3 June 2014

EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

While the weather may not have supported the Winter Fair held last Saturday, it did not dampen the spirits of the thousands who attended the event. It was a truly memorable day with a huge variety of activities and stalls for parents, students and community members to visit along with some great entertainment from groups within the school and also some outside providers. At times it was so busy it was difficult to move around the site, but this only added to the excitement of the event. The “dunking tank” was again a major highlight with students and parents taking every opportunity to sink staff many times. The food stalls also had plenty of business selling out well before the close of the event. In all it was a tremendous event that showed what happens when the community works together to create something that benefits the long term goals of the school community.

It is almost impossible to thank all of the staff, students, parents and friends who volunteered their time to ensure that this event was incredibly successful. However it would be remiss of me not to make specific reference to the organising committee and others who volunteered significant time to support this event, specifically Helen Ewart, Jenni Parsons, Augusta Swayne, David McCullough, Sharon Fong, Paula Crilley, Tiffany A’Bell, Jo Byrnes, Sue Horkins, Francis Greenman, Nicki Ning, Jo Targett, Meg Weisell, Emma Stawicki and Judy Hammans. I also need to especially thank Bart Duffy, who supported his wife Sue, Carmel Conlin and Sue’s sister Brenda Farrugia to ensure that the finances for the event were kept up to date. I also would like to acknowledge Ben & Cheryl Gilroy and their sons, Luke and Jake. Their efforts in ensuring the electrical requirements of the Fair were met, as well as their help in running the day in general, was extraordinary. I am positive that I have missed others and I offer my humble apologies if this is the case, but my thanks and gratitude extends to these remarkable people.

As for staff, the list is endless, but I would like to especially acknowledge Stephen O’Brien for his efforts in guiding the volunteers for this event, the College groundsman, Dean, Tony, Andrew and Nick for their efforts before the event and on the day, the Middle School office staff, Susan, Vanessa and Liz for their endless support prior to the event, and the Instrumental Music Team for their efforts in organising the entertainment for the day. There were many many staff who worked throughout the day and prior to the event to ensure that the Winter Fair was an incredible success and I thank each of these staff members for their generous contribution and effort. The event could not run without this commitment.

I would like to thank John Philistin for his efforts in organising the Kokoda Challenge teams this year. John was ably assisted by Vanessa Jackson, Cameron Markham, Lynette Connelly and Steve Baddeley, enabling our teams to compete in the 15 and 30km challenges. The “Walkermelons” year 8 team surprised everyone by winning the Schools 15km division. A special congratulations to these students for their incredible result. Varsity College is establishing a very strong tradition in this event and we are hopeful of combining this into the Duke of Edinburgh award that we are looking to start later this year. Thank you to all of the parents who provided their students with great support throughout the training and preparation for this event.

This week we are thrilled to have a number of significant visitors to the school. Mr Anthony Salcito, Microsoft Education Vice President and his team will be visiting the school on Wednesday for the first time. We have been a part of the elite World Tour Schools program for the last 2 years since its inception and the team at Microsoft have always held Varsity College up as a lighthouse example of what can be achieved digitally. Anthony and his team will see the entire school during this visit and hopefully give us some feedback on ways that we can further improve the digital learning platform that we have created.

On Friday, the Director General of DETE, Dr Jim Watterson will visit the school to see firsthand the exciting things that we are doing at Varsity College. Dr Watterson has always shown great interest in Varsity College and in my meetings with him he has continuously asked questions about the progression of the College. Once again this is a great opportunity to showcase the exciting developments that we have at this school and to also get feedback on further ideas that will help Varsity College continue to develop our learning platform.

Varsity College is now an Independent Public School. As part of this program, the school must create a School Council. We are well into the process of this occurring with a draft Varsity College School Council receiving approval from both the P&C and staff. This draft constitution is now available for all members of the community to peruse for the remainder of this term, prior to voting on the Council’s membership early next
Please follow the links on the school website to review this document and forward any questions directly to me for consideration. A detailed process for the election of staff, parent and student representatives is currently being developed and will be published in the next 2 weeks. This will clearly outline the timelines required for the School Council Members to be elected by the end of term 3.

This weekend, the Senior School drama production of Alice in Wonderland will be held in the Auditorium on the Senior Campus. Students have been working on this play for many months now and I encourage all members of the community to take the time to come and see our senior students in the performances on Friday and Saturday (matinee and evening sessions available). Tickets are available from the Senior Administration Office. I would like to acknowledge the dedication and work that Michelle Murtaugh, Ben Henderson and Peta Johnston have undertaken in preparing the production for our school community to enjoy. They have committed an incredible amount of their time and effort into working with these students out of school hours. I also need to acknowledge the work of Thomas Pagram. The Auditorium has had a complete overhaul to enable this play to occur and Thomas has voluntarily spent many hours of his own time rebuilding the lighting and sound system in readiness for the big event. Thank you Thomas.

As we approach the end of term 2, many students will be finishing outstanding assessments and the year 11 & 12 students will be in the midst of preparing for examinations. June can be the most stressful month of the year in schools so please support your children as best as possible in all year levels. If you require additional information or ideas on how to support your child, please contact the relevant school office.

**Jeff Davis**

**Notice to all members of the Varsity College Community**

Dear Parents/Carers/Students/Staff:

Varsity College is always looking to improve the effectiveness of our communication. We are mindful that our Varsity families are busy and yet receiving information about your children is paramount. As such, the College has chosen Facebook and our Website as the most efficient and effective means of communication to our Community.

Please be advised that we will be communicating via Facebook and our College website from Monday 2 June 2014.

The College newsletter will no longer be issued after term 2. For families of Primary Students, please ‘like’ our Varsity College Primary site: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Varsity-College-Primary-School/224894987531671


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**JUNIOR SCHOOL NEWS**

**Primary Campus News**

**Active School Travel Program**

On Friday May 23 Primary Campus students supported the National Safe Walk to School Day and in the process collected a bonus passport stamp. This resulted in students receiving their second incentive for participating in the program. Just a reminder to all parents every Wednesday is Walking – Wheeling -Wednesday, when families are encouraged to assist their children in Walking, Riding, Scootering or Bussing all or part of the way to school.

The new and improved bicycle storage areas are presently under construction on the primary campus. We are looking forward to more students who live close to the Campus choosing an active form of travel to improve personal and environmental health by leaving vehicles at home.

**Year 6 Camp – Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head**

Fun, exciting and adrenaline pumping are just a few words to describe the Year 6 camp at Lake Ainsworth. The Year 6 students had an amazing amount of fun thanks to our teachers and the camp staff. Because of the large number of students, two groups were arranged with the first group attending from 12-14 May and the second group 14-16 May. We all returned to school tired and worn-out but with huge smiles on our faces and memories that will last a lifetime.

We participated in heaps of fun activities such as rock climbing, archery, a cookout where we made damper, challenge ropes course, sailjaking (a mix of sailing and kayaking), beach walks, night time team games and organising “the County Fair” where in small groups we ran fair stalls using play money.
At camp each group had a team co-ordinator and our class teacher. We shared cabins with friends from our own and other classes. Over the three days at camp we were involved in challenge activities, teamwork tasks, cleaning, serving meals and washing up duties, free time and hanging out in our cabins!

Some of us couldn’t wait to have a go at things and even the most timid and quiet people turned out to be the best ever at a number of activities! The meals at camp were healthy and delicious and our teachers said we were all very well behaved.

We loved camp and have heaps of memories of that we won’t ever forget.

Year 6 Captain Gemma O’Toole and Year 6 Vice-Captain Kate Bodley

Super Symmetrical Students

As part of their learning experiences in Year 5, students were tasked to create a symmetrical background for their new 1-to-1 tablet devices. With much enthusiasm, students experimented with colour, line and shape to create perfectly symmetrical, digitally created pictures. Along with the design process, students developed their skills of peer consultation and feedback to ensure that their final design was indeed symmetrical. The discussion between students during this process was both substantial and invaluable. Well done Year 5!

Mr. Faust

Dental Clinic / Van Offer of Oral Health

Students in grades (PREP, 5A, B, C, D) have been provided with an offer of oral health care examination card to take home.

If your child is enrolled in one of the grades listed above or are new to the school and did not receive an examination card and would like to arrange for your child to receive oral health care please contact the Oral Health Call Centre 1300 300 850. Monday to Friday 8.00 am – 4.30 pm Excluding Public Holidays.

If your child requires disability access please identify this requirement with the Call Centre Operator.

SECONDARY CAMPUS NEWS

News from the Varsity Academy of Mathematics and Science

Year 9 Academy QUT Visit

On an intellectually amazing journey to the Cube at QUT in Brisbane, the year 9 Varsity Academy of Mathematics and Science students witnessed the new age of technology. They interacted with the world’s largest educational tablet and crafted simple but genius displays of air resistance and gravity in parachutes.

From there, they played with an enormous game of Breakout over four interactive televisions, which required a handful of students to run the paddle back and forth just to keep the ball in the air. Awestruck by the new-age university, students reluctantly boarded the bus back to school and began to learn and view science and mathematics with a new light.

Varsity Sports Report

As the days begin to grow short sport at the College continues to forge ahead into winter with a number of sporting teams getting towards the pointy ends of their competitions.

In the basketball super coach Adam Darragh has returned from coaching the South Coast side to the State finals in Cairns to spearhead both the boys and girls Varsity sides to an Oceanic grand final appearance against arch-rivals Hillcrest.

Elsewhere the boys Futsal excellence side will at time of print have competed in the QLD state titles, and if the constant squeaking of shoes on the College sports hall in the early mornings is anything to go by should be set for big things.

The Olympic sport of table tennis also had a run in recent weeks, with Josh Darragh’s paddlers proving more ping than pong at the TSS tournament.

And whilst the rugby league season might just be heating up with State of Origin, the Varsity Titans Challenge side have ended their season with two emphatic victories and a hard fought draw, which unfortunately saw them miss out on finals football by the slimmest of margins.

Lastly a big congratulation to all the teams who took out their respective inter-school sport cluster competitions (Mr O’Brien’s
Mr Chard

Varsity Table Tennis team serves up a smash hit.

The Varsity College under 15 team showed superior mental and physical skills to defeat the Health Science Academy Spin-doctors in the final of the under 15 North Zone table tennis competition earlier this week. Having led the competition for the majority of fixtures, Varsity was under pressure to perform against the rapidly improving Health Science Academy team.

Team captain Isaac ‘Tonka Truck’ Tonkin partnered Nem ‘Nematode’ Tucakovic in the first match of the rubber and immediately felt the strain, falling behind 27-22 in the first-to-31 game. With the score blowing out to 29-23, it seemed the Academy was set to take an early lead in the best of two final. But, as they say in the classics and halls of tournament table tennis: cometh the hour – cometh the man.

It was time for the team to draw on the well of mental fortitude instilled by Coach Mark ‘Buzzcut’ Buzolic and live the mantra of ‘one point at a time’. Inchng ever nearer to trail 29-30 at match point, Varsity sensed a disturbance in the force with the Academicians questioning their ability to close out what had seemed to be a match theirs for the taking. Drawing level at 30-30, Varsity held its nerve to force consecutive errors from their intellectual opponents and from somewhere deep in the salivating jaws of defeat, the lads snatched victory. It was then up to the B pairing of speed-serving Kenny ‘Esquire’ Esquillant and the looping Louis ‘Louis Louis’ Peyrieux to wrap up the Under 15 final with a straightforward 31-9 victory.

Following a simple straight-sets demolition of the Under 14 champions, Varsity went on to secure a spot in the crossover final next month. Hand-shakes all round and hearty congratulations boys!

In other news, the rookie under 14 team of Serena Thomas, Kristy Wun, Thomas Quacinella and Henry Harding finished a gallant fourth in their first season of competition. This is a result of which the team can be justifiably proud. Well done!

The fledgling year 8 interschool debating team has experienced arguably the most successful rookie season in Varsity history, winning three out of its four regular debates, including a hat-trick of wins in their last three outings. The five girl team of Ella ‘Iron-Maiden’ Steele, Alexandra ‘Sock-it-to-em’ Sologon, Jordyn ‘Gravedigger’ Gardiner, Ashleigh “I’m always” Wright and Cheyenne ‘the Shark’ Apap, has produced these outstanding results after hours of dedicated training with their coach Mrs Andrea ‘Steady-Eddy’ Stidwill.

A particularly satisfying aspect is that this team has convincingly won their last two ‘short prep’ debates in which students are left entirely on their own for preparation with no internet access and no adult input whatsoever.

The parental support given to these students – driving them to evening competitions at PBC, having immaculate school uniforms and providing advice, is greatly appreciated. Parents should be very proud of these students who commit such a consistent effort to representing the College. Full marks to the girls for working so cohesively as a team, accepting graciously that when there are five debaters available for a three person team, sometimes you have to sit out or act as chairperson or timekeeper.

Independent adjudicators have rated this team highly and predict a big future based on their ability to construct an argument and compose effective rebuttal. We look forward to their continued involvement in interschool debating. They now head into the elimination rounds featuring the top 16 teams from across the Gold Coast. Well done and good luck girls!

Mark Buzolic
Head of Department, Enrichment & Philosophy

News from the Creative Arts Department

Alice in Wonderland

Tickets are on sale now through the Senior Administration Payment Office

June 6th 2014
6.30pm

June 7th 2014
2.00pm & 6.30pm

“Begin at the beginning,” the King said, very gravely, “and go on till you come to the end: then stop.” ~Alice in Wonderland
Michelle Murtagh  
Head of Department Creative Arts

ACROSS CAMPUS NEWS

Uniform Shop News

Opening Hours

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shop Type</th>
<th>PH:</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep/Junior Uniform Shop</td>
<td>5576 9308</td>
<td>Tuesday 8:00am to 10:00am, 2:00pm to 3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday 8:00am to 11:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle/Senior Uniform Shop</td>
<td>5562 3512</td>
<td>Tuesday 8:00am to 10:30am, 8:00am to 11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 8:00am to 11:00am</td>
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<td>Friday 8:00am to 11:00am</td>
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WINTER UNIFORM

Winter uniform should be varsity jumper/jackets/track pants only. Plain navy or any other colours are not acceptable. Items are available now at both shops.

Fleece Jumper - Prep to Year 12

- Size 4 – 14 - $39.00
- Size 16 – 24 - $42.00
(Please note slight price increase this year)

Jacket – Prep to Year 12

All sizes - $49.00

Trackpants Prep to Year 12

All sizes - $36.00
Knitted Jumper – Year 7 – Year 12 only
Size 12 – 22 - $59.00

School Blazers

These are now available for Senior years only
Size 10 – 20 - $100.00
Note: that Blazers are also available for hire ($50 deposit, $50 non-refundable hire charge, terms & conditions available through the Uniform Shop).

Footy Socks

These are now available at both shops at $11.00 each, the increase is due to a new style and better quality sock.

2nd Hand Uniform changes

We are no longer accepting used uniforms to sell on consignment

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

COMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>4 June 2014</td>
<td>Year 4 Athletic Trials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>5 June 2014</td>
<td>Year 5 Athletic Trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>5 June 2014</td>
<td>Year 8 and 10 Immunisations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>6 June 2014</td>
<td>6.30pm Alice in Wonderland &amp; Through the Looking Glass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary Campus</td>
<td>7 June 2014</td>
<td>2pm and 6.30pm Alice in Wonderland &amp; Through the Looking Glass</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>10 June 2014</td>
<td>Athletics Field Day</td>
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<td>Across Campus</td>
<td>10 June 2014</td>
<td>Regional &amp; South Coast Cross Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>11 June 2014</td>
<td>Athletics Championship Day – all students/family/coloured t-shirts</td>
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<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>12 June 2014</td>
<td>Junior Music Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Primary Campus</td>
<td>12 June 2014</td>
<td>Year 2 Historic Village 2B, 2G, 2A,2F</td>
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<td>Date Claimers</td>
<td>12 August 2014</td>
<td>Year 10 Careers Expo from 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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