It was great to see so many parents take the opportunity to ride with their children on National Ride Safely Day.

Jake and Crista are demonstrating how to ride safely to school with their helmets on and wearing closed in shoes to protect their feet.

The brave staff members involved this year to raise money for the Leukemia Foundation and agree to cut or shave their heads and beards. Thankyou to Mrs Snee for organising such a fun event to support a great cause. Well Done!!

Participants were Mr Edwards, Mrs Snee, Mr Gonzo, Mr Bromiley and Mr Shepherd. We would also like to thank Streaks Ahead Hairdressers for donating their time to be a part of our event. A big thankyou to everyone who donated on the day.
**Student Resource Scheme Levy**

Last year the P&C endorsed the implementation of a $30 student resource levy. The levy was introduced to reduce the cost of school materials and to provide students with home access to computer programs that support student learning.

The $30 levy enables students to access dictionaries, atlases, thesauruses, Mathletics, Reading Eggs, Spell a Drome as well as additional classroom printing and photocopying.

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**Every Day Counts**

Congratulations to all our students and families, our current attendance rate for the first 7 weeks of the year is 95.2%. At the same time last year our attendance rate was 92%. Our target for the year is 95%. This year each term is 10 weeks in length meaning there are 50 school days each term with each semester totalling 100 days including public holidays.

For the school to achieve an average of 95% attendance all students need to attend school every day unless they are ill.

We have made a good start and your support in having your child at school every day is very much appreciated. Every day is a school day and every school day is full of learning including the final day of term.

**Parent Teacher Interviews**

At Victoria Park State School, parents and carers have the opportunity to discuss their child’s academic progress with the class teacher at the end of Term 1 and Term 4. Teachers are currently making preparations for this term’s interviews and will forward invitations home to parents. Interviews are scheduled to take place during weeks 9 and 10 of this term and week 1 of next term. Classes where teachers are on leave will be arranged for interviews to occur before the teacher is on leave after the teacher returns from leave.

**Parents and Citizens Association**

Our P&C Association plays an active role in contributing to our school community. The P&C contributes to our school’s strategic direction and it is a great way for parents and interested community members to learn about our school, to have a say, and to help improve our great school.

Congratulations to Michelle Hansen (President), Di Matthews (Vice President), Nicole Hood (Secretary) and Kathy Walz (Treasurer) who have been elected as the 2015 Executive of our P&C Association.

This term we are reviewing the school’s Dress Code (Uniform policy) and Homework Policy. Draft policies and a survey will be forwarded electronically to parents and carers for feedback before the policies are endorsed by the School Council during Term 2. Paper based copies of the draft policies and survey will be available from the school office.

We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting at 7pm on the 22nd April. (Note the special date because of the holidays)

**Let’s Talk Numeracy**

Supporting your child in Prep to Year 3

**What numeracy skills will your child learn at school?**

In the first years of school, children learn through hands-on activities. Your child’s teacher will identify what they already know and can do, and will extend their knowledge and skills through new and challenging situations.

An important aim of the Preparatory Year is to build on your child’s previous experiences with new and different learning opportunities at school. Your child will explore fundamental aspects of mathematics such as ‘how many’, mass, length, size, shape, sequence, order and patterns.

In Years 1 to 3, children use mathematics in increasingly complex and unfamiliar situations. Children will explore larger numbers and learn different ways to identify, describe and record their observations and findings. They may use symbols, words, diagrams or pictures, maps, models and flow charts to describe information.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s progress please contact your child’s teacher.

**Activities to do with your child**

Here are some simple yet effective activities you can do with your child to help them apply the numeracy skills they learn at school:

- count the money in your child’s moneybox each week — take it to the bank and help them deposit the money
- record your child’s growth on a height chart
- make a home supermarket using empty grocery items and packets — attach price tags, then play a shopping game where your child can purchase items and calculate the change they will receive
- estimate, measure and compare lengths and heights, how heavy or light objects are and how much containers hold — for example, how many cups do you think it will take to fill the bucket with sand?
- play number games using magazines, books, newspapers and number plates
- discuss the prices of items in shopping catalogues and junk mail
- count everything — toys, the number of pegs needed to hang clothes on the line and the number of buttons on your clothes
- take your child on a ‘number hunt’ in your home or community — point out how numbers are used on everyday household items such as the telephone, or your house number in the street
- talk about time — ask your child to check the time on the clock when they go to school, eat meals, watch their favourite television program and go to bed
- play ‘I spy’ and look for different shapes and colours — ‘I spy something that is round’ or ‘I spy something that is rectangular.
- go on a ‘shape hunt’ — have your child look for as many circles, squares, triangles and rectangles as they can find in the home or in the yard
- use public transport to read timetables, look at routes on a map or fi gure out the number of stops the bus or train would need to make before you get to your destination.

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**LITERACY CORNER #4**

In creative writing, emotion is the key to reader engagement. This is why reading to and with children is so vital to their growth not only as a reader, but in building their empathy toward other people. Stories are conveyed as an interconnected series of emotive images created from the imagination of the writer and passed to the imagination of the reader.

Therefore, knowing how to use imagery is necessary for the writer of prose, most particularly of poetry.

This week we were privileged to have author, Mark SVENDSEN, as a guest at our school. Mark conducted two workshops with our extension writers, showing them how to build emotionally engaging imagery to enhance poetry or descriptive prose writing. This technique of Show, Don’t Tell is the fifth step of the Seven Steps to Writing Program.

AT HOME, when reading to or listening to your children read, be on the lookout for descriptive passages in stories and discuss what it is you like about them.

Mrs Lea ARNOLD (Literacy Coach)
Mwansa is in Grade 4. She started at Victoria Park State School in Prep and has now been at our school for 5 years. Her best subject is Writing because she likes to be creative and use her imagination. In Maths she has learnt portioning which is a strategy to help add up any number easier. The best thing Mwansa likes about school is having loads of friends. Her favourite sport is netball, she plays the clarinet in the instrumental band and says her secret talent is art. Her favourite lunch snack is a sausage roll and she also likes the hot dogs from the tuckshop as a treat. Mwansa came to Australia in 2009 from Zambia and also speaks their native language of Bemba.

Tiffany is in Grade five and has also been at Victoria Park State School since Prep. Her favourite subject is Maths because its fun and helps your brain. The best thing about school is seeing my friends everyday. Just recently I learnt to draw a flower in art, I previously didn’t know how to draw but have learnt. I like to sing and I play the flute in the woodwind section of the Instrumental Band.

Kaitlin is in Grade six and been at Victoria Park State School for seven years. Kaitlin likes that the teachers are fun and always happy. She enjoyed learning recently about the Australian Federation in history. Her favourite sports are netball and swimming. She is the library monitor and also the captain of the school Sting Ensemble. Kaitlin plays the viola as her instrument. The viola is an instrument like a violin with a different string to make a different sound. Her favourite food is lasagne and says that the spaghetti bolognaise and the pinwheels at the tuckshop are delicious.

Mr Lamont (Gonzo) is part of the friendly staff team and has been the groundsman at Victoria Park for 8 years. Part of his role is being a Health and Safety supervisor and is a MAD supporter of the Broncos. His favourite food is spaghetti bolognaise. A typical day for Gonzo is making the teachers happy, changing lightbulbs, tying shoe laces and keeping the school pool clean and tidy.

Early Years Health & Wellbeing
The Early Years and Health Wellbeing Program through George Street Neighbourhood Centre provide support to parents within the school environment. The team supports those parents who have their child enrolled in Prep at Sarina State Primary, Mackay Central, Mackay West and Victoria Park Primary.

The team provides services within the program:
- Linking families with community organisations that provide support in relation to health and general wellbeing of children and their families
- Provides parenting support
- Responding to parents needs by providing workshops on topics including:
  - Health and Nutrition
  - Child Safety
  - Behaviour Management
  - Financial assistance/advice/support/information and referral
  - Cultural aspects
  - Centrelink and payments

If you would like further information and advice, would like to refer a parent and their families who have a child in prep in the above mentioned schools please give us a call or email us with details for us to provide the best support we can for your child.

Lara jaram@georgestreetnc.org.au
Marlene marlenes@georgestreetnc.org.au
Noeleen noeleenm@georgestreet.org.au

Shakespeare Child and Family Centre
43 Shakespeare Street, South Mackay
Ph: (07) 4957 7222

Introducing some of the Victoria Park Staff Netball Team.

Warning to all parents that play indoor netball. The staff now have their own team and boy are they competitive. Seriously, we may just need some subs from time to time. So be ready for the call!!

Make Saturday Night ‘Nit Detection Night’ in your house!
Year 3 students have been working hard on developing their Narrative writing skills. They have enjoyed beginning their writing with sizzling starts to capture the readers’ attention. Here are a few examples of the sizzling starts they have written:

Billy Vogler 3A
Bang! Fifty-four cannon balls shot into the sky as the pirates fought over a chest of gold.

Christa Nissen 3B
“Boom!” The tornado was heading towards us. “What are we going to do?”
“Just stay calm,” said Dad, “and you will be fine.”
“Okay. Quick shut the windows!” Mum said

Kaylani Gorrion 3C
“YAHOO!” Terry skipped in with cobwebs in his hair. “I found a diamond! I’m rich, rich, RICH!!!” I was shocked, Andy was jealous and Terry was happier than a bird with babies! Terry explained what had happened as I pulled cobwebs out of his hair.

Students are able to bank every Thursday. If older or younger siblings wish to bank through Victoria Park School that is allowed as well, just put it in each week with the siblings class that attends the school.

Information packs are available at the school office. When your child makes their first deposit at the school they will earn their first dollar mite token to collect for prizes and the school will also receive a commission. The school earns this commission on every deposit made (to a max of $10 per individual deposit) Thankyou for supporting our school and helping teach your child the benefits of saving money regularly.

Mrs Milles, Miss Shan and Mrs Scott along the Victoria Park State School Anzac Choir are very busy rehearsing for their performance at the school Anzac Day Ceremony being held at the school on 24th April. Our Anzac Choir is made up over 50 students this year.
We also have a Choir group performing at the Choral Festival on Monday 23rd March.
Both of these performances gives students a great opportunity to develop their singing skills in a non competitive environment and most of all for the students to enjoy the experience of singing and performing together.

School Wide Positive Behaviour Strategies: (SWPBS)

Attendance Cup winners P-3
Week 6: 2 Winners
Prep B - 98.4% & 1A - 98.4%

Attendance Cup winners 4-6
Week 6: 4/5 - 98.4%

Attendance Cup winners P-3
Week 7: 2B - 100%

Attendance Cup winners 4-6
Week 7: 6C - 99%
School Photos this week
We would like all students to be wearing one of the new school shirts for the school photos this year if possible. The photos will be taken on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th. A timetable will be sent via the Skoolbag app with more information for parents. The uniform shop can be open on request by volunteers outside of the normal hours of opening if you require uniforms. Please contact Michelle for more information on 0438576784 for arrangements to be made.

School Disco Wrap Up
The disco was a huge success and is one of the events on the school calendar where the students have so much fun. To hear some of them say “It’s not long enough” is a great thing. A HUGE thankyou not only to the P&C team, regular parent helpers and teachers but also the new parents who have come on board as volunteers this year. We appreciate all help that is offered, working together for a common cause, OUR CHILDREN. We are starting a volunteer register and sending regular emails to those parents that would like to be involved please email pandc@vicparkss.eq.edu.au.

Cross Country and Fun Run
TUESDAY 31st March
The sponsor booklets have been sent home. Students are getting excited about reaching their goal to receive their prize. Please make sure you have written the item on the form to claim your prize. All booklets and money are to be returned by 27th of March. Please do not lose these booklets as they need to be returned used or unused.