Truancy is never ok

There is no doubt that truancy is a significant issue in schools across Australia, particularly in secondary schools and it has a detrimental effect on student outcomes. We know that every day counts and every lesson counts in students building a strong foundation for their future.

At Park Ridge we take the issue of attendance very seriously. Since 2011 we have employed an Attendance Officer, Ms Sam Cross, to track student attendance and make prompt contact with parents when issues arise. The school then ensures that appropriate consequences are put in place. This single measure has had an extremely positive effect. We have also established a mentoring program for students considered at risk and we work closely with various community agencies to support students and their families.

It is important that our whole community establish a zero tolerance of truancy.

Sometimes, students seen wandering the streets and gathering at shopping centres are not technically truanting. These students have their parent’s permission not to attend school on those particular days. This is another issue that all schools need to tackle. Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their young people attend school and they do their sons and daughters no favours by enabling high absenteeism. We will continue to work hard, in partnership with the police, local shopkeepers, and parents to address these issues.

An important message for parents and carers about bullying issues

In this time of heightened awareness of violence in schools, and in the wider community, I would like to reassure all parents and carers that our school takes a tough stance on bullying. We do not tolerate any form of violence or harassment.

Students are regularly reminded that bullying behaviour is unacceptable and will not be tolerated at this school. I ask that parents and carers take some time this week to speak with their children about bullying and to remind them of the importance of treating others with fairness, dignity and respect.

For our school to be able to deal effectively with bullying it is crucial that we be made aware of all instances of bullying. If your child is being bullied but is reluctant to report it, I urge parents...
to make contact with the school so that we discuss the ways we can help to address this issue.

Park Ridge SHS takes very seriously its responsibility to keep our students safe and to ensure our school community is free from bullying, harassment and violence.

I urge any parents and carers who are concerned about bullying to contact your student’s Year Coordinator or a member of the school administration team on Ph: 3380 4111.

Kind Regards
Valerie Hadgelias - PRINCIPAL

QLD Core Skills Test Information

Over the last few months our Year 12 students have been preparing for the QCS and the dates are right upon us. QCS this year will be held on Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 September 2014. All QCS Students have been issued with the special Instructions for the QCS earlier this week. All Year 12 students who are eligible for an OP must sit the test to retain their OP eligibility. A number of OP ineligible Year 12 students have also elected to sit the test.

Normal classes will be running for all Year 12 students NOT sitting the QCS on these 2 days.

The QCS Test will be conducted over 2 days, consisting of 4 papers. Each test requires specific equipment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday 2 September</th>
<th>Morning: Writing Task (2 hours) Afternoon: Multiple Choice I (1 hour 30 minutes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 3 September</td>
<td>Morning: Short Response (2 hours) Afternoon: Multiple Choice II (1 hour 30 minutes)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: An approved calculator—(essential equipment for MC and SR subtests) — is one that is hand-held, solar or battery-operated, noiseless, and not attached to a printer. It does not have a spell-checker, dictionary or translator functions.

Lunch for the Year 12 QCS students will be provided by Chaplaincy and the school both days of the QCS.

If your son or daughter is absent for all or part of the test and they want to retain their OP eligibility, they must provide a completed Absentee application for exemption (OP-eligible student) to the chief supervisor. The documentary evidence you provide must cover the day or days you were absent from the test.

All Year 11 students in the following form classes 11A, B, C, G and H will be sitting their first Prac QCS on Thursday 4 and Friday 5 September 2014 in the SAC straight after the Year 12s have done their 2 days of QCS testing. This experience is invaluable in preparing students for the real QCS in Year 12. Normal classes will run for all Year 11 students not involved in the Practice QCS.

Year 12 QCS and Year 11 Prac QCS Program for each day:

Students are required to stay in the SAC for the full period of each part of the QCS Test.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMES</th>
<th>QCS and Prac QCS Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.45am</td>
<td>Students assemble outside SAC – follow instructions given in ENT &amp; on assembly, check gear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.00am</td>
<td>Students enter SAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.05am</td>
<td>Start instructions for Writing Task / Short Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.20am</td>
<td>Start perusal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Start test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td>Finish test and collect papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.35am</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.15pm</td>
<td>Students assemble outside SAC - follow instructions given in ENT on assembly, check gear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.25pm</td>
<td>Students enter SAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Start instructions for MCQ I or MCQ II paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.40pm</td>
<td>Start perusal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.50pm</td>
<td>Start test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.20pm</td>
<td>Finish test and collection of papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.25pm</td>
<td>End of session activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Equipment List

You need to get this gear and get it organised so that you only bring in the equipment permitted for the scheduled test. You are not permitted to borrow or lend equipment during the test.

- **(am) Equipment for Writing Task**
  - Pens (black ink), Pencil, Sharpener, Eraser, Correcting fluid/tape, transparent container for equipment

- **(pm) Equipment for MCQ I and II test**
  - 2B pencils, sharpener, eraser (white gum), calculator (approved), fluorescent marker, transparent container for equipment

- **(am) Equipment for SRI**
  - **Essential:** pens (black ink), pencil, protractor, drawing compass, eraser, coloured pencils, ruler, calculator (approved), transparent container for equipment
  - **Optional:** fluorescent marker, set square, correcting fluid/tape, template, sharpener
Lunch – for the Yr 11 Prac QCS students
Reminder - one break only Order your lunch at tuckshop before school on the days of the practice QCS.

If you have any questions or concerns about the QCS test you can contact me on 3380 4111.

Gena Shvetsoff, HOD of Senior Schooling

Japanese visitors

Last week, we had the pleasure of welcoming a group of Japanese students and their teacher to our school. Since the first day that they arrived until the farewell, the Japanese students had the opportunity to experience our school environment, our culture and our community. They had a wonderful time and enjoyed the exciting activities that were planned for them.

Some of the activities involved cooking, dancing, playing AFL, dodge ball and other fun-filled activities. A special thank you to the teachers who included our visitors in their classes and we especially felt a strong sense of pride when our school students served as outstanding leaders and buddies to their Japanese friends. Both our students and the Japanese students successfully demonstrated their ability to work together and learn from each other.

As part of the final celebrations, there were performances, farewell speeches and an exchange of certificates, gifts and photos. It was an emotional farewell for the students who over the week formed very strong friendships with each other. Our school students were excellent role models and they have once again raised the bar of excellence.

Congratulations to the following students for the effort they demonstrated on the day.
Year 10 - Taylor Meenwald
Year 11 - Jack Van Veldhuizen, Joshua Lai, Hunder Chen, Sang Nguyen, James Campbell
Year 12 - Vivek Sahi

Joseph Wise - Senior Maths Teacher

Griffith Business School Outreach Program

Year 12 students, Iisha Bou, Mitchell Brown and Katelyn Moore took advantage of the opportunity to participate in the Griffith Business School Outreach Program. This program enabled the students to experience university study while still at school. Students attended the Nathan Campus of Griffith University for three days attending lectures and participating in tutorials. Iisha and Mitchell studied Business Management and Katelyn studied Tourism, Hotel, Event and Sport Management. Students completed assessment each day and we are proud to announce that all three achieved a distinction. Iisha, Mitchell and Katelyn are to be congratulated for their efforts. As a result of their achievement these students have guaranteed entry into Griffith University to study any Business Degree Course.

The Business Education Department encourages students to participate in this program as we feel that it is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to study Business at university. Requirements for acceptance into the program are a C in Authority English and a B in any Business Authority subject at the end of Year 11 as well as a recommendation from their Business teacher and Mrs Hadgelias. We encourage parents/ guardians to consider this opportunity and discuss it with their children.

Business Education Teachers

The Engineering Workshop

On Wednesday 6 August, some of our Year 10, 11 and 12 students attended three engineering workshops at the University of Queensland (hosted by Engineers Australia). The workshops were a robotics workshop, a civil engineering workshop, and an electrical engineering workshop. Each workshop had an engineering challenge the students needed to complete, providing a glimpse into some of the real world problems faced by each discipline. The electrical engineering workshop required the students to optimise the electrical network to deliver lighting to a model town. The civil engineering workshop required the students to work with a budget to design a water filter for a third world country, and the robotics workshop challenged students to program a robot with an algorithm to solve a maze.

Agus Timotius – Indonesian teacher
Mooting Competition

On Thursday 31 July 2014, three Legal Studies students, Jess Russell, Holly Smith and Zowie Mallory accompanied by Mrs Savtill, travelled to Beenleigh to compete in the “Beenleigh Courts Mooting Competition”.

As the defence team, we were involved in arguing a case which involved defending our client Philip Arnold Brophy who was charged with “Dangerous Driving Causing Grievous Bodily Harm” when he accidentally hit a woman (Carol Anne Stevens) when she proceeded to cross the pedestrian crossing.

We argued that our client drove carelessly and did not dangerously operate a motor vehicle. Prior to the court case being heard, we had to analyse witness statements to prepare our case. We then had to research relevant legislation by contacting a police officer to gain a legal perspective for the case. A key part of our preparations was our need to consider prosecution arguments and write cross- examination questions that would convince the Judge that the accident was the result of our client’s carelessness.

Zowie Mallory and Holly Smith were chosen to be the speakers for the day, with Holly cross-examining the victim Carol Anne Stevens and Zowie delivering our closing argument.

The team worked for weeks in order to prepare for the competition including taking time out of lunch breaks to get ready. The team’s noticeable hard work and dedication came to fulfilment when Zowie and Holly presented their roles with confidence. Holly’s cross-examination highlighted the pedestrian’s inattention to the road and her surroundings while Zowie’s closing address successfully convinced the courtroom that our client was not guilty of dangerous driving. The Judge asked challenging questions to clarify key issues and Zowie and myself had to think quickly in order to provide suitable responses.

The experience of presenting the case in court was valuable for all involved. We received positive feedback from Matthew Reeves who was judging the competition and we highly recommend anyone moving into Year 11 Legal Studies to take on the opportunity in the coming years.

Jess Russell – Year 11 Legal Studies student

Home Ec. News

Need for Feed update

We are already halfway through the Need for Feed program and the students involved are having a great time learning about healthy food and cooking new recipes. The focus topic this week was the breads and cereals food group with students learning what a serving size is and how many servings they should be eating in a day. Students also learnt how to read a food label, specifically the fats, sugars, fibre and salt information, to decide whether the food is a healthy option.

On the menu was spaghetti bolognaise with hidden vegetables and for dessert, French toast with berries. The spaghetti bolognaise was the favourite dish so far with the ham and vegetable pizza coming in a close second. Next week we are making stuffed potatoes and Thai chicken curry.

Virtual babies

Over the last 3 weeks, the year 12 Early Childhood class has had the opportunity to experience what it is like to care for a newborn baby. As part of their assignment, students have taken home virtual babies that cry, need to be fed, burped, rocked and have their nappies changed. The students receive a printout analysis that shows how well they performed and whether they missed a nappy change or if they didn’t support the baby’s head. All of the students have agreed that it has been a great experience and has given them a small insight into what it would be like to have a real baby.

Some of the student’s comments included:

“It was very fussy and wanted to be fed all the time.” Hanna

“It was a good experience to see what being a mum would be like” Emily

“It was great that we had the opportunity to take home a virtual baby so we got an idea of what it would be like to have a real baby.” Meagan

Alyssa Norman and Ami-Lee Tully – Home Ec. Teachers

Health News
Scoliosis Detection, Year 9 Girls

Each year the Spine Society of Australia, with the support of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, encourage Secondary Schools to communicate to Year 9 girls and their families about early detection of scoliosis.

Their website has a brochure to download which describes the outward signs of scoliosis with recommendations for follow up if needed.

Early detection of ADOLESCENT IDIOPATHIC SCOLIOSIS results in better outcomes for the individual and screening is considered best done between the ages of 11-13 for all girls to coincide with the onset of the adolescent growth spurt. Your daughter may have received a brochure in Year 7.

The focus on Year 9 girls is to detect those girls whose growth patterns differ or who did not have the opportunity in Year 7.

To date there is no evidence to suggest any benefit for the screening of boys or to screen for any other spinal abnormalities in either sex. The brochure can be downloaded from the following web address and has a more thorough explanation of the purpose of screening.

HOW TO CHECK YOUR DAUGHTER


FURTHER INFORMATION ON SCOLIOSIS

http://www.scoliosis-australia.org/scoliosis/about_scoliosis.html

Gabrielle Nolan - Youth Health Nurse

Explore Engineering Day at UQ – Year 11/12 girls

This offer is for any girls in Year 11 and 12 who are doing MAB and one of Physics or Chemistry, and who might be interested in exploring possible careers in Engineering. University of Qld (Women in Engineering - WE) is running a special day on Tuesday 16 September. The WE Explore Engineering Day is fun and interactive, and is designed to excite and inspire female students to consider a career in engineering. You can participate in hands-on workshops showcasing different engineering specialities. If you are interested, please see Guidance Officer Kris Roberts asap, as places are limited.

Community News

Free breast cancer screening at Beenleigh

Beenleigh Bowls & Recreation Club
14 July – 18 September 2014

Phone 13 20 50 now
to book your breastscreen appointment!

Women aged 50 to 74 years strongly encouraged to attend. Women 40 and over eligible for a free breastscreen.