In the last week before the holidays a record 6six teams of Victoria Park girls participated in the Netball Gala Day. The Vic Park Junior A Grade team were undefeated all day and all teams put in their best effort. Well done to everyone for showing great sportsmanship and representing our school very well. Everybody had fun, meeting new friends while playing sport. Thank you to the teachers and parents that helped with the students on the day.
School Opinion Survey Report

Toward the end of last term the interim report for our 2015 School Opinion Survey was released. 58 families provided feedback through the survey. The number of responses was very pleasing, as was the very positive feedback from families about the school.

30 of the 35 questions included in the School Opinion Survey received 95% or higher levels of parent agreement.

Parents identified the following four areas for the school to focus improvement on

- This school provides useful information online. 89% agree
- This school asks for my input. 91% agree
- This school is well-organised. 91% agree
- This school takes parents’ opinions seriously. 93% agree
- Student behaviour is well managed. 93% agree

In the near future, parents will receive a response sheet requesting your ideas on what and how the school can improve our service to families in these areas.

Classes for 2016 — What are your plans?

Prior to the holidays a 2016 student enrolment survey was forwarded to parents requesting information about plans for your child’s enrolment for next year. We understand that families may not be 100% certain regarding 2016, but we ask that you provide the school with your “best guess” at this time. This information assists the school in planning staffing requirements for the beginning of the 2016 school year.

Teachers, in consultation with the Administration and Student Support team members, will begin developing classes for 2016. Classes are developed based on a mix of gender, academic achievement, behaviour issues, student support requirements and most importantly student friendship groups.

There is no guarantee that students will be placed in any particular class, with any particular child or group of children or with any particular teacher.

HPE Swimming Lessons

During Terms 1 and 4 the school HPE (Health & Physical Education) program focuses on teaching students to swim and to improve their swimming technique. Swimming will begin this week for all year levels. It is expected that all students will be participating in swimming lessons and activities. Swimming is a component of the HPE syllabus and as such, all students are required to participate. Mackay people have access to a number of public and private pools along with many people enjoying the beach, the rivers and creeks for a refreshing swim. Being a competent swimmer will enable students to not only be safer in the water but will also enable them to more fully engage in many social and sporting pass times.

I encourage parents to take an active interest to ensure that children have the required clothing, towels, sunscreen etc. each day your child has a swimming lesson.

The timetable for the swimming program is attached for your information.
Who’s in Charge?

Does your child threaten, hurt or intimidate you? Do you feel you are losing control? Want to better handle conflict?

The Who’s in Charge? group is an 8 week program for parents or carers of young people (10 to 18) who are abusive, violent or defiant.

The group aims to:
- Provide a supportive environment to share experiences and ideas
- Reduce the guilt and shame which most parents feel
- Offer ideas to help you develop individual strategies for managing your child’s behaviour
- Explore ways of increasing safety and well-being
- Help parents feel more in control and less stressed

Starting: Term 3: Tuesday 13th October 9.30am-11.30am
Or Thursday 15th October 5.30pm-7.30pm

Place: Mackay Youth Support Services CASA office, Cnr Gregory & Alfred Sts, Mky.

Contact: Karen Ph 4953 2299 Email u-nite@myss.org.au

Hats and Sun Protection

Please ensure that your child has a navy blue wide brimmed hat for school every day. Victoria Park State School is a SunSafe school. We have a No Hat, No Play policy. In the case that your child loses their hat, please check the lost property box located outside the tuckshop.

As the weather warms up during the coming weeks, we ask that you also send a water bottle to school with your child or encourage them to drink water from the water taps during the day to keep hydrated.

DATE CLAIMER

Reminder that Monday, 19th October is a Student Free Day (SFD. SFD means that the students do not attend school on that day. Staff must attend on that day as it is a designated training day for staff. On that day our staff will be involved in a range of learning and development opportunities.

123 Magic and Emotion Coaching

What to expect:
On completion of the training you will learn to:
- How to discipline without arguing, yelling or shouting
- How to sort behaviour
- How to handle challenging and testing behaviours
- Choosing your strategy, the ‘three choices’
- Using emotion coaching to encourage good behaviour

The Program:
123 Magic is a behaviour management program for parents and other carers of young children aged 2 – 12 years. 123 Magic is easy to learn and it works. Parents can learn the program one day and start the next. It is easy for both parents to remember and it eliminates arguing, yelling or screaming.

Dates and location:
This course is run over 3 consecutive weeks
Session 1 – Thursday 15th October 2015, 10.00am – 12.30pm
Session 2 – Thursday 22nd October 2015, 10.00am – 12.30pm
Session 3 – Thursday 29th October 2015, 10.00am – 12.30pm

Centacare QLD – 35 Milton Street, Mackay

Cost: $20 per family, per session

To register or for more information: Please call 1300 523 985 or email regstratnsw@centacare.net

Presenters:
Louisa & Hayley

www.centacare.net 1300 523 985
FROM THE OFFICE

Please arrange your child’s collection from school BEFORE you drop them off in the morning. Making calls to the classroom during the day is very disruptive to all students’ learning. The office is unable to take calls regarding cancelling buses or changes to your family’s arrangements. In an emergency please do not hesitate to call. If there is NO emergency, however, messages will not be passed on to your child until after 1:10pm bell.

STUDENT STATIONARY SUPPLIES

Parents are reminded to check your child’s stationary supplies especially lead pencils, coloured pencils, glue sticks and erasers. These items are important and much needed as part of every day school life. Being prepared for activities and having these supplies make such a difference to your child’s day of learning each day.

**Attendance Cup winners P-3**

From Week 10 is 2B

**Attendance Cup winners 4-6**

From Week 10 is 4A

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Principal’s Gotcha Award

A student with 50 Gotcha Cards during the year. For following the four school rules. The student also receives a Principal’s Award Certificate on parade to recognise their achievements.

No students received a Principal’s Award in Week 1.

**Gold Gotcha Award Winners**

are students who have received 36 Gotcha Cards.

Putting in a huge effort to receive his Gold Certificates in Week 1:
From 3A is Raiden S.
Well done!

**Silver Gotcha Award Winners**

There was only one student who received a Silver Certificate in Week 1. Congratulations to Bailee B from 3A.

**Bronze Gotcha Award Winners**

are students who have received 12 Gotcha Cards. There were no students who received a bronze award in Week 1.

Total Gotchas for Term 3 was 3890
Total Gotchas for the whole school so far this year is 8698.
Be a Learner in Cyberspace

- Assess the validity of sites and the people who try and contact you.
- Know how to set privacy settings.
- Be aware of your digital reputation and what you post online, as it will shape how you are perceived by others online and offline both now and in the future.
- Ask yourself – do you want others to see what you have uploaded?
- Think before you post, chat, upload or download.
- Stop and think about any content before you post or send.
- Report anything that is suspicious or makes you feel uncomfortable.
- Report using the online reporting button and report to a trusted adult in your safety network (teacher / parent)
- Collect the evidence—Keep mobile phone messages and print emails or social networking conversations.

Disagreeing appropriately

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a pleasant voice.
3. Tell why you fell differently.
4. Give a reason.
5. Listen to other person.

Keep an eye out in each newsletter and on the Skoolbag App to keep updated with the weekly rules.

The weekly rules and social skills are presented by students on parade each Monday. Please take the time to discuss them with your children at home also.

Be a Learner in Cyberspace

- Open the lines of communication with your children about their online activity.
- Limit screen time children need sleep
- Ask them who they are talking too
- Know your children’s passwords.
- Encourage your children to tell you about suspicious behaviour or things that make them uncomfortable.

P&C Meeting coming up next
Wednesday the 14th of October at 5.30pm in the Library

We would like to encourage more parents to come along and be involved in the decision making in our school as this directly effects the environment in which your children learn and that is very important.

Listed below are some of the key items being discussed at this months P&C meeting:

- What to do with $35,000 (grant for playground equipment)
- We would like ideas on fundraising ideas for 2016
- Introduction of our new School Chaplain
  - Talking Budgets for 2016
  - XMAS FAIR on 7th November.
- Discussion on the Greet Results Guarantee money and how it is being spent in our school. In 2016 this total is $260,000 and we need parent opinion on how best it can be spent to improve numeracy and literacy.

I think it needs to be reaffirmed that we are open to ideas for both how to raise money as well as how to spend it. Come along be involved in these decisions. Together we can make a difference.
The winner from the last fortnight was the Clarkson family, they will receive a voucher to use at our tuckshop. Well Done!!

Please keep an eye out each fortnight in the newsletter for a photo that has been taken in one of our classrooms. Ask your children if this photo has been taken in their classroom? Reply to the newsletter message on the SKOOLBAG APP with your Name, your child’s name and class and the Classroom you think this picture has been taken in. Eg 6A.. Get the Answer correct and you will WIN a Tuckshop voucher. The Winner will then be published when the next photo is released. Good Luck!

Were these made by your child?? Or are displayed in their classroom to get your answer to enter the competition. Why not have a look in your classroom while you are attending your parent teacher interview? We look forward to receiving your entry soon.