**05/13**
**18 April 2013**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**TERM 2 2013**

**Friday 19 April 2013**
Sunnies for Sight fundraiser - $5 per pair.

**Wednesday 24 April 2013**
1.45pm VPSS Anzac Day service in the hall.

**Thursday 25 April 2013**
7.45am Assemble in Sydney St carpark (next to Red Cross building) for Anzac Day march.

**Monday 29 April**
Book Fair in Library begins.

**Friday 10 May**
P&C Free Dress fundraiser

**Monday 13/05**
CQU Mobile Education Unit visits for Year 6&7 students.

**Tuesday 14/05– Thursday 16/05**
Yr 3,5,7 Naplan testing

**Friday 17/05**
VPSS Cross Country and P&C Fun Run.

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**Mackay Choral Festival**
The following students should be congratulated for their commitment and dedication applied to preparing for the Mackay Regional Choral Festival. The students listed below were part of a 400 strong choir group who dazzled the audience with a range of beautiful songs:

- Jade Walker
- Danica Harberger
- Susan McNamara
- Taelin Durante
- Mika Erro
- Hannah Walz
- Natasha Warry
- Emily Shepherd
- Marnie Bugeja
- Brianna Skinner
- Gabriel Besa
- Jasmine Hawdon
- Taylor Pamerter

**Rats of Tobruk Service**
Well done to our school captains, vice captains and our Concert Band students who performed very well at this week’s Rats of Tobruk service in Queen’s Park. Great job!

**Sport trial success**
Congratulations to the following who made the Southern Suburbs Soccer team:
- Riley Beets
- James Conway
- Patrick Philp
- Mayson Venables
- Bailey Sturgiss
- Jack Fuller

- *Jessah Southwell
- *Felicity Jenkinson

**Mackay Interschool Debating**
Good luck to our debating teams who will commence their competition next Tuesday night at Eimeo SS debating the topic ‘Pets are Pests’.

- *Victoria Park SS Team 1* – Brooke Keates, Carl Hinschen and Mariska Pretorius.
- *Victoria Park SS Team 2* – Mary Di Francesco, Destinee Whirisky and Joshua Warde.

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**Gotcha card total for the fortnight: 259**
**New total for the year so far : 931**
Welcome back!

The two week break for the Easter Holidays was a well-earned break for all students and staff at the school. Term 1 was nine weeks in duration but as usual was jam packed with learning activities in and out of the classroom. Monday saw happy and smiling children eager to return to school to catch up with friends, classmates and school staff.

A copy of our School Improvement Plan is included with the newsletter. Over recent years all Queensland State Schools have been required to develop an annual plan. The plan provides the school with direction and prioritises the areas of focus for the year ahead.

Student attendance for Term 1 was a very pleasing 93.3% which is a 1.1% improvement on Term 1 attendance in 2012. Our goal is to have our 2013 student attendance at 95%. With the current improvement trend, I am confident that our students will achieve this goal. Well done, everyone.

Our school regularly conducts evacuation and lock down drills to ensure students, staff and our community are familiar with the school’s emergency procedures. Parents and visitors to the school are required to participate in the emergency drills if on the school premises at the time. This not only assists parents and visitors to be aware of our procedures but also models to our students that the drills are important. I have included a copy of the Emergency Procedures in this newsletter.

Parents and Carers are reminded that students in Years 3, 5 and 7 will participate in this year’s NAPLAN tests during the week of the 13 to 17 May. Students will complete the Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation) and Writing tests on Tuesday 14 May, Reading Comprehension on Wednesday 15 May and Numeracy on Thursday 16 May. Parents and Carers are requested to ensure students are in attendance at school during this week. Students who are absent due to illness will be able to make up any missed tests on Friday 17 May.

Parents who are concerned about their child participating in the NAPLAN tests should speak with their child’s teacher or Mrs Grant. Parents may withdraw their child from the tests, if desired, due to religious or philosophical beliefs.

Over the holiday break we were required to remove a tree from the junior playground and to lop the large Rain Tree near the basketball court. An inspection of the trees in the playgrounds found that one tree was heavily infested with termites and could not be saved, while the Rain Tree had a number of “dead” branches that posed a safety risk to students and community members. Replacement trees will be planted to maintain areas of shade and to enhance the environment of the school.

Sunnies for Sight fundraiser

To help raise finds for the George St Neighbourhood Centre, the student council is selling child sunglasses for $5 on Friday. Sunglasses will be on sale in the tuckshop area before school. There are limited stocks so don’t miss out!
OPENING HOURS of the uniform shop are:
Tuesday morning from 8:30 to 9:30 am
Wednesday morning from 8.30 to 9:30 am
Thursday afternoon from 2:30 to 3:00 pm
Friday afternoon from 2:30 to 3:00 pm

FLEXISCHOOLS - ONLINE ORDERING SYSTEM.
This is a system set up by the P&C to make it easier for parents to do 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.)

COMMUNITY NEWS
The Mackay Chess Club is welcoming new members to their club nights at the Mt Pleasant Gordon White Library on Tuesday nights from 6-8pm. People interested in joining this club (for all ages) is asked to contact Jashint Maharj on 0434 515 041 or Brenda Noack on 0419 569 955.

Milo in2CRICKET PROGRAM
VICTORIA PARK STATE SCHOOL
RUN BY: QLD CRICKET & MACKAY CRICKET
6 WEEK PROGRAM (Mon 29 April – Monday 3 June)
START: 3:15PM FINISH: 4:15PM
On school grounds

COST: $20
Participants have the option of purchasing a pack for an additional $65.
Pack includes bag, bat, ball, shirt, bucket hat & water bottle

REGISTER ONLINE @ www.in2cricket.com.au or at the first session.

Further information contact Lauren McQueen on 0429 051 027

World Circus Day FREE Family Event
When: 20 April 2013
Where: John Breen Park
Time: 5pm –6:30pm
Contact: Tammy 0413 506 804

Free entertainment - Stilt Roving, Trapeze, Lyra, Tissue, Unicycle and Fire Show.

Free Circus Workshop - Juggling, Poi Spinning, Acrobalance, Hula Hoops, Devil Sticks.