2 April 2014

EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Last week, I was invited to represent Education Queensland in an International Education Conference in Suzhou, China. My presentation at this conference was focused on the associated costs of running a comprehensive Mandarin language program. I was surprised to hear of how few Australian schools have this type of program and how advanced the Varsity College language program is in comparison to some of the highest performing schools in Australia. Suzhou was chosen as the venue for this conference because a number of schools in this city are now following the Queensland curriculum model and are completing the QCE as part of their study program.

I spent some time visiting these schools to see how they were coping with this curriculum. The difference in the China schools compared to Varsity College is quite incredible. Students start school in China at 7:30am and finish the school day at 6:00pm. This does not mean that they are in class all day long, but they do have significantly more tuition time on a daily basis. Teachers in China only teach 12 x 45 minute classes each week. They spend the rest of the time preparing quality learning activities for their students. Class sizes are mostly 42-46 students, and these students are all fully engaged in the learning that takes place. There is a complete lack of digital equipment provided by the school. This is because there are around 50 million teachers in China and 650,000,000 students. The cost of implementing a comprehensive digital learning program would exceed US$1,000,000,000. This is highly unlikely to happen in the foreseeable future, so Chinese students have a very structured traditional classroom environment where they all do the same thing at the same time, however these students were part of the Chinese group of Shanghai schools that were determined to be the leading year 9 students in the world as per PISA in 2013.

The other interesting comparison was how advanced the Varsity College 1:1 program is in relation to the rest of the Australian schools. We often make the assumption that this program is available everywhere and this is clearly not the case. Varsity College has worked hard over the last 6 years to build this program and I am thrilled with the fact that across the school from year 4-12 there are only a very small number of students not participating in this program. I am continually amazed with the learning activities that I see on a daily basis in classrooms and know that without these devices the level of engagement and variety of lessons could not be offered without access to these devices.

Most parents will be aware that the new Primary School building has started and is on schedule despite the recent poor weather. In the meetings had so far to finalise the planning for the plans, we have become increasingly pleased with the way this building will integrate into our environment. The classrooms will be exceptional, but it is the additional features that have been included in this building, including the significant increase in outdoor and undercover learning spaces that will really build the culture of learning at Varsity College. We have every expectation that this building will be completed early in term 4 this year, well and truly ready for classes in 2015. The details of this completion and also which classes will utilise these facilities are still to be determined. If there are any issues with the construction, please contact one of the schools offices to have your concerns addressed.

We will have some staffing changes for the start of next term. Ms Jenni Thew has been the Director of the Junior School and now Director of Primary Campus for the last 4 years. Jenni has decided to take some leave in term 2, and we wish her a wonderful rest as she takes a well-earned break. We are currently interviewing for a temporary backfill for this position. I will let the whole community know by the end of the week who will be the Acting Director of Primary School starting on day 1 next term.

I also will be taking the first 3 weeks off in term 2. Stephen O’Brien (Director of Secondary Campus) will be the Acting Executive Principal during this time, so please feel free to contact Stephen should you have issues that need to be addressed.

Finally I would like to wish the Varsity College community a restful and safe vacation and Easter. We have all had a very busy term 1 and I know that the students and teachers are truly looking forward to some relaxation time. I look forward to returning in week 4 of next term as students in years 3, 5, 7 & 9 start their NAPLAN tests.

Have a wonderful break.

Jeff Davis
Executive Principal

JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS

Primary Campus News

Primary School

Harmony and Anti-Bullying Days ran simultaneously last Friday, reminding us all of how valuable our many backgrounds are, and the importance of acceptance and tolerance.
We are very fortunate at Varsity to have a rich diversity of cultures and it was great to celebrate the day. A special thanks to Michelle Davis for helping us with resources and the Canteen for providing us with a variety of foods to select from, and ensuring the day was a success.

Teachers have been conducting parent/teacher meetings. Your child would have received a note from his/her teacher regarding these meetings which provides you with an opportunity to select a time which most suits you to attend. These meetings are part of the College reporting process and provide you with an opportunity to discuss your child’s progress with his/her teacher. Please ensure you make a time and take part in this valuable process.

It has been a very productive term for everyone and a real team effort from students, staff, parents and volunteers, reflecting our expectations for the year. Great effort everyone!

The new building excavations are well and truly underway, and it will be exciting to see the progress when we return from holidays.

The Easter break and end of term seems to have ‘snuck’ up on us, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a fabulous and relaxing time. I hope you all enjoy whatever you choose to do during the two weeks, and come back energised for Term 2.

**Staffing News**

We send our congratulations to Gabby Pirotta and family for the birth of a new baby girl. Gabby will be replaced in her Support Teacher of Literacy and Numeracy three days a week by Penny Loy. Penny has been on leave this term and will return at the start of Term 2 in Gabby’s role as well as two days a week (Thursday and Friday) on Year 1 Aqua with Stephanie Devine.

Unfortunately Jacinta Dinsmore (1F) has had to take leave due to family circumstances and Tammy Carroll who was on 1 Aqua (Thursday and Friday) will take Jacinta’s class in a full-time role. We wish Jacinta and her family all the very best!

Jaz Doherty (Support Teacher of Literacy and Numeracy), Teresa McGuire (LOTE Teacher) and Kellie Howland (EALD Teacher) will all take maternity leave. They will all be fantastic mums and we look forward to their exciting news in the not too distant future.

Teresa McGuire will be replaced by Jeanette Liu and Karen Chuang, with both ladies returning from maternity leave; and Tracey Boyle will replace Kellie Howland as EALD teacher in a full-time capacity. Tracey will be replaced by Colleen Drover who has returned from leave on 4G with Sheridan Morgan.

**Year 5 Travel Back in Time!**

Our Year 5 students were taken on a whirlwind tour of early Brisbane town in Week 7. After an hour long trip we found ourselves at the Commissariat Store in Brisbane, overlooking the Brisbane River and Southbank Parklands.

The Commissariat Store is the oldest building in Brisbane, being built in 1829, and still standing as it is made from rock, hand-cut and transported from Kangaroo Point. The building itself was used to store food such as flour and sugar as well as also being the ammunition store for the soldiers. The building was beautifully built by convicts, with all the timber being hand planed and massive beams being dragged by convict gangs over large distances as there were no horses in the settlement at that time to deter convicts from escaping!

Our students were able to hear stories of how tough life was, not just for the convicts, but for the soldiers too, especially under the command of Commandant Logan. They held real leg irons, saw gruesome ‘convict fingers’ and heard about real murders!!

Whilst waiting for the other groups we visited QUT’s “The Cube”. The students were enthralled by the huge interactive display of the Barrier Reef and were able to see many marine animals that they had never seen before.

**Quotes from the day:**

Kimmy said – ‘I learnt that men had buttons down the sides of their pants so they could get them off over their leg irons to wash!’

Eren was amazed to see the Cat ‘O Nine Tails and beam from the Gallows’!

Mitchell learnt that the convicts had to eat the same thing every day!

Isabella said ‘I liked the Commissariat Store, it was really cool to learn all those things about history!’

**The entrance to the Commissariat Store.**
Active School Travel

As a member of the Active School Travel network the Primary Campus is trying to change the way our students travel to and from school to decrease vehicle congestion in surrounding streets and increase activity levels of our students.

The graph below shows methods used by Primary Campus students to get to school before the beginning of the Active Travel Incentive Scheme.

(In summary we want to increase the number of students walking, cycling, scooting, bussing and carpooling and decrease the number of students coming by car.)

Wednesday 19 March National Bike 2 School Day was used for the launch of the Primary Campus’s Active School Travel Program Walking Wheeling Wednesday. Students were asked to travel to school either all, or part of the way by cycling, walking, scooting or car pool - basically any other method than by private car.

As students passed through the school gate, they received a passport that was stamped to show they had supported the program. The best part was to follow, when students arrived at the canteen they were greeted by ‘Zero the Hero’ and received a free breakfast sponsored by the Council of the City of Gold Coast.

Many families remarked at the breakfast about the difference they had noted on surrounding streets in relation to the number people riding and walking. There were many people they had never seen before out and about and a large increase in the number of parking spaces available.

The graph below shows that the first Walking Wheeling Wednesday had an immediate effect on student transport to school.

Congratulations to everybody that participated in active school travel on the day; with over half our students actively travelling to school this was a fantastic achievement! I hope you enjoyed the day and will consider how to make active travel to and from school a more regular part of your routine.

Walking Wheeling Wednesday will continue to be used throughout 2014 to encourage families and students to use alternate forms of transport to travel to and from school.

The Council of the City of Gold Coast is supporting the Primary Campus by installing improved bike and scooter accommodation on the campus, providing incentive prizes for every 5 stamps received, providing a free breakfast each term and supporting the students with bike and scooter education classes, road safety workshops and nutrition workshops.

The school looks forward to working with all families in increasing activity and improving general health choices of our students by becoming involved in this very valuable program. If you are interested in becoming involved in the Varsity College Junior Campus Active School Travel program please contact Peter Dallas on 5576 9387

2 Harlequin’s Random Acts of Kindness

During our English unit of work we are learning about feelings and empathy. We have had the opportunity of developing our understanding of others’ perspective by looking at the feelings of fairy tale characters, and how they may be misunderstood.
Our Harlequins realise they can choose how they deal with all actions and thoughts, both positive and negative. We know we have the choice to look for the positive or choose the negative view.

Our Random Acts of Kindness have been a great platform for our children to understand they can have a positive effect on others days. By doing small Random Acts of Kindness they are bringing sunshine to the lives of others. We love the reactions from our recipients when they realise we have done a Random Act of Kindness for them.

We are most thankful that we can impact positively on other people’s days by doing these small acts of kindness. We challenge you to join us in brightening someone’s day. Email us your Random Act of Kindness to us so we can share your successes with us. Email: mverr7@eq.edu.au

Courtney’s Random Act of Kindness

Act: Helping my homestay boy learn English better and making him feel welcome.
Response: He thanked me, he felt happy and I felt proud of myself.

Rivi’s Random Act of Kindness

Act: I cleaned my bedroom without anyone asking me to.
Response: Mum was happy and I felt happy too.

Finn’s Random Act of Kindness

Act: I gave a birthday present to my neighbour. His name is Pete.
Response: Pete was happy and thankful. He gave me a high five and I felt kind and happy.

Sleep

One of the challenges our students face at the start of the year is maintaining their energy levels throughout the day and their school week. One of the most important things you can do to help your child have a good day at school is to make sure that they get enough sleep.

We have known for a long time that primary school children need 10-11 hours’ sleep each night. That means that children who wake up at 7am need to be in bed no later than 8pm to get a full night’s sleep.

Recently, we learned something new about sleep. Sleep researchers have found that children who go to bed at all different times score lower on tests of reading, maths and spatial awareness than those who go to bed at a set time. Amazingly, a difference of more than half an hour from night to night is enough to interrupt sleep patterns and influence children’s outcomes.

Lots of parents understand the importance of sleep but have children that are reluctant to co-operate (I even have one of those!). If you need assistance with ideas to help get your child to bed on-time, you are very welcome to email me, Abigail Sawyer (asaw0@eq.edu.au). I am happy to help.


Term 1 Chinese Comic Book

Ni hao! (Hello!)

This term, the Year 4 and 5 students have been busy producing comic books as part of their Chinese assessment. Their task was to introduce themselves in Chinese. The comic book software allowed them to type in Chinese and record themselves speaking in the foreign language. The students presented their comic books in class and at the end of their speech, the students were asked two questions in Chinese in relation to their speech.

This project was very effective and engaging for students to practice speaking and writing in a foreign language. We are so lucky to have such advanced technology to create unique projects with our students!

Mrs Teresa McGuire

Nanda (Lakes) Talk

Jingerri Parents/Caregivers,

Our middle and senior students attended the AIME Mentoring Experience day at Bond University and they enjoyed a fun filled day of team building activities and meeting their mentors. The students were able to connect with support people within the university to assist them in their pathways towards their future learning experiences beyond Varsity College.
The whole college celebrated Harmony Day and Anti Bullying day on March 21. We had some of our senior international students present a power point of their previous school and how their home life was before they came to study at Varsity College.

Mr Grace had his dance troop perform on assembly and it was certainly a highlight. The primary school canteen embraced the international food theme and as you can see, the canteen was decorated too and Fiona and her team were inundated with orders with the most popular on the day being Hot Dogs representing the USA.

Students also had the opportunity to participate in classroom activities with their teacher including making a mission statement for Anti bullying day and watching the “Bully No Way” video.

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 teachers 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 “Maibin - Aborigine”, pronounced mi/bin.

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 yarning with you,

Michelle Davis
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support

Coming Events

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prep Easter Concert</td>
<td>1 April</td>
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<td>ICT Expo for Parents/ Caregivers</td>
<td>2 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day of Term 1</td>
<td>4 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Holiday – Easter Monday</td>
<td>21 April</td>
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<td>First Day of Term 2</td>
<td>22 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anzac Day School Ceremony</td>
<td>24 April</td>
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<td>Public Holiday – Anzac Day</td>
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SECONDARY CAMPUS NEWS

From the Campus Director

As this will be the final newsletter article of the term, I would like to communicate my thanks to all students, parents and staff for their contribution to what has been an extremely successful term. Over the past nine weeks, students have achieved amazing results in a wide variety of programs aligned to our pillars of Academics, Sports, The Arts and the Community. I am extremely excited about the future prospects that await us throughout the remainder of 2014.

Throughout the final two weeks of the school term, parents of students in Years 6, 7 and 8 have the opportunity to meet with their child’s teachers to discuss their Academic progress. I encourage all parents to avail themselves to this opportunity in order to further enhance the partnership that will support students to achieve to their potential. Parents of students in Year 9 to 12 will receive an opportunity to meet with teachers at the beginning of Term 2.

As outlined in a previous newsletter, 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 reading, writing, 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 .

Students and staff of the Secondary Campus are extremely excited about the upcoming College Winter Fair on May 31. Leading up to the Fair, students will be asked to donate various items in support of the event. I would like to ask that all families respond to these requests in a positive manner to ensure the success of this year’s event.

Earlier this week, Varsity College hosted the official Education Queensland launch of a new cybersafety on-line quiz to develop

For more information on the quiz, please visit the website: www.safeforum.com.au
student and parent awareness of the dangers of on-line cyber bullying. I encourage parents to take the time to view the website and have conversations with their children about the dangers on inappropriate on-line behaviours. The launch was a huge success with the Minister for Education and high level Executives of Telstra (sponsors of the website) in attendance. The website address is: http://www.creepquiz.eq.edu.au/

Stephen O’Brien  
Director of Secondary Campus

Welcome to the Senior Campus Online Survey

As we approach the end of a hectic term 1 I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your tremendous contribution to the effectiveness and positivity to the start of the Year 6’s and 7’s time on the Senior Campus. It is only through your support that such a great start to the year has been possible. With this being said, it is still an opportune time to reflect on our processes to enable further refinement and development of our programs for the remainder of this year and, indeed, into the future. We would like to glean further understanding of the opinions and suggestions from the parent community through a short survey.

The survey is available online and should only take a few minutes of your time. The survey can be found online at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7RZSD9X

Parent – Teacher interviews

Thank you also to those parents who have taken up the opportunity to meet with your child’s teacher through the parent/teacher interview process currently underway. These meetings are a great way for parents to connect with their child’s teacher to contribute and collaborate on the education and developmental progress of the students.

Have a safe and relaxing holiday.

Jeremy Godden  
Assistant Principal

Varsity raises $10 476 for the World’s Greatest Shave.

It was once again my pleasure to organise this year’s public shave for the Leukaemia Foundation. Since its first year Varsity College has a long standing tradition of supporting the Leukaemia Foundation’s World’s Greatest Shave. It has always been well patronised and this year was no exception with sixteen participants shaved their heads for this charity.

The shavers for this year were: Daniel Hogan, Kenny Esquilant, T-Jae Wadwell, Kimberley Jarman, Georgia Davis, Abby Martin, Tahlia Cannard, James Markham, Aaron Suter, Ali Abdaziz, Braden Creagh, Ephraim Knox, Robert Griffith, Thomas Graham, Matthew Thackwell and Stefan Tucakovic. The staff was represented by Mr Brian Arnett.

As many parents will agree for the teenager of today image is very important. It is a brave teenager that drastically alters their appearance so quickly. This is just as significant for the boys as girls. But it is always a huge moment when a young lady shaves her head in such a drastic fashion. The girls were well represented this year with four girls electing to shave.

This is especially true for a year 12 girl who will be attending her formal in six months’ time. It is a brave, selfless and empowering moment for any young lady and stands as an inspiration to others.

Because of the team’s selfless act and dedicated donation collecting we are proud to announce that Varsity College raised the amazing amount of $10 476 (as of publication).

This ranks us as the fifth highest school in Australia. This is truly an amazing effort from the shave team and they deserve the highest acknowledgment possible.

Mr John Philistin

News from Special Education Services:

Autism Awareness Month

April is autism awareness month. Each year on April 2 World Autism Awareness Day, iconic buildings across Australia and the rest of the world turn lights blue to promote autism awareness. In support Autism Queensland asks people to Go Blue for the month of April to help raise awareness and finds to help support Queenslanders with ASD and their families.

Useful links:


Light It Up Blue

The Centre for Autism Spectrum Disorders invites you to join in celebrating ‘Light It Up Blue’ event in recognition of World Autism Awareness Day. Bond University is hosting this event on behalf of Autism Gold Coast and the local Autism community.
This event is in its third year and showcases live music including children’s entertainers, the BOND University’s A Capella choir and other BOND Music Society artists. There will also be a number of interactive activities specifically for children including face painting, balloon artists, jugglers and other carnival-style games. The focus is on a relaxed atmosphere in which children and their families can celebrate together.

BOND University will join thousands of other iconic buildings across the world by throwing a blue light over their Arch Building at 7:00pm during the official lighting ceremony in commemoration of World Autism Awareness Day.

Details of the event:

Wednesday 2 April 2014
5.00pm – 7.30pm
Under the Arch
Bond University, University Drive
Robina, QLD, 4229

Light refreshments will be available and is a free of charge community event.

Please register by following this link to assist BOND with catering requirements.

All guests are encouraged to wear blue on the day as a symbol of raising awareness of Autism.

ASD Families Facebook Page

New and current families with children diagnosed with ASD are encouraged to join the Facebook site ‘Varsity College ASD families’ and ‘Gold Coast ASD Families. These pages are both closed sites. There has been a few issues with accessing the sites through the links that I have previously provided, however if you would like to join these networks please email Marie on mariebucholz@hotmail.com who is the administrator of the groups. She posts many date claimers and activities that are happening on the Gold Coast. If however, you don’t have a Facebook account Marie is happy to email the information to you directly. Marie is a great advocate for families with ASD.

Tammy Burns
Head of Special Education Services

Varsity Academy of Mathematics and Science

Are you interested in working for NASA?

A local company, Silicon Lakes, is hosting the upcoming International Space Apps Challenge on the middle weekend of the Easter holiday break, 12-13 April. NASA have now released a list of over 40 challenges that teams can sign up for and attempt to solve.

Participants are allowed to form teams and start working on challenges prior to the event if they just can’t wait - the only rule is that work has to be submitted for judging by the Sunday deadline. The Gold Coast has also been chosen as one of the lucky locations to be visited by a NASA representative during the course of the weekend and Silicon Lakes are working to organise a google hangout with some astronauts at some point too!

The Schedule for the event is on the Gold Coast location page - the event is free to attend and all meals are included. If you are interested, please read through the information on the attached website but please be aware that participants must be over 16 years of age or be accompanied by an adult.

https://2014.spaceappschallenge.org/location/gold-coast/

Term 1 in Review

Varsity Academy students have finished Term 1 by engaging in several real-world experiences. Please read the two short articles below that share some reflections from our students.

Year 9 Toad Dissections

A liver was confused for a lung, a small intestine for a large but after a quick skedaddle in the pool of gizzards, they were assisted by intuitive teachers Miss Connolly and Miss Rabelink as to where the insides true positions lied. A week from this point, students who had participated in the toad dissections handed in detailed PowerPoint’s on how to navigate the labyrinth of the toad, complete with gory, blood-lined photographs. Over all, this has been a very educational activity on how body systems work together to keep an organism healthy.

Project Think-Tank

The first optional Project Think-Tank session has begun this term with students from Years 8, 9 and 10 taking part in some high-level computer programing. This lucky bunch has been taught by Mr Ricardo, a brilliant man who has given up his own personal time to help both students and staff from the Varsity Academy. Students got to learn about several coding basics, and will continue their intense experience by using some online software after the course is completed.

Many thanks to Mr Rackemann for organising for such a fantastic course!

Academy at QUT

On the 21st of March, the Maths-Science Academy was taken on an interactive tour of just some of the facilities offered at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). To begin, we were given a presentation from two students of the university about their options and how they went about their entry into QUT.

We were then shown around the new, main technological hub of the university that houses the ‘Cube’, an interactive barrier reef display. The screen displays in striking detail the marine life
and terrain of Australia’s Great Barrier Reef and allowed us to interact with the marine life, gaining an insight into the anatomy and behaviour of various marine life from sea cucumbers, to humpback whales with a simple touch.

After a lunch in the extensive food court, we were shown the LEGO® Mindstorms robotics lab where we commanded our robotic minions to save the “Green City” by plugging the dam. We had to build ‘handy’ limbs for our robots to help them carry out the task delicately and precisely.

Overall the day was a success, leaving the Academy with a further insight into the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) pathway of University and the facilities presented to us at Queensland Universities.

Steve Baddeley
Teacher
Academy of Science and Mathematics

Varsity Sports Report

With the full-time hooter all but blowing on term 1 for the College here’s been a late flurry of activity as Varsity sports head to the sheds for some well-earned oranges over the holidays.

Varsity’s basketball excellence program continues to lead the way on the Gold Coast, with three of the programs superstars bursting into the South Coast Opens representative side coached by the College’s own Adam ‘Double Dribbler’ Darragh.

A big congratulations and a high five to students Manarki Parai, Jasper Froitag and Tyler Pourini on their selection - you’ve set a high standard and the whole College looks up to you for your achievements (literally, as well as metaphorically in most cases).

Elsewhere, the Varsity Titans Challenge Opens rugby league side continues to make forward progress in their Monday night competition, with the side in with a great shot of playing semi-finals football this season.

Even the team’s water boys are in form, with fluoro-shirter Liam Roby being selected for the South Coast rugby league side

And whilst it might be getting that little bit harder to get up in the wee hours of the morning, both the Rowing and Football Excellence programs continue to attract large numbers to morning trainings and are champing at the bit to be unleashed on some unsuspecting competition.

Garry Annard makes his debut as the new head rowing coach in 2014, and is expected to bring a wealth of experience to the Varsity squad.

Also as a final note if you see any Varsity students sweating it out along the pavement over the break chances are they’re not trying to burn off the excess calories from the Easter Eggs, but rather getting a head start in their training for the College’s 2014 Cross Country on May 2nd. This year’s race is looking at being as gruelling as ever with a tough course laid out by Grand Marshall Ms Perrone to put students to the test…with even a few teachers promising to step up and give the race a crack.

Varsity Steams to Victory

In a scintillating display of running rugby league the Varsity Vipers launched back into the winners circle by rolling a stubborn Merrimac Side-Wheel Steamer’s side 48-12 at Firth Park Stadium in Round 4 of the Titans Challenge on Monday night.

With Viper fans and the official Aedan Kapi appreciation society making a noticeable racket on the sidelines, the big V was out of the blocks quicker than students at 3pm on a Friday afternoon with Butch Boucher crossing out wide in the opening minutes.

When jumpin’ Jamie Crocker broke through soon afterwards Merrimac suddenly looked as lost as an elderly relative from Wollongong in a hire car trying to find your house in Merrimac, as the men in purple ran riot with a glut of tries including outstanding individual efforts from Kaos Korockin, Sherlock Holmes, Mad Man Van Der Moolen and Hard Corden to lead 30 to nil at the hooter.

Maybe it was the comfort of a big lead, a pang of sympathy for their valiant teal clad opposition or just Mr Agius’ promise to streak around the Firth Park baseball field if the side managed to rack up a half century, but the Vipers began the second half tentatively with Merrimac first to get onto the completely invisible scoreboard.

Not to be outdone however Varsity would wrestle back the ascendancy thanks to some fearsome runs from their front row and a bustling try by Tama ‘the Slammer’ Nesbit.
The highlight of the match however would come with just eighteen seconds on the clock and the magical fifty within a converted try, with halfback Eel Creelman kicking for Killer Kapi, who then soccered ahead before making a marvellous pick-up to score close to the posts against a background of thunderous applause.

Applause which was soon drowned out by that of Manager Agius, with the seventh missed conversion of the evening leaving the Vipers sitting on 48 points and a saving the big man from a breezy date with a dimly lit diamond.

Varsity captain and man of the match Jacob Roby spoke of his delight with his team’s performance.

“I’m delighted with this team’s performance,” said Roby post match. 

The Vipers now head into a holiday induced hibernation before their next game on April 28th and taking on their biggest challenge to date….campaigning Council for a set of goalposts!

**Varsity 48 (Tries: Boucher, Korockin, Crocker 2, Van Der Moolen, Kapi 2, Holmes, Corden, Nesbit  Goals: Corden 3) **

**Merrimac 12**

**Varsity Medal Update**

3- Jacob Roby  
2- Keeghan Lyon-Wilson  
1- Tama Nesbit  

Thanks again for your support,

**Your Award winning Coach, Chris Chard**

(* Excellent Attendance Award, Woonona High School 1998-2001)

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**News from the Creative Arts Department**

**Creative Arts Department**

As we enter the assessment time of the term, I am delighted to hear and see the incredible work of our Creative Arts students. We have several new middle school work programs running across our Creative Arts subjects and students are responding positively to the learning activities and assessment tasks. As we refine these programs, we will have alignment to recently released ACARA Arts Curriculum, whilst still maintaining links to the Queensland Senior Syllabus documents within our Arts subjects.

Our Art students are beginning development of works to be used throughout the College. Assistant Principal, David Reid, put together a client brief to ensure a real world link to how Artists work from design briefs, particularly within the marketing/advertising industry. These pieces will support Varsity College’s philosophy and include artwork for the TRAKS program, Seven Habits of highly effective people and KIDS Matter. I look forward to seeing the results.

Year 12 Drama students are working on our group physical theatre piece for the Secondary School Anzac Day parade, to be held on Thursday 24th April. This year we have used the war poem by Wilfred Owen, Dulce Et Decorum Est, as stimulus to create this piece. It is always difficult to find a balance within a performance on such a reverent occasion but am positive this piece will be quite moving.

In closing, I attended the Drama Queensland State Conference on the weekend and was privileged to participate in inspirational workshops and speak with many Drama teachers from across the state, as well as Artists working within the Creative Industries. The Creative Industries has grown rapidly within the last 10 years and we are witnessing the rise of entrepreneurial Artists, who are living financially and creatively rewarding lives. As a teacher and head of department for the Creative Arts, it is so exciting to be able to provide the opportunities for our students to develop their Creative capacity.

“Creativity has never been so prized or valued.” ~ Brad Haseman QUT Professor

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**Opera Queensland Open Stage Residency**

Over the last four years, Varsity College has built a strong relationship with Opera Queensland through their school residency program “Open Stage” (previously, Moving Opera). This year we have the privilege of having them here for the whole second week of term 2. All chamber vocal and senior music students who specialise in voice will have the opportunity to work with professional Opera singers all week from 1-6pm.

We are still negotiating how the culminating concert will be presented as the evening will coincide with the May Varsity Vibe Market. As soon as the details are finalised there will be a newsflash sent out.

“The only thing better than singing is more singing: ~ Ella Fitzgerald.

**Alice in Wonderland**

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

Our young actors are assisting with running the ‘Milk Bar’ at the Varsity Vibe Twilight Market on Friday 4th April. All profits from our Milk Bar will go towards staging our play. Please support us by stopping by for a retro Milk Bar experience.

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
“Only a few find the way, some don’t recognize it when they do - some... don’t ever want to.” ~Alice in Wonderland

Michelle Murtagh
Head of Department Creative Arts

Varsity Environmental Committee (VEC)
Being Green is Everyone’s Business

In 2013 Samantha Wruck noticed the pollution and waste in the school and envisioned Varsity College as sustainable for the future generations. She initiated a group of students together to collaborate on the environmental issues around the school and how they could implement these words into actions. This was how the Varsity’s Environmental committee was created.

The Senior VEC is coordinated by Ms Berry and the Student President Samantha Wruck. There are currently fifteen student members across Year 10 to Year 11. These include the following students: Gee Lenh, Mandy Wang, Krystle Dale, Moon Taylor, Nikita Koosin Lin, Monique Thackwell, Aime Kim, Na Chen, Michelle Lee, Sonya Lee, Liam Boue, Anika Young, Rojan Ashtari, Rachel Tomassen.

If anybody would like to join or support us please feel free to email us on nberr4@eq.edu.au or swruc1@eq.edu.au. Also, if you notice an area that can be improved in the environment or if you have suggestions on how to improve Varsity’s sustainability please let us know by emailing or seeing us.

In such a short time span the VEC have accomplished positive changes, such as:

- Being awarded a One star rating from the Cleaner Greener Schools Program by Keep Queensland Beautiful.
- Conducting a 3 week trial for a paper recycling system in the SLC building.
- Fundraising $400 through sausage sizzles to put towards vegetable gardens.
- Helping the IT Department recycle used laptop boxes.
- Volunteering in Varsity’s Vibe Market.

Our goals for this year are:
- To establish sustainable vegetable gardens cared by students and teachers. Subjects can incorporate the vegetable gardens to enhance learning for students and provide hands on experience.
- To start and maintain a paper recycling system with Shred X throughout the middle and senior school.
- Planting trees around the school grounds.

Up and coming events:
1. Eco Warriors Movie - $5 private screening at Robina for students. The date is to be decided so please look out for our next update on information. If you have any questions please contact Miss Sirett on ksire4@eq.edu.au.
2. Earth Hour is an environmental campaign where lights and devices are turned off for an hour at 8:30pm DST. Earth Hour is this Saturday and you can support this fantastic campaign from your home or can turn up to an event nearby: http://earthhour.org.au/events/gecko-house-currumbin-qld/.

You can also show your support by purchasing an Earth Hour shirt for $25 (all funds go to the Earth Hour foundation): https://represent.com/earthdaynetwork

Samantha Wruck
President of VEC

Varsity College Chinese New Year Celebrations
Exemplifying Our Four Pillars: Academic, Cultural, Sporting and Community

Varsity College came alive recently with the excitement of welcoming the Year of the Horse.

Academic:
Chinese language workshops and calligraphy demonstrations were led by some of our students, with parents as the participants!

Cultural:
Participants had the opportunity to try Chinese sports, traditional dress, calligraphy, paper cutting, mask and fan decorating, lantern making, food, sports, and to witness Chinese traditional dance performances.
Sporting:

Sport was well represented this year with diablo demonstrations and lessons, hacky sack and martial arts workshops.

The most incredible facet of these celebrations is that we capture the spirit and meaning of Chinese New Year. Three generations of families could be seen enjoying in the wonder of this, the most celebrated of Chinese festivals.

Community:

Grandparents, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, aunties, uncles, cousins, friends, students, teachers, principals, directors and community members all came together to celebrate and experience this event.

Resulting from the dedicated efforts of our staff, Varsity College provides students with an abundance of opportunities to broaden their intercultural understandings, preparing them to be world citizens. Happy Year of the Horse Everyone!

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Whole School</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
<td>Middle ONLY</td>
<td>Whole School</td>
<td>Middle ONLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am to 2:30pm</td>
<td>9:30am to 2:30pm</td>
<td>YR 6 to 9 9:30am to 2:30pm</td>
<td>YR 6 to 9 9:30am to 2:30pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To our parents with students who ride to school we ask that you provide locks to ensure the security of your child’s bike.

ACROSS CAMPUS NEWS

NEWSFLASH – Finance Window Times for the Last Week of Term 1 (31/3/14 – 4/4/14)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31/3/2014</td>
<td>1/4/2014</td>
<td>Normal Trading Hours 8.00am – 10.30am</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/4/2014</td>
<td>2/4/2014</td>
<td>Normal Trading Hours 8.00am – 10.30am</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
<td>CLOSED</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary Campus Finance Office Hours Last Week of Term 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31/3/2014</td>
<td>1/4/2014</td>
<td>Normal Trading Hours 8.00am – 10.30am</td>
<td>CLOSED (End of Term Finance Updates)</td>
<td>CLOSED (Finance Window always closed on a Friday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/4/2014</td>
<td>2/4/2014</td>
<td>Normal Trading Hours 8.00am – 10.30am</td>
<td>CLOSED (Finance Window always closed on a Friday)</td>
<td>CLOSED (Finance Window always closed on a Friday)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
P & C Association

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 and the best fireworks 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.varsitywinterfair.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@varsitywinterfair.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

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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>8:00am to 11:00 am</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 11:00 am</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. The College will however be offering Second Hand Blazers for sale as they become available. Refer above for details.

Uniform Shop News Opening Hours

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. The College will however be offering Second Hand Blazers for sale as they become available. Refer above for details.
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

Entertainment™ Memberships are packed with hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for the best local restaurants, cafés, attractions, hotel accommodation, travel and much more!

Available as a traditional Entertainment™ Book –OR– the new Entertainment™ Digital Membership for your Apple or Android device, your Membership gives you over $20,000 worth of valuable offers valid through to 1 June 2015!

Order your new 2014 | 2015 Entertainment™ Membership from Varsity College P & C Association and 20% of your Membership purchase goes towards our fundraising.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entertainment™ Book offers</th>
<th>The new Entertainment™ Digital Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>are redeemed via</td>
<td>Puts the value of the Entertainment™ Book in your Apple or Android device. Search for businesses, show your phone to redeem and keep track of your savings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Order either Membership type before Wednesday April 2nd, and you’ll receive additional Bonus Offers which you can use straight away!

Take a look at some of the many valuable offers available with the NEW 2014 | 2015 Entertainment™ Membership! Click on the Book name below to find out more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Edition</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adelaide</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brisbane, Sunshine Coast and Surrounds</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cairns, Palm Cove and Port Douglas</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canberra</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geelong, Surf Coast and Ballarat</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Coast and Northern New South Wales</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle, Central Coast and The Hunter</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW South Coast</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perth</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney and Sydney North</td>
<td>$70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney Greater West</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>$65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Townsville</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Entertainment™ Memberships also available for Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Waikato and Wellington

Thank you for your support

Varsity College P & C Association
Sue Horkings
198 Varsity Parade VARSITY LAKES QLD 4227
Phone: 07 55623575 | Email: shork2@eq.edu.au

Please remember to reference Varsity College P & C Association when registering your 2014 | 2015 Entertainment™ Membership.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>3 April 2014</td>
<td>Year 8 &amp; 10 Immunisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Across Campus</td>
<td>4 April 2014</td>
<td>Varsity Vibe Market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Across Campus</td>
<td>21 April 2014</td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Across Campus</td>
<td>25 April 2014</td>
<td>Anzac Day Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Across Campus</td>
<td>28 April 2014</td>
<td>World of Maths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Campus</td>
<td>29 &amp; 30 April 2014</td>
<td>Year 10, 11 &amp; 12 Parent Teacher Nights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Across Campus</td>
<td>2 May 2014</td>
<td>Varsity Vibe Market</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Date Claimers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31 May 2014</td>
<td>Varsity College Winter Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 June 2014</td>
<td>6.30pm Alice in Wonderland &amp; Through the Looking Glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 June 2014</td>
<td>2pm and 6.30pm Alice in Wonderland &amp; Through the Looking Glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 August 2014</td>
<td>Year 10 Careers Expo from 5pm to 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 August 2014</td>
<td>Gold Coast Eisteddfod</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>