

The Informer



From the Principal Tim Farrell

1st April, 2009

EDITION 3

Music Trivia Night

If you are looking for a fantastic night's entertainment this Friday May 1, don't miss the annual Music Trivia Night, starting at 7pm in our assembly room. Mrs McLennan and her team have been busily preparing for what promises to be a night of laughs and light entertainment for all members of the family (10yrs and up). Register your team by Thursday 30 April (by visiting our office staff) and help our school raise funds for the costs associated with the annual Music Tour which will be held from 3-5 November at Somerset Dam. We look forward to seeing you this Friday evening!

P&C Association Mother's Day Stall

I encourage you to support our Mother's Day Stall which will operate from the parent room (alongside the assembly room) from Wednesday 6 – Friday 8 May. Students will be provided with some class time on Wednesday 6 April to make their purchases. If you are able to assist our convenors in any way (eg donating sale items or baking food; helping out at the stall), please contact our office staff. Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers on Sunday May 10.

Virginia Swim Club Presentation/Trophy Night

This special night will be held at the North's Devils Leagues Club on May 16. For ticket purchases or further inquiries, please contact club president, Russell Armour at vsssc@optusnet.com.au

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

On 12, 13 and 14 May students from across the country will take part in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The tests will see all Queensland students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 sitting the same tests as their interstate counterparts. The test results will provide useful information about how all state and non-state school students are performing in literacy and numeracy at their year level in comparison to their peers across Australia. The literacy assessment will focus on areas of reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar while the numeracy testing will cover measurement, chance and data, space, working mathematically, algebra function and pattern. Results from the tests will be used for reports to parents, school reporting to their communities, and reporting by states and territories to form a national overview. The tests will also help teachers identify key areas for learning during the rest of the school year. While it's important that students perform at their best, it's also important that students are not unduly stressed. Here are some general tips for beating test nerves:

- Get at least eight hours sleep
- Take time out from test preparation to do something relaxing and enjoyable
- Exercise and eat healthy meals regularly
- Develop a time management plan for studying
- Ask an older sibling or friend who has been through tests to give some tips on how to study
- If feeling anxious, take a few moments to breathe deeply.

April	
29 th	- 7.30pm IMSC meeting
May	
1 st	- Sport Starts - 7.00pm Music Trivia Night
4 th	- Public Holiday Labour Day
6 th – 8 th	- Mothers Day Stall
12 th – 14 th	- NAPLAN Tests
13 th	- 7pm IMSC
15 th	- walk Safely to school day
16 th	- VSSSC Trophy Night
18 th	- 6/7R excursion
19 th – 20 th	Creative Generation rehearsal
20 th	- BBay district Cross-country -7pm VSSSC meeting
21 st	- Yr 1 Safe City
24 th	- creative Generation Rehearsal

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Take the Premier's Reading Challenge

It's that time of the year again when students are encouraged to pick up a book and be part of the Premier's Reading Challenge. The Premier has challenged all young Queenslanders to read 20 books in 15 weeks and discover the joys of reading.

The challenge extends to all Queensland students from Prep to Year 7 and runs from May 11 until 21 August. The Premier's program aims to improve literacy, cultivate a passion for literature and encourage children to read for pleasure and learning. It's not a competition but students who meet the challenge will receive a certificate signed by the Premier. All students from our school have been registered for the challenge. Further information about the challenge will be distributed to students shortly.

Staffing

Mr Wayne Moore has been appointed acting Deputy Principal for term 2 while Mrs Martin remains as acting Principal, Stafford SS. We welcome Mr Moore to our school. Ms Emily Brady (6B) will take leave next week to get married. We wish her and husband Alex all the best on their wedding day next Sunday.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the Virginia State School Community as I will be filling the position of Deputy Principal for Term 2 whilst Mrs. Martin continues in her position of Acting Principal at Stafford State School. A brief summary of my teaching career would reveal my teaching background is in the area of Physical Education which has been punctuated with tenures at Sunshine Coast South District Office and as acting as Deputy Principal in a variety of schools (most recently Bracken Ridge State School). Since arriving last week I have had the pleasure of working with staff members during the student free day, visiting each classroom in order to introduce myself, attend the P&C Meeting, Anzac Ceremony and Friday Assembly as well as meet many parents and students out and about in the school grounds. I would like to say thank you to the Virginia State School community for welcoming me so warmly. I am very excited to be at Virginia State School and have very quickly come to appreciate the quality work and dedication displayed at the school by the students, staff and parents.

It is amazing visiting the classrooms at Virginia State School as each entry reveals exciting educational opportunities for our students. On any given day the children can be involved in such activities as cooking ANZAC biscuits, operating a hospital, setting up campsites and museums, discovering amazing and bizarre facts about Antarctica. Whilst all of these activities sound like fun (and they are) the important part is they allow our children to learn, challenge existing ideas and apply their knowledge in real life situations, in other words they are immersed in their education-----learning by doing!

Below is an outline of the units being covered throughout Term 2 which was submitted to the P&C last Wednesday night.

I can not wait to see the associated activities and learnings unfold throughout the term and look forward to a very exciting and engaging Term 2.

So once again thank you for your warm welcome and support and I look forward to working with you throughout my stay at Virginia State School.

Wayne Moore

Deputy Principal

Traffic Problems

Once again we ask drivers to consider the safety of our school community and neighbourhood when dropping off or picking up students. Please:

- observe the No Parking/No Standing signs in Jefferis Street & Brickyard Road
- DO NOT PARK across our neighbours' driveways
- DO NOT PARK in the carpark of our neighbouring shops (This is for their customers, not your convenience)
- Cross with your child **at the lights or the Lollipop Lady**. Set a good example for your child.
- DO NOT DRIVE INTO SCHOOL GROUNDS AT ANY TIME. We will be noting the registration of cars that persistently are seen in the grounds.
- Have children exit the car on the passenger side of the car to avoid traffic.

Term 2 Student Invoices

Check your child's bag this week, as the Term 2 student invoices will be sent home shortly. This invoice asks for payment of the Term Resource Scheme of \$15 per student, plus any other activities that are planned for your child's class in Term 2. For those families who have chosen to pay the annual amount, you will only receive an invoice for any excursion or activity that is organised. Students in Years 5 to 7 are reminded that to participate in interschool sport, payment towards the resource scheme must be received.



Our new prep building is progressing well. Children born between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2005 should be enrolling now. Please see the office for an enrolment package.

TUCKSHOP ROSTER

Monday	Wednesday	Friday
	29 April HELP NEEDED Eiko Nakamata	1 May Jo Dixon Debbie Lumsden Fleur Horsfall
4 May PUBLIC HOLIDAY	6 May Julie Melton Karen Phillips Suzanne Lister	8 May Kathy Eastlake Annabel Florence Debbie Lumsden Chris C
11 May Leanne Ferris Louise Doherty HELP NEEDED	13 May Eiko Nakamata Kathy Eastlake Nora Hodges	15 May Helen Andrew Debbie Lumsden HELP NEEDED

CONGRATULATIONS

Jordan Albassit in year 5 has recently attained his next belt in Taekwondo. He is now a Red III – Step 1. Congratulations for you great effort and awesome result.

COMMUNITY LINK – RSL

You may have noticed some of our students proudly wearing RSL community link badges at our Anzac Day Service. Families are able to apply for a Community Link badge on behalf of a deceased veteran, for example a grandparent. Forms are available on the information desk in the office. This is a great way to help remember the effort our past veterans made for our country. More information can be found at www.rslqld.org, click on the “GET INVOLVED” box and then the link on the left of page.

MUSIC NEWS

What a lovely 2 weeks I have had back in my music room. All of the students have been very welcoming, although some of the preps are still a bit confused! We have a very busy few weeks ahead of us with some great activities planned.

Concert Band

All of our beginners IM students are joining concert band rehearsals for the first time this week. Our numbers will increase by an extra 35 along with some of our new adult players as well. Should be very exciting!!! Letters have been sent out to all beginner students. Please be prompt to rehearsals- 7.45am (no later!)

Music Trivia night

If you haven't booked your team for our music trivia night you are going to miss out on a totally enjoyable night. Friday 1 May- 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start. \$10 per player with teams of 6-8. Don't worry if you don't know a lot about music, our categories are very broad! Hurry up and get your entry into the office. Byo

nibbles, drinks. Best dressed table and team names are all the rage. The chief judge loves to be bribed, but be wary of the penalties!!! Students from 10 years old eligible to be on a team, but must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. Tea and coffee provided. Great raffles!

US Navy Band Visit

We have been asked by the US Navy Band if we would like them to come and perform at Virginia State School on Thursday 7 May. Of course we said a big YES! This group has visited us 3 times now and they have been fantastic. So far we know that they will be here sometime between 9.00 and 11.00am. We will display the set time on our school notice board as soon as we are notified. Concert is free and all are welcome.

MMM (Music Morning of Madness)

In conjunction with the Cancer Foundation's "Biggest Morning Tea", Virginia students present a musical morning of entertainment and fun. Every student, class, band and choir will be performing on Thursday 28 May from 9.00-11.00am. Bring all your relatives and friends to a very worthy cause and be entertained at the same time. Multiple raffles, tea, coffee, morning tea, cake stall and sausage sizzle are all available. I will be sending a letter home to parents regarding the class songs and some ideas for props and costumes. The plan is to try to use stuff from home- not buy it! We will also be asking for your support with donations for our multiple raffles and home baking for the morning tea and cake stall. So keep the date free, plan your donations and baking and keep your eye out for the parent information letter. We hope to see you all there.

Ryan Honor and Leah Baker with Lord Mayor Campbell Newman, at the Anzac Day Service at Anzac Square.



4 CHILDREN WANTED FOR FEATURE FILM - "THE TREE"

STARRING: French actress, Charlotte Gainsbourg

SHOOTING: SOUTHERN QLD

FROM: Beginning of AUGUST, 2009

PLEASE EMAIL A PHOTO (A SNAPSHOT IS FINE) WITH YOUR AGE, HEIGHT & CONTACT DETAILS

TO: general@barrettcasting.com.au OR CALL DANIELLE – 02 9699 1377.

CHARACTERS:

SIMONE: 7 – 10 year old Caucasian girl. Slim, tomboy, cheeky, independent and sensitive. TIM: 17 or

18 year old Caucasian boy. Impetuous, fit and energetic. LOU: 12-14 year old Caucasian boy.

Extremely intelligent, dreamy.

CHARLIE: 3-4 year old Caucasian boy. Angelic, with good sense of play.

PET (Parent Effectiveness Training)

PET helps you to have more peaceful and loving relationships, to communicate on a deeper level with your children and to resolve conflicts so nobody loses. It is also proven effective in helping older children change undesirable behaviours and overcome problems they're having at home or at school. On a personal level benefits include; less stress and anxiety, increased self confidence and assertiveness, increased self understanding and a better ability to deal with anger and strong emotions.

The PET course will be held at the Artrageous Community Arts Centre, 74 Loftus St, Deagon.

Course 6 Weeks Cost \$50 single plus \$30 for workbook \$75 double plus \$30 for workbook. Date Commencing 5th May -9th June. Trainer Francis Clark Qualified Instructor PET VETEC Govt accredited program. Phone Liz 38693369 or 0412444108 by 30th April