01/13
07 February 2013

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TERM 1 2013

Monday 11 February 2013
1.30pm ARL players visit
2.15pm Parade

Tuesday 12 February 2013
Capricornia Swim trials

Wednesday 13 February 2013
6.30pm P&C meeting

Thursday 14 February 2013
Prep photos for Mackay Telegraph

Friday 15 February 2013
Book Club Orders due.

Monday 18 February 2013
School leaders badge ceremony

Friday 22 February 2013
National Boardies Day– Free dress.

Monday 25 February 2013
Mackay Inter-school Chess competition

Friday 1 March 2013
National Clean up Schools Day.

Capricornia Swim Trials
Good luck to the following students who have been selected in the Mackay Swim team to compete at the Capricornia Trials on Tuesday 12 February at the Mackay Memorial Pool:
Emma Manzelmann  Casey Manzelmann
Joe O’Brien  Kimo Viljoen
All children who put in times were very close, please try again next year.

Students of the Week

Prep A: Tristan Clarke - For being considerate to others and being an enthusiastic learner.
Prep B: Kaeli Inkson - For trying her best at everything.
Prep1: Chance Parry - For setting a great example of good behaviour.
1A: Gabbie Ray - Making an awesome start to Year 1!
1B: Etienne Pretorius - For being a responsible and switched on learner, that always sets a good example for his peers.
1C: 1C - WOW! What an amazing first week you have all had. You are the 1C Cool Cats, keep it up!
2A: Charlotte Munro - For displaying beautiful manners; being responsible and ready to learn.
2B: India Hansen - For checking your writing.
2C: Aiden Grace - For setting a great example of being a learner!
2/3: Larz Marahaj - For being a focussed and attentive learner 100% of the time.
3A: Chance Gage-Riri - For being ready to learn and focussed in class.
3B: Noah Corpuz - For being polite and attentive, full body listening.
3C: River Davidson - Being ready to learn.

Gotcha card total for the fortnight:
New total for the year so far: 
PRINCIPAL’S NEWS
“Encouragement is the foundation of achievement.”
~ Lynn Christopher

A very warm welcome is extended to all of our newly enrolled families and to the families of our continuing students. The summer vacation provides a wonderful opportunity to spend time enjoying the company of family and friends. I trust that you all had time to rest, relax and recharge for 2013.

Along with our new families our school community is excited to welcome a number of new staff to the school. Mrs Samantha Sutton is our new Administration Officer. Teachers new to the school are Jennifer Haeusler (Prep), Anne Davis (Yr. 2), Jelena Van Beek (Yr. 3), Alana Hunt (Yr. 3), William Sutton (Yr. 4), Annalise Mawer (Yr. 5), Greg Kliese (Yr. 6) and Allison Jensen (SEP). Mrs Heather Dobbie (Prep) has returned to Victoria Park after 12 months teaching on the western coast of Cape York Peninsula at Pormpuraaw State School.

From Day One -Tuesday 29 January- all of our students and staff were living our Vision of D.I.V.E into Learning - Achieve Your Personal Best. Teachers began the year by explicitly teaching students what was expected from them throughout the year and what students could expect from their class teacher throughout the year. Building routines and establishing consistency provides children with a level of certainty, security and comfort in knowing what their day will bring. It is pleasing to see so many of our students excitedly looking forward to meeting new friends, catching up with old friends and curious about what 2013 has in store for them.

At Victoria Park SS our goal is to provide a “personalised” education for each and every child. This can only be achieved in co-operation with families and with a thorough knowledge of each child. Classes will be conducting parent orientation sessions early in this term. I invite you to come in, meet your child’s teacher and begin the relationship that is so important to your child’s education.

To assist parents and teachers to maintain communication the EQ email addresses of our teachers have been published in this newsletter. Email provides another avenue for parents and teachers to maintain contact and to ensure messages are received by both parties.

We will again be informing parents of student absences via mobile phone Short Message Service (SMS) each time their child is away from school. At Victoria Park State School, student attendance and safety is a high priority. We know that students who attend regularly are more likely to be successful and safe at school. To improve our attendance procedures, we will be informing parents and caregivers about any unexplained absences for their child. The school expects parents and caregivers to contact the school in advance if they know their child is to be absent.

This is now the time to revisit your child’s 2012 Semester 2 Report Card, discuss it with them and set some initial goals for the 2013 school year. A positive effort and attitude along with daily attendance are critical factors that contribute to student success.

Included as an attachment in this newsletter is a copy of our school rules and how parents can assist their child in demonstrating our four school rules of
- Be Safe
- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Be a learner.

This year we will continue our acknowledgement of good behaviour through a range of methods including the use of Gotcha cards, Student of the Week awards, Reward days and invitation to participate in extra-curricular activities. As in previous years, returned GOTCHA cards are counted each week and an additional half hour extra play is given to the students every time a target of 600 Gotcha cards is reached.

Our rule for this week is Be Responsible– Be in the right place at the right time. Students are encouraged to be in the right eating area and play area during breaks. Older students are not to go and check on younger students during break times and must remain in their designated areas. We have additional staff rostered in the playgrounds at present to ensure students feel safe and secure.

Next week our school leaders will commence a ‘Playground Buddies’ program where they will set up and run games in the P-3 area to keep P-3 students busy and playing appropriately with others. Only these students who will be identified by an orange vest will be allowed in the junior play areas.

Attendance will again be monitored every five weeks. Students who meet our school goal of 95% attendance (less than two days absence within the five week period), will receive a yellow GOTCHA and students who have 100% attendance will receive a blue Gotcha card. All gotcha cards regardless of colour contribute to the additional play session and be in the running for the weekly $2 tuckshop voucher draw for each year level.

New parade time
Parade is now held at the new time of 2.15pm on Monday afternoons. Families and community members are welcome to attend this weekly event held in the hall.

A longer parade will be held in the hall on Monday 18 February from 1:40pm for the School Leader Induction ceremony. Class Captains, Library Monitors, Sports Captains and Vice Captains, Cultural Captains, School Captain and Vice Captains will receive their badges of office.
Religion
Students in Year 2 to 5 will commence Religious instruction lessons from week 4. These lessons will be conducted by the local Catholic and Baptist parishes as a cooperative arrangement. The lessons are non-denominational which means they do not support or promote a particular religion; however, the ‘Christian’ philosophy is the focus.

Unless otherwise indicated on the student’s enrolment form, all students will attend the weekly lessons under the supervision of the class teacher. If you do not want your child to attend these lessons, please provide a written request for your child to be excluded. Students who do not attend religion lessons will be given literacy or numeracy work to complete.

Mathletics levy
Please note attached with the newsletter is a Voluntary Financial Contribution Form. The contribution will be $20 for each student, the contribution will go towards the fee to run the on-line Mathletics Program and help with classroom resources. The Mathletics program is used regularly in class, can be accessed during lunch times via the computer room as well as being able to be accessed from home to consolidate class learning. The program can be set to individual levels to provide learning support or extension as appropriate for each student’s Maths ability. Gold, Silver and Bronze award certificates are printed out weekly and distributed to the students.

It is vital that parents contribute to this fund where possible so that we can continue to access the Mathletics program which currently charges $30 per student to use. Colour printing of certificates may also be reviewed if families are unable to support the $20 voluntary contribution scheme.

Please note when direct depositing for an invoice enter as your reference the Customer ID number which appears on the bottom of the invoice or if you don’t have an invoice put the Student’s Name. Thank You. Office Staff.

National Boardies Day– Free Dress
As a way of developing awareness of water safety and to support the great work of our surf lifesaving clubs, we are supporting the National Boardies Day on Friday 22 February. Students are encouraged to wear their favourite boardshorts (with their school uniform shirt and school approved shoes) and contribute a gold coin towards this fundraising event. All proceeds will be forwarded to the local Surf Lifesaving Club.

MUSIC NEWS

Instrumental Music
Woodwind, Brass, Percussion
Lessons for all students start in week 3.
Tuesday—Continuing Students (Grades 6 and 7)
Thursday—Beginning Students
Concert Band (for grade 6 and 7 students) starts at 7:50am on Tuesday 18 Feb. (Week 4)

Strings
Lessons for all students start in week 3. All lessons will be held on Fridays.
String Ensemble (for grades 4, 5, 6 and 7 students) starts at 7:50am on Friday 22 Feb. (Week 4)

Choir
There will be 2 choirs running this term.
School Choir – for grades 4 -7 will be held on Thursdays at 11:05am and will start in week 3.
Choral Festival Choir – is a special choir for only years 6 and 7. This choir will join with other choirs from many schools from Mackay and throughout the region for a combined choral festival at the MECC on Tuesday March 26. This choir will rehearse on Mondays at 11:05am and will start in week 3.

Recorder Band
Recorder Marching Band – for children in grades 5, 6 and 7. These children will be preparing to lead our school at the Mackay Anzac Day March. They will rehearse on Fridays starting week 2.

This fortnight’s Gotcha Lucky Tuckshop Vouchers go to:

1C: Harrison Cross - Great handwriting.
2A: Tom Kelly - Ready to learn.
3A: Gemma May - Completing homework.
4B: Tyson Cooper - Being a learner.
7A: Brittany Pattemore - Off to a great start!
**P&C NEWS**

Our P&C Association will hold their first meeting for the year at 6:30pm on Wednesday 13 February in the school’s staffroom. This is a General meeting with the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Wednesday March 13. Membership Application forms are available at the office for new members. We look forward to you joining us!

**THE UNIFORM SHOP**

Please note due to the flooding we are still waiting for stock to arrive so please be patient. We understand this is an inconvenience but unfortunately we can’t do anything about mother nature.

If you have any questions, please call KELLY on 0419 005 364
Please be nice - we are all volunteers and we are here to help you.

**TUCKSHOP**

HELP URGENTLY NEEDED if you can help in any way our tuckshop conveners would appreciate your time. Please see attached Help Form which can be returned to the office.

**SCHOOL BANKING**

School Banking has commenced this week anyone wishing to start School Banking please collect a School Banking pack from the office. Banking will again be collected on Thursday this year.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Victoria Park Hockey Club Sign On Day**

Date: Saturday 16 February
Time: 8:30am - 10:00am
Where: Harney Street Hockey Fields
All ages - Prep to grade 7 New players please bring your birth certificate. $15 deposit per player required - Balance of Rego Fees due in March.
For more information please contact:
President: Cathy Platts - 0418 185 923
Secretary: Kym Threadgate - kym-threadgate@yahoo.com

**Slade Point Athletic Club**

Date: Saturday 16 February
Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Where: Cathy Freeman Oval Wren Street Slade Point
Cost: $85 for the year

**Mackay Athletics Club**

Date: Saturday 23 February
Time: 10:00am - 2:00pm
Where: MSHS Sports Ground Via English or Penn Street
New members need to bring a copy of Birth Certificate. For more Information call James 0431 973 129

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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 guardian.
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.

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**Vision Real Estate (Qld)**

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**CONTACT DETAILS**

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