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19 November 2015

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

19 November	Annual Awards Presentation Evening
20 November	Year 12 Graduation Ceremony
23 – 27 November	Year 10 Assessment Week
25 – 27 November	Year 11 Block Exams
27 November	Last Day Year 10 & 11
10 December	Orientation Day Year 7 2016
11 December	Last Day of School

Message from the Principal....



It has been a very difficult week realising that we are saying goodbye to our Year 12 students. This group of young people have worked hard this year and excelled in so many areas. Academically some of our students have achieved results amongst

the best in the state, while other students have excelled in sports, the arts, practical areas and through specialised projects. Many students have taken opportunities to gain early entry into university or started traineeships and apprenticeships, securing strong pathways for themselves while still at school. Regardless of the pathway, we are very proud of their achievements and look forward to hearing about the next phase of their journey.

The Senior Formal hosted at Hope Island was a lovely opportunity for our graduating students, their families, friends and staff to relax together and reminisce. The girls looked beautiful in their formal gowns and the boys were very handsome in their suits. Thank you to all Susan Gilchrist, Year 12 Coordinator for her hard work in organising the night and to all the staff who attended.

The two Instrumental Music evenings were a great success and it was wonderful to listen to the bands and celebrate their high achievements. It was particularly exciting to see how far the strings ensemble, under the tutelage of Mr Fordor, has come and to see our new Year 7 and 8 students doing so well in

the Junior Band. Congratulations to the **Musician of the Year**, Jasmin Hardie, and the **Players Player**, Rhys Doolan.

The Sports Awards last night was also a terrific evening and I was staggered at the number of highly talented sports students who graced the stage demonstrating multiple skills in a range of sporting events. Congratulations to the **Senior Sportsman of the Year**, Jonah Martin, and the **Senior Sportswoman of the Year**, Camryn Newton-Smith. Congratulations must also go to our **Junior Sportspersons of the Year**, Mitchell Fitzpatrick and Zoe Edwards.

There is many staff who work tirelessly to ensure that we have a special space to celebrate the achievements of our students and I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication. Thank you also to our supportive parents and in particular our P&C and Instrumental Music support parents for their involvement in our school this year.

We have our Academic Award Ceremony tonight at 6:30pm and our Graduation on Friday. These two events will be another opportunity to celebrate, with our students, their achievements and successes this year. I look forward to seeing you all there.

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.

Queensland Science Contest

The Queensland Science Contest, currently in its 62nd year, is an opportunity for Queensland students from Prep to Year 12 to have their scientific work judged for awards and prizes. Park Ridge State High School Year 9 students Kirra Klane and Chloe Lai both received awards in this prestigious competition. These students received awards in the Environmental Action Project category. The focus of their Environmental Action Project was how to attract more frogs to the Park Ridge State High School wetlands (next to the school's oval).

Well done girls! You worked hard on your projects and deserve to be rewarded.

Pathways to pathology

Park Ridge State High School students were invited to participate in an exciting program that introduces high school students to careers in the field of pathology. Pathology is the science of the causes and effects of diseases. Pathologists work in specialised laboratories to conduct tests that allow them to examine samples of body tissue for diagnostic or forensic purposes.

This exciting day was held at the brand new Gold Coast University Hospital. Pathology staff from Queensland Health highlighted to Park Ridge State High School students Kiarra Kelley, Nikita Noon, Kimberly Taylor and Breanna Wilken the finer details of the role pathologists play within the health care system. Throughout the day the students participated in lectures as well as practical activities in areas such as blood typing, microbiology and chemistry.

Days like this are a great opportunity for students to gain an understanding of the requirements of particular industries and occupations before they commit to years of university study. All students took full advantage of the day and gained a lot from the experience.

Year 9 Science Show

On Thursday 5th November the Park Ridge State High School Year 9 students were treated to a visit by the Griffith University 'Science On The Go' team, Sid and Emma. The team presented a dynamic and engaging science show. Many of the students had the opportunity to participate in the experiment demonstrations presented by the team. Students were amazed at just how loud a bang you get when you put hydrogen and oxygen together in a balloon and light the balloon on fire. This fantastic feast of science was a great way to consolidate what the students learnt last term when they studied atoms and chemical reactions.

Ross Bradford – Head of Department - Science

Manual Arts

Congratulations to Year 12 student, Paddy Courtney on completing a labour of love for his dad, Craig.

Paddy has manufactured a fully functioning weather vane (a replica of his dad's truck) in his spare time and with very little assistance from his teachers.

The Manual Arts department is very proud of Paddy's achievement.

Siva Pillay – Teacher – Manual Arts



School-based Traineeships and Apprenticeships



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Wendy Howard – Work Education Transition Officer

SCHOOL NURSE

Schoolies is nearly upon us and many young people, most under 18, will be converging on beachside locations (Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Stradbroke Island) to let their hair down and celebrate the end of their schooling years. The experience of schoolies is different for everyone. For many it is a memorable experience for all the right reasons. For some those memories are not pleasant and may be associated with regret, embarrassment and guilt. Unfortunately for some teenagers and their families and friends, schoolies can mean being a victim of a crime, being arrested for illegal behaviour and may even mean death.

Part of the culture of schoolies in Australia is drinking alcohol - often binge drinking and/or drinking every day for the duration of schoolies. There will be a lot of pressure on parents from their son/daughter and possibly other parents to supply alcohol to their teenagers for reasons of cost as well as them not legally being able to get it themselves. An argument used by teenagers to sway their parents into allowing and supplying their alcohol for schoolies is that "It is better that you know how much we are having and what we are having".

What we know –

- When alcohol is consumed by young people, the risk of sexual assault (and the consequences from this including unwanted pregnancy and STIs as well as the emotional and psychological trauma), accidental injuries (falls), MVAs, and being a victim or perpetrator of violence, increases.

- The damage to the developing brain from alcohol is now widely recognised. The brain does not fully develop until early to mid 20s.
- It is illegal to supply alcohol to a person under the age of 18 unless it is in a private home and a responsible adult is supervising. **If you get caught providing alcohol to your underage child for consumption in an unsupervised environment, you will face penalties of up to \$9108.**

If you supply your teenager with alcohol you are putting them at risk. You are condoning their drinking and you are breaking the law.

Meet with other parents who your son/daughter is staying with to have a united stance on your position on alcohol use. If you do allow your son/daughter to drink ensure they are aware of risks, limits, drink spiking, and the law.

Schoolies puts all young people who attend at risk by the very nature of the event. An unfamiliar place, a lot of young people in one area, very low adult to teenager ratio, alcohol use, high drug use, and an infiltration of toolies.

While the opportunity to be with friends, taking responsibility for accommodation, feeding themselves, and negotiating transport etc are all great skills for young people and developmentally appropriate, please consider that the circumstances are unusual and a lot of maturity and common sense will be necessary.

- Develop a safety plan with them
- Be prepared to be rung at any hour of the day and night and communicate this to your son/daughter in case they are in trouble.
- Be prepared to pick them up early if they feel unsafe or are just not enjoying their time

Red Frogs volunteers will be on-hand to assist and can be contacted 24/7 during Schoolies on **1300 557 123.**

Check out the Queensland Government schoolies website for detailed information on safety plans, activities and events, contact numbers, identification bands, and volunteers.

<http://www.schoolies.qld.gov.au/schoolies/>

Hilary Wilson - School Based Youth Health Nurse