31 October 2013

From the Principal

Dear parents and carers

World Teachers Day

World Teachers’ Day offers a chance to acknowledge our teachers and say ‘Thanks’. This year we celebrated World Teachers’ Day in Queensland on Friday 25 October, 2013. Every day, Queensland teachers are making a difference educating and inspiring young Queenslanders.

World Teachers’ Day is celebrated in more than 100 countries world-wide and was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 1994 to celebrate the role of teachers in society.

The day is a wonderful opportunity to draw public attention to the important role of teachers in our local communities.

QATSIF Graduation

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the graduation of the Year 12 recipients of the QATSIF scholarship. The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Foundation was created to advance the education and life opportunities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. A primary aim is to ensure these young people are able to successfully finish their secondary schooling. The breakfast was quite a formal event, with many schools represented and was held at the State Library of Queensland. One of our students, Clay Waterman, had been chosen to speak on behalf of all of the graduating students and he spoke really well. I felt very proud of all of our students from Park Ridge State High School.

Study Tour Links with Indonesian schools

In the past we regularly had study tours visiting Indonesia to deepen their language skills and cultural knowledge. These visits to Indonesia had to be stopped when the Department of Foreign Affairs issued a travel warning against travel to Indonesia in the wake of the Bali bombings. Last year this travel warning was lifted and it has become possible for student groups to once again be involved in travel to Indonesia. We hope to reinvigorate this program in the near future. Last week representatives from our school and Browns Plains SHS met with a delegation from Indonesia to discuss ideas for future programs.

Kind regards

Valerie Hadgelias - Principal

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop will be closed on Tuesday 5 November 2013. We apologise for any inconvenience.

2014 Enrolments

Parents or guardians who want to enrol their children at Park Ridge State High School for 2014 are asked to contact the school office (3380 4111) as a matter of urgency, to arrange an appointment for an enrolment interview. Enrolment packages are available from the school office. Please ensure that all forms are completed and signed prior to the enrolment interview. Parents / Guardians are also asked to bring all relevant documentation to the appointment (birth certificate, copies of most recent report cards, any specialised medical / legal / educational reports).

For more details regarding our enrolment process, please visit the Park Ridge State High School website.

Vacancy – Assistant Canteen Convenor

An exciting opportunity exists for a suitably qualified and highly motivated Assistant Canteen Convenor to work in the school canteen and/or uniform shop on a casual basis. The position will commence at the beginning of 2014 and the person will be employed by the Park Ridge State High School P&C. Details of the vacancy can be obtained from the school administration office.

Applications close on Thursday 7 November 2013 and should be addressed to the P&C President and handed in to the school administration office.

Year 12 Formal

Payment for the Formal must be made by Friday 1 November. The ticket cost is $120.

If students want to use the Photo Booth (separate from the formal photos) they are asked to contribute a separate $8 to cover this cost. These students will be given a separate ID ticket to use the Photo Booth.

On the evening, students and parents and friends can arrive from 6pm. The formal photographer (Event Photography) will be available to take family photos from 6pm.

There are plenty of parking spaces for visitors at the site.
Pre-dinner drinks

Pre-dinner drinks will now be available from a Cash Bar set up in one of the rooms at the Venue. This will allow you to purchase your own drinks, from 6.30 – 7.30pm, while waiting for the arrival of students.

There will be a large group photo of all students taken from the balcony at approximately 7.20pm, just before the Ballroom opens for students to be seated at 7.30pm.

Formal Photography

The formal photography on the night will be taken by Event Photography. They will edit and upload the photos onto their website: www.eventphotography.com/formals.

The photographer will be at the venue from 6.00 – 9.30pm.

Photos will be uploaded onto the website approximately 48 – 72 hours after the Formal is held. On the website, the password (parkridge13) can be used for viewing photographs. Students will have free, unlimited download access to the photographs.

The Copyright of all images is assigned to the client so you may use these images at your own discretion.

Year 12 Final week activities

| Monday 11 November: | ‘Schoolies’ presentation |
| Tuesday 12 November: | Year 12 Formal – Victoria Park Golfing Complex, Herston |
| Wednesday 13 November: | Sports Awards Presentation Evening – 6.30pm, SAC |
| Thursday 14 November: | Annual Awards Presentation Evening – 7.00pm, SAC |
| Friday 15 November: | Year 12 Graduation Ceremony – 9.30am, SAC |

The Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) advises that all Year 12 students must attend school until Friday 15 November.

Student Leadership

With our award season fast approaching, we are now looking at nominations for student leadership for 2014.

This year we have been very fortunate to have an enthusiastic and dedicated team of student leaders, led by our school captaincy of Eliza Chalmers, Jayden Mayer, Bronte Snowden and Joseph Van Veldhuizen.

At Park Ridge SHS we are passionate about developing strong student leaders who will leave our school with the skills to communicate well, build teams, problem solve and move their communities forward. We feel confident that the quality of our Year 12 leaders this year will fulfil this mandate admirably.

Our leadership philosophy is built on the belief that:

A school must function as a community for it to meet the social, emotional and intellectual needs of each of its members. There needs to be:

- a balance between strong education outcomes,
- a sense of happiness and well-being,
- a place to celebrate achievements and foster dreams,
- the development of relationships
- an understanding of the values and processes that protect the rights of each individual and allow the community to exist in harmony.

Therefore, a school leader must be passionate about their community and want to serve it rather than power over it to allow it to grow.

Our Leadership Program fosters the key characteristics of strong leadership, which insists a leader must:

- Understand the unique needs of the people they represent
- Value the school ethos, values and processes.
- Model expectations and behaviours for each member of that community.
- Communicate across a range of mediums to motivate, inform and challenge.
- Be able to create initiatives that will invigorate the community and progress the learning environment.
- Help to provide safe environments.
- Through action, demonstrate a respect for all people and areas in the school.

The Leadership Program also provides students with the opportunity to leave the program with either a Certificate II in Live Production, Theatre and Events or a Specialised Certificate II in Work Place Practices

SPORT LEADERSHIP in 2014

Although our school has always had a strong sporting culture, focusing on sport leaders generating a sense of team spirit, an enthusiasm around healthy lifestyles and a commitment to community belonging - we are excited about a renewed focus on the important role of a sport leader in the school for 2014.

To support this focus, sport leaders will work together as a tightly knit team in partnership with our broader leadership group. We have allocated a staff member, Mr Derek Berry, to specifically cater for the unique needs of the sport students and provide them with a diversified program that will build their skills in this area.

We look forward to 2014 and the great service that our student leadership team will bring to our school. We also thank our Year 12 student leaders who have worked so hard to move our school forward, under the expert guidance of Mr Rob Emblen and Mr Andrew Conwell.

Ms Sharon Amos - Deputy Principal
Mr Craig McBrien - HOD Physical Education
Girls Try a Trade

Last Thursday Skills Tech at Acacia Ridge hosted a "GIRLS" day. The aim of this day was to allow "us girls" the opportunity to try various trades in the hope of recruiting more females into the trade areas. The day was a great success and it was great to see so many girls showing their talents.

Year 11 Student Jade Frost takes on tiling, with organiser Robyn Fraser, Coordinator of our School Partnership Programme.

Wendy Howard - Work Education Transition Officer

Certificate III in Fitness

This subject is a great new initiative implemented by the HPE department in 2013. It requires enormous amounts of diligence, determination and energy to complete the various competencies included in the course. The year began with students participating in various activities to enhance fitness, such as circuits, pyramids, add on activities, interval and aerobic training.

Students needed to plan and implement 10 to 30 minute sessions for other members in the fitness group. The topics covered in the theory component of the course were; occupational health and safety, customer service, anatomy, gym training, correct technique, various body work sessions and training principles.

The group then had to apply these skills to completing fitness sessions to Year 10 groups during their HPE classes. The student’s commitment to planning the fitness sessions was outstanding. Credit must also go to their participants who worked extremely hard and were very tired on completion of the training session. Beyond this the group then had to reflect on their efforts on how to improve their sessions. The group has also been running a 12-week fitness program for a client.

The students have also been given a work experience opportunity at Logan Metro Sports Centre in Browns Plains. The program will run over 10 weeks during Term 4 where every week, two students will work for 3 hours a day, for 4 days a week. They will participate in personal training session, observe the organisation of the gym, complete administration, assist clients and involve themselves fully in a fitness career opportunity.

This term the students will be continuing their 12-week fitness program for the juniors at lunch time. Congratulations to the whole group this year as the energy, positive behaviour, drive, and determination to make Certificate III in fitness an excellent subject has been great. Students have gained invaluable experience and insight into a career in the fitness industry that will enhance their job opportunities and create the foundation to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Mr Rob Brown - Senior Recreation Coordinator

Sport News

We have had a change in the role of Sports Coordinator this term with Mrs Caddy taking leave and Mr Berry stepping into the role. The Year 8 and 9 students will do a blocked smart moves program for four weeks. The Year 8 students' started this week and will rotate through a number of different activities including basketball, touch football, fitness games, indigenous games, volleyball, soccer and AFL. In week 7 the changeover will occur and the Year 9 students will be put through their paces.

Health and Physical Education

Year 9 students and some Year 10 students have had the opportunity to participate in a swimming program at Park Ridge State School as part of their curriculum studies. As we approach the hotter months, water safety and the ability to practice swimming techniques, (including learning survival techniques in the water) is a great opportunity for these students. Year 9 have also been studying sociology of sport and how different aspects of society affect why people participate in sport due to access and equality. The role of women in sport, Australian culture around sport, sponsorship in sport and how the media impacts on sport; are areas students’ have been doing in-depth studies and they will write a persuasive article on one topic to argue the impact these have on sport in Australia.

In other HPE classes Year 8 students have been looking at the components of fitness and doing fitness testing to evaluate areas for improvement. A popular test is the ‘beep test’ where students judge their endurance based on a level they run to. Students are very competitive in this and we have had some great results. Well done Year 8’s!

The Year 10 students have been doing archery and softball this term and learning about sport psychology and the impact it has on their performance. Archery is always a favourite and the students have been really keen to test their skills.

Year 11 HPE are studying volleyball and sport psychology and the impact motivation and team cohesiveness has on their performance in a team sport. Students have been placed into random teams and are examining the cliques within the team and the personal attributes each member brings to the team and how all this combines to affect performance.

Year 12 HPE class are finishing off their two-year course of study with badminton and a study into why people participate in sport using Figuerola framework as a guide. I am pleased to say that the Year 12 cohort has achieved excellent results, which is a testament to the hard work they have put in. Five VHA’s were achieved by:

- Bronte Snowdon (VHA6)
- Joseph Van Veldhuizen (VHA5)
- Renee King (VHA3)
The class achieved 20 HA’s and 2 SA’s. Well done on your fantastic results!

Our senior recreational classes have been studying rock climbing and initiative games this term. This unit really teaches students the responsibility of working together as a team and relying on each other. Both these year levels have really embraced the unit and are currently completing a journal on their experiences.

The Certificate III in Fitness led by Mr Brown has been working hard on developing fitness guidelines and programs. In a great initiative, students are gaining valuable work experience at Logan Metro Sports Centre in Browns Plains, as personal trainers which has given them a taste of how demanding a job in the fitness industry can be.

The AFL students are continuing to work hard with teachers starting their pre-season training already. This will give them a head start over the 6 weeks they have away from school, during the summer holidays. Congratulations to all the students involved as the training has been quite demanding and they have really lifted to the occasion.

The Year 8 AFL students are currently umpiring the district primary school competitions and have been doing an amazing job. It has been great to see over 150 students from schools right across the district, playing AFL on our bottom oval on a Friday afternoon. The Year 9 and 10 AFL students have been doing a unit on sports administration and have been running their own tournaments. This involves marketing a tournament, creating the draw and organising umpires and equipment. This is an invaluable learning tool where students gain a new respect for administrators who are involved in planning and organising a tournament.

One of our senior recreational students Rock Climbing

Craig McBrien
Head of Department Health and Physical Education

Arts News

Instrumental Music

Our Instrumental Music students have been adding to the school’s trophy cabinet. They have just returned from competing in the very popular Music Fest competition which attracts the strongest school bands from around Brisbane. The results are in and read as follows:

- String Ensemble: Bronze Medal
- Junior Concert Band: Gold Medal
- Senior Concert Band: Silver Medal

These fabulous results are due to the hard work and dedication of the students and their conductors. These students rehearse after school each week and many of them are participating in multiple ensembles. This is a huge commitment which sees them form strong, close bonds due to the many hours they spend rehearsing together. The growth of this dynamic precinct of our school is a point of difference amongst other high schools; students are making informed decisions and choosing to come to Park Ridge to further their music study. All the available positions for the newly formed Music Excellence Class for 2014 have been filled. We will have 30 new talented Year 8 students joining the music ranks next year.

Macbeth

Our major production for the year has just been completed. It ran from the 16th – 19th October. The talented cast performed the difficult genre of Shakespearean Tragedy to the Year 10, 11 and 12 cohorts. This classic play was also performed on the Saturday night to the general public. The play was well received by all the students during the week of performances. Time spent on stage in front of a live audience is the richest of all learning experiences for Performing Arts Students. It is thanks to the dedicated teachers Mr Neil Davenport and Mrs Kylie Davenport, fantastic parental support and ongoing support of the Administration that opportunities like this exist for our students at Park Ridge.
Leadership Excursion

On Wednesday 24 October the Year 11 and 12 Senior Leadership Students boarded a coach bound for The Convention Centre at Southbank. Part of the leadership program at Park Ridge requires the students to complete a Certificate II in Live Production Theatre and Events. A tour of the technical aspects of the convention centre has helped to sign students off on sections of their certificate. The students were greeted by the Facilities, Production and Audio Visual managers of the complex, these three men shared their passion and expertise for their chosen fields as they lead the students through the giant complex which takes up an entire city block. This was a very valuable learning experience for the students. They enjoyed the day and represented the school well.

Senior Arts Sharing Night

Members of our general school community were treated to a fabulous night’s entertainment featuring some of our Senior Arts Students. This night was designed to allow the parents and friends to share in a relaxed informal atmosphere and be exposed to some of the quality assessment items that have been devised during the year. There was a broad selection of Arts represented on the night. The audience was entertained by dance, drama, music, film and some impressive visual art pieces designed by our talented students. The Arts Department at Park Ridge appreciates the support that it receives from the wider school community.

Tech News

ThinkPad L430 Notebook
The next generation of Technology is on its way. Our school has now deployed over 60 new devices to update our existing fleet. These new laptops provide a flexible, exciting learning environment for our students.

Internet speed increase...
Our school has now been upgraded to the latest technology. Our internet speed has increase from 4mbps to 20mbps. This means student access to high quality video and audio and other online resources has never been faster!

Dell Power Edge T420
Our new server has been delivered and we will be installing it over the next week. It forms the backbone of our recent Network upgrades that have increased our network speed and reliability.

More exciting things are in store, check back next time.

Head Lice in Schools

There may be some students in the school currently with head lice.

If your child has head lice it is likely that other students will have them too.

Head lice are a very common problem in schools and institutions everywhere in the world.
While they are not a threat to health and do not transmit disease, they do cause a lot of distress and anxiety for families and schools.

Anyone can get head lice. They affect all socioeconomic groups and are not a sign of poor hygiene.

They have no preference for ethnic background, hair colour, hair type or age.

All parents and carers should check their children and other family members for head lice regularly as early detection decreases treatment time and helps break the breeding cycle.

The most effective way to detect head lice is by using the hair conditioner and combing method.

*Gabrielle Nolan*
*Youth Health Nurse*

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**BECOME A VOLUNTEER HOST**
**FAMILY – IT’S FUN!**

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting you to experience another culture in your own home by becoming a volunteer host family to an international student arriving in January 2014. Students from Switzerland, Finland, the Netherlands, Brazil, Italy, Japan and Thailand are looking forward to experiencing life in Australia, making new friends and becoming a member of an Australian family.

"Another excellent experience for the family! We learned a lot about Italy. Virginia was very helpful and cooperative at home. It is a wonderful thing to give people new experience. Virginia had never eaten mango, been to ten pin bowling or held a crocodile or koala. This is the part I enjoy most about the exchange experience. Virginia will never forget Australia."

- Susan and Anthony, host parents of Virginia (Italy)

*It’s easier than you think and a fantastic experience for all!*

Find out more!

To help you make this important decision, contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family.

*Sylvia Kelly - Manager Inbound Exchange Programs*

Phone: 1300 884 733 Email: wep@wep.org.au Online: www.wep.org.au