of the “School Track” program, it was an immense pleasure to receive positive comments from participants that echoed the themes of the conference. No better endorsement of the week could have been received after a Teacher Leader from Uganda wrote; “my eyes have been opened” in reference to the potential that exists in a digital learning environment.

If there were 3 things that have transformed my thinking this last week it would be:

1. Culture will trump Strategy 100% of the time. We often try to use strategies to achieve outcomes, only to find they do not succeed, yet if we focus on building the culture necessary for this strategy to succeed then we would be far more successful!

2. Students are being distracted by the random use of digital equipment – deep concentration is a skill that must be developed. The use of digital equipment in a random manner can totally distract students from the development of deep thinking and concentration. We must adopt and teach students (and parents) how to improve this concentration and not just assume that this happens automatically.

3. The quality of assessment can be measured by checking the “Bing” or “Google” searches that students are making to develop their answers. If students can find an answer in a single search then we need to reconsider the question that was asked in the first place. There are lots of technologies available now that can support the gathering of this data.

Another statistic that was incredible to comprehend was that there are over 50 million teachers in China and in excess of 650 million students. The cost and logistics of even getting each teacher to have their own laptop is beyond comprehension. We worked with a group of Chinese Principals at how they can introduce flipped teaching into an environment where the students use their personal computers at home but use no digital technology at school. The Principals involved in this strategic meeting all left feeling lucky for the equipment that we often take for granted at our schools.

This month we have the P&C AGM where a new P&C executive will be elected. This is an important time for the P&C as they seek to redefine their role in the school. I encourage all to come if possible to support this process.

There are many meetings during this week in reference to the building projects and improvements that we are making to the school. I am really pleased with the progress that has been made in reference to these plans and will provide further updates as we have progress meetings.

Varsity College shone on the world stage in Barcelona. Other schools are starting to build quality systems, but our model works incredibly well and sets Varsity College apart from all other schools. I should take the time to congratulate the team who have worked tirelessly to roll-out the new year 7 and 10 computers. This has been an enormous undertaking and I know that this team is often undervalued for their efforts. Congratulations team for the work you have done to complete this roll-out.

Jeff Davis
Executive Principal

Thanks to the leadership team who allowed me to go on this conference to represent Varsity College. They have done an amazing job while I have been away.

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Primary Campus News

Primary School

It was wonderful to share the induction of Student Leaders across the Primary Campus with parents and guests. We congratulate everyone involved and know we will have a very successful year based upon their enthusiasm and drive to develop essential life skills and characteristics which will ensure their future success.

Student leaders for 2014 have already shown they are adaptable, responsible and creative and that they are developing skills in problem solving and teamwork. Well done everyone!

Congratulations also to Mr Peter Dallas, Ms Brittany Barr, Mrs Peta Johnstone and Ms Celia Taparau for organising the ceremony.

Year 4 students and teachers outdid themselves entertaining us all at the conclusion of the ceremony – thank you one and all!

A very enjoyable morning tea followed the formal cutting of the celebratory cake which was shared by student leaders and their families.
Nick and Andrew have done a superb job with our school environment. The re-turfing of several areas has been very successful and we thank Nick and Andrew for their tireless efforts.

Wipe Out Waste Litter Detectives

Last Thursday 3B went to a Litter Detective Talk. There was a lady whose name was Lucy and she was going to be teaching us about Wipe Out Waste.

Firstly she taught us about where litter is found. Litter is found in lots of places such as shopping centres, food courts, gutters, drains and a lot of others.

There are lots of reasons that people don’t put their rubbish in the bin. Some people don’t care about the creatures and environment. But others are just lazy! Another thing bad about littering is that the rubbish outside goes into the drains. The rubbish in the drains goes into rivers and oceans. So the animals in the oceans all get very sick and die.

When people put too much rubbish in the bin, the lid cannot close and litter falls out everywhere. Picking up litter is everyone’s responsibility. Littering isn’t just terrible to do, it also looks terrible too.

When we were at Wipe Out Waste, we played a sorting game. In the game we had to sort the rubbish into categories like metal, paper, glass and other types.

When you pick up rubbish you always have to be careful of what you’re picking up.

Litter Poem

Never drop rubbish
And never litter
Unless you’re a mean person
Who is very bitter

By Summer Wedd 3B

Last Thursday my class went to Wipe Out Waste and I learnt about

- How to sort litter
- Where litter is mostly found
- What litter comes from where, and
- About where litter goes

Litter mostly ends up in drains that lead to the ocean and this can cause sea animals to mistake it for food. Some animals get sick by the decomposed plastic particles in the water.
Some people are too lazy, so try to pick up litter after them or ask them to pick it up.

Warning: Do not touch sharp, poisonous or dangerous waste like sharps or mouldy food scraps. FYI mould is not only gross but sometimes carries diseases.

**By Chayse 3B**

**Litter Detectives**

On Friday the 21st February the Year 3 classes went to Wipe Out Waste at Varsity College – Year 1C classroom. We learnt to recycle litter so you can help the environment and make the Earth a better place. Litter comes from us and sometimes gets clogged in your storm water drains so be careful where you put your rubbish.

**By Evan 3J**

On Friday 21 February, 3J went to Wipe Out Waste to learn about litter. We had rubbish and we had to sort it out and figure out where it was from. Ours was from a ‘party at the park’.

We had papers, cans and food wrappers. After, the lady showed us some places that had been littered, even in lakes and ponds. They were very messy and yucky for animals that live there.

**By 3J**

**Three Player Scissors Paper Rock – Maths Investigation**

In groups, 5H investigated if the three player version of Scissors, Paper, Rock was a fair game or not.

We made a prediction and then played the game multiple times and made a tally of the scores for all the players. Then to see if it was a fair game, we created a table of all the possible combinations for each player to get a point. Next we came to the conclusion that the yellow player had 18 chances out of a total of 27 possible outcomes, making this game biased and therefore not fair.

We thoroughly enjoyed this investigation because we got to play and experiment with a fun game in maths.

Well, first of all we went on a coach at 7:30am - that was an early start. We had to get to the harbour at Moreton Bay where our mini ferry was waiting for us to hop on. We couldn’t see the Island from the bay, but I could see the Island as we approached by ferry. It was really exciting sitting on the top deck of the ferry. When we got off the ferry the guard and the prisoners, 321 and 31, were already acting out their parts. I was already amazed at what I saw.

We split into two groups and got a tour of the Island. We were taught about the prisoners and the punishments they received if they did something wrong. They actually showed us some of the physical punishments. Prisoners got lashed for not following the rules and for misbehaving. My favourite prisoner was 321, because he was hilarious. The prisoners were all given numbers because the guards didn’t want to know their names. The guard told us they didn’t care about what the prisoners were called.

We went around the different places and saw a lot of amazing treasures in the museum. Here we could see the old tools that the prisoners used and pictures of the convicts. The prisoners built the administration block and they farmed on the island. If the prisoners got visitors they were separated from each other and were not allowed to touch or hold hands, I think this is very sad. They also had a school room set up like it used to be.

I can’t tell you every single thing, although I want to, but thank you for listening to my story. Bye!

**Alexandra Connor**

**Buddy Bench Up-Date – Buddy Bench Set to Expand**

2 Harlequin are taking their concept out of their playground zone and working with other year levels to implement more Buddy Benches.

The compassion and empathy that students demonstrate towards their peers is inspiring. To see children asking children they don’t know if they ‘would like to play’ is a sign that this program is working effectively.

Some of the activities that our Harlequins host are, Piggy in the Middle, volleyball, skipping and we have just introduced “What’s the time Mr Wolf?”, nothing like ‘tossing some curriculum activities’ into their play.

So if you are on the school grounds during first break call by and see our children hosting the Buddy Bench. We are in the Prep School near the Year 2 playground equipment.

“There are no strangers here; only friends you haven’t yet met.”
- William Butler

**Year 4 Travel to St Helena**

On Monday and Tuesday (3 and 4 March) all the Year 4 students and teachers went on a trip back in time. My class went on Monday and it was AWESOME!!! Read on to find out what we did.
Primary Campus Ride/ Walk to School Day – Wednesday 19 March

Varsity College Primary Campus will launch its Active School Travel Program on Wednesday March 19 with a “Walking / Wheelee Wednesday.” On the day we are encouraging as many families as possible to be involved by helping their children walk or ride, all or part of the way to school.

To help celebrate the launch, the school will provide a healthy breakfast for all students who walk or ride all or part of the way to school. At the breakfast students will get the opportunity to meet the Council Active Transport Mascot “ZERO THE HERO”.

Students who participate will also be given a passport that will be stamped each time they ride or walk to school. When students receive 10 stamps in their passport they are eligible for an incentive prize sponsored by the Gold Coast City Council.

Students will be receiving further information about this day and upcoming events over the coming weeks. The Varsity College Primary Campus have joined with The Gold Coast City Council in promoting this initiative to reduce the vehicular traffic around the school, and promote daily physical activity and healthy eating for our students.

The College is encouraging all families to join us in this City Council supported initiative.

March 19 is also National “Ride to School Day”. The following article is from Bicycle Queensland President Mr Bill Loveday on the benefits of riding or walking to school. Please take the time to read and reflect on the information presented in the message by the author.

Why Ride or Walk to School?

Give your children a good start in life.

by Bill Loveday, President of BQ

A COMMON headache for many parents at the start of the year is arranging transport to and from school for their children. The answer is simple: make them walk, ride bikes or at least catch public transport. It is not only a matter of convenience. If you drive them you could be killing them, in the short term and the long term.

Roads around most schools at the beginning and end of the school day are choked with cars. Daily, you can witness drivers parking illegally, stopping, turning, getting frustrated and angry; In short, being just plain dangerous to themselves and other road users.

More importantly they are putting at risk their charges. In attempting to “safely” escort them to school, well-intentioned parents create the very situations that increase the risk of children being involved in traffic incidents.

Danger myths

There is a common misconception that the roads and footpaths of our suburbs are dangerous places for children to walk or ride their bikes. The urban myth of “stranger danger” suggests that children are at risk from hundreds of bogeymen. In fact, statistics show that crimes against children are significantly less than ever before in recorded history.

Sadly, this paranoia, by keeping children off the streets and out of public spaces, reduces the protective and security value of having more people out and about.

For bicycle riders, things are improving due to reduced suburban speed limits and making school zones a blanket 40km/h. Trials of 30km/h school zones are just around the corner, and this will contribute even more to the safety of children both cycling and walking.

A major residual threat to children walking and cycling to school is parents who insist on driving their children to and from school.

Australia could make the roads even safer for cyclists and pedestrians. New European Union Policies dictate that in any cycle and motor vehicle accident, the motor vehicle automatically is considered at fault. It is then up to the motorist to prove that he or she did not cause the accident. Revolutionary as this may be, it is about time in Australia that motorists accepted more responsibility for the road toll.

Highlighting our poor record were two tragic accidents last year when motorists killed triathlete Luke Harrop and fireman Les Russell in cycling accidents.

Big cars, big egos

The automotive industry shares considerable blame here as well, for producing petrol-guzzling monsters with great engine capacities to terrorise our streets, congest our roads and pollute our cities. Car advertising campaigns show scant regard for safety or the environment by promoting big cars, greater speed and even bigger egos.

All this has longer-term implications. Consider the well-documented epidemic levels of obesity in Australian children. There is every sign that the trend for overweight and unhealthy children will continue to climb. It seems organised sporting activities and physical education for Australian school children are missing their mark - maybe because they offer only an hour or so a week of Physical respite against an overwhelmingly sedentary lifestyle. Poor habits and Patterns formed in childhood lay the groundwork for unhealthy adult behaviour.

A healthy attitude

Medical opinion suggests that, along with a good diet, at least 30 minutes’ exercise each day is sufficient to combat Western lifestyle diseases. Incidental exercise, or that exercise built into your daily life, easily can meet your daily quota. Walking and cycling to and from school offers just such a significant exercise opportunity for school children.

The Norwegian Government thinks cycling is so good for the country it is proposing a system of tax breaks for citizens who ride to work. Some companies already give financial incentives to staff who ride bicycles. Contrast that with indulgent corporate Australia, where the tax system rewards people for driving motor vehicles. Little wonder our children are getting obese, given the poor role models we provide for them.

The great thing is, cycling and walking are cheap, save on petrol, don’t create pollution, and the more people who do it, the safer the streets become.
How parents can help

Get your child’s bike from a bicycle shop so they can be fitted properly, or get their current bike properly serviced. All the bike needs to be roadworthy is a bell and brakes. Take the time to teach your children the basic road rules (obey the lights, ride no more than two abreast and give way to pedestrians on the footpath). Perhaps then you could do a trial ride with them to school, to work out the best route. Otherwise get together with other parents and form a cycling or walking “bus”.

All of this is so easy, and it is the responsibility of parents and schools to take up the baton and run with it. You are doing your kids the greatest favour you can by not driving them to school. You could even be saving their lives.

Chess Club Begins Next Term

Next term Chess Club will begin for students in Years 3-5 during lunch breaks. Students will have the opportunity to enjoy tuition, games and a school organised tournament throughout Term 2.

The benefits of playing chess are well documented. Research shows that chess develops spatial, numerical and cognitive powers along with pattern recognition, problem solving, visualisation and strategic thinking. Chess improves concentration and the ability to select the best course of action from a set of options. Furthermore, chess develops confidence, sportsmanship and good manners as players follow the etiquette of tournament play. Chess provides reinforcement of consequences to behaviour, reward for hard work and a sense of enjoyment and fun.

An expression of interest form will be sent home over the next few weeks. A small cost will be incurred to cover equipment, certificates and trophies. All children are welcome regardless of experience in playing chess.

ICAS Testing Years 3-5

Recently notes went home to all parents regarding ICAS testing. ICAS provides an opportunity for Year 3 - 5 students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. These tests are voluntary and provide parents and students with comprehensive reporting of results in the areas of Computer Skills, Spelling, English, Mathematics, Science and Writing.

All students receive a certificate and an individual student’s report indicating which questions they answered correctly and their score compared with the rest of the students tested. The UNSW certificate and individual student report are also suitable for your child to include in a portfolio. High quality UNSW certificates are awarded for each year level as follows:

- **High Distinction to the top 1% of entrants**
- **Distinction to the next 10% of entrants**

Students may sit just one competition test or all the tests. As these papers need to be ordered, and have an order cut-off date, please adhere to the following guidelines regarding ordering and payment of ICAS tests.

All students who handed in an expression of interest form by Friday 14 March 2014, will receive an invoice. Payment needs to be made prior to 10am Monday 31 March 2014 for ICAS tests to be ordered.

If you have any further questions regarding ICAS please contact Melissa Bodley at mboedl1@eq.edu.au

Junior Musical Update

We are very excited to announce that Varsity College Junior School is presenting, “High School Musical Jnr”. The date is yet to be advised due to a clash in the calendar; however it will be towards the end of Term 3.

Congratulations to everybody who auditioned. These experiences are often very daunting, so everybody who auditioned should feel very proud of their efforts, whether they got in or not. We are now on the search to find our lead characters, which will be selected from our cast over the next 2 weeks.

What an exciting time, as the cast, crew and production team work together to produce this family friendly musical. The months ahead will be full of energy, fun, dedication and hard work, but it will all be worth it when the High School Musical cast hit the stage.

Tickets will not go on sale until Term3 at the Junior School finance window. Adults - $10 and Children - $5.

We look forward to sharing our wonderful show with you at the Primary Hall later this year.

*The High School Musical Creative Arts Team.*
**Nanda (Lakes) Talk**

Jingerri Parents/Caregivers,

March 21 will see Varsity College celebrating “Harmony Day” this is a day for all Australians to celebrate our cultural diversity. We speak approximately 300 languages, including Indigenous ones and four million of us speak a language other than English at home. Cultural diversity is in Australia’s national interest, building our productivity and enriching our lives.

The school will be talking about Harmony Day on assembly all week and the tuckshop will have a special International food menu, so be sure to have a look on-line at what’s in store. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in classroom activities with their teacher.

Our middle and senior students have the AIME Mentoring Experience days starting up this term and I will be sure to post some information and photos about these events, they are a great opportunity for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to gain skills and support to pursue future learning experiences and its available right here in our community at Bond University.

The students have been engaging in the use of our community language within their classroom environment over the last few weeks and the feedback has been really positive. Every week the teacher’s share a new word with their class and slowly we will be building a greater understanding of the Yugambeh country language and knowledge of community. This week’s word will be “Jimbelungare- Friendship”, to walk hand in hand with Harmony Day.

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 mdavi388@eq.edu.au.

I look forward to seeing you.

**Michelle**

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support**

**P-5 ICT Expo for Parents/ Caregivers**

Ever wondered what ICT tools and technical applications your child is using to add value to their learning? Discover this and more at the P-5 ICT Expo on Wednesday 2nd April from 8.30-9.30am, top floor of the LENSE building Primary Campus.

RSVP to Carmel Ord by March 26 cord2@eq.edu.au (spaces are limited)

**Reminders**

The new Primary payment window times are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 am to 10.30 am.

Lost property is filling up quickly with un-named lunchboxes and hats. Please ensure your child’s name is on all of their belongings.

For the safety of our students we ask that parents not use staff car parks for drop off and pick up, and for turning into. Entry in and out of these areas place students and community pedestrians at great risk during peak times.

**Coming Events**

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<th>Event</th>
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<td>Year 5 Commissary Excursion</td>
<td>12 - 13 March</td>
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<td>Walking/ Wheelie Wednesday</td>
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<td>Harmony Day &amp; Anti-bullying Day</td>
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<td>School Cross Country</td>
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<td>Prep Easter Concert</td>
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<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
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**SECONDARY CAMPUS NEWS**

**From the Campus Director**

During the final two weeks of the school term, parents and carers of Year 6 to 8 students will have the opportunity to meet with their child’s foundation classroom teachers. The **Parent Partnership** program provides an opportunity to review the student’s achievements throughout first term, as well as identifying goals for the remainder of this school year. Information relating to the interview booking process will be distributed soon. Parents can also request an interview with their child’s specialist teachers by submitting a request with the Foundation Teacher or with Middle School Office staff.

Parents / Carers of Year 9 to 12 parents will receive a similar opportunity in the second week of Term 2 through an on-line booking service. Log in details will be distributed in coming weeks.

Over the coming weeks, Year 7 to 9 students will receive the first correspondence of the year regarding the Middle School
Camping Program for 2014. The Camp program is available to all Years 7, 8 and 9 students pending up to date school payments and the ongoing display of appropriate school behaviour. Students in Year 6 have already received information regarding their Year 6 specific Camp. Please ensure forms and payments are made by the designated dates to ensure your child receives a place in one these fantastic opportunities.

To ensure safety for all students, it is essential that all students riding bikes to and from school wear a properly fitted helmet. This is not only for the safety of the child but is a LAW. It is the responsibility of all parents to ensure that their child has an appropriate helmet and is wearing the helmet for their school travel. At school, it is imperative that students lock their bike in the appropriate Middle or Senior School bike rack area.

As we reach the end of Term 1, parents are reminded of the importance of sending children to school on every school day unless there is a reasonable excuse for the student to be away, such as illness. Research shows that students who have a good attendance record are more likely to achieve high results. Going shopping, visiting family, staying up late, being tired or extending school holidays are not acceptable reasons to be away from school. Visit the Department of Education and Training website for more information: www.education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts.

On Tuesday May 13, Wednesday May 14 and Thursday May 15 this year (week 4, Term 2), all Year 7 and Year 9 students will be required to complete the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The tests will assess students on writing, reading, language conventions (incl. punctuation, grammar and spelling) and Numeracy. For further information, including exemption, withdrawal and absentee processes, parents should speak to their child’s Foundation teacher and/or view the NAPLAN website: www.naplan.edu.au.

Stephen O’Brien
Director of Secondary Campus

Pick-Up/Drop-off Zone

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents/carers for their understanding and willingness to engage with the new process for picking up and dropping off students in the designated zone on Assembly Drive. While there have been some minor teething issues, the placement of this zone has been very well used by the vast majority.

In the interests of ongoing improvement and clarification, this zone is designed for cars to wait parallel to the footpath for a maximum of 2 minutes. This has been a terrific addition to the streamlining of pick up and drop off processes on assembly drive that has been willingly provided by the Gold Coast city council. Motorists are advised that, as this area is on a public road, it falls under the jurisdiction of the Queensland Police Service.

Once again, I thank you for your support in providing an efficient, safe process for our students during the busy times around drop off and pick up.

Royal Australian Air Force visit.

On Wednesday, students from yr 6 – 9 were fortunate enough to receive a motivational address by a member of the Royal Australian Air Force. Flight Lieutenant Dave Murphy is a Fighter Combat Instructor and Weapons Systems Officer on FA18 Super Hornets based in Amberley Queensland. “Murph” spoke to the assembly about aspects of his job where he has “the best office in the world”. He provided a valuable insight into the requirements for entry into such a career and the importance of setting clearly defined goals and relentlessly pursuing those goals.

Following the assembly Flt Lt Murphy spent some time working with Yr 11 Physics students, highlighting the real world application of mathematics and physics in his career context. The students appreciated the insight into the career of a Fighter Pilot and Weapons Systems Officer and engaged brilliantly in conversation with their guest.

The next stop on the tour for Flt Lt Murphy was the Yr 8 Maths/Science Academy class where students were able to ask more detailed questions about the career and mathematical/scientific elements of the job.

A huge congratulation is in order for all of the students involved for their engagement and behaviour during the visit. Flt Lt Murphy has expressed his willingness to help with any enquiries students may have about careers in the Air Force.

Any such enquiries can be made through Assistant Principal Jeremy Godden who will forward them to Flt Murphy.

Jeremy Godden
Assistant Principal

RSL Youth Development Program


To formally receive their awards, three senior students from Varsity College - Alex Ewart, Sonya Lee, and Rachel Tomassen, attended a Leadership Forum and presentation ceremony last Saturday, at Bond University.

These students have been recognised for their skills and commitment to their nominated area – Community (Alex), Sporting (Sonya), and Academic (Rachel).

One hundred and thirty students from across Queensland were recognised at the forum and approximately 320 people (including family or friends) attended the day. During the day, attendees were privileged to hear from six guest speakers, who shared experiences, advice, time management skills, future pathways and motivation. Sapper Curtis McGrath presented a speech entitled ‘One Wrong Step’, in which he told of his life and how one wrong step in Afghanistan lost him his legs, and changed his life forever. He gave a very moving and inspirational presentation which combined with his experiences, outlined his determination and ability to rise to a challenge. He has recovered from his 2012 accident, and has been supported by the RSL and the mate4mates program, which supports wounded, ill and injured servicemen and women. He has not let his disability prevent him from being an active person, now
walking with state-of-the art prosthetic legs. He left the speechless room with the advice to take every opportunity you are given, and do something great with it. A truly incredible story.

Jennifer Robertson, Governance Practice Leader with Board Matters pty ltd, provided many tips for leading a fulfilling and busy career. Her focus was firmly on strict time management and happiness.

RSL CEO Chris McHugh spoke candidly throughout the day of managing work and family life, offering excellent advice and tips for future success. He told the attendees that we can learn something from everyone we meet – people we admire, as well as those we don’t!

After the speakers, leadership and teamwork skills for the students were challenged ‘survivor’-style, which were great fun and provided them with the opportunity to bond and demonstrate their skills with fellow recipients. Prizes were awarded to the teams with the most points in the fastest time.

It was a fabulous day that our students felt very privileged to attend. The potential of the students at the forum is immense, and they left feeling inspired by their peers and motivated to achieve all that they are capable of.

The RSL contributes $750 000 toward youth development in Queensland.

Varisty Academy of Mathematics and Science

With the skies clearing up beautifully, viewing conditions were perfect on the senior oval for our first 2014 Astronomy event, Jupiter Over Varsity. Academy families were excited to see our Moon and Jupiter, but the special event of the night was seeing the International Space Station zooming through the heavens!

A very special thank you to Mr. Ian Thackwell for setting up his two telescopes, for his bounding enthusiasm and for sharing his passion with so many people.

Thank you also to our student helpers.

International Women’s Day Youth Leadership Breakfast:

On Friday the 14th of March, Varsity College sent 18 students from Years 9, 11 and 12 to the International Women’s Day Youth Leadership Breakfast, Award Presentation and Mentoring Forum held at the Surfers Paradise Hilton. Varsity College girls had the exciting opportunity to meet and network with 250 fellow future leaders. In addition students were able to hear from and connect with successful leaders from the Gold Coast.

I am proud to announce that three of our girls underwent an intense application and interview process and were successfully nominated for the 2014 Youth Awards. Samantha Wruck was nominated for the Community Service Award, Sonya Lee was nominated for the Sports Award and Rachel Tomassen was nominated for the Inspirational Youth Leader Award. Despite facing some significant competition, Samantha, Sonya and Rachel represented the school brilliantly and we are incredibly proud of these outstanding students.

News from Special Education Services:

Secret Agency Society

Last year I implemented the highly successful ‘Secret Agency Society’ program for approximately 9 students. The SAS program was an effective and enjoyable way of teaching and practising social skills in a small group setting.

This year I will again be running the SAS program for students who are a part of the SEP starting in term 2. I am in the process of training two new staff members to implement the program for years 3 – 8. If you would like your child to participate in the program please email me at tburn87@eq.edu.au

The cost for the program is as follows:

| Secret Agent Family Kit (without game) | $131.60 inc. GST & postage and handling |
| Secret Agent Family Kit (with game)   | $314.00 inc. GST & postage and handling |

These kits are necessary for your child to participate successfully in the program. The family kit includes: The Secret Agent Society Cadet Handbook, The Secret Agent Society Parent Workbook, The Secret Agent Society Teacher Tip Sheet Pack, The Secret Agent Society Gadget Pack which contains
full-colour illustrated skill code cards, a code card holder, stress ball, Emotionometers (emotion thermometers), sticker sheets, an ID tag, Fact File cards, a graduation medal, plus a drawstring satchel bag.

It is up to families whether that would like to purchase the game, however, it is not compulsory as the school has purchased copies for students to use at school only.

I will also be developing a refresher program for students who have already completed the program starting in term 2 at no cost for interested families.

Once you have made an expression of interest, I will inform you whether your child has been successful. Intake into program will be a maximum of 6 students per campus. Participation in the program will only occur once payment has been received. Invoices will be raised at the end of term.

For more information about the program please visit the SAS website http://www.sst-institute.net/au/parents/home/

ICAS Competitions

Notes seeking expressions of interest from students who wish to sit any of this year’s ICAS Competitions were distributed in week 6. Return slips should have been returned to the payment window by March 17.

ICAS provides an opportunity for Year 6 - 12 students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. These tests are voluntary* and provide parents and students with comprehensive reporting of results in the areas of Computer Skills (up to year 6), Spelling (up to year 6), English, Mathematics, Science and Writing.

All students receive a certificate and an individual student’s report indicating which questions they answered correctly and their score compared with the rest of the students tested. The UNSW certificate and individual student report are also suitable for your child to include in a portfolio. High quality UNSW certificates are awarded for each year level.

In 2013, Varsity College student Rachel Tomassen achieved a High Distinction for her writing competition entry and was also awarded a special medal as Queensland’s best student writer in her year level.

Students may sit a selection of competition tests or all the tests. These papers need to be ordered, and have an order cut-off date.

Only students who have handed in an expression of interest form will be invoiced for the cost of selected ICAS tests. Invoices will be sent home explaining the payment method.

Parents are to complete payment prior to Monday 31 March 2014.

The college orders ICAS tests for students who have handed in an expression of interest form by 14 March 2014 and completed payment by Monday 31 March 2014.

*All students enrolled in the Maths Science Academy participate in the Mathematics and Science competitions. Academy fees cover the cost of these two competitions only.

Mark Buzolic
Head of Department, Enrichment & Philosophy

News from the Creative Arts Department

Creative Arts Department

Year 12 Drama students recently participated in a workshop with actors from world-renowned Brisbane based Physical Theatre Company, Zen Zen Zo. They endured three and a half hours of physical theatre workshops and learnt about how to translate themes and characters within classic Greek and Shakespearean texts into physical metaphors. The actors were very impressed with our students’ enthusiasm and their ideas. Likewise, our students were very captivated by the professionalism of these actors. These workshops were specifically selected to provide further assistance for their assessment task which focuses on transforming a classic Greek or Shakespearean text extract into a physical theatre piece.

On Saturday evening 15 March, a group of students and teachers attended Shake & Stir Theatre Company’s adaptation of George Orwell’s novel, 1984. The media imbedded within the performance was excellent and reinforced the popular reference ‘big brother is watching’. Last year all year 11 & 12 Drama students attended their production of Animal Farm and both productions, staged at The Arts Centre Gold Coast, were incredible.

We are all very fortunate to be able to enjoy so many fantastic productions here on the Gold Coast. In particular, The Arts Centre Gold Coast now has such a diverse range of performances and workshops available to teachers, students and the wider community. On Tuesday evening some of our Dance students and staff went along to watch the Djuki Mala (The Chooky Dancers) perform. It was another fantastic evening celebrating ……

Stephanie Pickett, a past music student at Varsity, now performs as “Ella Fence” and is a great success in her role as a performing artist. Stephanie visited our current Senior Music students on Wednesday 12 March to further develop their song-writing and share her successful journey with them. Stephanie shared her accomplishments off stage as well; working for the Arts Centre and her university studies. It is so wonderful to see past students willing to give their time and share their success stories with our current students.

“Artists are going to be the metronome of this society”. ~ Yoko Ono
Alice in Wonderland

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

Our dates have moved to prevent a clash with the College Winter Fair, so to be a part of the audience, please keep the following dates up your sleeve:

- June 6th 2014
  6.30pm
- June 7th 2014
  2.00pm & 6.30pm

“How puzzling all these changes are! I’m never sure what I’m going to be, from one minute to another.” ~Alice in Wonderland

Michelle Murtagh
Head of Department Creative Arts

School Bike Racks

Please find the schedule below of the Secondary Campus - middle school /senior school bike rack opening times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Whole School</td>
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To our parents with students who ride to school we ask that you provide locks to ensure the security of your child’s bike.

V is for Victory!

In a pulsating game of rugby league the Varsity Vipers opened their Titans Challenge campaign with a robust 24-8 victory over seaside rivals Miami High at a rain swept Firth Park Stadium last night.

Despite giving away size to the opposition and fears utility Peter Patterson may disappear into one of the puddles surrounding the playing surface, the Vipers got off to the best possible start with Aedan ‘Killer’ Kapi crossing out wide early through some slick ball movement.

Miami hit back with a try of their own, before the ugliest field goal attempt outside of a NSW Origin performance right on the half-time hooter somehow ended up with Varsity crossing again through Jamie Crocker to take a 10-4 lead into the break.

Despite not being able to hear any of the coach’s expertly planned and tactically brilliant Churchillian half-time speech thanks to the constant drumming of the rain on the dugout roof, Varsity would go onto dominate the second half with tries to Carle, Roxburgh and a second to Crocker in a complete team performance.

Other standouts for the big V included tireless captain Jacob Roby, enforcer Luke ‘Keep on’ Korocin and Mr Agius’ umbrella.

A big thanks to the staff (Tim King, James Grace, Cal Agius) and students who turned out to see the game in putrid conditions, and a reminder that next week’s match will again be at Firth Park at 6pm against M1 rivals St Michaels, in a clash that is set to tear the Chard household in two as the coach’s former St Michael’s school captain wife pulls out her year 12 school jersey with the ugly yellow stain on the collar that he hates just to annoy him.

See you at the footy!
Coach Chris Chard

Titans Challenge Rd 1

Varsity College 24
(Tries: Crocker 2, Kapi, Roxburgh, Carle Goals: Smith 2)
Defeated
Miami SHS 8

Varsity Medal Tally

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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Jamie Crocker</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jacob Roby</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aedan Kapi</td>
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ACROSS CAMPUS NEWS

NEWSFLASH – Finance Window Times

Please be advised that the Finance Windows for Primary and Secondary Campus hours for the last week of Term 1 will be as follows:-

Secondary Campus Finance Office Hours Last Week of Term 1

| MONDAY 31/3/2014 CLOSED (Finance Window always closed on a Monday) |
| TUESDAY 1/4/2014 Normal Trading Hours 8.00am – 1.30pm |
| WEDNESDAY 02/04/2014 Normal Trading Hours 8.00am – 1.30pm |
| THURSDAY 03/04/2014 CLOSED |
| FRIDAY 04/04/2014 CLOSED |
Primary Campus Finance Office Hours Last Week of Term 1

MONDAY 31/3/2014 CLOSED (Finance Window always closed on a Monday)

TUESDAY 01/04/2014 Normal Trading Hours 8.00am – 10.30am

WEDNESDAY 02/04/2014 Normal Trading Hours 8.00am – 10.30am

THURSDAY 03/04/2014 CLOSED (End of Term Finance Updates)

FRIDAY 04/04/2014 CLOSED (Finance Window always closed on a Friday)

Homestay Families Required

Homestay Families Required For Upcoming Study Tour: Ateneo De Manila University High School
29 April to 11 May 2014.

Our International Department is looking for families who are interested in applying to become a homestay family.

Have you thought you may be interested in doing this? Do you have a spare bedroom?

A study tour is a great way to experience hosting a student!

If this is something you would like to do and receive funding for doing it at the same time!

A Study Tour means we have students coming for possibly one to two weeks. Sometimes they are single placements but you can also nominate a double placement.

The Study Tour we are looking at hosting students for is:

School: Ateneo De Manila University High School

Arriving: 29 April and staying until 11 May 2014.

Numbers: 19 boys, between the ages of 13 and 15 and three escorts.

You would need to meet all the requirements for becoming a homestay family.

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

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.

P & C Association

Thank you to our March Varsity Vibe Helpers.

“Volunteers are not paid – not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.”

Cheryl Gilroy, Michelle Adkins, James Grace, Nadine Toussaint-Hayes, Ben Gilroy, Peter Gilroy, Luke Gilroy, Emma Stawicki, Bec ‘adams’ Campbell, Jo Larkin, Mandy Miller, Adrian Smith, Rania Shnoudi Jahshan, Sharlei Grace, Samantha Manson, Emily Stonehouse, Caitlin Butler, Ellie Hastings, Breia Bolton, Alayah Bolton, Charlee Wagner, Kayla Miller-Gorce, Dion Bello, Brian Phillips, Alberto Arroyo, Rikki Ngata, Zane Gravesande, Zane Powell, Michael Paul, Tungane Poa, Daniel Goltz, Alex Braidotti, Julia White, Sibelle Ozberger, Samantha Wruck, Gee Lenn, Monique Thackwell, Craig Stonehouse, Theresa Harversoon, Ian Harverson, Sharon Fong, Chris Chard, Sam Fowler, Jason Smith and several little leprechauns helpers – thank you!

If you would like to be part of our wonderful Vibe team, please contact Sue Horkings at shork2@eq.edu.au

– as volunteers, you don’t just work, you make it work, we value this -
Remember, the Varsity Vibe is on the 1st Friday of the month!
The P & C Associations AGM is to be held on Wednesday 26 March - immediately following our General Meeting at 6:30pm, in the LENSE Building on the Junior Campus.
All Executive positions will be vacant ie. President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, if you are interested in one of these roles, please contact Sue Horkings - shork2@eq.edu.au

Warm regards

Sue Horking
Secretary to the Executive of the P&C

Blazers
Options to obtain a Varsity College Blazer: (prices current for 2014)
1. Purchase New $100
2. Hire
   a. $50 per annum + $50 deposit
   b. Deposit refundable only if blazer is in very good condition and dry cleaned
   c. Refer “Blazer Hire Policy” for Blazer Hire Agreement and Terms & Conditions
3. Second Hand
   a. Purchase of Second Hand Blazers by College:
      • $55 guaranteed buy back (provided blazer is in very good condition and dry cleaned)
      • Price and conditions are not negotiable
      • Refer “Second Hand Blazer Policy” for Terms & Conditions
   b. Sale of Second Hand Blazers by College:
      • $65 (Quantity available will depend on market reselling to College)
      • Quality of Blazer is guaranteed to be of very good condition or higher
      • Refer “Second Hand Blazer Policy” for Terms & Conditions

Varsity College Winter Fair

SAVE THE DATE
2014 Varsity College Winter Fair
Saturday 31st May
12:00pm – 6:30pm

The Varsity College Winter Fair is back this year bigger & better!
Bring your family and friends to experience all the fun, excitement

and thrills of our spectacular fair.
There’s great live entertainment on the main stage, food & craft stalls,
activities, displays/fireworks and the best in town!
All your favourite amusement rides and attractions are back including the
awesome Miami Trip, Dodgem Cars, Round Up, Cha Cha, Tea Cup & Saucer,
Jumping Castle and much more.

5 hour Ride Wristbands
$25ea pre-event
$30ea on the day

Tickets on Sale Soon
www.varsiywinterfair.com.au
‘Like Us’ on FB ‘Varsity College Winter Fair’

Get Excited & Get Involved !!!
It’s less than 80 sleeps until the 2014 Varsity College Winter Fair.

Our teachers NEED your help! Supplying equipment, making items to sell or volunteering to set up or work at the stalls - it really is a team effort!
Each year level has nominated their class & stall, so ask your child’s teacher today how you can get involved.

Fair Committee Update
Planning for the 2014 Fair is well underway. With the departure of teacher Belinda Pearson (sadly to Newcastle), Helen Ewart has taken on the HUGE task of Fair Coordinator and a small but experienced committee is along for the ride. Our aim is to make this year’s Winter Fair bigger & better with all your favourite rides, stalls & not to forget the spectacular fireworks display!
Last year, in its inaugural year, the Varsity College Winter Fair raised approximately $30,000 for the P&C. This year we are hoping to double that and provide the P&C with much needed funds to develop learning programs and install equipment at our schools.
If you have any suggestions, questions or want to get involved in the planning, please email us info@varsiywinterfair.com.au

Sponsorship Opportunity
The Varsity College Winter Fair is the perfect place to get your business, small or large, out there and known to the local community. If you are interested in becoming a Fair sponsor, email Jeni on varsityfete.sponsors@hotmail.com

Interested in Holding a Stall?
Opportunities available for parents who wish to hold a stall. Please email Sue Horkings (P&C) on shork2@eq.edu.au
Eftpos now available at Secondary Canteen

YES...... We have Eftpos! The Senior Canteen now has Eftpos available for everyone’s convenience and the response has been great.

Together with Flexischool (see attached flyer for those needing to register), cash and now Eftpos everyone is happy!

No one needs to miss out on purchasing something yummy from the canteen.

Bon Appetit,

Sandra Herd,
Senior Canteen Manager.

Uniform Shop News

Opening Hours

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<tr>
<th>Prep/Junior Uniform Shop</th>
<th>Ph: 5576 9308</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>8:00am to 10:00am</td>
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<td>2:00pm to 3:30pm</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<th>Middle/Senior Uniform Shop</th>
<th>Ph: 5562 3512</th>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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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

School Banking – Token Redemption Day

This year School Banking has upgraded their processing system which will allow schools to better track deposits and make ordering rewards more efficient. To help implement the new change, children will all be starting from 0 tokens. (Please note that this will only be necessary for this year).

So your child doesn’t miss out, if they have any more than 10 tokens they can be redeemed for a previous year’s reward item.

To make this process easier, a representative from the Commonwealth Bank will be at our school (outside the tuck shop) from 8:00 am – 8:45 am on Friday 21 March 2014. There will be a selection of items available (all worth 10 tokens each) such as Knuckles Games, Wallets, Headphones and Dollarmite Character Money Boxes. Please have your child bring along all the tokens they have.

We appreciate your assistance and we look forward to seeing your child on Friday 21st March.

COMING EVENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>21 Mar 2014</td>
<td>Year 10 QUT Visit</td>
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<td>Across</td>
<td>24 Mar 2014</td>
<td>Relay for Life</td>
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<td>P &amp; C Meeting</td>
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<td>Primary</td>
<td>27 Mar 2014</td>
<td>Year 3 Curumbin Wildlife</td>
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<td>Campus</td>
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<td>Sanctuary</td>
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<td>Secondary</td>
<td>28 Mar 2014</td>
<td>Year 7 QUT Visit</td>
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<td>Secondary</td>
<td>3 April 2014</td>
<td>Year 8 &amp; 10 Immunisations</td>
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<td>Date Claimers</td>
<td>31 May 2014</td>
<td>Varsity College Winter Fair</td>
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<td>12 August 2014</td>
<td>Year 10 Careers Expo from</td>
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<td>5pm to 7.30pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>15 August 2014</td>
<td>Gold Coast Eisteddfod</td>
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