2015 Victoria Park State School Captains
Charlotte Odger and Colby Threadgate

2015 Victoria Park State School Vice-Captains
Kalel Pada and Noah Gupwell

Pictured with A/Deputy Principal Mrs Jennifer Whittington

Induction of school leaders
One the most important days of our school year is the induction of our school’s student leaders. This is a time for our school to recognise and celebrate the achievements of those students who have been selected by their peers and the staff of the school to be the representatives for our school.

The badge presentation for our student leaders was performed on Monday afternoon with the proud parents of our student leaders pinning the badge of office on their child and all student leaders swearing to the oath of office.

It is imperative that students are NOT on school premises until AFTER 8am.

There is NO supervision on the school grounds and it is parent’s or guardian’s responsibility to arrange before school care if you require it before 8am. This is a SAFETY ISSUE

Thank you.
PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

"My interest is in the future—because I am going to spend the rest of my life there.”
– Charles F. Kettering (1876-1958)

Parent Meet & Greet
Getting to know your child’s teacher, how your child’s classroom will operate and what and how your child will be learning in their new classroom are significant pieces of knowledge for parents. Teachers also appreciate getting to know more about their students, their parents and what parents are expecting from their child’s teacher for the upcoming year. Last Friday many parents availed themselves of the opportunity to meet their child’s teacher and to meet other parents of the school.
This year the school’s P&C Association combined our annual Community afternoon with the meet and greet. This provided a wonderful opportunity for parents and staff to get to know each other in a more casual atmosphere.
Thank you to the members of the P&C for providing the food and drinks for the afternoon. It was a pleasure to meet so many parents who attended the Meet & Greet afternoon. Here are some of our wonderful staff and parents helping out.

Pre Assessment
Over the past three weeks class teachers have been using a range of strategies to gain information on students’ prior knowledge and skills. This is an effective strategy in determining what students already know or don’t know before commencing a unit of work. By gathering this information teachers are able to make decisions about whole class, small group and individual support and extension requirements. Pre-assessment occurs throughout the year and may include test style tasks, open ended questions and problem solving, class discussions or graphic organisers. This is one way in which Victoria Park State School teachers gather information to differentiate teaching and learning, support students to grow socially, emotionally and to experience academic success.

Safety First
Parents are reminded of the need to follow the signage around the school regarding the drop off zones. The Stop Drop Go on Goldsmith St is a 2 minute stopping zone. Parents cannot leave their vehicle, must move to the head of the queue before children are to alight from or board the vehicle. If your child is not ready to be picked up you must drive around the block and return to the end of the queue.

Uniforms
Thankyou parents for the outstanding manner in which children present themselves for school each day. Children wear their school uniform daily and take visible pride in their appearance.
The school dress code provides students and parents with clear expectations of how students should present when attending school and school based activities.
All students are asked to wear their school uniform every day. The uniform includes the wearing of socks and fully enclosed shoes, such as sandshoes or joggers, as well as wearing a broad brimmed hat when participating in outdoor activities. Jewellery is to be kept at a minimum and must not pose any risk to personal safety. Dangly earrings, rings, necklaces and wrist bands are considered to be potential safety risks so are not encouraged.
The school has a policy of ‘No Hat, No Play’. The same applies for students who are not wearing fully enclosed shoes. The student will not be allowed to participate in outdoor activities if they are not wearing fully enclosed shoes as this is a Workplace Health & Safety issue.
Students are also expected to be in full school uniform whenever participating in activities outside the school grounds (e.g. excursions, Inter-school competitions) and may be prevented from participating, if a full school uniform is not being worn.
Uniforms are available for purchase from the P&C at the Uniform Shop which is located near the Tuckshop. Please check this newsletter for current opening times.
All personal possessions MUST be clearly marked with the child’s name. Lost Property is kept in a box near the Uniform Shop. Any unclaimed articles will be handed to a charitable organisation at the end of each semester. You are welcome to inspect the lost property at any time to check for your child’s possessions.

Attendance
Last year our school attendance rate was 92.9%. Our goal again this year is for 95% student attendance for the 2015 school year. We have had a very positive start to the year with an attendance rate 96.7% for the first 3 weeks of school.
**WORKING BEE** – Our first working bee for the year will be held on **Saturday 7th March from 8am**. During the working bee the tasks on this day will include putting up some shade cover and gates on. If you can help out please call Michelle on 0438576784.

In other garden news the students have been planting Snake Bean seeds in egg cartons and they are now ready to be planted in the ground. We have harvested some sweet potatoes to be used in the Special Needs Cooking Program. The students also love learning how to take care of our resident chickens with food and water each day and collecting eggs for our tuckshop.

Zoe is one of our very enthusiastic gardeners with 100% attendance this year.

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**LITERACY CORNER #2**

3 of Seven Steps to Writing is all about **Tightening the Tension**. In order to engage a reader’s heart and emotions in any genre, you have to build up to a climax. Encouraging the children to use their five senses (seeing, hearing, touching, tasting and smelling) in conjunction with their feelings (emotions) will assist them to engage the emotions of their readers and build to a crescendo. Goosebumps stuff!

AT HOME, you might like to discuss with your children how the characters in stories make them feel. This will build their empathy towards these characters and extend to all other people in their lives.

Mrs Lea ARNOLD J (Literacy Coach)
FLEXISCHOOLS ONLINE ORDERING is the most convenient way to order your school uniforms to be delivered to the classroom within a few days of ordering. Flexischool is now the ONLY way you can order your tuckshop. Please go to www.flexischools.com.au and type in Victoria Park SS to see a demonstration and register yourself to start ordering. If you have any questions please contact Flexischools on 1300 361 769.

TUCKSHOP is currently CLOSED every Monday and OPEN Tuesday to Friday. ALL ORDERS to be placed via Flexischools. To register please go to flexischools.com.au. There is an iPad provided by the P&C at the front of the tuckshop to use each morning if you do not have access to a computer. All orders are to be placed on flexischools by 9am of the day you require food for your child. On flexischools you are able to order for a particular day in advance.

NEW UNIFORM SHOP HOURS
Monday 8.30 –9am
Wednesday 8.30—9am
Thursday 2.30 to 3pm

Thankyou to the new parents that have offered to volunteer in our uniform shop. We would like to ask all parents to respect that the volunteers in the uniform shop are new and here to help us out so please greet them with a smile, it may just make their day brighter. :-)

Back to School Lunchbox Tips
Healthy lunches and snacks are important for active children. It is important to offer healthy lunch box choices. Eating healthy food helps children concentrate and learn. Suggested foods to put in a lunch box include ...
- Fresh fruit
- Crunchy vegetables
- A meat or protein food such as slices of lean meat, hardboiled egg
- Dairy food such as a cheese stick or slice, grated cheese, milk or yoghurt
- Starchy food such as bread, a roll, pita or flat bread, fruit bread or crackers
- Water

What a healthy lunchbox looks like?

Sporting Grants Available
Qld Govt is giving grants for low income families to help get their children into sports. If you have a health care card you can apply now for $150 per child to join a sporting club. Applications close on April 11th. Apply now using this link: www.npsrs.qld.gov.au/funding/getinthe平均水平/

TUESDAY 31st March
Keep an eye out for the sponsor booklets and Information being handed out soon.

Cross Country and Fun Run

Make Saturday Night ‘Nit Detection Night’ in your house!

Rule of the Week:
Be SAFE in the classroom
Keep all chair legs and desk legs on the floor.
Keep chairs still.
Use equipment correctly.
Only enter classrooms when a teacher is present.
Move calmly into and around the classroom.
Know the procedures for safety drills.

We acknowledge the Yuibera people, the traditional owners of the land in which our school is located.
What being an Asthma friendly school means?

Asthma Friendly School Policy Document – Asthma Australia

**Policy goal**

All students at the school who are known to have asthma are supported via Asthma Friendly policies and procedures and all students, staff and visitors can access Asthma First Aid in an emergency.

**Policy commitment**

We are committed to being an Asthma Friendly school as outlined by Asthma Australia. This means:

- The majority of staff have current training in Asthma First Aid and routine management, conducted or approved by the local Asthma Foundation.
- Asthma Emergency Kits (AEKs) are accessible to staff and include in-date reliever medication, single person use spacers (with masks for under 5 year olds if required)
- Asthma First Aid posters are on display and information is available for staff and parents
- Policies are Asthma Friendly

**Roles and responsibilities**

**Students:**

Are supported to self manage their asthma in line with their age and stage of development: we explain asthma and asthma care to the students and provide care with, not just to, them.

**Parents/carers:**

- Provide an Asthma Care Plan, signed by the treating doctor
- Provide their child’s medication, clearly dated and in the original labelled container. A spacer, and mask as required, should also be supplied
- Alert staff to any changes in their child’s asthma management

**Staff:**

- Document any asthma attack and advise parents/carers as a matter of priority.
- Have a spacer – and mask – replacement policy: name and give a spacer / mask used from the AEK to the student who used them for their own use in the future – otherwise they need to be disposed of thoughtfully.
- Review documentation regularly to ensure compliance with procedures
- Minimise exposure to known triggers

**Management**

- Meet all legal, regulatory and policy requirements related to health care planning and asthma management within the service
- Maintain a central record of students health care needs, including asthma, and review regularly
- Induct new staff in asthma policies and procedures including asthma training and information for all staff
- Review policies and practices

**Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed annually and earlier should a need arise to do so.

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**Classroom happenings**

**Wrap up from the Special Need Rooms**

Tyler and Mrs Y. Hansen having some fun on the slide.

The staff love getting involved with the children. This week the children are learning how to do shopping with Mrs Jamieson and cooking classes will begin using fresh sweet potatoes and herbs harvested from our own Kitchen Garden.

**News from Year 2**

The students of Year 2 have settled in well to the routines and expectations of the new year level. They are working hard to produce retells of a familiar text, writing in the correct narrative structure. In Science students are investigating the properties of different materials and their uses with the goal of making their own water proof lunch box. Our current History Unit is looking at changes over time and a trip later in the term to the Historical Museum.

**Year 3**

Had some fun at the Safety Circus this week. Thankyou to the Mackay District Crime Prevention Unit and the CQ University students studying a Batchelor of Theatre at CQU for visiting our school to present such an important message to our students.

**Whats Happening in the Year 4 Classrooms**

The students of Year 4 have settled in well to their new surroundings. We have hit the ground running this term and after some revision from last year students are now working hard on their narrative writing skills, in particular ‘sizzling starts’. In History we are learning about significant explorers, the aboriginal culture of Australia and how Australia has changed over the years. Science is all about packaging this term and students are investigating the properties of different materials. Swimming has also started for the year and students are thoroughly enjoying themselves! We are still looking for parent helpers so if you would like to come along please contact your child’s classroom teacher.