Mackay Chess Competition Victory

By Carl Hinschen

On Monday 25 February 12 schools participated in the first 2013 Mackay-Whitsunday Interschool Chess Competition, held in the Victoria Park SS Multipurpose hall. There was a record-breaking 117 children who participated in this term’s chess competition which is the most ever in the Mackay-Whitsunday Competition.

For the teams’ results this term, Homebush Team 1 took out first while Homebush Team 2 and Victoria Park SS Team 1 tied for second. On a count back, our team 1 was awarded third place.

In the individual’s division, Carl Hinschen (Vic Park SS) was placed first, second and third, were Homebush students.

Riley Beets was interviewed about how he felt on his team’s 3rd place. “Really happy,” Gabe West thought that his chess skills had improved by competing against other people at different levels. Getting a coaching lesson on how to improve your chess skills from Mrs Fitzpatrick, the event organiser, was also helpful.

The next tournament will be held on Monday 27 May followed by a day of specialised coaching by Mr Fitzpatrick who has an amazing chess ranking of 2000.

Mrs Grant runs a weekly chess coaching and practice session Friday afternoons from 1.40pm in the staffroom. So all you keen chess players out there, come to Chess Club. You just might become the next Mackay Primary Schools’ champion, just like Carl!
History Plus SOSE: Good Or Bad?

By Marnie Buggeja, Amber May and Skye Streidl

For the first time ever at Victoria Park State school, history has been introduced as a separate subject to the students from Prep to Year 7, in addition to SOSE. Even though it’s slightly unfamiliar to the students, they appear to be quite excited about the new Australian curriculum.

Students and teachers were interviewed about what they thought about this new concept. When asked her opinion on this curriculum, Year 7 student Brittany Pattemore confidently stated that she was “Coping well with the new subject.” We are learning about the artefacts and archaeological fines, as well as the skeleton, Lucy and the discoveries at Lake Mungo.”

Several other children interviewed had similar views.

When Year 7C teacher Mrs Duffy was asked what she thought about the students’ new subject, she replied, “I think it’s incredibly important to know where we came from. The students love the investigation side of, the history curriculum and being detectives.”

Fleur Higley and Maddison Newstead from Year 3 also said, “It was good, fun, easy and enjoyable.” They were currently learning about the Chinese New Year celebrations as well as Australia Day.

Well, from all these opinions, we can assume that supplementing SOSE with history was a very good decision.

Thanks for your support!

Woolworths Vouchers

Last year Woolworths had stickers that you collected with your purchases and every sticker was worth so many points. Last year Victoria Park accumulated 125,000 stickers converted to 125,000 points. With those points, we received Math supplies, Music supplies, games, Prep equipment, arts and craft.

Paul’s Bottle Caps

Victoria Park also collected bottle caps were at the office last year. There were 9000 milk bottle caps which converted $900.00.

We would like to thank the families who brought in stickers and also the many extras we received from community members.

By Shelby Blackmur and Brooke Keates

Last year Vic Park participated (yet again) in the Coles vouchers program where every $10 you spend on groceries you get a voucher to hand into your school.

Once you earn enough vouchers you can buy sport equipment for your school. Victoria Park handed in 65,000 Coles vouchers. Michelle Hanson from Vic Park’s P&C said that Vic Park put the vouchers towards kickboards, badminton sets and ball sets.

By Marnie Buggeja, Amber May and Skye Streidl

Q. Why don’t traffic lights ever go swimming?
A: Because they take too long to change!

Q. Why did the robber take a bath before he stole from the bank?
A: He wanted to make a clean get away!

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