Gotcha card total for the fortnight: 220
New total for the year so far: 6166

20/13
12 December 2013
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
TERM 4 2013

Friday 13 December
Break Up Day Activities
A+ Day

Monday 20th January 2014
Office re-opens 8am-4pm

Uniform Shop Open
From 9am to 12 noon

Wednesday 22nd January
Thursday 23rd
Friday 24th

Monday 27th January 2014
Public Holiday—Australia Day

Tuesday 28th January 2014
School Resumes
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

A snapshot from The Daily Mercury 6/12/13

CONGRATULATIONS

Farewell from Frances Pailthorpe and Janice Arnold

As my last day at Victoria Park State School approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all students (past and present), staff and families whom I have had the privilege of working with over the past 19 years.

My time as a classroom teacher, Learning Support Teacher and Maths Coach has allowed me to witness some wonderful achievements by our students; socially, emotionally and academically. The commitment and dedication of the many staff I have worked beside is admirable.

While I will miss the smiling faces of our eager students and my colleagues, I look forward to the next chapter of my life and wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and best wishes for all future endeavours.

Mrs Frances Pailthorpe.

This week marks the end of a memorable and rewarding 35 year career. Victoria Park has been like my 'second' home for some 31 years which makes me somewhat passionate about this place.

In that time, I have had the responsibility of teaching students from Years 4-7 and, since 2001, the opportunity to serve as the school’s Teacher-Librarian. What a privilege it has been in helping to shape the lives of young people in preparing them for the future.

I have also had the pleasure of working with a great team of teachers, teacher aides, administrators, auxiliary staff and P&C members.

It has indeed been an honour to be part of the history and culture of Victoria Park State School. To you all, thanks for the memories, and all the very best for the future!!

Mrs Janice Arnold

Gotcha card total for the fortnight: 220
New total for the year so far: 6166
A successful year for Victoria Park draws to a close
This Friday is the final day of the 2013 academic year.

The hard work and dedication demonstrated by so many of our students through 2013 will be acknowledged at our Awards Presentation Ceremonies being held on Thursday this week. As the school year draws to a close, the Victoria Park community can reflect proudly on a very successful year. Across academics, sport, the arts and citizenship, our students have enjoyed outstanding success in 2013.

On behalf of the staff of Victoria Park State School, I wish all our students and their families a safe and enjoyable festive season. In this, our final newsletter for 2013, I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of our teachers and support staff. Their commitment to your children and their education over the past year has played a central role in making 2013 such a successful year for Victoria Park.

Thank you also to the parents and community members who support our great school.

There are still many activities planned to celebrate our students’ tremendous efforts and achievements across the year.

Children beginning Prep in 2013 participated in a morning of Prep Learning activities on Monday morning with other students having the opportunity to spend some time with their new class and teacher where possible.

Our Awards presentation for Years 1 to 6 will be conducted in the hall on Thursday 12th of December commencing at 9am. Year 7 Awards presentations will be made at their Graduation Ceremony on Thursday evening at Souths Leagues Club.

I would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to our Year 7s. It has been a pleasure working with our Year 7s of 2013 over the past year. They continue to be positive role models for our younger students and they have obviously enjoyed their time here at Victoria Park. I look forward to seeing our graduating students continue their successes over the coming years at the various secondary schools they may attend.

Thank you Mark Daniels and Harcourts Real Estate
Each year a number of bursaries are presented to our students. Bursaries are presented to students who are awarded the Dux, Rats of Tobruk, Cultural and Sportsperson of the Year.

This year Mr Mark Daniel of Harcourts Real Estate has generously donated $400 for these Bursaries.

Farewells
Mrs Janice Arnold and Mrs Frances Pailthorpe will retire at the conclusion of this school year. Both Janice and Frances are held in high regard not only at Victoria Park SS but across the Mackay education community. With many years of teaching at Victoria Park; 31 and 19 years, respectively, both ladies have had an enormous influence on the education and lives of many children. We all wish Janice and Frances a long and enjoyable retirement. Now is their time to enjoy family, friends and travel.

Thank you also to Mrs Glenys Black and Mr William Sutton who are also leaving Victoria Park on transfer to other communities. We wish them the very best for their future careers.

For some of our families this year will mark the end of many years of involvement with Victoria Park SS. This comes with the youngest child finishing Year 7 and moving into High School. On behalf of our school staff and community I thank you for your support and loyalty to our school over the years and wish you and your family all the very best for the future.

Draft Classes for 2014
Thank you to everyone for assisting the school to plan for 2014. Indications are that we will start the school year with 27 classes. This is one less than we began with this year. While there are still some uncertainties with regard to our Prep enrolments we have a confirmed number of 75 Prep students who will begin their schooling with us in 2014.

Draft Classes were published and displayed across the school on Monday morning this week. Your feedback and the knowledge of your child’s current teacher have been used as a basis for the formulation of classes. Please don’t hesitate to contact either Mrs Karryn Brunetto or myself if you have any concerns regarding your child’s class placement for 2014.

A full list of staff for 2014 is included in this newsletter.

Grounds and Building Use
With the coming school vacation approaching very quickly, I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/guardians, students and members of the public that if you wish to access the school grounds at any time, prior approval is required.

The school grounds and buildings are patrolled on a regular basis and any visitors to this school must have prior permission to be on site. If you notice any suspicious behaviour, please contact School Watch on 131788.

Should you wish to make any enquiries in relation to the above, please do not hesitate to contact me on the school’s phone number.

Preparing for the extreme weather season
As the school year draws to a close, we move closer to that time of the year when cyclones present an increased risk to our local communities. Please take the time to ensure that your family is well prepared. Useful information on preparing for emergencies can be found at www.disaster.qld.gov.au. In the event of a cyclone, local radio will provide emergency advice including information about school closures. Tune in to ABC Local Radio, the official emergency broadcaster, on 101.1FM.
STUDENT OF THE WEEK

1D: Class Award-For working hard ALL year and achieving personal and class goals.
1D: Chance Parry-For bringing a positive attitude to school every day.
1D: Brooklyn Chivasa-For bringing a positive attitude to school every day.
1D: Harmony Teava-For bringing a positive attitude to school every day.
1D: Nikki Daly-For bringing a positive attitude to school every day.
2A: Taj Cook-For a wonderful improvement in his writing.
2A: Atia Hutchinson-For always having an excellent attitude towards learning.
2C: Comayne Pihema-For demonstrating great artistic creativity.
2C: Lily Dos Santos-For always putting effort into making her work neat.
2C: Lily Juffs-For always putting effort into making her work neat.
2C: Harrison Buckley-For putting more effort into writing a narrative.
2C: Daniel Bertwhistle-For putting more effort into writing a narrative.
3A: Emily Keyssecker-For always being a willing class helper.
3A: Will Schock-For being a responsible learner and giving challenges a go.
3A: Maddy Newstead-For being polite, well-mannered and thoughtful.
3B: Tess Hinschen-For being a dependable class member!
3B: Diya Patel-For fitting in so beautifully to our class!
3B: Liam Doherty-For always being a cheerful class member!
4A: Jamie-Lee Gutteridge-For being the 'DIVISION CHAMPION OF 4A'.
4A: Chelsea Bycroft-For her excellent leadership skills.
5A: Ruth Mayores-For performing so confidently in drama.
5B: Jade Totorica-For being understanding and accepting different challenges.
5C: Tilayna Nissen-For an AWESOME improvement in your writing.
5/6: Harlen Devonshire-For always being a happy and friendly classmate.
5/6: Justin Vaughan-For being a hard working student.
5/6: Noah Vloedmans-Great improvements in all areas.
6/7: Nick Watt-For being a mathematical wiz!
7A: Shelby Young-Always on task and completing work on time.
7A: Carl Hinschen-Creating the Year 7 PowerPoint! Great work!
7B: Jada Threadgate-Always willing to help others and being a responsible class member.
7C: Tamika Brecknell-For consistently being a focused and engaged learner.
7C: Paige Lewis-For consistently being a focused and engaged learner.

He/ She is only missing just…. That equals…. Which is….. and over 13 years of schooling that’s...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10 minutes per day</th>
<th>50 minutes per week</th>
<th>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</th>
<th>Nearly Half a year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 hour 40 mins per week</td>
<td>Over 2.5 Weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half an hour per day</td>
<td>Half a day per week</td>
<td>4 Weeks per Year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 and a Half years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 Weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2 and a Half years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Starts at 8:50am!

This fortnight’s Gotcha Lucky Tuckshop Vouchers go to:

Prep A: Nevaeh Glaspy—Great attendance.
1B: Brianna-Lee Johnston—For beautiful expression when reading.
2C: Robert Anderson - Great attendance.
3B: Tess Hinschen—For being a maths wiz!
4C: Elise Blacker—For winning the Behaviour Competition.
5A: Joe O’Brien—Great attendance.
6A: Jade Walker - For being a great helper at lunchtime.
7A: I-Mand Tapayan—For consistently doing the right thing.
Outstanding Payments
The school offers students access to a number of activities and resources through a “user pays” system or as a “resource hire agreement”. Parents and carers are requested to finalise any outstanding payments owing to the school including Laptop hire, excursion costs etc. Please contact the school office to arrange payment.

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 Hours in the HOLIDAYS
Wednesday 22nd January 9-12 noon
Thursday 23rd January 9-12 noon
Friday 24th January 9-12 noon
Please be aware our uniform shop is run by P & C volunteers and they do a great job helping out.

Don’t MISS OUT on Important news in 2014
Download the VICTORIA PARK SS Skoolbag app (available FREE from the itunes store or google play)

P and C 2014 AGM
This important meeting will be held on Wednesday 8th of February at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome. The positions on the Parents and Citizens Executive Committee become vacant each year for re-election. These positions include:-
- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
Other positions available are:-
-Tuckshop Liaison
-P&C Qld Representative
-Fundraising co-ordinator
Getting involved in our P&C is a great way to help make VPSS a better place for your child to learn and grow. We look forward to seeing you all at the meeting on 8/2/14.

SEP Farewells
Year 7 students have been participating in transition visits to MSHS and we wish them well. Best wishes to Shahnee Clarke, Brock Fourro, Samantha Williamson, Dylan Turnbull and Tulley Rogers-Homoki.
Prep student, Scott Cotter, has also been visiting his new school for next year. We know he will make lots of new friends at Mackay District Special School.
Mrs Jamieson, Miss Jensen, Mrs Hunt, Mrs Hood, Mrs M Hansen, Mrs Clarkson and Mrs Y Hansen wish you all a Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Did you know your child’s best learning time is the start of the school day?

Ask us about help with getting your children to school everyday!!!
George Street Neighbourhood Centre Assoc Ltd
presents ‘Christmas under the Stars’
Date: Sat 14th Dec 2013
Christmas Carols from 5:30pm
Santa arrives at 6pm
The Santa Clause movie screening from 6:30pm
Movie Tickets $5 per family
Where: Shakespeare St Child and Family Centre
43 Shakespeare St MACKAY

An appeal for Malachi’s family has been launched. Please read below:
Malachi lost his young life at the tender age of 7yrs when he was involved in an accident on Thursday, the 5th day of December 2013. Malachi’s parents are emotionally distraught as Malachi was an only child. The parents are young, therefore they are not financially prepared for such a traumatic event. At this point in time, the Sarina community is rallying for the family with support from various organisations such as, Woolworths Supermarket, Sarina Darts Associations, Mudth Niyelta, friends and family. There has been a request by the family to GSNCA Inc. (George Street Neighbourhood Centre Association Inc.) through Wendy to raise funds to help tide over the financial difficulty they are experiencing. I request that if you choose to donate to the family, please contact GSNCA Inc. on 49572626 or 49577222. I appeal to all to make your contributions to support this family in this dire situation and stand by them in this time of grief. Please distribute to your networks so that it reaches a wider community.
Thank you for your help and support on behalf of Malachi’s parents, Bill Kubud and Nazeer James.