From the Principal

Dear Parents/Careers

This term we have continued with our strong focus on the learning climate, with a very structured approach to attendance, dressing for the professional school day, eradicating unnecessary lateness to class and being prepared with all necessary tools to learn. I would like to thank the students, staff and families who have supported us in this journey; we are already seeing the benefits of this focus in our school community.

92-100% Attendance Every Day Counts: Every Lesson Counts.

Learning Together

Many of our students are doing amazing things in and out of class. Through Learning Together we celebrate the achievement of our students in terms of effort and behaviour. This year we have extended our rewards process and included postcards home to families. Every staffroom has a month in the year where they will focus on reporting on the good things happening in their classrooms by sending a positive postcard home to families and students, outlining the great things that student is doing at school. This is supported by our merit point system where students can get points for ‘doing the right thing’.

This Term:

- 20 students will receive Bronze Certificates for behaviour and Effort with the chance of being invited to a celebratory breakfast with their parents at the end of the term,
- 604 students have received a postcard home signed by the principal for attaining 20 merit points or more,
- 40 personalised post-cards have gone home from individual teachers to students to celebrate their success.

Our school is a good school and our students are doing great things!

Badge Ceremony

It was exciting on Friday to celebrate the Induction of our Office Bearers for 2015. With a team of 43 Senior Leaders, led by our school captaincy team, Jonah Martin, Jazmin Hardie, Sebastian Buciu and Samantha Taylor, the morning was a great success. It was also a time to welcome our Year 9 captains, Riley Greene, Dana McNeil, Hayden Forbes and Brianne Byer. It was certainly an emotional moment to see our captains have their badges pinned by parents and loved ones. The calibre of the leadership team for 2015 is exceptional. Every student is committed to a common philosophy that leadership is about service, hard work and a clear vision for how focused change can improve our community for the better.

Our Leaders are currently involved in rotational activities, at lunch time, in the Year 7 & 8 precinct. This provides them with an opportunity to build relationships and support our new students to transition comfortably into our school community. The leaders also design actions plans around specialty curriculum areas, our environment and fundraise for communities in need. Currently our leaders are developing an initiative to run homework clinics and provide peer support for identified learners.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cath Armstrong, Derek Berry, Rob Emblen and the Performing Arts team for their work in making the Badge Ceremony a memorable one. I would also like to thank David Ialio-Tonato who sang “I believe I can Fly”, providing an inspirational backdrop to the leaders commitment to leadership this year.

Representing Our School

I am very proud of the many opportunities that our students have taken to represent our school. On the weekend our Instrumental Music Students participated in a ‘Playathon’, where 110 musicians rehearsed day and night to raise money for the program and to build their repertoire in readiness for the competition season. The AFL Academy played Victoria Point on Tuesday and all three teams, Junior Boys, Open Girls and Open Boys, won their respective games. Our school has also been
treated to some culinary delights with the Home Economics Department developing our student’s business prowess through small business projects. Also we have currently 20 students involved in school based traineeships or apprenticeships. These students are developing excellent skills through work placements to ensure a strong pathway when they leave our school.

Parents and Citizen Association

The Parents and Citizen Association would like to thank Chris Finch for his many years of service at Park Ridge SHS in the role of President of the P&C. Chris has worked tirelessly to support both students and staff in this role, along with his many responsibilities in our Instrumental Music Program. Chris will be greatly missed by us all.

It is also a great pleasure to announce our new President of the P&C Mr Aaron Symes, who we know will do a great job for our school in the coming years.

The P&C will be meeting on Tuesday March 17 and we will be having a small function at the school before the P&C meeting. On behalf of the P&C I would like to welcome parents/guardians and community members to join with us to discuss the direction of our school in 2015.

Kind Regards
Sharon Amos
Principal

At Park Ridge SHS we celebrate learning, integrity and teamwork!

Positive Behaviour

Park Ridge SHS is proud to be a Positive Behaviour Learning school. The link between classroom behaviour and learning is very clear; better behaviour, better learning. It is with great pride that Park Ridge SHS counts itself amongst the hundreds of Queensland schools committed to Positive Behaviour Learning (PBL). PBL involves setting high expectations for behaviour, acknowledging those students who meet these high standards and correcting those students whose behaviour may, at times, fall short of those high expectations.

In all classes at Park Ridge SHS, clear expectations about what good, productive learning behaviour looks and sounds like are established. When a student meets those high standards consistently or when a genuine ‘turn-around’ with student behaviour has occurred, teachers have a number of ways of formally acknowledging this;

- Merit points – our ‘fast and frequent’ acknowledgement system that is linked to rewards when certain milestones are reached over the course of the year (see below)
- Positive note home – a note in the student organiser to take home outlining their positive behaviour
- Positive call home – a quick call home outlining their positive behaviour

- Post Card – Once a student reaches 20 merit points a post card is sent home. Post Cards will also be sent home by individual teachers for recognising one of our three key values “We are here to work together”, “We are here to learn” and “We are here to do what is right”

Ask your student this afternoon whether they have received any merit points so far this year. Let them know how proud you will be when the Postie delivers a positive postcard to your door. Keep your eye on future newsletters to see if your student has reached a special milestone. Together, we can support Park Ridge students to continue meeting the high standards of behaviour that the community demands of them.

Merit Award Recognition Process

White Level: 20 Points – Post Card Sent Home
Bronze Level: 50 Points – Bronze Certificate – Presented on year level assembly
Silver Level: 200 Points Silver Certificate – Presented on Whole School Assembly – Parents Invited
Gold Level: 400 Points Gold Certificate – Presented at a breakfast with parents and teachers who have been recognised for their efforts.

Mr Craig Mc Brian – Deputy Principal

Senior Students

Increasingly our senior students are obtaining their driver’s licence and have access to private vehicles to drive to and from school.

I provide the following information for clarification of school policy:

- Students, with parental authority, may drive private vehicles to and from school.
- The vehicles are to be parked in the Crest Rd car park. They may not be brought into the school grounds.
- Students are not to access vehicles in school hours without the approval of the Administration.
- Students are not to loiter in the car park on arrival or departure.
- BEFORE driving a private vehicle to and from school students must complete a student driver registration application form attached below or from either the Senior Student Handbook or Student Foyer in Administration. Return the completed form to Mrs Shvetsoff – HOD Senior Schooling in Resource Centre with the student’s driver’s licence.
- Students are NOT permitted to use their vehicles for transport to sport, excursions or other activities (including going to the shops) in school hours other than in exceptional circumstances authorised by the Administration.
- Student drivers are NOT permitted to carry student passengers in their vehicles without written permission from their parent and the parent of the
Thank you for your co-operation.

Gena Shvetsoff – HOD Senior Schooling

Year 10 Parent Information Night

Date: Tuesday 24 March 2015
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 2016.*

Mr Craig Mc Brian – Deputy Principal
Mrs Gena Shvetsoff – HOD Senior Schooling

News from the Science Department

Year 11 Biology students have had quite a bit of fun studying classification and taxonomy this term. This enables them to learn how living things are grouped according to their characteristics. Here, students are dissecting prawns to learn about the physical traits of crustaceans.

Ms Kylie Young – Senior Science/Horticulture Teacher

Year 12 Horticulture Excursion

This month the Year 12 Amenity Horticulture Certificate II class went to the Mount Cootha Botanic Gardens. The students examined the many different types and plants, both native and exotic. The Japanese gardens were a favourite along with the Bonsai house.

The tropical dome was popular with its heat loving plants, and
water lilies

We had lunch at the Roma Street station
Students also went to the Roma Street Parklands to study garden layout and design, and to conduct a visual inspection of the parklands.

Students cooled off in front of one of the many water features at the Roma Street Parklands.

Thanks to Tanneia King and Tia Sirvio for their photography!

Ms Kylie Young – Senior Science/Horticulture Teacher

Community News

**YAP Workshops**
Open for ALL AGES
4 years to teenagers to adults
(A $10 deposit is recommended to hold place)
First Class is held on March 21st at 10am

COME AND SELL or COME AND BUY
CAR BOOT
SALE
Sat. March 21st.
8am – 12pm
at
31 Green Road, Park Ridge
For safety please use off street parking provided.
Enquiries
Phone: 3800 3663 or
email: lightacandle@bigpond.com
Morning tea or hot dogs provided.
An opportunity provided by Browns Plains Baptist Church

**Open Workshops**
Other Mediums All Ages
All Classes are held on March 21st at 10am

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