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3 November 2015

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

9 & 10 November	Instrumental Music Awards Evening (Junior & Senior)
16 November	Senior Formal
18 November	Sports Awards Presentation Evening
19 November	Annual Awards Presentation Evening
20 November	Year 12 Graduation Ceremony

## Message from the Principal...



### Focus on Reading

This year we have placed a very determined focus on the teaching of Literacy and in particular improving student reading. Teachers have worked in professional learning teams to deeply diagnose the reading needs of individual students and to collaboratively design strategies for improvement. It has been wonderful to see the progress of students across our junior secondary school as a result of this approach.

In our junior secondary classrooms we have designated reading corners that provide students with opportunities for independent reading time to improve their skills. DRTA, or Direct Reading Thinking Activity, is our whole-school reading and comprehension approach. This approach helps students to prepare for reading through a range of pre-reading activities and predictions about the text, deepening their connection with the text once they start to read.

We will be running workshops on DRTA for any parents who would like to know more about this approach or who would like to extend their students reading ability at home. Please contact the school if you would like to be involved in these workshops.

### Annual Awards Night

Our Annual Awards night is only three weeks away and we are preparing for a wonderful night where we can celebrate the successes of our students with their families. We will have a list of students who will be receiving awards posted in our canteen

this week. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call our office. We look forward to seeing all of our families there.

### Uniforms

There has been a minimal price increase in our school uniforms for 2016. I have attached the list below. Any parent who has a lay-by, could I please ask you to finalise that by the end of the year whilst the uniforms are still at the current pricing. It would also be a good opportunity for parents to re-stock before the price increase.

Thank you again for all your support.

**Sharon Amos – Acting Principal**

## Annual Awards Presentation Evening

Parents and Carers are invited to our 25th Annual Awards Presentation Evening.

When: **Thursday, 19 November 2015 at 6.30 pm**  
Where: **Student Activity Centre**

We look forward to you joining us this evening to celebrate your student's achievements and success.

## Anzac Memorial Garden

At the start of the year as a school community we wanted to do something special for the 100th Anniversary of Gallipoli. We wanted to create a permanent memorial where students, teachers and community members could pay their respects to soldiers who have represented our country in the war. As we know, a number of soldiers made the ultimate sacrifice by losing their life to protect our Country and the freedom we now enjoy today.

The Gallipoli Centenary Rose project was initiated by the Anzac Day Commemorative Committee with the aim of providing an enduring floral spectacle accessible to the community.

***This is our chance to give the people of Australia an opportunity to have a beautiful reminder of this memorial milestone in Australia's history, right in their very own gardens. Arthur Burke, President ADCC Qld Inc.***

The school purchased 17 **Gallipoli Centenary Roses** to plant in the garden, from **Treloar Roses** a company in Melbourne who donated money from the sale of each rose to the **ADCC (Anzac Day Commemoration Committee) Qld Inc.** to help

fund education to Australian school children and war veteran related projects.

Students from the horticulture class led by **Kylie Young** helped prepare the garden by carrying soil and compost and setting up an irrigation system suitable for roses. They then planted the roses when they arrived in July. A special thank you to **Kelly Kink** and the team at **Compost Direct at Jimboomba** who, once they found out we were constructing an ANZAC memorial garden kindly donated 10 metres of mushroom compost.

After the Roses were planted, horticulture students along with **Jeff Littlejohns (Maintenance)** and **Dave Mann (Groundsman)** kept water up to the garden. Jeff and Dave also sprayed and fertilised the roses to make sure they were well cared for.

In the meantime the school contacted ADCC Queensland who had developed a program which, in conjunction with local committees, to help support the establishment of a memorial plaque for schools. The plaque which measures approximately 300mm x 350mm was supplied by the ADCC as its contribution to the memorial garden.

### The Plaque reads:

*In memory of those who gave their lives in defence of our  
Country  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will  
remember them  
Their name liveth for evermore  
Dedicated 2015*

Once the school received the plaque, Jeff and Dave contacted **Rock around the Block of North Maclean**, to search for a suitable sandstone rock to fix the plaque to. **Rock around the Block** kindly subsidised the acquisition of a beautiful rock and provided free delivery to the school. The rock selected, was particularly chosen for its resemblance to the shape of Queensland. Jeff and Dave constructed a cement slab and stood the stone on the slab and affixed the plaque. Another cement box was constructed around the base to hold the rock in place.

**June Greenwood** from the Art department worked with students to paint some tiles with poppies on them to place around the box concrete holding the rock in place. The students did a wonderful job in presenting these tiles. Manual Arts teacher, **Paul Killip** with his construction class, removed the boxed frame around the memorial and then fixed the tiles to the bottom of the concrete. **Wendy Howard**, the Work Education Transition Officer and resident rose expert, has also been heavily involved in the project keeping a close eye on the roses and making sure they were well looked after and pruned to ensure maximum growth. All in all it has been a real team effort from students, teachers and the community to ensure the school has a war memorial that is unique and a fitting monument to the soldiers of war.

A memorial is important because it links the past to the present and enables people to remember and respect the sacrifice of those who died, fought, participated or were affected by war. Memorials represent a focal point for remembrance both individual and collective particularly on occasions such as ANZAC day and Remembrance Day. The sacrifices made by

so many for our freedom needs to be remembered and war memorials play a vital role in ensuring that continues. A huge thank you to everyone involved.



The ANZAC Memorial garden will be officially opened on Remembrance Day, 11 November 2015.

**Craig McBrien - Deputy Principal**

## An Invitation to all 2015 Year 9 and 10 students to attend The ConocoPhillips Science Experience

*Enjoy 3 or 4 days in which you will be introduced to some of the wonders of science and technology.*

- Perform** interesting experiments in a university laboratory.
- Hear** leaders in science, technology and engineering.
- Learn** about careers in science and technology.

Each program is designed to provide students who have an interest in science with an opportunity to engage in a wide range of fascinating science activities under the guidance of scientists who love their work.

The program takes place in over thirty-seven universities and tertiary institutions, within many different laboratories and lecture theatres. Participants perform experiments in the laboratories, meet and hear senior lecturers in the lecture theatres, attend site visits and walk around and experience what it is like to be on the campus of a university or tertiary institution. More than 63,000 students have taken this rare opportunity, up to date.

The program also provides information about further studies in science, technology and engineering. It highlights the wide range of careers that allow students to pursue their interest and abilities in the sciences.

One aspect of the programs often commented on by participants is the opportunity to meet and share ideas with students from different schools. Each program includes a BBQ or other social activity.

**Cost** is \$120 (inc GST) for 3 days and \$160 for 4 days of science activities for Year 9 and 10 students in 2015.

For more information see the website –

<http://www.scienceexperience.com.au/>

**Ross Bradford – HOD Science**

## It's Maths Moments Like These...

"It's Maths Moments Like These..." presenting simple, real world maths opportunities for you to support your child in improving their numeracy.

### Junior Secondary School Students

We all like to treat the family once in while by taking them out to dinner or afternoon tea. Next time you go out for an afterschool coffee, ask your child to work out the cost of the order.

Example: How much will it cost for a large milk shake for \$3.50, a coffee for \$3.95 and piece of cake for \$2.95? How much change will you get from \$20.00?

McDonald's are doing their bit to improve our children's numeracy skills. Their menus provide plenty of numeracy moments. Challenge your child to work out how much they would save buying a medium Big Mac meal compared to buying each item separately.

### Senior Secondary School Students

Help develop an appreciation for the cost of living. Give your child a \$20 budget each week to organise their own lunches at school. Help them design healthy and balanced meal plans. Provide guidance for ways of getting the most for money.

**Ian Clapham – Maths Teacher**

## The Arts

On Monday, 26 October students from the Instrumental Music Program travelled to the **Logan City Special School** to do some workshops and performances for the students. The students performed very well and quickly formed a bond with the primary students. It is activities like this that help to build relations between us and our feeder schools in the community. Some pictures below outline the workshops and the fun had by all on the day.



**Rob Emblem – HOD The Arts**

## Instrumental Music Evening

**WHAT:** Come and enjoy a wonderful night of musical entertainment performed by our award-winning Instrumental Music Program

**WHEN:** The full show will be held on two nights only

**Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 November starting at 7.00pm**

**WHERE:** Park Ridge SHS Performing Arts Hall, Lancewood St Park Ridge

**COST:** Entry is a gold coin donation

The ensembles that will be performing on the night are:

- Senior Concert Band (Michael Purtle)
- Junior Concert Band (Evan Jenkin)

- Junior Stage Band (Petah Ritson)
- Strings Ensemble (Frank Fodor)
- Pop Strings (Frank Fodor)

Throughout the night there will be raffles, tea, coffee, cakes and treats to purchase. Please feel free to come and support these budding musicians.

**Rob Emblem – HOD The Arts**

## Year 12 Employment Pathways

**If you have a child in Year 12, please take the time to read this!**

It's that time of the year where we are working hard to convince our Year 12 students that the big wide world is only four weeks away. At Park Ridge State High School, we pride ourselves on doing the best we can to have a student walk out of the front gate into a positive pathway. Unfortunately, we are being advised from all areas that **EMPLOYMENT IS TOUGH**.

We are very pleased and proud to say that all Year 12 school-based apprentices have been approved by their employer to convert to full time.

**However, how do we guide and assist our other Year 12 school leavers into employment?**

Some options are; further studies at University or TAFE, a traineeship or apprenticeship or a pre-employment programme. I have been talking to the students throughout the year, offering assistance with their career pathways, but I now require parents and carers help as well. Maxima and Logan City Council are looking for around 30 trainees for next year in areas such as; Business, IT, Local Government, Health and Environment, Civil Construction, Library and Information services.

For students who may want to go to university but are not sure, a traineeship with council is a great way to spend a Gap year. They can complete their traineeship and then go on to university the following year.

Logan City Council also loves to keep our students after they complete their traineeship as they move into different areas and opportunities that an employer such as the council offers.

It scares me when I hear students say "the guy down the road is going to give me a job" or "my sister's boyfriend, or my Dad's boss..." Over 15 years I have come to see that these very rarely come to anything.

So please talk to your children about their plans for the big world.

**Current vacancies for Year 12:**

Stefan – Hairdressing apprenticeship  
All Trades Queensland – Construction  
Logan City Council Traineeships in Business, Civil Construction, local Government, Health and Environment IT, Library and Resources

**Other vacancies;**

Acacia Ridge Truck co. - vehicle detailing traineeship

A worthwhile website for students to check each day is

<http://www.apprenticeshipcentral.com.au/>

Year 12 students who are looking for employment should have provided me with an Expression of Interest form and their current Resume. By doing this, I will be able to contact them even after they leave school should an employment opportunity come up. Please let me know if I can be of assistance to your Year 12 student or yourself in their future pathways.

**Wendy Howard – Work Education Transition Officer.**

## It's Senior Formal time!

Chloe Ryder has a school based apprenticeship in hairdressing with Stefan's, and has just been told she will go full-time at the end of the year. While celebrating this news with Chloe, I got roped into going formal shopping with her. After having three boys of my own, preparing a girl for her formal is a whole new experience! Thanks to Revolver at Springfield Lakes it has been very easy, exciting and so much fun to do this with one of my students. It is always great to share the positive and exciting stuff with our students after all their years of learning and hard work.

Congratulations Chloe Ryder, you got there!



**Wendy Howard – Work Education Transition Officer.**

## Sports Awards Presentation Evening 2015

Please join us in celebrating the achievements and success of our 2015 Sports Awards recipients.

This is the culminating event to recognise all students who have participated in interschool and representative sport at Park Ridge State High during the year.

**DATE: Wednesday 18 November 2015**

**TIME: 6:30 pm**

**VENUE: Park Ridge State High School  
Students Activity Centre**

*(Tickets can be obtained from the HPE/Sport department)*

The evening will include student performances, special guests, entertainment, sports video, special presentations and the announcement of our sports leaders for 2016. Light refreshments will be provided at the conclusion of the evening.

**Rob Brown – Acting HOD HPE/Sport**

## Celebrate Tuckshop Day – Friday 6 November

Who can imagine our schools without tuckshops? School tuckshops play an important role in school life and provide students with nutritious, tasty and affordable food. **Tuckshop Day on Friday 6 November** gives school communities the opportunity to show their appreciation for the work they do. Let our Tuckshop ladies know you appreciate the work they do.

## Community News



### Would you like to be a Host Family to an AFS exchange student arriving in February?

Are you ready to get an unforgettable experience, get to know another culture, make a lifetime friendship by adding a new member to your family from different country?

If your answer is YES, then log on to our website [www.afs.org.au/host](http://www.afs.org.au/host) and get to know our amazing students arriving in February.

We have students from a variety of different countries eagerly awaiting any kind of information regarding their future host families who will host them here in Australia for the length of their program.

If you believe you can be such host family for 5 or 11 months, then please contact the Hosting Coordinator at the AFS National Office: on 1300 131 736.

### Southern Stars Baseball Club

Junior players for this season needed particularly U12 and U14 players.

Offering discounts on membership for all players.  
Southern Stars Baseball Club - Come and Try

Wednesday from 5.30pm to 7.30pm  
Regency Dr, Regents Park  
Contact Karen 0421 773 768 or Kevin 0439 796 386