

From the Principal Tim Farrell

7 October, 2009

I would like to extend a warm welcome to new students and families who have recently enrolled at our school. I know you will enjoy being part of the Virginia State School community. Term 4 is shaping up to be an exciting one in the lead up to our annual awards evening scheduled for later in the term.

Upcoming highlights include:

- instrumental music program recruitment,
- election of 2010 student leaders
- Twilight Music Concert,
- instrumental music tour
- preparatory year parent interviews,
- semester 2 report cards distributed,
- class performances,
- excursions,
- Count Us In 'Sing' day,
- 'project pantry' to help those in need,
- yr 7 graduation ceremony
- swimming carnival.
- construction of new multipurpose hall and resource centre

JACARANDA CLAIMS VICTORY

Under the stewardship of Captains Ryan Honor and Taryn Armour, Jacaranda House claimed victory at our recent Interhouse Cross Country carnival held at school. Congratulations to all students for maximum participation and enthusiasm and to our convenors Mrs Davidson and Mr Ross for ensuring a well organised carnival. Well done Jacaranda! The final scores were Jacaranda 378, Poinsettia 362, Wattle 329.

Birth certificates for children starting Prep Year in 2010

Parents of children born between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005 who are starting Prep in 2010 will need a birth certificate to enrol them in the Prep Year. The Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages is encouraging parents to apply for birth certificates now to avoid the new school year rush. To apply for a standard or commemorative birth certificate you can download an application form from www.justice.qld.gov.au/bdm or visit the registry at 110 George Street, Brisbane or your nearest courthouse.

Solar and Energy Efficiency in State Schools Program

This program supports the whole-of-government Strategic Energy Efficiency Policy for government buildings which has established mandatory energy reduction targets of 5% by 2010 and 20% by 2015. To date, our school has received a 4KW solar system (located on the library roof) and energy efficient T5 fluorescent tubes in every classroom. In the future we will also receive a data collection device that will capture the grid and solar energy data and present this information to an interactive website for viewing by students and teachers. This website will provide a range of interactive tools and information in relation to the captured data. For further information on this program visit www.education.qld.gov.au/facilities/solar/energy.html

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MONTH OF: October

7 th	IMSC Meeting 7.30pm
10 th	Working Bee at School
12 th -16 th	2010 Booklists sent home
17 th	Salisbury Cup @ Zillmere Swim Club
19 th	-Pupil Free Day -Prep 2010 Interviews begin
21 st	-1FR Science Show -7pm Swim Club Meeting
22 nd	11am Music Count us in 2.15pm Music Tour
28 th	Performance 7pm P&C Meeting
29 th	7pm Showcase Gala Dinner
30 th	-Interschool sport ends -Bandanna Day -2010 Book Orders Due

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FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Australian Schools English and Mathematics Competitions

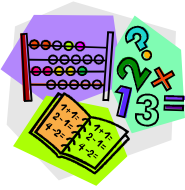
Last term, Years 3 to 7 students participated in the Australian English and mathematics Competitions run by the Educational Testing Centre at the University of New South Wales.



English:
Of the 26 students who participated 3 gained a Distinction [top 10% in the state] and 10 gained Credit Awards.

Congratulations to:
Distinction: Jack Hedley-Smith, Tia Istria and James Farrell

Credit: Kai Majoros, Marcylla Agli, Lucy Florence, Lizzy Bennett, Thomas Farrell, Darius Khan, Adam Petersen, Sydney Lee-Lo, Emily Magerison and James Semmens



Mathematics:
Of the 45 students who participated 7 gained a Distinction [top 10% in the state] and 18 gained Credit Awards.

Congratulations to:
Distinction: Kai Majoros, Emily Nisbett, Thomas Farrell, Brooke Hafner, Darius Khan, James Farrell and Leah Baker

Credit: Thomas Hawker, Corey Fry, Marcylla Agli, Jordan Albassit, Emma Cameron, Hamish Chappell, Daniel Feek, Lisa Fry, Amy Wang, Jack Hedley-Smith, Tia Istria, Adam Pettersen, Mitchell Rowley, Sanju Weerasuriya, Matt Branch, Emilio North, Tyla Williams and James Semmens

The students who received Distinctions and Credits will receive their certificates on assembly on Friday 9 October.

Lorelle Holcroft
Deputy Principal

ROAD SAFETY

Parents are asked to keep the manned pedestrian crossing in Jefferis Street clear of cars. Parents are unable to use the crossing til it is free of all cars.



BANDANNA DAY

Friday October 30 is Bandanna Day – a day to support the wonderful work of CanTeen and the Queensland Cancer Fund. We have ordered 350 bandannas which will be

on sale for \$3 each at the office from Monday 26th October.

Our school community has been supporting CanTeen for many years, and the money raised is used to support young people who have cancer, young people who have a brother, sister or parent who has cancer, and young people who have a brother, sister or parent who has died from cancer. The selection of bandannas available will be displayed on the office wall.

TERM 4 STUDENT INVOICE

Your child should be bringing home his/her Term 4 invoice next week. This invoice covers the quarterly payment of the resource scheme as well as any excursions or activities planned for your child's class for the term. Any

outstanding monies from previous terms will also be included on family statements. Please forward payment in a named envelope to your child's class teacher. Payment by cash, cheque, credit card or eftpos is accepted. The resource scheme covers items used by your child for their learning every day in the classroom.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Ira Eustace of year 7 competed in the ABC Printing Ten Pin Bowling Marathon from 19-20 September. Ira consistently bowled over his average throughout the tournament. Ira was recognised by one of the major sponsors for his sportsmanship and his positive attitude. At the end of the tournament he was given a new release top of the range bowling ball for his contribution to the tournament. Brisbane Taekwondo Centre recently held its quarterly grading and Jordan Albassit attained his next belt, Cho Dan Bo.

Jacaranda Captain, Taryn Armour will be competing over the next few days at the State Softball trials in Toowoomba. This is a great achievement and opportunity for Taryn. Well done Ira, Taryn and Jordan.

Rule Reminders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. After eating time, tidy your area and wait for the whistle to sound before forwarding off to play. 2. Place lunch boxes into your class basket. 3. Verandahs remain out of bounds during lunch breaks. 4. Place all rubbish into the bins provided. 5. Bikes and scooters must be walked while in school grounds and locked in the bike racks. 6. Students arriving before 8:30am must either report to Before School Care or remain quietly seated under F Block until the bell sounds at 8:30am. 7. Use toilets appropriately. No playing in toilets. 8. Remain seated in Pick Up duty area. Enter and exit vehicles from left hand side.
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2010 BOOKLISTS

Booklist orders for 2010 resources will be sent home during the week 12-16 October. The order forms and money have to be back at the school no later than 30 October 2009.

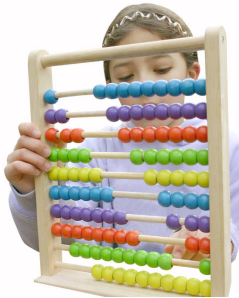
BRAMBLE BAY SHIRTS

Bramble Bay shirts are now available for sale for students who represented Bramble Bay in 2009. The shirts are available from Bracken Ridge State School. Please place orders on Tuesday 13 October between 3.15pm to 4.30pm. The cost is \$30.

WORKING BEE – MATHS RESOURCES

SATURDAY 10TH OCTOBER 8:30AM – 1:00PM

A working bee is being undertaken this Saturday to reorganise the school's maths equipment. We are seeking any parent help to assist with sorting and cleaning these learning resources. The working bee will be held in the Assembly Room. Any amount of time that you are able to give would be appreciated. As assist with catering, please leave your name at the school office by dropping in, sending a note with your child or calling the office.



ABSENCES

Please remember to record the reason for you child's absence when calling the absence line. If no reason is recorded the absence is noted as unexplained.

HUMAN SWINE INFLUENZA - Pandemic H1N1 2009



Dear Parent, Carer or Staff Member

As you may be aware, a national program to vaccinate Australians to protect against Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Influenza Virus, (Human Swine Flu) commenced on 30 September 2009.

The initial phase of the vaccination program is aimed at protecting people who are most vulnerable to severe complications from infection with the pandemic influenza virus. The Commonwealth, in conjunction with States and Territories, are strongly recommending vaccination for people aged 10 years and over who are in one of the following groups:

- individuals with chronic disease (eg. heart, liver, renal, lung, kidney, neurological disease)
- individuals with respiratory disease (eg. asthma)
- individuals with immunosuppression
- obese individuals with a body mass index (BMI) of over 35
- children over the age of 10 attending special schools (including students with special needs in regular school settings)
- Indigenous Australians
- pregnant women
- parents and carers of children aged between 0 – 6 months
- healthcare workers.

At this stage vaccination is only available to people 10 years of age and over. It is anticipated that the data from the clinical trials for children will be available late October. Vaccination for children will commence some time after this.

Although the focus is on protecting those in the vulnerable groups, the vaccine is available to all those wanting to protect themselves in the community. Should you have any questions or concerns about your or your child's eligibility for the vaccination, please contact your General Practitioner (GP).

I urge you to visit your local GP to receive a free vaccination to help protect against this disease. The cost of the vaccine is free, although GP's may charge a consultation fee. General Practice Queensland (GPQ) has advised that most GPs will bulk bill for consultations solely for the purpose of pandemic vaccination.

If you require further information on how to obtain the vaccine, please contact your local GP or visit the Queensland Health vaccination website <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/swineflu/html/vacc.asp>

Yours sincerely
Dr Christine Selvey - Chief Health Officer, Queensland Health

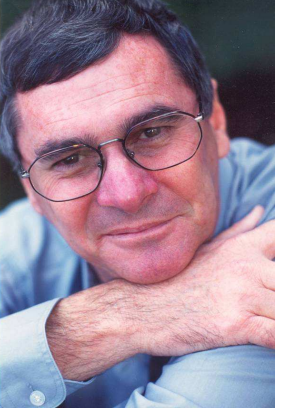
REMINDER

Please use "Stuck On You" for your labelling needs and help us raise funds to improve resources at our school. Simply place orders at: www.stuckonyou.biz (mention Virginia State School) or phone 1800 645 849 (mention Virginia State School).

Brochures are available at the office and uniform shop or check out products online at: www.stuckonyou.biz . Any queries contact Leanne on 0447710726.

SEMINAR

Ian Lillico (father of three sons) is the former Principal of City Beach High School in WA (recently retired) and international consultant in boys' education and middle schooling. He has done action research in gender throughout Australia and New Zealand from 1992 and in the Northern Hemisphere during his Churchill Fellowship in 2000. He has been with the Education Department of WA for 31 years and has held the positions of Teacher, Head of Department, Deputy Principal and Principal.



In 2004 Ian was made a National Fellow of The Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL). In 2005 Ian was appointed as The ACEL National Travelling Scholar for 2005 / 2006. He is a *critical friend* to the NSW Department of Education and Training in the areas of Gender Equity, Middle Schooling and Boys' Education. He is a member of the keynote panel of presenters for the Australasian Boys Education Network (ABEN) and a consultant for the Federal Government's "Success for Boys" program. His website is www.boysforward.com

Supporting our Sons

This parent seminar explores the growing up process for boys, the challenges that parents face and the different learning styles of boys and girls. Ian discusses the influence of peers and explores strategies to combat peer pressure and bullying and to develop resilience in teenagers. Ways of talking to boys and having them deal with their feelings is a highlight of the seminar. It will be engaging and light-hearted, humorous and practical. It is a must for parents, community members and teachers who really want to understand boys and help them engage better at home and at school. The needs of girls are also discussed and every aspect of the seminar would be just as applicable to daughters. Cost to enter is \$5 per family. All monies raised will go towards a World Vision child sponsored by the school. The evening will be held in the Craigslea High School hall on Monday evening, 19th October and will go from 7 to 9 PM. Most teachers don't go a day [365] without their minds going to one of their students and their needs. We need YOU at the school on that Monday to let us know that we are all on the same page when it comes to educating YOUR children.

MENTAL HEALTH WEEK ENCOURAGES US TO 'BE ACTIVE, GET CONNECTED, STAY INVOLVED'

Mental Health Week is on from 4 to 10 October and this year's theme, 'Be Active, Get Connected, Stay Involved', reminds us of the importance of looking after ourselves, both mentally and physically. When our mental health is poor, it can affect our entire body and play a role in the development of other health issues. This is an opportunity for all of us to increase our awareness and understanding of mental health issues within our workplaces and communities.



I encourage you to visit the Mental Health Association (Qld) website, http://www.mentalhealth.org.au/About_MHAQ.html, for more information on Mental Health Week activities throughout Queensland.