2 May 2014

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

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<td>District Cross Country</td>
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<td>13 &amp; 14 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Testing</td>
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<td>NAPLAN Catch-up</td>
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<td>P&amp;C Meeting – 6:00pm</td>
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<td>Brisbane Rock Eisteddfod</td>
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From the Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

The second term has certainly started with a flurry, compounded by the return to school with the first week ‘book-ended’ by public holidays. While we hope that everyone has enjoyed the unique opportunity of back to back long weekends, the three day week has not helped with our return to a particularly busy schedule. We welcome back all our students and staff and look forward to a very productive term.

The school community paid its respects to the efforts, deeds and sacrifices of our past and present personnel from the armed services with our annual ANZAC Day Ceremony held at school last week. The service was a credit to all involved and the students in attendance were very attentive and respectful. I pass on my sincere vote of thanks to the visiting dignitaries, to the cadets who formed the catafalque party and to all the staff and students involved in the service.

On the same afternoon, the Physical Education staff ran the annual school cross country, with a high level of participation from the large number of students in attendance. There were some outstanding performances recorded on the day and close to one hundred students will be representing the school at the district cross country on Tuesday 6 May 2014. We wish these competitors every success on the day.

As you are no doubt aware, from the start of the 2015 school year, Year 7 students will move from the primary schools across to the secondary schools and become part of the three year Junior Secondary cohort of the school. Years 10 to 12 will form the Senior Secondary sector. Last week we welcomed a large number of student leaders from Years 6 and 7 in our feeder schools to a Leadership Day, hosted by our senior leaders and associated staff members. The day provided opportunities for our future students to experience a day in the life of our secondary school and to exchange thoughts and ideas around their move into the secondary campus. The day proved to be an invaluable experience for both students and staff involved and provided an early stepping stone for our new students into the 2015 Junior Secondary community.

Our Year 9 students will be involved in the National Assessment Programme – Literacy and Numeracy during Week 4 of this term. This nation-wide set of tests compares students’ levels of Literacy and Numeracy across all states of Australia. We encourage all our students who will be sitting these tests to prepare well and to come with a commitment to do their absolute best over the two days of testing.

Welcome back to school for Term 2. This is an important period of the academic year and we look forward to working with all our students to achieve the very best in their learning opportunities.

Tony Hillas
Acting Principal

ANZAC Day Ceremony
Year 10 Parents Information Night

Invitation

Date: Tuesday 13 May 2014
Time: 6.30 – 8.00pm
Location: Resource Centre

You are invited to an information night where you will have the opportunity to:

- Find out about senior expectations
- Investigate what senior subjects would be most suitable for your child as they move into the senior school
- Explore options of school based traineeships and apprenticeships

This is an opportunity to guide our students as they move towards the senior phase of learning. We look forward to meeting our parents and students to explore senior options.

It is imperative that you come along, if you have a child selecting subjects for the senior school for 2015.

Ms Sharon Amos - Deputy Principal and Mrs Gena Shvetsoff – HOD Senior Schooling

Important update about the Schoolkids Bonus

The Australian Government has committed to abolishing the Schoolkids Bonus.

Parliament did not pass the Minerals Resource Rent Tax Repeal and Other Measures Bill 2013, which included legislation to abolish the Schoolkids Bonus.

Payment of the July 2014 instalment of the Schoolkids Bonus will depend on whether or not legislation to abolish the payment is re-introduced and passed by Parliament by 30 June 2014.

Any updates and news will be published on the Department of Social Services website and the Australian Families Facebook page.

The Arts

During the last week of Term 1, we had our annual talent quest and once again it was a huge success that showcased some of the talent we have here at Park Ridge SHS.

The Arts Department would like to thank the general community for the encouraging support that was given to the talented students. All this year’s contestants did a fabulous job. For some students it was their first time on stage, others were clearly seasoned professionals that gave a polished performance.

Our winning item for the night was Luke Allport and Aaron Jordin who played an original piece composed on guitar. Second was David Ilallo-Tonata who wowed the audience with his silky smooth voice. Third was Ilisha Bou who performed a contemporary dance piece. Highly commended was a young magician named Aiden Schofield.

All the profits from this night were put towards the 2014 musical “43rd STREET”. The musical is set to go on Friday 20 June with matinee and evening performances to follow on Saturday 21 June. Tickets will be on sale in the next few weeks at $8 per person and $25 for a family of four.

The Arts Department wish to acknowledge and thank their sponsors for their support of the musical “43rd STREET”.

Rob Emblen – HOD the Arts

AFL News

Round one of the Brisbane Lions Cup has started with a bang for the AFL Academy in 2014. It was a wonderful day with our junior boys, open girls and open boy’s squads all playing against rival school Victoria Point SHS. Competition for a spot on each team was at an all-time high and every student should be proud of their efforts on the day. For the junior boys it was their first time playing as a team and for some their first ever Academy game! Well-led by Aidan Duncan the team played hard all day and came away with a two-goal victory!

Next up was the open girl’s squad who were using their game as match practice for the upcoming Youth Girl’s Cup regional round. It was a golden opportunity to learn and develop their
game plan and all girls put in a tremendous effort, just going down by two points.

Finally the open boys’ team played to finish the day off. The squad of 30 had trained every day the previous week and they knew that they had prepared well. It was a close affair with the game being decided by a kick after the final siren and the boys coming away with an historic three-point victory. Special mention must go to Elijah Morgan and Kevin Davis. Both players defended well, never gave up in defence and created plenty of attack for the team further up the ground.

It was also a special day for the Academy with many of last year’s seniors returning to give speeches before the game and offer support and advice throughout the day, something that was particularly special to see.

Thank you to all staff and students for your support on the day, it was greatly appreciated.

The AFL Academy thanks their sponsors, Super IGA Regents Park and Bendigo Bank Westpoint Branch Browns Plains for their ongoing support.

Early Bird Special – Save $500

WEP is offering students in years 9 to 12* a $500 discount off the 2014/15 program fee towards a semester or year program to any of the following countries departing in January - March 2015: Brazil, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Norway, Thailand or the USA. Early Bird applications close 30 May ’14.

*Offer not available to year 12 students in Victoria or in conjunction with any other offer or scholarship.

Interested in Hosting an Exchange Student?

Travel from the comfort of your armchair by extending your family with an overseas host brother, sister, son or daughter. Hosting an exchange student is fun and can result in lifelong friendships. Our students are due to arrive in July for a semester and year and can’t wait to hear about the family they can call their own.

"Wonderful - joyous - heartfelt. An absolutely wonderful idea and so beneficial for all involved, from Family to school friends. We truly feel Enrico is another member of our family."
- Marie - host mother of Enrico (Italy)

Find Out More

- Request a FREE information pack online: www.wep.org.au
- Attend one of WEP’s information sessions or open days
- Visit WEP: Mon – Fri between 9am – 5pm
- Call 1300 884 733 / 03 9598 4733

Rugby League Players Wanted

Boys and Girls turning 11 or 12 this year - Birth Certificate or Passport Required
Contact Beverley on 0406 746 191

Beverley Welch, Secretary
Browns Plains Rugby League Football Club
0406 746 191

Derek Berry - Director of AFL

Community News

WEP Student Exchange – Memories and Skills for Life!

Choose from over 20 countries around the world to attend school, live with a welcoming host family and have the time of your life. Whether you wish to learn another language or choose English-speaking destinations like the USA, Canada or Ireland, students return with memories and skills for life.

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