Welcome to another exciting year at Victoria Park State School Library. My name is Mrs Anne Mason and I am the new Teacher/Librarian for the school. I have been teaching for Education Queensland for 32 years in both primary and high school. This includes 16 years as a teacher librarian in both primary and high schools. Before this, I taught Ancient History, Modern History and Senior English.

I love working in school libraries and one of my hobbies is reading. I am a member of the Mackay City Library and always have at least two books I am reading at once. At the moment, I love reading biographies, in particular, Historical biographies. I have just finished reading a wonderful book about the Churchill Family, a descendent of whom was Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain during World War 2.

I am looking forward to an action packed year in 2014, including the introduction of many more series books and general fiction books. We hope to have Book Fair once a year, in August and will continue with Book Club each term as is the norm. I encourage parents to discuss reading books with their children, and to visit the library at school as often as possible. I also look forward to receiving suggestions for new books from students and I already have a few ideas thanks to Victoria Park students’ suggestions.

Anne Mason

Gotcha card total for the fortnight: 332
New total for the year so far: 681
PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

Great Results Guarantee
Parents and carers will have seen the recent media coverage of the State Government’s Great Results Guarantee. This is a new initiative from the state government to help ensure that as many students as possible meet the National Minimum Standards in literacy and numeracy. Every state school is required to develop a one page guarantee that outlines the strategies that will be used to achieve this goal. Victoria Park SS expects to receive approximately $224 000 in additional funding, which will be used to:
- Purchase additional teacher aide time that will be used to support individual and small groups of students who do not meet the National Minimum Standards with additional intervention
- Purchase resources to support the evidence based reading, writing and numeracy programs being used to support students.
- Purchase additional professional development for teachers, teacher aides and community volunteers involved in the school’s literacy and numeracy programs.

New P&C Executive
The AGM for the school’s P&C Association was held on Wed 19th February. The Executive for 2014 is Michelle Hansen – President
Patricia Weber and Di Matthews – Vice Presidents
Nichole Hood – Secretary
Kathy Walz – Treasurer
I would like to thank the members of our P&C for their ongoing support of our students. The next meeting of the P&C will be held on Wednesday 12th March at 5:30pm all welcome. Please note NEW TIME!

Homework

Practice makes perfect - Homework is Practice
Homework can often be a difficult time for parents and children alike. Homework should be seen in the same light as the practice we commit to for the musical instruments we play, dance steps, speech and drama and the skills that we learn for our favourite sport. The goal is to perfect the basic skills needed so that the skills become automatic. Automaticity of the skills required in reading, writing, spelling and math are as equally important and I would contend more important than those of our leisure pursuits. These are the skills that form the foundation of our future vocations and life pursuits.

By now all students will have settled into the routine of classwork for the year. Children will have homework every night even when they tell you they have no homework. Children should spend time every night practising what they have learnt during the day including number facts, spelling and sight words. Children have home access to digital programs through the school’s subscription to Mathletics, Spell a Drome and Reading Eggs. Please ask your child to provide a copy of their password so you can see what they are learning in computer time at school. Parents can help their children to practise the skills they learn at school by
- reading to and listening to your child read before they go to sleep each night
- build children’s oral language through conversation
- involve children in real life activities such as shopping, cooking and home maintenance.

These activities build children's world knowledge (general knowledge), their word knowledge (vocabulary), familiarity with money and measures and are great for their social development. In taking part in these activities children are developing their Persistence – sticking to it! Persevering on a task until it is completed, remaining focused and not giving up. A great skill for LIFE!!

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Home Subs for 2014
The new menu for 2014 will be sent home next week. Thank you to the Mums and Grandmas who have offered to help in the tuckshop this year. If you have sent in the help wanted at tuckshop form and have not heard from us please call 49516337 and speak to Sue or Natalie. March Special—fresh fruit salad $2 available for breakfast, snack and lunches. HOT fried rice $3.50.

Flexischools Online Ordering System
Please go to www.flexischools.com.au and type in Victoria Park SS to see a demonstration and register yourself to start ordering.

SUBWAY DAY—Fresh fruit salad $2 available for breakfast, snack and lunches. HOT fried rice $3.50.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

1A Bonnie Jean—Amazing reading! Super proud.
1B Patrick—For fantastic sounding out in his writing.
1C Jack —For being a responsible and well-mannered class member.
1C Nevaeh —For being a responsible and well-mannered class member.
2A Lachlan– For making a great effort with his writing.
2B Max —For making great progress with his sight words.
2C Jesse –For his positive effort in class.
2D Thomas—Trying super hard to impress Mrs Odger in reading groups
2D Thomas—Trying super hard to impress Mrs Odger in reading groups

A big thank you to Rakefet Dekel for her stunning creations at our P and C welcome BBQ. You made so many little faces very happy!!
3B Ciara—For making a great start with her new school.
Welcome to Vic Park.
Azu—For an outstanding effort in all areas of learning.
3C Jack—For always giving of his best in all areas of school life.
Imogen—For being an outstanding four star learner.
3/4 Diya—For being a punctual, prepared and enthusiastic learner.
4A Sarah—Always a four star learner.
Gemma—Always displaying the qualities of a 4 star learner.
4B Taylor—Always a four star learner.
Tyler—Fabulous week settling in to new class and rising to teacher expectations.
Gradhan—Fabulous week settling in to new class and rising to teacher expectations.
4C Kaylee—For being an amazing helper to other students in the class.
Tyruss—For his positive attitude and always being a prepared learner.
5A Denzel—For applying himself to all aspects of school life commendably.
Dayhahnera—For always working hard in class.
5B Bridget—For her consistent enthusiasm to all aspects of school life.
Chloe—For approaching all learning tasks with a positive attitude and a smile. Well done.
5C Elise—For improved concentration and contributions during class lessons.
Lee—For outstanding listening and participation during class.
6A Joe—For working well in class even with a broken arm.
6B India—For consistent effort and enthusiasm.
6/7A Ivieyn—Good effort in writing a narrative.
6/7B Lydia—For always listening and being organised in class.
Deagan—Great work in class and excellent results in weekly tests.
7A Nicholas—For being a super mathematician!
Mary—Always prepared and ready to learn.

**SCHOOL BANKING EVERY THURSDAY**

If you wish to take advantage of the Commonwealth Bank school banking program, it’s as easy as registering at any Commonwealth Bank branch. Your child will receive a passbook and you may deposit into this account at Victoria Park State School EVERY Thursday. We appreciate Tracey Bourke for taking this on as our volunteer for 2014.

---

**This fortnight’s Gotcha Lucky Tuckshop Vouchers:**

Congratulations to ALL winners! Enjoy your $2.00 FREE tuckshop and keep up the great work! Well done.

The Safety Circus is in town and all our grade threes were lucky enough to see them live in their own school. The Safety Circus team loved performing for the grade three students and they were an excellent audience. The students helped Jessie (the main character) to find her mum after she lost her at the circus and together they learnt lots of new safety skills.

Safety Circus showed the grade threes all about how to stay safe when riding your bikes, scooters and skateboards and now they know to always clip your helmet up and act just like a car would on the road (stop of traffic lights and stick to the left). They also know that they can help their friends out if they are ever being bullied. They can use the distracting method, that is taking the focus off the person they are picking on and if it continues they should definitely tell a trusted adult. Finally, they learnt all about listening to their bodies and the funny butterflies that can be in their tummies if they’re feeling unsafe. They know all about their five safety networks and that each finger is another trusted adult who can listen and help. Safety Circus would like to thank the students and teachers at Victoria Park State School for having them and hope they enjoyed their time at the circus.
**CONTACT DETAILS**

Reminder to parents to keep the school office up to date with changes to address and phone contact numbers.

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

**Pinks Stumps Day**

Pinks Stumps Day was a huge success with all funds raised going to McGrath Foundation to help find a cure for breast cancer. The students were the winners on the day beating the staff at the cricket game. Fun, glitter and water was all a part of a great day. Thank you to all organisers of this great event.

**WARNING**

NO tinned food is to be brought to school!! The edges of these tins are sharp and dangerous. Please open at home and pour the food into a safe/easy to open container named clearly. Thank you.

**Conveyance Allowance Assistance**

Conveyance Allowance is an assistance provided by the Department of Transport and Main Roads to eligible parents/guardians who drive their students to school or to the route of a school bus.

There are several types of Conveyance Allowance available. These are determined by the type of school attended, distance driven to school or bus route and the type of school bus service (if any) provided in your area. Application forms with further details are available by calling into the Translink Division of the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Nelson Street, Mackay or by telephoning 49 518673.

There are a limited number of forms available at the school office for your convenience.

The winner of the Hat Raffle from Pink Stumps Day was Mary De Francesco from 7A. The entire school raised $700+ from donations and raffle tickets. This is a wonderful contribution to the McGrath Foundation.

**Ask us about help with getting your children to school everyday!!!**
Each fortnight some of our class teachers offer insights and updates on what is happening in their class. This fortnight we hear from:

Ms Kilby—Year 1/2
Shiver me timbers!!! The Year 1/2 Buccaneers have been busy with a Pirate Theme this term. They have blown Miss Kilby’s socks off with the amazingly brilliant work that has been produced. Luckily, there have been no sea legs and all the Buccaneers have been sticking to our Code of Conduct. No Buccaneers, Slaves or Captains have been made to walk the plank...yet!

Mrs Willett—National Close the Gap Day on the 20th March raises awareness about the 17 year life expectancy gap between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Australians. Victoria Park students will be participating in Close the Gap awareness activities.

Harmony Day March 21st is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. Victoria Park students will be celebrating Harmony Day with activities.

Did you know your child’s best learning time is the start of the school day? That’s when every minute counts the most!! School starts at 8:50am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>He/ She is only missing just....</th>
<th>That equals....</th>
<th>Which is.....</th>
<th>and over 13 years of schooling that’s...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly Half a year</td>
</tr>
<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 eeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2 and a Half years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Community News

--WHITSONDAY VOICES YOUTH LITERATURE FESTIVAL 2014

DATE CLAIMER: 16-19 JULY

Don’t miss this year’s line-up of Australia’s most respected children’s and young adult authors and presenters during the four day celebration of reading, writing and imagination. As well as the student session days, another key date to lock in is **THURSDAY 17 JULY**, 4pm to 6pm, for the highly anticipated Parents’ and Educators’ Forum. The Forum is a must for teachers, librarians and parents looking for unique ways to engage and challenge students in the areas of reading and writing.

--GO BLUE FOR AUTISM THIS APRIL

**Go Blue for Autism Morning Tea April 1st at Porters Hardware Coffee Shop from 9.30am come dressed in blue, hopefully consume some blue iced cupcakes, Porters Hardware will support us in this event throughout their store in the lead up to and on the day. Please spread the news and show your support. All money raised goes to Autism Queensland.** Go Blue for Autism. See the Skool bag app for all details.

--Multicultural Playgroup

If you know of any families who have moved to town, the Multicultural Playgroup is a great way to connect and make new friends. It’s a great morning out for the kids! If you would like more information please contact Kathy Searle Kathy.searle@yahoo.com.au who is the group leader.

--Cartoon Kingdom

**www.illustrating-man.com.au**

We are once again coming to Mackay to run our special cartooning program. The program will be held from: **Monday 14th – Thursday 17th April, 2014. Lower Floor of the 500 Pavilion Mackay Showgrounds** Milton Street, Mackay, QLD

--Mackay Language College is looking for homestay families who live close to the CBD or have access to public transport to host international students. Homestay provides students the security of living with an Australian family and the chance to practice their English skills at home. Families are to provide a fully furnished bedroom and two meals a day in food, breakfast and dinner. Homestay is normally for a minimum of four weeks but may be longer depending on the student. Families will be paid $210 per week. If you are interested please contact Melissa on 4951 1300 or info@mlc.qld.edu.au for an application form.

--Remember when you believed in anything and everything?

Researchers from the University of Western Australia are investigating children’s ability to detect and avoid potentially harmful social interactions, such as being easily fooled or tricked into doing something. We are looking to see how this develops in children, and when children outgrow this vulnerability.

We are looking for parents of Kindergarten – Year 6 children across Australia to complete an online survey (15 – 20 minutes). Participants will go into a draw to win one of 10 $50 gift certificates to Coles/Myers. To participate go to: [http://tinyurl.com/childsvq](http://tinyurl.com/childsvq) Or for more information please contact Rebecca Seward at (08) 6488 4652

---

KANYES SOFTBALL CLUB

Come along and join in both the fun, and the competition of this great sport! **Sign on 16th March 2014 2pm - 4pm Theo Hansen Park (Softball Fields) Beaconsfield Rd, Mackay**

**We offer the following grades:**

- T-Ball/U12 (4+) C Grade B
- Grade A Grade Men’s Comp New and old players are encouraged to join! Games are played from 12noon Saturdays Contact: Cheryl PH: 0428 182 248