



## Park Ridge State High School Newsletter

14 - 30 Lancewood St  
Park Ridge QLD 4125  
Subscribe: <http://parkridgeshs.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe>

Email: [admin@parkridgeshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@parkridgeshs.eq.edu.au)  
Phone: 07 3380 4111  
Fax: 07 3380 4100



5 February 2016

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

10 February	Swimming Carnival
16 February	P&C Meeting 6.00pm
17 February	District Swimming Carnival
19 & 20 February	Play-a-thon Performing Arts
24 February	SCHOOL PHOTOS
25 February	SCHOOL PHOTOS Catch-up day

## Message from the Principal....



A very warm welcome back to all of our students and families for 2016. I trust that you had a very enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Our Vision is *"Learning for Success"* and our Mantra is *"Excellence in all we do!"* Our students have the potential to achieve at very high levels if we believe in them, provide them with strong structures, help them set goals and raise their expectations.

It was very exciting to welcome our new Year 7 cohort, one of the largest in 7 years. We look forward to getting to know them and integrating them into our Park Ridge family. On Friday there will be a sausage sizzle at 3:15pm to welcome our Year 7 families.

Uniform is looking good and already we are getting excellent reports about our high expectations from community and work

groups. It is essential that students follow the uniform code which is balanced and moderate in comparison to many schools. Demonstrating commitment to our enrolment agreement is a very important part of setting strong structures for successful learning. We thank you for your support in this area.

As a school we are focusing on being on time and ready for the school day, which includes high levels of attendance. Students must be in **attendance 92-100%** of the time to provide strong ongoing learning development. Arriving at school with all the tools necessary for the school day is imperative for success that day.

### Senior School

**100 % of our senior students obtained a Queensland Certificate of Education** on completion of Year 12 last year. This was as a result of the hard work of the students and many committed staff members. Our OP results, however, need to improve this year. We need to ensure that every student following an OP pathway is able to cope with the rigours of this choice and that we have the necessary support in place to help them achieve their set goals. As part of our support process we will be running targeted preparation workshops on a Wednesday afternoon and every OP student will receive a mentor to help track and support their progress. We would also like to invite the families of all OP students to a supper to provide them with vital information around this agenda.

Senior students must attend no less than 92% of the school year to attend our school formal and receive the school jersey. Students cannot do their best and attain the pathway they are seeking beyond the school environment unless they are actively engaged in the learning process. As a senior team we look forward to working with our families this year to strongly support the success of every senior student.

**Great state. Great opportunity.**



## Swimming Carnival

Our Park Ridge SHS Annual Swimming Carnival will take place on Wednesday February 10. This is a time for us to celebrate together the achievement of our talented swimmers. Students attending the carnival must have permission slips in no later than Monday February 8 and any student not attending the carnival must attend school on that day.

We are here to learn! Do what is right! And work together!

Thank you again for all your support

**Sharon Amos - Acting Principal**

## Learning Together

### 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.

**Craig McBrien – Acting Deputy Principal**

## Finance News

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new students and welcome back our returning students to Park Ridge State High School. I hope your student has an enjoyable learning experience at our school.

Payment for the 2016 Shared Resources Hiring scheme is now due. Prompt payment will ensure that your student will be able to access the resources and benefits of the scheme without delay. For those families who have accounts and fees outstanding from previous years, these fees are required to be paid in full before being permitted to participate in the scheme for 2016. If you are having financial difficulties, please contact the school administration office to request an appointment with the Business Services Manager for a payment plan to be negotiated. (Please note that payment plans can only be negotiated for the Shared Resources Hiring Scheme and not for AFL, Laptops programs, excursions and camps.)

**For students enrolled in the AFL academy your \$60.00 fee is due NOW! Non-payment may result in your student being transferred from these classes, so please make your payment as soon as possible.**

When making payments for excursions, camps, laptop programs etc, please make sure your student hands in their permission slip at the cash collection window.

Thank you to those families who have made prompt payment for their school fees and excursions.

**Cheryl Clegg - Business Services Manager**

## Senior Leadership Team

Hello! We're **Bec Durrant** and **Kacey Wood**, Year 12 Media Captains for 2016. We represent the Senior Leadership team and throughout the year, we will be writing about current events that happen in our school.

This year, Year 10 students were introduced to the leadership team, increasing our total to 70 members - the highest we've ever had. We are a diverse group who will work alongside the sport, art, music, media, performing arts and science departments. The senior leadership team also help organise school events, such as the swimming carnival which is coming up in less than a week. We have been working tirelessly to make sure this carnival will be the best one yet! Each year, the swimming carnival has had a good turn out and is one of the highlights of the year for students.

Additionally, the senior leadership team, along with our four school captains; **Taylor Meerwald, Catie Jordinson, Carly Burton and Lucas Coleman** assist in setting up and making

sure our school assemblies run smoothly. The first whole school assembly of the year was on Monday and it was a huge success, despite the sweltering conditions! Our administration team really set the standards for the year encouraging the student body to do well in their academic studies and extra-curricular activities. Each member of the leadership team arrived early before school and played a big role in contributing to running the assembly by working together.

Approaching fast is the Annual Leadership Camp. The senior leaders will come together for three days and work on their bonding skills through trust, confidence and leadership based activities and tasks. We are all looking forward to it as it will prepare us for our busy year ahead. Stay tuned for more upcoming leadership news!



2016 School Captains Josh Coleman, Carly Burton, Catie Jordinson and Taylor Meerwald

### **Bec and Kacey – Senior Leaders**

*Quote of the Day: “Some succeed because they are destined to. Most succeed because they are determined to.”*

## Junior Leadership Team

Welcome back to a new, exciting year for Park Ridge’s Junior Leadership team. Last year, we had four very capable, responsible and eager Year 9 leaders who represented the whole of the Junior School. This year, we wanted to expand on the talent and commitment of the young people who make up our school. So we have decided to expand out to include a team, which is made up of Year 8 and 9 students, who all went through a rigorous interview process with the Junior School HOD, Ms Karina Cole, and the Junior School Deputy, Mr Stuart Douglas, as well as myself:

Our **Junior Captains** are: **Abigail Wilken** and **Nathan Colenso (Year 9)**. The rest of the leadership team are: **Samantha Spokes, Liam Mount, Brendan Haynes (Year 9), Kaiya Morehu, Caelan McDougall, Reuben Bykersma, Ana Baptista, Jesse Schofield, Hannah Ross, Bjorn Farbaek, Zoe Edwards, Belle Foote, Hayden Lewis and Nick Jordinson (Year 8)**.

This year, we have planned a program that will develop the students’ ideas and skills about what leadership is and what is needed to be great leaders who will make a difference to our

school community. Meeting each Wednesday morning before school starts, with myself and Ms Cole as mentors, the JS Leadership team will be working through theory lessons that will analyse what good leadership looks like, sounds like and feels like, as they work together to encourage others in the school to join them and get involved in the many exciting and relevant events that we will be concentrating on over the year. They will get the opportunity to be involved in planning, running and encouraging others to get behind many events such as Say No to Bullying Day, Day for Daniel, Youth Week, World Teacher Aide Day, school carnivals and other social events around the school. It is a big commitment, but we have every confidence that this young, enthusiastic and committed team will be the first JS team to ‘Make a Difference’ in our school community and beyond.

Once established, our new Year 7’s will be asked to nominate to be a part of the Junior Leadership Team in Term 2.



2016 Junior School Captains Nathan Colenso and Abigail Wilken

**Ros Munro - Year 9 Coordinator/JS Leadership Mentor**

## Laptop Programs

### Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

In 2016, Park Ridge State High School is transitioning to a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) model, for computers and other personal electronic devices, due to the cessation of the National Secondary Schools Computer Fund (NSSCF).

The BYOD scheme allows students to use an existing family owned device or purchase a new device of their choice that meets the minimum requirements of the school and use it to supplement their learning whilst at school. The minimum requirements can be found on Page 5 of the BYOD Charter document available through the hyperlink at the end of this article.

The program is available to all students for a cost of \$50. This levy provides students with access to the school network, filtered internet and printing services.

The aim of the program is to:

- Create a student centred environment that will allow students to develop understanding, creativity, problem-solving, collaboration and communication

across Key Learning Areas (KLA's) through the use of digital resources and 24/7 interaction.

- Create learners who are proficient in interacting with the digital world and can use the skills developed to promote learning across all subject areas and in the workplace
- Allow 24/7 learning access through the use of digital classrooms and content as well as collaboration between students inside and outside of the classroom through the use of applications such as EdStudio, Blackboard, OneNote, Outlook (email) and a host of internet sites

If you would like to participate in the Bring Your Own Device program, please read the documentation, complete the required forms (found on the last two pages of the Charter) and pay your levy at the Cash Collection Window.

### Take Home Laptop Program

This year, we also have a fleet of school-owned laptops available for hire to students at a cost of \$100 for the year. Participation in this program will allow students to use their hired laptop at school and at home.

If you wish to participate in this program, please read the NSSCF Charter Agreement. If you agree with the terms and conditions, please complete the NSSCF Charter Agreement Signature form and payment forms attached and pay your fees to the Cash Collection Window.

If you have any questions about laptops please call Ms. Susan Gilchrist on 3380 4125 or email [sgilc10@eq.edu.au](mailto:sgilc10@eq.edu.au) .

### Free Microsoft Office for EQ students

All state school students from Prep to Year 12 can now download multiple free copies of the Microsoft Office 2013 Suite to their personal home and mobile computer equipment.

Students who want the free software will need an active Managed Internet Service (MIS) login, school email account and password - those who don't have these should contact their school's MIS Administrator or class teacher. The administrator will help students activate their MIS login.

Currently, MS Office Suite 2013 is available for students' personal equipment only - not equipment which is part of a school network. It would be appropriate for students to use this free software if they are participating in BYOD.

The following information has been designed to support students with the download.

### Susan Gilchrist – A/HOD E-Learning

## The Arts

Park Ridge State High School is preparing for a very exciting year in Arts and Culture. We continue to expand our music program with new ensembles being introduced to the weekly rehearsal calendar. Our dance troupe will meet twice a week with its increased numbers as well. All these are designed to provide our students with every possible opportunity to develop, to perform and to excel.

Instrumental music rehearsals and tutorials have started. Please see below for the relevant band and time:

- Big Band – Tuesday afternoon (Mr Purtle)
- Stage Band - Tuesday afternoon (Mr Jenkin)
- Wind Symphony - Wednesday afternoon (Mr Purtle)
- String Ensemble – Wednesday afternoon (Mr Fordor)
- Concert Band - Thursday morning (Mr Jenkin)
- String Orchestra - Thursday afternoon (Mr Fordor)

Our new parents will be welcomed into the program with an **information evening on Monday 8 February at 7.00 pm** in the Performing Arts block and the junior music students will be enjoying a two day intensive workshop focusing on their chosen instruments. This workshop has been developed as a way of immersing the junior students into the program, enabling them to form bonds with the senior cohort and establishing some repertoire for them to perfect. **This play-a-thon will take place on Friday and Saturday 19 and 20 February.**

We wish to welcome two new teachers to “The Arts” precinct; we have **Simone Bentley**, a very experienced Visual Art teacher joining us, replacing the retiring **Liz Horrigan** and we have **Jessica Briggs** our new Dance and Drama teacher here to replace **Naomi Doherty** who has moved schools to be closer to home. Miss Briggs will be taking on the responsibility of running the dance troupe which will be rehearsing Wednesday's period 3 and 4 and also Thursday afternoons a little later in the term. Auditions are underway for the new troupe and lists will be posted soon.

I wish everyone a fantastic beginning to the school year and I hope to see great involvement from our students and families in Arts and Culture in 2016. If you have any queries at any time regarding your student and their involvement in the extra-curricular activities, please feel free to contact me: Rob Emblen on 3800 4112 or email [rembl1@eq.edu.au](mailto:rembl1@eq.edu.au) .



We look forward to showcasing the talent that we have at Park Ridge State High School and appreciate the fabulous support “The Arts” receives from the wider community.

### Rob Emblen - HOD The Arts

## A Great start to Year 7 Science

Year 7 Science students have had an educational and exciting start to the year, with the introduction of a unit focussing on separation techniques. T Block classrooms and B Block laboratories have been the scenes of productive activity, with rooms buzzing as eager students plan and conduct experiments with the aim to separate a variety of substances. Filtration, evaporation, decantation, sieving and magnetism are just some of the techniques students are being introduced to. Each lesson, new words are added to their vocabulary, including 'opaque', 'sediment' and 'suspended'. You might like to encourage your son or daughter to identify some separation techniques applied around the home or in our community (for example, a colander is used to separate pasta from the water it was boiled in). The mature and responsible approach students have taken when exploring this new topic is impressive, and we look forward to many interesting experiments to come. Well done Year Seven students!

**Mrs Jacobs**



*Alanna Schipp, Olivia Blowers, Amelia Robinson*



*Breanna Nolan, Jordi Machin-Smith, Alex Draper*

**Rena Jacobs – Science Teacher**

## Early Childhood Playgroup

An exciting new year is about to begin at **Playful Rascals**; Park Ridge's own Early Childhood Playgroup run right here at school. Our Year 12 Early Childhood students plan and run a range of fun activities for children, such as painting, crafts, story time, play dough, singing, dancing and much more!

**When:** Every Friday – Starting on February 12th from 9.10am to 11.30am

**Where:** Between E Block and H Block, back corner of the school

**Who:** All pre-school aged children, from 0 to 5 years

**Cost:** \$3 per week

**Phone 33804119 and ask for Ami Tully for more details.**

## Guidance Service 2016

It is with great enthusiasm we (Tara and Joy) leap into the new school year. We feel privileged to be part of the team here at PRSHS and to have the opportunity to work with you and your children, as they strive to attain their personal bests in all that they undertake. Our guidance service is shaped around three core service areas:

- (a) career information and guidance;
- (b) confidential personal counselling; and
- (c) study skills.

We understand the value of team work and partnerships; we especially recognise the significance and power of the parent-school partnership. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any concerns (or celebrations to share) regarding your child's education or wellbeing. We look forward to meeting and/or speaking with you in 2016.

**Best wishes for the year ahead,**

**Tara (every day)**

**Joy (Mondays and Wednesdays only)**

## Tips for Talking With Adolescents

(Adapted from: American Psychological Association. (2002). *Developing Adolescents: A reference for professionals*. Washington, DC: Author)

- Engage adolescents with nonthreatening questions. Choose one or two questions at a given time and ask questions that help them define their identities. For example, 'What do you like to do in your free time? What are your hopes for the future?' Listen non-judgmentally and listen more than you speak. This enables the adolescent to realize that you value his or her opinions, and thus to trust you more. (Forgatch, M., & Patterson, G., 1989).\*
- Ask open-ended questions, questions that require more than a yes or no response. This helps the adolescent think through ideas and options (Hill, C. E., & O'Brien, K. M., 1999).
- Avoid "why" questions, as they tend to put people on the defensive (Plutchik, R., 2000). Try to rephrase your questions to get at what the adolescent is thinking rather than the reason for something the adolescent has said or done. For example, instead of asking, "Why did you say that?" say instead: "You seemed to be really trying to get across a point when you did that. Can you tell me more about what you mean?"

- Match the adolescent's emotional state, unless it is hostile. If the adolescent seems enthusiastic or sad, let your responses reflect his or her mood. Reflecting helps a person feel understood (Forgatch, M., & Patterson, G., 1989).
- Casually model rational decision-making strategies. Discuss how you once arrived at a decision. Explain, for example, how you defined a problem, generated options, anticipated positive and negative consequences, made the decision, and evaluated the outcome. Adolescents have relatively short attention spans, so be brief, and choose a topic relevant to adolescents (Keating, D. P. (1990).
- Discuss ethical and moral problems that are in the news. Encourage the adolescent to think through the issues out loud. Without changing his or her point of view, wonder aloud about how others might differ in their perspective on the issue and what might influence these differences (Santilli, N. R., & Hudson, L. M., 1992).

**Tara Chelsea and Joy Ganter – Guidance Officers**

## Youth Health Nurse



I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself as I am new to the school. I am a Clinical Nurse working for Children's Health Queensland and I am based at the school on Mondays, Tuesdays and alternating Wednesday.

The Youth Health Nurse works with students, school staff and parents to:

1. Address concerns or problems about health & wellbeing
2. Help create a more supportive, healthy school environment
3. Connect people to other support services outside the school

I work with individuals and school members to identify and act on issues that affect both the individual and the health of the school community. This includes helping with curriculum, teaching and learning activities, supporting a school culture and environment that supports health and wellbeing and making referrals to community organisations as needed.

I can see young people in private to talk about - health concerns - relationships - sexual health - personal/ family issues - smoking, alcohol & other drug use - referral to other services - feeling unhappy/stressed – puberty. My office is in U08 and students can come and see me at any time. Parents are also most welcome to phone me or make an appointment with any concerns. There will also be regular health information articles in the school newsletters so look out for those.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming year.

**Tracey Thomson - School Based Youth Health Nurse**

## Community News

Logan City Community Cadets Bravo Company are recruiting!!! We are looking for recruits from age 11 to 18 years of age. We meet every Wednesday evening at the Jimboomba State School starting at 6pm. We are a non-profit organisation run by volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Nicola on 0439 015 215 for further information or e-mail us on [logancitycadetsbravo@yahoo.com](mailto:logancitycadetsbravo@yahoo.com). You can check out our website:



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

**Do you know someone with an intellectual disability or ASD who is 8 years or older and would enjoy participating in sports training and competition?**

Special Olympics provides regular sports training and competition for athletes (8 years and older) who have an intellectual disability and/or ASD. The Special Olympics Logan Allstars Club was established in 2013 and now has sports programs in aquatics, basketball, futsal and tenpin bowling in the Logan area. As membership grows, new sports will be added to the offerings. An information evening is being held for all interested athletes, coaches, families and carers on **Monday 15th February at 7pm at Logan Metro InSports (357 Browns Plains Rd, Crestmead)**. You will have the opportunity to learn more about Special Olympics and hear from current athletes and coaches. Please register your interest in attending the information evening by email at [info@soqlogan.com](mailto:info@soqlogan.com) or contact our club registrar, Joy Gavin on **3208 0174**.