Year 6 students were asked what changes they had seen throughout the school during the year and their thoughts.

Charlotte said she received a lot of help from Mrs Enfantie this year which she said has helped all the students and their learning. Having a teacher aid in the classrooms to support the teachers, we think has definitely made a difference.

We love the group tables in the tuckshop/eating area. We like being able to talk together as a group. We wish they were bigger so more people could sit at each table. Also playing in the hall on a rotational roster has given us more fun options at lunchtime.

Matilda said the Pool change rooms have made a big difference to the students this year. Having more privacy while getting changed has made everyone feel more comfortable and wanting to swim. The students have also enjoyed having more healthy options on the tuckshop menu this year.

Myena likes that the students get a large range of lunchtime activities to choose from. The choices include playing in the hall, playing on the oval, going to the library, going to the computer lab, activities in the science room and her favourite attending garden club.
**2016 eLearning**

Victoria Park SS will continue to offer students in Years 5 and 6 eLearning programs. In 2016 Year 5 students will have the opportunity to use their privately owned machines through the **BYOx** program or hire a school owned laptop through the Student Resource Scheme.

**Bring Your Own Device & Software (BYOx)** Bring Your Own ‘x’ (BYOx) means exactly that: students bring their own digital devices to school for the purpose of learning. So instead of using school-owned ICT, students use their own. The ‘x’ in BYOx represents more than just a privately-owned device, it also includes software, applications, connectivity and appropriate behaviours. At Victoria Park State School, students are able to bring an IT device that best supports their learning needs and meets the school’s specifications and requirements.

At Victoria Park State School, we have an eLearning vision which ensures technology is a tool used to enhance teaching and learning. Technology facilitates the creation and sharing of knowledge. It is more than a method of retrieving information. IT devices are a powerful means of differentiating and personalising a student’s education, and student-owned devices facilitate student choice over which application or configuration best suits their learning and communication style. It also ensures that learning is anywhere, anytime. Victoria Park State School is committed to moving students and staff forward in a contemporary learning environment. Parents and students are given greater choice in device selection, functionality and budget. Families have control over the choice of an IT device to bring to school.

All families in Year 4 will receive a letter, email and Skoolbag app notification regarding information sessions being conducted next week to further explain the BYOx and Student Resource Scheme options for 2016.

With our Annual Awards presentation just around the corner, clarified and amended Award Nomination Criteria in each section is listed below for Years 1 to 6:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACADEMIC</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students receive points according to the following formula: A or VH=5pts, B or H= 4pts, C or S=3pts.</td>
<td>Highest Achiever - presented to the highest achieving student in each class. (1 per class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The subjects of English, Maths, Science and History / Geography, along with the Student Behaviour rating, are used to calculate these awards.</td>
<td>Academic Excellence - presented to all students who achieve 45 to 50 points, according to set formula.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Academic Merit - presented to all students who achieve 37 to 44 points, according to set formula.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3-5 Academic Medal</td>
<td>Overall highest achiever for the year level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CITIZENSHIP</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In all aspects of school life, displays exemplary behaviour at all times, clearly demonstrating the 4 school rules: Learning, Respect, Safety &amp; Responsibility</td>
<td>Presented to all students who received an A for Behaviour on both Semesters Report Cards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOST IMPROVED</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvement across the academic subjects – English, Maths, Science &amp; History / Geography</td>
<td>(1 student per class)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOST INDUSTRIOUS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The student who has shown self-motivation and application throughout the year across all curriculum areas. The student works well independently and in group situations.</td>
<td>(1 student per class)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Class Placement Considerations**

Please address correspondence through the Principal if you have educational reasons you would wish to have considered for your child’s class placement in 2016. If your family is relocating from Victoria Park SS we’d appreciate being notified through the office. Preferences for particular teachers cannot be accommodated. If you’re aware of families moving to the area or families with children of Prep age please remind them to enrol with the school as soon as possible.
**Student Absences**

I would like to remind all parents and caregivers that there is a legal requirement for all school-aged children to attend school and that **any absence must be explained**. Please utilise the Student Absence form on the Skoolbag app, email admin@vicparkss.eq.edu.au or phone the office 49 516 333. We request your vigilant attention in this matter.

**Official School Times**

Please be aware of our official school times:

- **Administration Office Hours:** 8 am to 4:00 pm
- **Classrooms open:** 8.30am
- **School commences:** 8.50am
- **First Break:** 10.50-11.35am
- **Second Break:** 1.10-1.35pm
- **School finishes:** 2.50pm

Parents and carers are reminded **that NO students are to be on school grounds before 8 am or after 3.20 pm.**

Any student not collected by 3.15pm will wait in the school office foyer for collection by parents.

**Any changes to collection arrangements need to be advised to the office PRIOR to the afternoon break (1.10pm).**

Families are also reminded that Early Departures should be pre-arranged (preferably in writing) and guardians are required to report to the Administration Offices for collection of their child/children.

**Students MUST be collected from a School Office for all Early Departures.** Please limit early departures to unavoidable appointments and emergencies.

Please contact Shakespeare Street Family and Child Centre or Mackay PCYC to arrange appropriate outside of school hours care.

If children are being collected by someone other than the nominated parent or carer, details should be advised in writing by the primary carer:

- Who is collecting the child/children,
- The reason for the change,
- The name and contact details of the person collecting the child/children: i.e. - “Jane Citizen in yr. 5A is being collected at 1.30 pm today by Mr Bill Resident, tel. 0418 123 456 for the purpose of meeting Rep Squad training obligations”.

If this authorisation is not provided, the office cannot release the child/children.

**The Smith Family. Learning for Life Scholarships available now.**

The Smith Family’s scholarships are funded by *Learning for Life* sponsors. Each sponsor wants to help young Australians and their families. Amounts vary according to year level. Payments are made twice a year, into your chosen bank account. The funds must be used to pay for education-related expenses such as school uniforms and shoes, stationery, books, equipment or subject fees, school camps and excursions. The application needs to meet certain criteria, including 90% attendance of each child and a Health Care Card or Pension Concession Card.

To apply: contact Lea Arnold 49 516 333 or Roselyn Howard, The Smith Family 49575890

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Uniform Shop Opening Hours over the holidays:**

The uniform shop will be open Wednesday 20th, Thursday 21 and Friday 22nd January. Opening Hours are from 9am—12 Noon each of these days.

We are looking for more volunteers to help run our uniform shop in 2016, if you are interested please call Michelle on 0438576784. All training will be provided.

**School Office Opening Hours over the holidays**

The school office will be open from Monday 18th to Friday 22 January. Office Hours on these day are 8am - 4pm or if you wish to call on 4951 6333 during this time.
The PEACH (Parenting, Eating and Activity for Child Health) program is coming to Victoria Park State School in 2016 with registrations now open for the group running in term 1. The program is FREE for families with a primary-school aged child and is run in the local community within a school term and after school hours.

The program covers:

**Nutrition** – lunchbox and snack ideas, reading labels and ingredients, dealing with fussy eaters, making healthier takeaway choices, making healthy eating affordable and tips on planning ahead.

**Physical activity** – the benefits of exercise, how to be more active as a family, physical activity recommendations for children, how to reduce screen time and help with setting goals.

**Parenting** – setting boundaries, planning for change, managing resistance to change, role modelling and how to be balanced and consistent.

**Family focus** – the program recognises that each family is different and so our facilitators work with individuals to come up with a plan that suits them.

Kids love the PEACH program as it helps build their confidence and make new friends. It is run by trained PEACH facilitators and aims to help the whole family lead healthier lives.

The PEACH program is run by the Queensland University of Technology and funded by the Queensland Government.

It will only be available in terms 1 and 2, 2016 so register now!

Free call 1800 263 519 or www.peachqld.com.au
Music at Vic Park 2015

This year has been a very successful year for all of the Musical groups at Victoria Park.

**Recorders**
This year our recorder marching band led the school at both the Mackay Anzac March and Sports Day. They were placed 2nd at the Eisteddfod and have had the largest ever number of participants.

**String Ensemble**
Our String Ensemble has received a Silver Award at MOB and Highly Commended at the Eisteddfod.

**Concert Band**
The Band were awarded the Platinum Award at MOB. This recognised our Band as the best Primary school ensemble in the region.

**Choirs**
This year we have had record numbers of participants in our choir. They have performed at the Choral Festival, Twilight Concert, Senior Citizens, Big Sing, Eisteddfod and Xmas Fair. Our Eisteddfod results were amazing with 3Silver awards, 3 gold awards and the runner up school for the Choral Championship.

**Congratulations and thankyou to all children and staff for making our school a great Cultural School.**

**Christmas at Souths**
The final performance for the year was on last night at Souths Leagues Club. Our Christmas Choir of a record 80 + children will sing Carols from 6pm.
Kayla is in Grade 1 and she loves swimming with Mrs Armstrong. She also likes writing. She says: “I like everything, except talking at school because we’re here to learn and I talk to my friends at lunchtime. Mrs Arvidson is nice and I like it when she reads us stories.

Jett’s said his favourite thing to do this year was when he came to school dressed as Harry Potter. He also liked the fire truck visit and learning how to stay safe. Mrs Arvidson said Jett always tries his best. Jett also likes writing and going to the library. His favourite snack is an apple.

Sabrina is in Prep C and loves it when she gets to do drawings or paintings in art. This year she like learning about everyone’s height and drawing a haunted house on the big whiteboard. Her favourite snack is mangoes. She said she really likes the school uniform and is excited to go to grade 1 next year.

April is Prep B and says she has had so many favourite things this year she can’t choose. Maybe having the biggest jumping castle ever or going to the MECC when our class was on stage and we were the show. (choir) or dressing up like a bumble bee for book week. She likes PE because it makes you stronger and the more you practise the stronger you get.

Lachlan loves playing songs in music and singing. Mrs Milles is a bit special I like listening to her sing. He is in prep B and reading is his favourite but playing games is also fun. He also likes learning how to swim and especially enjoys the free play time at the end of the swimming lesson.

Congratulations to Alba

Alba’s hard work and practice has paid off and she has been awarded a Music Scholarship to attend Mackay North State High School to start in 2016. Well Done Alba.

Our Victoria Park Students are very excited that they have their very own published book with the best of 2016 writing pieces in it. Thankyou to Mr Edwards for organising the publication. What a great idea for a Christmas present.

YOU ARE STILL ABLE TO ORDER this published copy of the Victoria Park Writing pieces of 2015. Go to the website - https://www.createspace.com/5830836
Principal’s Gotcha Award
A student with 50 Gotcha Cards during the year for following the 4 school rules. The student also receives a Principal Awards Certificate on parade to recognise their achievements.

Principal Award winners for Week 8 & 9 are:
Prep/1 - Aiden, Idianna, Jett, Kayla, Jett, Sarah, Amber
2C - Danielle F, Te Maioha, Ava, Jazlyn, Xanda
3A - Jett, Raiden
3C - Lani
4A - Daniel, Hayley
4C - Charlotte, Mia, Max, Zara, Jack
6C - Chyna

Gold Gotcha Award Winners
are students who have received 36 Gotcha Cards.

Gold Certificate award winners for week 8 & 9 are:
1C - Tristian, Serayah, Allan
2B - Dhruvi, Mary, Brittany, Cameron, Kevin, Keenan, Kaeli
2C - Ava, Bonny, Hannah, Te Maioha R, Jazlyn, Brook, Ethan
3A - Angus, Anthony
3C - Taylah, Hamish
4B - Brodie
4C - Aprille
6C - Aiden, Kael, Elise, Damon, Alba, Molpeceres, Jimmy, Tyler, Jesse, Andy.

Silver Gotcha Award Winners
Students who have received 24 Gotcha Cards.

Silver Certificate award winners for week 8 & 9 are:
Prep/1 - Arjav, Dean
1C - Jacob, Jaxon, Brydon, Maria—Bella
2B - Tage, Kelston, Jonte, Izabella
2C - Ethan, Ebony, Emily
3A - Paige, Hamza, Bulou
3C - Shianne
4B - Amber, Charli
4C - Alicia, Ciara, Nathanial, Katrina, Magenta, Kearah

Bronze Gotcha Award Winners
are students who have received 12 Gotcha Cards

Week 8 & 9 bronze award winners are:
2A - Tristian
2C - Madeleine, Kylah
2D - Joshua
3A - Sophie, Brianna
4A - Mark, Billy
4C - Noah, Charlotte, Zara
6B - Demitri

Student Rule of the Week: WEEK 9

BE RESPONSIBLE:
coming to and from school
- Be responsible for your own behaviour at all times.
- Leave school promptly if not waiting for an adult.
- Wait quietly and sensibly at the Stop—Drop—Go

Social Skill of the Week: WEEK 9
Use appropriate voice tone.
1. Look at the person you are talking to.
2. Listen to the level and quality of the voice tone you are speaking with.
3. Lower your voice (if necessary) so that it isn’t too loud or harsh.
4. Speak slowly. Think about what you want to say.
5. Concentrate on making your voice sound calm, neutral, or even pleasant and happy.
6. Avoid shouting, whining, or begging.

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.

Parent Focus of the Week: WEEK 9
BE RESPONSIBLE:
- Drop students off at school FROM 8am. Students should NOT be at school before 8am as there is no supervision provided at this time.
- Pick up from school is at 2.50pm.
- Collect students from the Stop—Drop—Go before 3.10pm.
- No playing on school equipment before or after school—even with parent supervision.
### 10 best phrases to teach resilience to your kids

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
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<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SENT HUMOUR</strong></td>
<td>“Come on, laugh it off!”</td>
<td>“Don’t let this spoil everything!”</td>
<td>“Let’s take a break!”</td>
<td>“Who have you spoken to about this?”</td>
<td>“I know it looks bad now but you will get through this.”</td>
<td>“What can you learn from this so it doesn’t happen next time?”</td>
<td>“Don’t worry – relax and see what happens!”</td>
<td>“This isn’t the end of the world!”</td>
<td>“You could be right. But have you thought about ...?”</td>
<td>“What can we do about this?”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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