CALANDAR OF EVENTS

TERM 3 2013

Wednesday 31 July
ICAS English Competition
Mackay Athletics @ PSHS

Thursday 1 August
Great Book Swap!!

Monday 12 August
Mackay International Chess
Competition in VPSS Hall

Tuesday 13 August
ICAS Maths Competition
Chess Coaching 9am -12pm

Wednesday 14 August
Year 4 Bike Ed
6:30pm P&C Meeting

Thursday 15 August
Year 4 Bike Ed

Saturday 17 August
Mackay Orchestra Band

Sunday 18 August
Mackay Orchestra Band

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Gotcha card total for the fortnight: 245
New total for the year so far: 3555

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What a fantastic time we had. We played, cried, learnt, froze and created wonderful memories for all. The proud awesome foursome accepted compliments from everywhere we went about: what great manners our children have and how well-behaved they were.

The children really enjoyed the many experiences offered in Sydney and thoroughly enjoyed Paddy’s Markets. They were able to participate in a mock debate at Parliament House and pay their respects beside the grave of the “unknown soldier” in the Australian War Memorial. We watched the Australian Olympic Men’s Volleyball team practise and, at just over 2m high, we felt a little short, well Mrs Duffy and Mrs Gardner did.

And last but not least, the icing on the cake turned out to be a winter wonderland. With around 30cm of fresh snow the night before and a temperature of -8° with gusting 90kph winds, the scene was set for a great snowball fight. The temperature did warm a little to -5° around 1pm and that made perfect tobogganning conditions.

From Miss Morrell, Mrs Gardner, Mr Gonz and Mrs Duffy, we would like to thank the children who came with us, for their cooperation and wonderful attitude. We hope that you keep and treasure the wonderful memories that we all created on our trip.
**PRINCIPAL’S NEWS**

The first two weeks of this term has seen the year 5, 6 and 7 students participate in their annual camps and excursions. These activities provide students with opportunity to learn firsthand in a different environment. Teamwork skills, problem solving, tolerance, challenging personal boundaries and broadening horizons are some of the learnings in which students engage.

**Congratulations**

Emma Pattemore produced an outstanding picture book (written and illustrated) for the DBCT Picture Book Competition which was part of the Whitsunday Voices Program. Emma’s entry not only won the Year 5/6 division but also the Open Category. Her book, “Where Did You Come from Hector?” will be published and be used as merchandise by DBCT.

Emma’s story is currently on display on the windows of the staffroom for all to read and enjoy.

Emma Manzelmann was awarded first place in the Mackay Regional Council Trailer Art Competition. Hymn Wilson’s entry was awarded a Highly Commended Certificate.

Emma has won a $100 voucher for herself and a $500 voucher for the school.

Congratulations to all three very talented girls.

**Farewell**

Mrs Samantha Sutton has received a transfer from Victoria Park SS to Gladstone. Samantha is the smiling face and helpful voice that students and families meet at our front office. This Friday will be Samantha’s final day at our school. While Samantha has only been at our school for a very short time she has been a valuable member of our school staff and the administration team.

We all wish Samantha all the very best for her future endeavours.

**School Annual Report**

Each year Victoria Park publishes a School Annual Report. The report for the 2012 school year has been published and is available from our school website [www.victparkss.eq.edu.au](http://www.victparkss.eq.edu.au). The report outlines the school’s performance against key criteria. This data is used to measure our school’s growth, to review current school practices and to plan for the future.

**School Opinion Survey**

Education Queensland’s School Opinion Survey will be administered this week. Opinion Surveys will be forwarded to families who have been randomly selected to provide feedback. This year families may choose to complete the survey online, to complete the paper version and send the survey directly to the company co-ordinating the survey or return the completed survey sealed in the envelope provided to the school, to be forwarded to the company co-ordinating the survey. Returned surveys remain confidential. Completed surveys returned to school remain sealed and are forwarded on in the sealed envelope.

I encourage all survey recipients to complete the forms and offer your opinion and feedback.

**Resilience**

Resilient families develop their own language to help children get through the “ups and downs”. Included with this newsletter is an article that gives plenty of examples and encourages parents to build their family’s language of resilience.

The link below will take you to the Parenting Ideas Magazine which is full of interesting reading and great ideas. [http://www.parentingideas.com.au/Parents/Parenting-Magazine](http://www.parentingideas.com.au/Parents/Parenting-Magazine)

**Family Court Matters Affecting State Educational Institutions.**

Parental disputes should not be carried out at schools. Schools are meant to provide a safe, secure learning and teaching environment for students and staff. They are not the place to resolve matters that can more properly be resolved privately or in the Family Court ([http://www.familycourt.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/FCOA/home](http://www.familycourt.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/FCOA/home)).

It is common for parenting plans or parenting orders to include arrangements for the collection of children from school premises by parents, or to include details of when a child is to have contact with or spend time with a parent. These arrangements are made without the consent or involvement of schools. When an arrangement is not complied with by one or both parents, a parent may sometimes ask the principal to intervene, or ‘enforce’ the terms of an agreement or order. It is not the principal’s or the school’s role to act as referee in the disputes.

Accordingly, as long as there is no court order (including Family Violence orders) prohibiting contact with a child, or other obvious child protection concern (i.e. the parent is intoxicated or threatens or does actual violence to the child or others – call the police) school staff should not prevent either parent from attending at or picking up a child from school.

**Parents and careers are responsible for ensuring that the school is given a copy of any current:**

Family Court orders, parenting plans registered with the Family Court, or any court orders concerning the welfare of a child that may affect the child while attending the state school (including Family Violence orders), or any subsequent variations of these documents.

These documents are not provided for the purposes of the school enforcing the orders or arrangements, but so that the school is fully informed of familial arrangements that may impact on the health, safety and welfare of the student, school staff and parents.
Get started returns for round 2
The second round of the Queensland Government’s Get Started program is now open, offering vouchers worth up to $150 to help families pay membership fees for children to join a registered sport or recreation club. Children with a parent or guardian who holds a health care or pension concession card are automatically eligible to apply, while other families will need to submit recommendations from two referral agents. Applications are processed on a first come, first served basis. Details are available from the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing’s Get in the Game website. [http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/](http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/)

MESSAGES TO STUDENTS
No phone calls will be put through to students in a classroom. A message will be taken and forwarded to the classroom. All afternoon pick up/transport arrangements should be clarified at home before students’ departure to school. If changes must be made, please notify the school office prior to 2pm so we can ensure these messages can be passed on. It would be appreciated if messages for students is kept to a minimum. Emergencies and unforeseen circumstances are understandable. Office Hours are 8:00am to 4:00pm Monday to Friday.

P&C NEWS
FLEXISCHOOLS - ONLINE ORDERING SYSTEM
This is a system set up by the P&C to make it easier for parents to complete tuckshop and uniform shop ordering at any time. Please go to www.flexischools.com.au and type in Victoria Park SS to see a demonstration of how it works and then register yourself to start ordering from home. If you have any questions please contact Flexischools on 1300 361 769 - they will be more than happy to assist. (There is also an app that is very easy to download and use if you are a smart phone user.)

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS
OPENING HOURS of the uniform shop are:
- Tuesday morning from 8:45 to 9:30 am
- Wednesday morning from 8:45 to 9:30 am
- Thursday afternoon from 2:30 to 3:00 pm
- Friday afternoon from 2:30 to 3:00 pm

COMMUNITY NEWS
“My Story” Post Cards
Parents, Careers & Students are invited to attend “My Story” Post Cards expedition and Free entry.
- Date: Sunday 11 August
- Time: 11:00am to 2:00pm
- Where: Arts Space Mackay
Activities and music, official opening at 12pm. Come along and support your school and community.

Mackay State High School England Tour Cent Sale
Mackay State High School England Tour Students are holding a Cent Sale to assist in their fundraising.

Where: Mackay State High School
When: Sunday 4 August
Time: 1pm for a 1:30pm start
Events: 200 prizes to be won, 2 x NRL Tickets ( Lucky Door Prize), State of Origin Commemorative Jersey Raffle to be won.
Smoko available—$3 plate (Sandwich, cake, hot beverage), Soft drinks are also available.
Come along and enjoy!

Biloela State High School 50th Anniversary
We extend an invitation to reminisce and join us in celebration of our school milestone.

Saturday 17 August 2013
Community Tours at 8:00am Celebrations at school from 11:00am to 11:00pm
RSVP or Contact: 0487 432 752 or biloelaheigh50years@gmail.com

Attention Parent of Catholic Children who are in Year 3 or over and have not yet received the Sacrament of Penance Confession.
If you wish your child to receive this Sacrament then you are cordially invited to attend the Parent/Child Workshop at St. Mary’s School Hall on Monday 12 August at 5.15pm. Please bring a copy of your child’s Baptismal Certificate together with Information Letter and Enrolment Form which can be obtained from your School’s Office. For further information contact 49576243.
Don't miss this exciting opportunity for Mackay QLD. Join us on Sunday the 4th August for the first QLD screening of the film "Re-thinking Dyslexia" There will be an expert Q and A panel afterwards. Time: 3-5pm. Venue: St Mary's Hall, Morely St, South Mackay QLD. $10 per family, money going towards the Mackay Area Dyslexia Support group. For more information contact Brett Comerford on 0407 647 654. Supported by the Australian Dyslexia Association www.dyslexiaassociation.org.au
Insurance cover for students undertaking physical activities.
Physical activity and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury. Parents are advised that the Department of Education Training and the Arts does not have Personal Accident Insurance cover for students.

Education Queensland has public liability cover for all approved school activities and provides compensation for students injured at school only when the Department is negligent. If this is not the case, then all costs associated with the injury are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver.
It is a personal decision for parents as to the type and level of private insurance they arrange to cover students for any accidental injury that may occur.