Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of Semester 1 and prepare for our well-earned break, we can reflect on the highlights of our academic, sporting and our cultural pursuits. Specific articles within this newsletter will address these aspects of our school life. You will receive end of semester reports in the near future. Please take the time to discuss these results and set some study and achievement targets for the coming semester of learning. The reports will also identify the number of days that each student was absent from school. Attendance is critical to student learning and achievement. Please review these absences and make a commitment to daily attendance for Semester 2.

Our Year 12 students are readying themselves for the final semester of their schooling. Term 3 is a very busy time for these students, particularly those intending to continue on to tertiary study. For these students, the Queensland Core Skills Test will be held in Week 9 of Term 3. This is a critical external assessment that impacts on all OP eligible students in the school. We encourage all our tertiary bound students to engage fully in their preparation for this assessment. The QTAC application process will also be run during Term 3. This guided programme assists Year 12 students with their identification of preferred tertiary courses and the actual application to QTAC for a place in these courses. The QTAC Guide, which outlines all the university and higher level TAFE courses together with their entry requirements, will be available from the start of next term. It is very important that parents and students discuss preferred careers and identify the necessary requirements for each course. More information will be forthcoming next term.

There are many opportunities provided to our senior students by our partner universities. Most universities and TAFEs offer courses designed to extend either the rigour or the scope of studies for students in Years 11 and 12. Most of these study options run as an ‘Off-Campus’ option, where students visit the specific tertiary provider for part of one day each week during normal school hours. These opportunities do not suit most students, due to the heavy impact on their normal school studies. Information regarding these offerings is well publicised across the senior year levels and at the relevant parent information nights. The University of Queensland is offering an additional programme during the summer vacation for our current Year 11 students. This course – Effective Thinking and Writing – has been specifically designed to enhance students’ writing and critical thinking skills, both of which are essential ingredients of academic success. The programme runs for five days in January, prior to the start of the 2014 school year. As a result, it does not take students out of their normal school studies. There is no cost for this course.

Further information regarding this programme and the general early start programmes offered by the universities and TAFE Colleges is available from the Guidance Officer, the Work Transitions Officer and the senior administration team.

On behalf of the school staff, I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout the first semester and wish you and your families a safe and relaxing break from school.

Kind Regards
Tony Hillas – ACTING PRINCIPAL

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher interviews are coming. They allow you the opportunity to consult with the teachers of your student. Through consultation you and the teacher can identify your child’s strengths and weaknesses at school, but more importantly, identify what needs to be done to improve their outcomes.

We offer our apologies for the incorrect date provided in the last newsletter. Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held on Monday, 22 July 2013, from 3.10 pm until 6.30 pm. Interviews will be conducted in the Resource Centre and are of 10 minutes duration. To book an interview with your child’s teacher please go to the link below, or scan the QR Code, and follow the instructions. http://sobs.com.au/p/parent.php .
Bullying

There is no place for bullying at Park Ridge State High School. Bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence are all interpersonal behaviours that can create or contribute to negative social environments. Sadly, research suggests that many young people who experience bullying may tell no one. If you believe your child is experiencing any form of bullying please contact the School. Scan the QR Code for more information on Bullying and the Park Ridge State High School support.

Safety in the Lancewood Rd Carpark and Busway

The safety of our students in and around the school environment is a constant concern for our community. With this in mind, the following points need to be emphasised regarding the Lancewood Road car park and bus way:

- Students should be collected in the car park and cars must not be driven through the bus pick-up circuit
- Students waiting to be collected should remain inside the school grounds until parents arrive
- Students should not spend extended time standing around cars in the car park
- Students should use the designated crossing to access the car park
- The Crest Road car park provides a safe pick-up area, free from bus traffic

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us to manage the safety of our students.

Mr Hillas – Acting Principal

One2One Laptop Program

Students wishing to join this program can now do so at a cost of $100 for the remainder of the year. Forms can be collected from the office and payment made at the cash collection window.

Students currently participating in the One2One Laptop program are also reminded that the second instalment is now due for payment. For more information contact Mr Sevens 33804111.

Ian Sevens – HOD ITC

The 32nd Annual Tertiary Studies Expo (TSXPO)

Saturday and Sunday, 20 – 21 July 2013

The 32nd annual Tertiary Studies Expo (TSXPO) will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 20 & 21 July 2013 from 10am – 4pm at the Exhibition Building, RNA Showgrounds, Brisbane. Admission to this event is free.

TSXPO is Australia’s largest tertiary studies expo and the ideal event for all senior school students and parents. With more tertiary studies on offer each year and with constantly changing career opportunities and pathways, entry requirements and study options, it is vital you keep up to date with the latest!

Exhibits are from every Queensland University, as well as those from interstate and overseas, visitors can gain a comprehensive insight into the institutions and programs that best suit them. TSXPO gives you access to over 250 qualified representatives in one location!

TSXPO also features representatives from TAFE, Defence & Police Forces, Private Education Colleges, student support services, as well as a significant number of graduate employers and government agencies recruiting for graduate placements. TSXPO has a long tradition of helping tertiary bound students in choosing the right study path and career.

Many universities will have academic staff on their site so you can ask some very specific questions. You could even meet with your future lecturers! At the expo, you will have a chance to meet with current students to talk about their study experiences. So take the TSXPO opportunity and meet with all the relevant people to help you make that important tertiary study decision!!!

Attend for your chance to win an apple iPad. A $2,000 bursary is also on offer.

Mrs Shvetsoff - HOD Senior Schooling

From the Arts

Instrumental Music

The Dynamic Instrumental Music Program offered at Park Ridge has had another very busy term. Our musicians combined with students from our feeder schools earlier this term to participate in a 3-day music workshop (SCIMS) which culminated in a fabulous concert enjoyed by all, the quality of material produced after just three days was incredible.
Last Friday night 14th June members of our school community were treated to a memorable night of entertainment, featuring all four of our ensembles, led by our talented conductors; Mr Michael Purtle, Mr Frank Fodor and Miss Peta Ritson. Yugumbir Primary’s Senior Band and a combined String Ensemble formed from a selection of our partner schools also performed to entertain our community. Nights like these help to create strong partnerships between our schools. To conclude the night we were treated to a special guest act, Mr Purtle’s Community Brass Band, “Windsor Brass”. The students were captivated by the quality, precision and rich sound produced by this accomplished band. It was truly a feast for the ears. There will be another evening performance at the end of term 4, so if you have never been along to one of these performances before, do yourself a favour and don’t miss out. Dates and times will be advertised in future newsletters and our school Website.

Momentum and excitement is growing for the new Instrumental Music Excellence Program (IMEX) which is scheduled to begin next year. Places are filling fast so please contact the school on 3380 4112 if you wish information on this new and exciting opportunity for your child.

**Drama**

The drama department has been working towards a major production of Shakespeare’s Macbeth. The show will feature many of our talented senior drama students and will hit the stage on Sunday 15th September, late term 3. Mr Davenport has been rehearsing the students for several weeks now and the show is beginning to take shape. Please check newsletters and the website closer to the date for information on how to secure your ticket.

**Photography Workshop**

On 6th May senior photography students attended a workshop on ‘lighting’ in K04 and the Performing Arts rooms. Jason Buck, from Photocontinental at Mt Gravatt, demonstrated various lighting techniques using equipment that he provided. Students learned terminology relevant to their subject as well as how to set up a softbox and placement of various lights including using a range of reflectors.

Students were then able to experiment with ‘light’ using torches, sparklers, glow sticks, bubbles and flour. Students used both SLR and DSLR cameras with some interesting results. It was a great learning experience for teachers involved as well as students. Hopefully the students will take this knowledge and use it in their senior exit work.

**June Greenwood – Arts Teacher**

**Mathematics News**

**Maths Support**

**MATHS TUTORIALS - THURSDAY AFTERNOONS**

We will continue with our free after school Mathematics Tutorials. They will be held on Thursday afternoons from 3:00pm – 4:00 pm in the Resource Centre.

Tutorials will be held every Thursday afternoon, except the first two weeks and the final two weeks of each term. Students need to bring their textbook, work sheets; assignment or anything they need help with, to the Resource Centre and the teachers will offer assistance (Don’t forget to bring a calculator!) This is a great opportunity to obtain some individual help and improve results.
SENIOR STUDENTS WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON CATCH-UP

Senior students can also access the Wednesday afternoon catch-up sessions in Mathematics which start at 12:40pm in Q14.

YEAR 10 STUDENTS WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON CATCH-UP (V06)

This term Year 10 students started their catch-up session in V06 every Wednesday at 12:40pm. We have 26 students attending timetabled elective maths activities but if any students in Year 10 (due to a medical condition or other reasons), do not attend Sport on Wednesday afternoon it is possible for them to join the group. Just negotiate with your regular teacher and Mr Dolecki. The intent of this program is to encourage students to develop positive attitudes towards mathematics and expand their mathematical skills. We also provide extra support for class work.

MathsOnLine: Great resource for students and parents

Our school acquired the site license to use this entertaining and educational site. All students at our school already have their password and log in details. If your child does not remember their details please contact their maths teacher. This resource is also used as support for classroom teaching. Teachers often set homework and revision from this site. How to get there - Type in Google, (one word no spaces), MathsOnLine, go to student section and log in.

The Internet provides new opportunities for students and parents to access quality maths courses, and a number of excellent internet-based maths sites have been developed in Australia, which provide interactive instruction in this important area. MathsOnLine (www.mathsonline.com.au) is one of the best of them. Developed by Australian maths teachers, MathsOnLine is based on the Australian maths curriculum for all years of schooling. Students can access all curriculums (prep to Yr 12) and work at their own pace, catching up or extending themselves at their pleasure. The program contains hundreds of complete maths lessons, which take students from the simplest concepts to the more complex, in relatively short stages. At the end of each lesson, students are given a test (called a worksheet) to ensure that they have understood the unit. When a student completes the worksheet, which they are asked to print out, and complete with pen and paper, the student then sends the answers to Maths Online which marks the student’s work, and returns it to the student. The results of students’ work are kept in individual student files, and the student is given feedback on problem areas by the classroom teacher.

This is the article I have read in Australasian Science (June issue) over the weekend and thought it would be nice to share the views. Have a read below and ponder on how can we improve mathematics at our school? There are a lot of possibilities for mathematical minded students in the future.

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**Serendipity, Your Number Is Up**

BOLLYN PENLEY

Science, technology, engineering and maths skills are needed to build the nation, but student and teacher numbers are in decline.

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**One-third of Australian children do not meet this international minimum numeracy benchmark...**

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**What’s been happening in Year 9 English?**

This term in Year 9 English, students have been working on the creative writing process. They have been developing the necessary skills required for imaginative speculative fiction. So far, they have learned that in order to be great writers, there is a process that needs to take place, which requires a number of steps that need to be mastered if the final narrative is to be successful. One step that students have been practicing and mastering - extremely well, I might add - is their practice writing sessions on creating believable, imaginative settings. In order to do this, they have already brainstormed their wonderful “what if?” ideas, and explored using figurative language such as simile, metaphor, personification and imagery.

Below are a few wonderful exemplars of student work during this process of creating setting and character.

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Tomasz Dolecki - Acting HOD Mathematics

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There we were, standing in shock and utter amazement at the picturesque utopia. Sky’s navy eyes reflected the shimmering, crystal clear lake tinkling before us. I turned my attention to the broad, fairy floss coloured sky and sighed in blissful wonder. Tia smiled as bright as the sun when she noticed pale balls of fluff flying above us. In sync, we all reached out in an attempt to catch them, yet they seemed to fly away every time. A beautiful, delicate looking creature flew by us as it chirped and sang.

I plonked myself down on what looked like green straw, yet it felt heavenly and soft. The other girls joined me as we lay down on the cushiony ground. I twirled my carnation coloured hair through my fragile fingers and looked up at the now darkening sky. Connie lay beside me, slowly locking our cold fingers together. We lay
in content, the four of us, admiring the view and soft sounds of the night animals that slowly came out. The coal sky had twinkling diamonds embedded into it; they shone as if waving to us. Slowly, our blinds of sight closed over a set of pink, sapphire, purple and topaz eyes as we let our imagination run wild in this fantasy world.

Author: Angela Nguyen

As I approached the ground, I shifted shape from my beautiful peregrine form to a human form with large wings that cascaded down my back. I took in the utopian setting before me. The tall, white spirals that surrounded my city stood proud; a protective circle surrounding the equally as stunning inhabitants. The setting sun cast shadows that seemed to stretch on forever. I shivered in pure delight at returning to this marvellous place after a week of weariness and politics.

I rushed forward; the cool stone path beneath my bare feet seemed to shorten, as if it were as eager as I for my return. Wind blew back my hair, ruffled my feathers and whistled in my ears. As I got closer, the euphoria heightened. Smells from the marketplace tinted the air with garlic, thyme and a myriad of other exotic spices. My mouth watered as I imagined all the delicious meals I had been deprived of on my trip. The clanking and ringing of pots and saucepans and the sounds of humming people bustling about mingled with familiar voices to give me goose bumps. I could barely believe I was home finally.

Author: Nikita Noon

The planet was bright and green; all its plants and trees were alive and well, just like Earth used to be before all the technology came in. Close by was a lake. It was clear as glass and you could see the bottom filled with marine life and sand. The sound of animals filled the air but it was getting dark now. As the moon rose, everything changed.

The smell of the air turned to a foul smell and smelled like a sewerage plant. The only source of light was the giant glowing moon but everything else was dark. Then a storm rolled in and soon everything was quiet, until a loud screeching noise pierced the air. Suddenly, the ground turned slimy and dead and slowly the trees were losing their leaves. The screeching noise was still around but it was getting closer and closer.

Author: Jake Johnson

Character samples

Here is a wonderful sample of the student’s work on character:

Now that he was a lot closer she could study his appearance more. He was tall for his age; about 5 foot 11 to 6 foot. His hair was closely cropped. It was a nice light brown almond colour with a fiery russet streak going down the middle. His crystal clear blue eyes spoke of hostility and fear while also looking relieved. His nose was normal with a slight incline at the end while his mouth was a narrow incline in its determined state. His arms were tanned from being in the sun but he wasn’t extremely dark... His body lines spoke of stubbornness but at the same time happiness. All-in-all, she concluded that he was likeable.

Author: Lucas Coleman

...I know the truth. Her mother just packed up and left. Ever since her mother walked out she seems to have lost her will; she doesn’t talk to anyone in the kind, caring way that she used to.

The only time that I’ve seen her smile in the last year is when her two youngest brothers were playing on the swings in the park, but even then she looked...broken. You can see the physical strain having to care for her four younger brothers has taken. Her once long and beautifully painted fingernails are now chipped and worn down. Her bright and clean clothes are now torn and sullied, but no matter how she changes now, I will always remember that little girl with the sparkle in her eyes that put even the stars to shame.

Author: Zara Berry

Her beauty, although hidden under a layer of bone-rattling fear, was heart stopping. Her eyes were shaped as carved almonds with a chocolate centre. Kayden could see these gems from afar. He also saw the jagged birthmark wrapped around her thin wrist. They say birthmarks resembled where you were killed in your past life. He couldn’t understand how such a ...such an angel was stuck in the do-or-die- game. As she flicked a sheet of platinum blond curls behind her shoulder, he could see the sharp structure of her cheek bones and the white traces of scars curling their way up her strong arms. He could tell this girl had been through a lot.

Author: Jessica Richards

As Megelda walked past a wooden desk, I could only see the tip of her head. With a closer glance I noticed her wild, grey hair that stopped halfway between her elbows and shoulders. The tips of her hair were like worn out bristles of a broom stick. Her thin, slender nose that stuck out from her face had warts placed all over it, basically covering all of her skin. Megelda’s lips curled inwards, leaving small cracks and wrinkles on her light purple mouth. Her teeth were broken and chipped, and had the tint of a bruised banana. The corners of her mouth seemed to curve up into a smug grin, almost as if she had something to offer you but with a wicked catch. The tips of Megelda’s ears were pointy like an elf, and they protruded from her messy hair... There was one thing that drastically stood out from the rest: her eyes. Her eyes were terrible. The whites of her eyes were not, in fact, white, but a yellow tinted pigment. Megelda’s pupils were an evil grey-ish colour, highlighting the only known trait she had. Everything the town’s people said about her -her eyes, her hunched body, her warts – it was all true.

Author: Kacey Wood
It’s so wonderful to see such active, creative and imaginative minds at work. Parents, please ask to read your students’ work for English, as it is a fabulous example of how they have used their new skills in language and genre, to create interesting, unique narratives for their current Speculative Fiction unit.

Ros Munro – English Teacher

Playgroup News

The 2012, Year 12 students sadly said goodbye to the Playful Rascals a few weeks ago. They held a pyjama party and the children and the students attended playgroup in their pyjamas. They prepared food and played games with the children. The playgroup now runs every Friday from 9.10 am to 11.20am and is run by Year 11 Early Childhood classes and their teachers. We still have a few vacancies if you want to join us for a morning of fun with your children. The children range from 4 months to 4 years. It costs $3 for the morning per family and please join Playgroup Queensland to be covered by the insurance policy as it covers your transport to and from playgroup and of course while you are in attendance. Any queries phone the school office.

Kay York – HOD Home Economics

German Trip Fundraiser

Photos with Finesse by Cathy Smith

Help us fundraise for the 2013 German trip

Where: Park Ridge State High School - Music Block (M06)
Date: Saturday 20th July
Time: 9am – 5pm
Cost: $70

1 X A3 portrait print, and a 7"x5" print with 2 wallet sized prints
$10 booking fee + $60 on the day (normally valued at $150)
$10 to be paid to the cash collection window at PRSHS (cash only)
A booking time to be made at cash collection window
or phone Inga Dalle (German teacher) Ph: 33804141
photoswithfinesseaustralia.com.au

Visiting Japanese Students

URGENTLY REQUIRED
HOST FAMILIES FOR JAPANESE STUDENTS

Ginga Gakuin High School 15-17 year olds

ARRIVAL DATE: Monday 22 July 2013
DEPARTURE DATE: Saturday 3 August 2013
ATTENDING SCHOOL: Park Ridge SHS

HOST FAMILY REQUIREMENTS:

- No other Japanese students staying in family
- Three meals per day
- Own bed, but can share a room with host child
- Over 18’s must hold Blue Card or be willing to apply
- Able to provide safe travel to and from school

*Single Placement, Remuneration Provided
AUSTRALIA JAPAN STUDY PROGRAMME (AJSP)
Email: ajsp.ritsuko@gmail.com Ph. 0421 744 339 (Ritsuko)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Baseball Sign-On

Friday 12 July 2013
5.30pm – 8.30pm
Saturday 13 July 2013
8.30am – 12.30pm

If you would like further information please contact
Kevin – 0439 796386 or Karen – 0421 773768
Email: southernstarsbaseballclub@gmail.com

Captain Compost will make your garden grow!!

Our Mushroom compost is naturally organic compost suitable for a wide variety of applications including your home gardens.

Bring your trailer along on the first Saturday of every month from 7am – 11am.

Compost Direct Ph. 07 55710465 Website:
www.compostdirect.info or email
compostdirect@bigpond.com