**Issue 4**  
**20 April 2015**

**CAALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**TERM 2 2015**

**Wednesday 22 April**

**P&C MEETING**

April P&C meeting. Held in the library starting at 5.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Discussion topics will be:
* The school uniform policy
* The homework policy
* The Kitchen Garden
* The new tuckshop menu
* Reviewing the 5 year plan of the P&C

**Friday 24th April**

**Anzac Day (VPSS School Ceremony)**
10am. Parents and community members are welcome to attend.

**Saturday 25th April**

**Mackay ANZAC March**

All staff and students are invited to be a part of our school in the Mackay Anzac Day March in the city centre. We are proud to be a large school that takes part in the Anzac Day March annually. It is the day on which we remember those who served and died in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Please remember to bring your HAT.

**KEEP UP TO DATE**

At Victoria Park State School we choose to keep you informed by using the Skoolbag App. You can download it from Google Play or the App Store for FREE.

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**Music News**

**Choral Festival**

23rd Annual Choral Festival was held recently. Victoria Park had 39 students take part this year which was a record. The Choral Festival is an opportunity for the students and the community choir to come together to make beautiful music in a non competitive environment.

We are proud of our students as they were very well behaved and worked very hard over the 7 weeks of rehearsals. On the night Parents also had a chance to learn a song and sing with the children. The finale of over 500 voices, which included our students was amazing to listen to.

**Anzac Marching Band**

The students who have formed the 2015 Marching Band are in preparations to perform at our school Anzac Ceremony this Friday 24th of April, and then lead our school in the Mackay Anzac March through the city streets on Saturday the 25th of April. The Anzac Marching Band this year also has 38 student taking part, again being a record.

**Instrumental Music Camp**

Nine Talented musicians were selected to attend the Mackay District Music Camp at Seaforth Pines Resort. Over 4 days the children joined other music loving students from schools around Mackay, Proserpine and Bowen. The children enjoy meeting other students with similar motivation and the same passion for music. The camp gives the music students the opportunity to improve their skill level. Instrumental music teachers from around the district instruct the students during this time as each teacher has hands on experience, each having their own passion for the chosen instrument. What the students get to learn in 4 days is equivalent to a years worth of school music lessons. The students return with so much confidence and skills to lift the whole school band. The students from all the schools came together at the end of the camp to perform for the parents. Such a great experience for them all.
PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

"The body won't HEAVE it if the mind doesn't BELIEVE it."
~ Author Unknown"

We are at the beginning of Term 2 of school for this year and I would like to thank everyone for your support of the school and your child’s learning throughout the first term. Last term we experienced a very different term with regard to the weather, a lot less rain but warm and humid days. Never the less our students strived to achieve their best in everything they did and were truly deserving of a well-earned break. I hope you all had a very relaxing Easter Holiday break with some camping, fishing, crabbing and other fun activities with your families.

Victoria Park’s Outstanding Musicians

"Outstanding Musicians"! Jessica Catchpole, Tayla Brazil, Charlotte Odger, Alba Rowlands, Zoe Ringwood, Noah Gupwell, Julian Jarvis, Phoebe Wood and Grace Clarkson attended this year’s Instrumental Music Camp at Seaforth and performed at the culminating concert to display their musical skills. The performance was outstanding. The string group had learnt 6 pieces of music and the concert band also learnt 6 pieces of music. The standard of music performed by both groups was amazing. As a totally stunning finale both groups joined together to play. (This was something that we very rarely even see in our high school programs)

The staff on the camp said that our children’s enthusiasm and behaviour was a credit to our school. We are turning out some VERY AMAZING and TALENTED musicians!!!

The icing on the cake was when three of our children received awards for their dedication, organisation, leadership and outstanding musical skills! Congratulations Alba Rowlands, Julian Jarvis and Grace Clarkson.

Many thanks to Jenny Milles, Sue Mora and Matt Johnston for their work with our instrumental children.

Parent – Teacher Interviews

The last week of Term 1 was a very busy week for our classroom teachers with many parents availing themselves of the opportunity to discuss the successes of their children with class teachers. Parents will receive 3 important pieces of information in the interview – What has my child been learning? How well has my child achieved? What will my child learn next? Interviews are a great time to develop future learning goals with your child and their teacher.

Thankyou

Many of the activities that the children of Victoria Park enjoy are only possible due to the efforts of the school’s P&C Association members, volunteers and with the support of the dedicated staff of the school. The school disco was enjoyed by all who attended on the night. A sea of volunteers ensured that children and adults alike were well feed and had plenty of fluids. The two huge fans in the hall kept everyone cool on what was a humid evening.

Our school is fortunate to have so many volunteers who go the extra step to make school a fun and exciting place to be.

ANZAC DAY Commemorations

Parents, family members and community members are welcome to attend the school’s commemoration of ANZAC Day at school on Friday 24 April commencing at 10 am in the school hall.

All students are invited to march with the school for the Mackay ANZAC Day March on ANZAC Day, Saturday 25 April. Victoria Park has always been well represented at the Mackay ANZAC Day commemorations. Marchers are to assemble in the old Coles car park in Sydney Street from 8am. At the conclusion of the march, parents are to collect children from Jubilee Park in Alfred Street. Please remember to wear your hat.

Congratulations everyone! Our student attendance rates remain high with many classes and year levels maintain attendance rates over 95% and above last year’s state average of 93%. Thank you parents for ensuring your child attends school on a regular basis. Every day is a day full of learning. Every day a student is absent from school is a day full of learning that is lost to the student. Being at school every day counts, having one day absent each week quickly adding up to two month’s of missed lessons in a year.

Unless your child is ill, it is expected that your child will be at school learning every day of the school year.

More information on the importance of regular school attendance is available at http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/index.html

The table below details the school’s attendance data up to this week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 Student Attendance to date – 94.8%</th>
<th>2014 Student Attendance Term 1 – 93.2%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girls 95.4%</td>
<td>Boys 94.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep 95.3%</td>
<td>Yr.1 93.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yr.2 95.7%</td>
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<td>Yr.3 93.9%</td>
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<td>Yr.4 95.6%</td>
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<td>Yr.5 94.1%</td>
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<td>Yr.6 95.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Non-Indigenous 95%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indigenous 92.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to all classes who have been awarded the Attendance Cup this term and to all students who have received Attendance GOTCHAs this term. You are inspiring.

Keep a watch on our school after hours

W eed you to look out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please call School Watch on 13 17 88.

The School Watch program is a partnership between the Department of Education, Training and Employment, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools.

If you do see something suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number—13 17 88—and let’s work together to help create a safer school community.

SCHOOLWATCH
Phone: 131788

www.schoollink.qld.gov.au


If you do see something suspicious, please don’t attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number—13 17 88—and let’s work together to help create a safer school community.
Zoe is in Prep A and likes learning at school. Her favourite subjects are Maths and skipping in P.E. She is really enjoying practicing for the Cross Country Fun Run at the moment. Her favourite lunch item is a vegemite sandwich.

From Year 1C we have Ethan. He loves doing homework because it helps him remember what he has learnt in class. P.E. is his favourite subject because he really likes swimming. This week in class Ethan really enjoyed doing site words. They were FUN, RUN, PEG & LEG. He also likes playing with the pattern blocks. “I love everything my mum packs in my lunchbox but I like the Apple and the Banana the best” he said.

Bonny T in 2C and been at Victoria Park State School since starting Prep. Bonny likes to use colour and be creative with art being her favourite subject. She also likes maths. “I love doing sums” she said. Using useful strategies to help me like counting on, skip counting in 5’s and 10’s. The music room is fun, she really likes singing in cannons.
She orders tuckshop lunch sometimes and loves the wraps and watermelon. Her favourite snack from home is strawberry flavoured yoghurt squeeze.

Ava from 2C has also been here since Prep. Maths is Ava’s favourite subject and she said she enjoys learning the part, whole and finding the missing number. Ava also enjoys swimming because you learn how to swim and you also get free play at the end. She really likes the Chicken Goujons and Zings from the tuckshop but her favourite snack is a banana.

Christa is in 3B. I like art with Miss Eastment. Favourite subject is Maths questions. I use the Split, Jump and Compensate strategies to help me with the harder questions. I like doing fun activities and drawing in my sketch book in my spare time. My favourite lunch is a jam sandwich and a popper.

We have had a wonderful first term in Prep. Students have enjoyed learning through play and hands on activities. They have been focussing on how to get along with each other and how to be a good friend. We have loved learning about books and taking home our beginner readers.
This week we participated in Close the Gap activities. National Close the Gap Day focuses on indigenous health issues and closing the gap between indigenous and non-indigenous community members. Mrs Willett and the staff from the George Street Neighbourhood Centre have planned some fun activities promoting healthy eating and being active for our Prep students.
In the first week back from holidays, we are excited about a special visit from Old MacDonald’s Travelling Farm. They will be talking to us about different kinds of farm animals and how we can care for them. We are especially looking forward to feeding and patting all the cute baby animals.

Mrs Arvidson has been teaching for over 15 years. This is her 7th year at Victoria Park State School. She is currently teaching the Prep/1 composite class and specialises in this area but is qualified to teach up to Grade 10. The best part of the day for Mrs Arvidson is when the children arrive in the morning with the biggest smiles on their faces and can’t wait to tell her stories about yesterday or something that happened at home.
Mrs Arvidson loves her job but also loves spending all her spare time with her daughter.
LITERACY CORNER #5

Write4Fun: Congratulations and good luck to the following students for entering their poems or stories in the national Write4Fun competition: Paige, Brooke and Kaylani from Year 3 and Zara, Caitlin, Gracie, Jerry, Nicola, Olivia, Tasma, Taylor & Lucas from Year 5.

Seven Steps: According to Eleanor Nilsson, dialogue is the most effective way of revealing character. Step 4 of the Seven Steps to Writing Success program focuses on Dynamic Dialogue. Dialogue makes a scene dynamic and most of all, brings characters alive.

AT HOME, when reading together, take special note of the dialogue between characters and discuss what may be revealed about the characters. For example… “I’m not scared,” she said. Her eyes flickered to the dark trees ahead and her breath was loud and uneven.

Mrs Lea ARNOLD (Literacy Coach)

Silver Gotcha Award Winners
are students that have received 24 Gotcha Cards during the year for following the 4 school rules. The students also receive a silver certificate on parade to recognise their achievements.

The following students were the only students to receive a Silver Gotcha Certificate in Term 1. Well Done!!

From 3A: Makayla, Kurt, Angus

Bronze Gotcha Card Winners
are students that have received 12 Gotcha Cards during the year for following the 4 school rules. The students also receive a Bronze Certificate on parade to recognise their achievements.

The following students received a Bronze Awards in Wk 8, Wk 9 & Wk 10 Well Done!

Prep/1: Travis, Jai, Lacie, Tori, Hayden, Jack, Sarah, Amber
1B: Tamia, Violet, Sim, Tiarney, Tyson, Pixie, Emahlie, Isabella, Holly
1C: Megan
2A: Dyson, Ally, Caitlyn
2C: Max, Te Maioha, Nathaniel, Wani, Zander, Ava, Ethan, Danielle, Hayley-Jay, Taulih
3C: Alex, Mischa, Brenden, Hamish, Lani, Darby
4B: Benjamin, Ella, Daniel, Codi, Taya
5A: Tirth, Naat, Marc, Tiffany, Kimberly
6A: Charlotte
6B: Charlotte, Phoebe, Grace, Emma, Bridgett, Shanita
6C: Andy, Chyna, Kai S, Colby, Jesse, Kai W, Chayce

Students in Year 2 have had a busy first term practising addition number facts and working hard to improve their spelling. They have had lots of fun designing, making and testing their waterproof lunch boxes.

2A students have been spending time in the Kitchen Garden planting and caring for a variety of seeds. Last week they prepared a ‘Leafy Salad’ with a tasty dressing-it was YUMMY!

Students in 2B will be saying goodbye to Mrs. B. this week as Mrs Wilson will be returning after the holidays. Mrs B. thanks everyone for having her here at Victoria Park.

Mrs Davis and her 2C students have been investigating how to propagate plants in a variety of ways, such as from seeds and cuttings.

2D students have been getting very creative and have enjoyed constructing senses poems. Below is one of the poems written by one of our students.

Love is a rainbow.
It tastes like sweet, juicy cherries,
And smells like rainbow flowers.
Love looks like families having dinner together.
The sound of opera music.
Love is exciting.
written by Jenna in Grade 2.

Book Fair will be held this year from Monday 1st June, for one week. There will be a wide variety of fiction, non-fiction and novelty items for students and parents to purchase. Book Fair will be held in the School Library and purchases may be made from 8.00am until 8.50am; at first break from 10.50 until 11.30; and after school from 3.00 until 4.00 pm. Parents may use the credit card facility published on the back of the flyer sent out to all students with the newsletter prior to the Fair. Competitions will be held and students can win vouchers to be spent at Book Fair. All students will be allowed to browse the items during their library time, and parents are encouraged to look at the items for purchase both before school and after school. By Anne Mason (Teacher-Librarian)
Closing The Gap Day was held recently and was attended by all Prep students. The day was organised by Mrs Willett and the activities on the day were all about the education of combining food and exercise to promote healthy lifestyles. A few of the activities the students did on the day were Story Telling, making fruit skewers, painting hand prints onto a calico banner and playing AFL on the oval. Reading “The Hungry Caterpillar” is always a favourite and everyone was surprised at how much fruit was eaten by the children just because they had made the skewers themselves. This could be a handy tip to do at home sometime. A huge thank you to The George Street Neighbourhood Centre for helping out with volunteers for the day, also the AFL development officer for bringing along football activities for the day, and also our parent helpers that we could not do without.

Cross Country and Fun Run

**JUPITER WINS!!**

The Cross Country/Fun Run was held this week with great success. Thank you to Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Elworthy for organising the day. Also a big thank you to Miss G for running over 1 km on the day to guide the children on the course. There was displays of great sportsmanship and encouragement shown by all students on the day. It was also great to see so many parents come down to watch. One of the parents made the comment at the end of the day “They just love it, don’t they” and the answer is YES the students do and that is what its all about. Having fun while being active and seeing all those smiling faces not only from the winners but also from the students that were proud of themselves for just finishing the course which is also important to have that sense of achievement. We would also like to thank the students for collecting sponsors as a fundraiser for the P&C. At a rough count we have been able to raise just over $6500 from the day. This is HUGE and 100% of all money raised go back into our school. The figures and the way in which they money is used within the school will be finalised at the next P&C meeting. Thank you also to the P&C volunteers of Mrs Hood, Mrs Waltz and Mrs Bear that have spent hours doing the distribution of sponsor books, counting of money and certificates. The prizes have been ordered over the holidays and will be given to the students soon.

**WANT TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER JUST NOT SURE HOW??**

We are starting a Volunteers Registration List

Open Now for Term 2

The P&C would like to welcome the lovely parent volunteer Tania De Brincat as our Parent Volunteer Coordinator to join our P&C team. Tania will help you through the journey of becoming a volunteer at Victoria Park State School. Tania is a working mum with two children with her eldest starting Prep this year. It is with great excitement that our parent volunteer group is getting bigger and we are building a great school community of people who want to be involved in the improvements that are happening around our school and are actively giving their time to do odd jobs. This helps us save much needed fundraising money to put directly back into our children’s education instead of paying wages or labour for jobs that can easily be done by parents that have the skills. We have recently had a lot of interest from parents asking when they can help and how? This register will put you on an email list that will keep you updated with all things volunteer around the school.

Some of the ways you can volunteer at the school already are:

- Reading groups in your child’s classroom
- Volunteering in the Tuckshop
- Helping out in the uniform shop
- Cent Sale Helper
- Being a parent helper at our garden club
- And of course there are more

If you are wanting to get involved just not sure where you can help, please give Tania a call on 0418151484 or email her at tdebrincat@gmail.com to go onto an email list and be kept up to date with all that is happening with our parent volunteer group.

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