



14 - 30 Lancewood St
Park Ridge 4125 QLD

Website: <http://www.parkridgeshs.eq.edu.au>

Email: info@parkridgeshs.eq.edu.au

Phone: 07 3380 4111

Fax: 07 3380 4100

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8 February 2013

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

13 February	School Swimming Carnival
19 February	District Swimming Carnival
21 February 6.00pm	P&C AGM
21 February	Senior Leaders Badge Ceremony

From the Principal

Dear Parents

It is my pleasure to welcome all of our families to 2013 at Park Ridge State High School.

The start to the new school year was a little bit rocky due to the **school closure on Tuesday 29 January**. The power blackout was the main issue. Otherwise the school escaped with very little damage from storms and flooding.

Unfortunately, news that the school would need to be closed only came on Tuesday morning. We lost all phone lines and all computer access and this made contacting parents impossible.

Unfortunately, the EQ website, showing the list of schools that would be closed, could not be updated in time to give accurate information to parents early enough in the morning.

We do thank you for your cooperation and good humour at a difficult time.

Thank you to our Year 8's

Our usual practice is to set aside a whole day to settle our Year 8 students into the school because we understand that the move from primary to high school is a significant milestone and some young people are naturally quite anxious and a little nervous about moving to a new school.

In the past we have had a staggered start with only Year 8 and Year 11 coming on the first day of the new school year. However, this year, we lost the opportunity to do this. The school closure on 29 January, due to floods and power blackouts, meant that we had to hurriedly change our program. Staff shortages due to the flooding exacerbated the problem. Regrettably, we had to greatly curtail the activities that we would normally have scheduled for our Year 8 students to help them settle in.

We are endeavouring to schedule many of the activities over the next week or two.

I would like to thank our Year 8 students and their parents for their co-operation and understanding.

Our Improvement Agenda

Three teacher-only days were held before the school term started and they were a valuable opportunity for our teaching staff to collaboratively explore our school improvement agenda and to develop their units of work in line with our teaching and learning framework, "Learning Design".

Teachers also set goals and targets for their classes. "Learning Design" is a detailed framework, developed collaboratively, and aimed at providing clear guidelines and expectations for how quality teaching and learning should happen in our school. In the near future we will be holding a number of parent forums to outline this focus on quality pedagogy and to seek parent feedback.

Improvement targets for 2013 include:

- A minimum of 85% pass rate right across the curriculum. (Some subject areas will set higher targets)
- 100% submission rates for all assignments in every subject in every year level
- A 15% improvement in overall student attendance.
- Progress towards these targets will be regularly monitored and reported in the newsletter.

Enrolments

Hopefully our enrolments will soon settle. As a consequence of the fine-tuning that is needed at the start of the year as the enrolments become clear, a few timetable changes may need to occur. These changes will be determined as soon as possible in an effort to minimise any disruption.

Dress Code

It is pleasing to see how the vast majority of students are wearing the uniform correctly and I thank parents for ensuring students are properly equipped for school.

Unfortunately we still have some students who are not complying with our clearly articulated dress code. Reminder information was sent out at the end of last year with the report cards in the hope that parents would not purchase items, such as footwear, that were not suitable. Regrettably, some problems have still arisen.

Our Dress Code requirements are made very clear to students and there should not be any misunderstandings. If your student is telling you that variations are acceptable and "everybody

does it”, it would be wise to phone one of the Deputy Principals to clarify the issue.

The uniform requirements are set out in the School Organiser and we ask for parents full support in this matter.

Our P&C Association Needs Support!

The P&C Association is a group of volunteers who offer their services to support our school. They are a vital part of our school community and contribute both to the welfare of students and the educational services provided at school.

Our P&C Association manages the Canteen and the Uniform shop. Conveners are employed for the day-to-day operations but the P&C oversees all policies and procedures.

The P&C Association meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm in the Admin Block. Meetings are concluded by about 8:00 pm. The Annual General Meeting will be held on February 21.

All parents are cordially invited to come along. It is a great opportunity to really get to know staff and other parents and to contribute to school decision making.

The school Canteen and Uniform Shop will be closed on Wednesday 13 February as students will be attending the school swimming carnival being held at the Springwood Aquatic Centre.

Valerie Hadgelias - PRINCIPAL



ONE 2 ONE LAPTOP PROGRAM

Revised Cost!

Dear Parents

As you are aware we had to increase the cost of participation in the take home laptop program quite significantly this year. We did this very reluctantly but, for the program to remain viable, we needed to cover costs.

However, we have continued to look for cost savings because we were aware of the financial strain being placed on parents, particularly after the recent storm and flood events. I am pleased to say that in recent days we have had some success.

The cost savings have come from a number of areas:

- Most significantly, we have been able to negotiate a better deal from some suppliers
- We have reduced the cost of wages for technical support

We have also decided to reduce the number of computers that we hold for the “Hot Swap” option. While we will continue to offer the “Hot Swap” service, it may not be as readily available as in the past.

- We have postponed significant IT enhancements

We are passing these saving on to families.

The cost of the program will be \$200 for the year (not \$250)

Parents who have already paid \$250 will be reimbursed the extra \$50. They can choose to have a refund or to have the funds credited to their student’s account. Parents who have already paid will receive a letter explaining the options from the Business Services Manager.

ABOUT THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS

What is the Schoolkids Bonus?

The Schoolkids Bonus is a payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies.

When does the Schoolkids Bonus start?

The Schoolkids Bonus starts from January 2013.

Who is eligible?

You could receive the Schoolkids Bonus if you have a child in primary or secondary school, or you are a primary or secondary student, and you receive one of the following payments:

- Family Tax Benefit Part A
- Youth Allowance
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY Living Allowance
- Carer Payment
- Parenting Payment
- Special Benefit
- Education allowances under the Veterans’ Children Education Scheme and Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme.

Children in preschool are not eligible.

How much will I receive?

If you are eligible, you will receive:

- **\$410** for each child in primary school (paid in two instalments of \$205)
- **\$820** for each child in secondary school (paid in two instalments of \$410)

If you share the care of your children and receive a percentage of Family Tax Benefit Part A or an education allowance, you will receive the same percentage of the Schoolkids Bonus.

When will I receive it?

Payments are made in January and July every year. You must be receiving one of the eligible payments on 1 January to be eligible for the January payment.

Similarly, you must be receiving one of the eligible payments on 30 June to receive the July payment.

If you claim Family Tax Benefit Part A as a lump sum at the end of the financial year, you will receive the Schoolkids Bonus then.

What do I need to do to get it?

It's easy. You don't have to fill out any forms, keep receipts, or claim the Schoolkids Bonus in your tax return.

You just need to let Centrelink know:

- When you or your child starts primary school to start receiving the payment and
- When you or your child move from primary to secondary school to start receiving the secondary school amount.
- When you or your child finishes secondary school to receive the final secondary school payment.

How will I be paid?

If you're eligible, the Schoolkids Bonus will be automatically paid into your nominated bank account in January and July.

Has the Schoolkids Bonus replaced the Education Tax Refund?

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund, which means you no longer need to keep receipts and claim it through your tax return.

Is the Schoolkids Bonus less than the Education Tax Refund?

No – the Schoolkids Bonus is \$410 a year for each primary student and \$820 for each secondary student compared to a maximum of \$397 for a primary student and \$794 for a secondary student under the previous Education Tax Refund. In addition, most families were not claiming their full entitlement under the Education Tax Refund because they didn't have the receipts when they did their tax returns or forgot to claim the payment. Schoolkids Bonus is paid automatically and no receipts are required.

Where can I go for more information?

To learn more about the Schoolkids Bonus, visit australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus

Important changes to anaphylaxis action plans

The Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) has recently revised their anaphylaxis action plans to include the administration of CPR and asthma medication after adrenaline injection. Our school will be implementing this new plan. More information is available from the ASCIA website.

www.allergy.org.au/health-professionals/anaphylaxis-resources/ascia-action-plan-for-anaphylaxis

SCHOOL BASED IMMUNISATION PROGRAM FOR YEAR 8 AND 10 STUDENTS

Each year Health Officers from the Logan City Council come to our school to provide a free vaccination service to students. In our first week of school this year all students in Years 8 and 10 were provided with information about the immunisation program to take home to their parents, together with

permission forms to be completed and returned to the school. It is essential that these forms be returned as soon as possible as the health officers need to know exactly how many vaccinations to bring with them.

Phase one of the immunisation program is scheduled for Tuesday 19th February. Year 8 students, both boys and girls, will receive the first dose of the Hepatitis B Vaccine. Year 8 girls will also be given the first dose of HPV Vaccine, protection against cervical cancer.

All Year 10 students will receive the Boostrix Vaccine providing immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. Year 10 boys will also receive the HPV Vaccine.

Only those students who have returned the permission forms will be allowed to receive the vaccinations. For further information on the School-Based Immunisation Program please contact the Logan City Council's Immunisation Team on (07) 34125397.

SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIPS AND APPRENTICESHIPS OFF CAMPUS PROGRAM

Now we are in week two, a number of our students have begun attending TAFE and Skills Tech as part of their school program. It is a great opportunity for students to study a subject they are keen about while still completing their senior studies. We are excited to see so many and varied areas of study - ranging from fashion to hairdressing, photography, music, diesel fitting, mechanics and construction.

We also have our School-based Apprenticeship Program, where students are at their workplace one-day a week, while starting their apprenticeship.

It is imperative that students, parents and school staff all work together to ensure the best for our students, our employers and our school.

MSIT and Skills Tech have always complimented Park Ridge High on the behaviour and quality of our students. This is largely due to our insistence that students going off campus must show that they can follow school policies re: their uniform, behaviour and attendance. We also conduct parent interviews before students are accepted to attend an off-campus program. I thank the parents and guardians for their continued support.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, is not an option for off-campus students to go home. If they are on campus they must attend the Resource Centre with Ms Armstrong where they have the opportunity to do their catch-up work, assignments and their TAFE books. It is not a time to go home or attend medical appointments. If there is an urgent matter that prevents an off-campus student being here on a Wednesday afternoon, parents are asked to contact me directly.

If there are any concerns with your student or the course they are doing please don't hesitate to ring me.

CURRENT VACANCIES FOR SCHOOL BASED TRAINEESHIPS/ APPRENTICESHIPS.

MAXIMA are now employing school-based for Logan City Council. Year 11 students can see me during break to collect an application form for the following vacancies:

- Certificate II Retail
- Certificate II Warehousing
- Certificate II Automotive Mechanical
- Certificate II Library and Information Services.

Interviews for these positions will be held at school next week.

Other vacancies available are:

Year 10 or 11 (Browns Plains Hotel)

- Certificate III Business
- Certificate III Hospitality

Year 10 or 11

- Certificate IV in Digital Media Tech (Social Media)
- Certificate IV Digital Tech (Video Production).

Year 10, 11 or 12 (Greenbank)

- Certificate III Hospitality

Interested students can come and see me during break with their Resume. Students must be interested in pursuing these areas of work once they leave school. They are not just a part-time job, but a pathway to a student's career.

Wendy Howard – Work Education Transition Officer

PLAYFUL RASCALS PLAYGROUP

Are you a parent or carer who is looking to spend some fun and educational time with your child on Friday mornings? Come along and enjoy loads of exciting activities such as playdough, painting, goop, storytelling and music between 9.00 and 10.20 beginning on Friday February 15, 2013.

All activities will be organised by Year 12 Early Childhood students at a cost of \$3.00 each week. Our playgroup is affiliated with Playgroup Queensland.

Come along and share this time with us. We have our own building which is resourced with all the indoor and outdoor equipment you could imagine. A favourite is the recently refurbished outdoor play area with shade cover, sand pit and rubberised play surface, complete with a bike track!

If this sounds like something you and your child would enjoy being part of, contact teacher Kay York on 33804117.

Kay York – HOD Home Economics

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

It is that time of year again when we are all preparing for the swimming carnival. [It will be on Wednesday 13th February at the Springwood Aquatic Centre.](#) Students attending are encouraged to wear their house colours to support their house. The Carnival is for competitors and non-competitors with some novelty events during the day so all students have an opportunity to get in the water. Students are advised to bring

a packed lunch, sunscreen, towel, water bottle etc. There will be a canteen facility available on the day. [Permission notes and payment need to be returned by Monday 11th February.](#)

Trixie Donald – HPE Teacher

AFL NEWS

Hello everyone and welcome back!

Well it has been a busy start to the year for all of our AFL Academy students. During this term students within our AFL classes will start their fitness testing and game plan work. There are many carnivals and competition matches coming up and as such meetings will be held to schedule training times after school. We have the Year 8 boys Jonathan Brown Cup, the Youth Girls Cup and also the start of our Brisbane Lions Cup fixtures. For our Year 8 boys they will have the special opportunity to train with some of the Brisbane Lions players here at Park Ridge SHS in the coming weeks. It is also an exciting time for our Open girls' team with the Met West U/16 trials just around the corner. If any students are interested in joining the AFL Academy or playing in one of our open teams please come and see me at my window in J block.

Derek Berry - Director of AFL Academy/HPE Teacher

SPORTS NEWS

It has been a busy start to 2013 and the wonderful sport program offered at Park Ridge is in full swing. It started on the first week back with students being given their sport selection note and contract. I am pleased to say that a number of students have returned the information with payment to the cash collection window. **The sport levy for 2013 is \$40.00 per rotation.**

Students hit the sporting arena on Wednesday 6 February with trials conducted for a number of sports including baseball, basketball, cricket, rugby, touch football, volleyball, softball and beach volleyball. These teams will be finalised over the next week and extra training sessions may be organised by staff to choose the team. **The first round of interschool sport will start on Wednesday 20 February.**

District trials have started already with the 19-year old girls' softball, tennis, and volleyball being held on Tuesday 5 February. We have a number of trials coming up and all sport dates for the year can be found on the school website. Please download a copy and place on your fridge so you can be updated with all the events coming up so your child doesn't miss an opportunity to trial for a sport.

The Swimming carnival will be held Wednesday 13 February at Springwood Aquatic Centre. This is a whole school event and we look forward to seeing all the students participate.

Any questions or request for information can be passed onto Mrs Caddy 3380 4116 or email kcadd7@eq.edu.au .

Kirsty Caddy - Sports Coordinator

SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY UPDATE

Hi everyone!

Welcome to Term 1 for 2013! After quite an interesting start to the year with the fires, storms and floods, Chaplaincy has an exciting term planned for the life of our school!

Starting soon, Chaplaincy will be hosting fun games and activities during the first break every Friday! These will be high energy and loads of fun! During other lunch breaks, I walk around encouraging students and playing cards or other fun games!

We are also seeking volunteers, donations and funding to commence and sustain the return of BBQ Brekky on a weekly basis! If you or someone you know could help please contact me on the email below.

Finally, each year Chaplaincy assists many, many families and independent students with the purchase of uniforms. If you have any uniforms at home that are too small, or no longer wanted we would love to take these off your hands. You can send them in with your student who can bring them directly to my office in E Block.

Have a fantastic week!

**Chappy Crystal cmids7@eq.edu.au Work Days:
Tues-Fri**

HEALTH NEWS



Welcome Back 2013

My name is Gabrielle Nolan, your School Based Youth Health Nurse (SBYHN) at Park Ridge State High School.

I am employed by Queensland Health and I am based in the school two days a week so that staff, parents and students can access me easily, and confidentially, if needed.

The Youth Health Nurse works with students, school staff and parents to: address concerns or problems about health & wellbeing, help create a more supportive, healthy school environment and liaison and referral to other support services outside the school as needed.

In my consultation role I am able to support young people with making healthy choices to improve their physical and emotional health. I am able to see young people in private to talk about, for example: health issues, nutrition, relationships, smoking, puberty and sexual health, alcohol or drug use, feeling unhappy or stressed and where to find specialist services for young people in the district.

I am required to keep this information confidential (not talking to others) unless the young person poses a risk to themselves or others, or if the young person agrees I can do otherwise. Family support is essential for young people, and my advice often includes encouraging and supporting the young person to discuss the issue with a trusted family member.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information on my role, to talk over an issue, or if you wish to book an appointment. I am available at Park Ridge State High School on Mondays and Fridays, in Room U.08, in U Block. If the young person you care for has concerns please encourage them to contact me, if you feel I may be of assistance.

Gabrielle Nolan - School Based Youth Health Nurse

COMMUNITY NEWS

Get Started is one of three funding programs that comprise the Queensland Government's *Get in the Game* initiative to support sport and recreation at the grassroots level. **Get Started** assists children and young people who can least afford or may otherwise benefit from joining a sport or recreation club.

Eligible children and young people can apply online for a voucher valued up to \$150 online, which can be redeemed at a sport or recreation club registered with **Get Started**.

The vouchers for eligible children and young people will be available from 9am on 15 January 2013. For further information, refer to the links below.

Who can apply?

The following applicants are eligible for a **Get Started** voucher:

- Children and young people from the age of five and under the age of 18 who hold or whose parent, guardian or carer holds a Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card and are residents of Queensland
- Other children or young people identified by two referral agents (see below).

How do I get a voucher?

A parent, carer or guardian of an eligible child or young person can apply online for a voucher under the first round of the program from 15 January 2013. When applying for a voucher, the following details will be required:

- Name, age and date of birth of the child or young person
- Name, address, telephone number and email address of the parent, carer or guardian
- A valid Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card number, or if the child or young person is being referred, the contact details of two referral agents.

If a child is eligible for **Get Started**, they are not guaranteed a voucher. The funding will be distributed in two rounds each year on a first come, first served basis. Once the allocation for each round is exhausted, the program will close and no further vouchers will be offered for that round.

Before applying for a voucher, it is recommended that you read the Frequently Asked Questions for Parents, Carers and Guardians (<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/funding/getinthegame/parents-carers-faq.htm>) and the terms and conditions (<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/funding/getinthegame/parents-carers-tc.html>) for the use of the voucher before applying. Once you have read through the

information about the voucher and discussed membership requirements with your local sport or recreation club, you can proceed to apply online. You will be able to apply for a voucher from 9am 15 January 2013.

Student Exchange – Memories and Skills for a Lifetime!



Give your child the opportunity to gain international experiences and language skills to kick-start a future career. Along with distinct language benefits, exchange students mature, gain confidence and develop a much more worldly approach upon their return to Australia.

World Education Program Australia (WEP), a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the education departments, is now accepting applications for students to live overseas in 2013/14 as exchange students for a summer, semester or year.

WEP is offering two **\$3000 scholarships** towards semester-long student exchange programs to Argentina and China commencing in 2014.

Find out more! Visit www.wep.org.au Attend one of WEP's information evenings and open days

Call 1300 884 733

Upcoming Information Sessions

Brisbane - 21 Feb, 14 Mar, 30 Apr 2013 - 7:30-9pm

Garden City Library
Cnr Kessels & Logan Roads
Upper Mt Gravatt

Toowoomba

19 March 2013 / 7:30-9pm
Cedar Centre
36 Baker Street
Toowoomba

LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF!

As Marcel Proust, a late 19th century novelist wrote: "the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes". Volunteer to host an international high school student in July 2013 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique and rewarding opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan, and Spain. They will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at our website www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.

Greater Brisbane Junior Tennis Association Inc.



PO Box 630 Indooroopilly Queensland 4068 - www.gbjt.org.au

SATURDAY AFTERNOON JUNIOR TENNIS FIXTURES SEASON 1, 2013

23rd February to 1st June - Cost \$175.00 (includes affiliation fee to Tennis Qld)

GRADING DAY FOR NEW PLAYERS

(The enrolment form is available on the website or at the grading day.

Enrolments close on 10 February.

Queensland Tennis Centre 190 King Arthur Terrace, Tennyson

Sunday 10th February, 2013 3.00pm – 5.00pm

Contact Details: Mrs Peta Davis 3374 0516 or email: admin@gbjt.org.au