

The Informer



From the Principal Tim Farrell

18th. February, 2009

P&C Annual General Meeting and General Meeting – 25 February

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Parents and Citizens (P&C) Association will be held next Wednesday at 7pm in the staffroom. If you would like to join our dedicated team of parents who provide input into the strategic direction of our school, I invite you to our first meeting of the year. The General Meeting will follow at 7:30pm.

Bramble Bay Swimming Results

Congratulations to the following swimmers on their selection into the Bramble Bay District Swim Team – Angus Battersby (10yrs - 50m back, 50m fly, 200m IM); Joe Dale (10 yrs – 50m fly); Calen Melton (13yrs – 50m back, 50m free, 50m fly); Keeley Veale (11yrs – 200m IM); Sioban Wood (13yrs – 50m free). These swimmers will participate in the Metropolitan North Swim Trials on March 4. We wish them the best of Virginia luck.

Bushfire Appeal 2009

We have all been shocked and saddened by the scale of the Victorian Bushfire tragedy that has claimed so many lives and touched so many Australians. In response to this tragedy the Department of Education, Training and the Arts and the Queensland Teachers Union are supporting the participation of Queensland schools in a nation wide Free Dress Day this Friday 20 February. All students are encouraged to come along in 'free dress' this Friday and make a donation (of any size).

How you can help your child with writing

The best way to help your child with writing is to encourage them to use real occasions in family life to practise. This can include writing notes, messages, reminders or even helping to keep a family diary. Here are some other ways to help your child with their writing:

- if they are unsure of how to spell certain words, encourage them to have a go. Keep a dictionary close by and start a spelling list
- read your child's writing and discuss what you like about it. This makes writing fun and encourages children to keep writing
- if possible, give examples of your own writing to your child to show how it is important in your daily life and your work
- talk to your children about the types of writing they do at school and praise their efforts as well as correcting grammar or spelling
- encourage them to use a computer keyboard if there is one available
- encourage your child to make greeting cards for special times of the year and suggest they write their own verses or messages
- when reading their draft writing and commenting on what you like about it, remember not to change the writing. Leave all the creative decisions to the writer.

If you would like more information or tips about helping your child with their writing visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

2009 is the Year of Creativity

Following on from the success of last year's Year of Physical Activity, the Department of Education, Training and the Arts has declared 2009 the Year of Creativity (YOC). Creativity isn't just about the arts – it's an important skill we need across all subjects at school and of course, at home. So, in every Queensland school, it's time for parents, carers, staff and students to get creative in everything we do: writing, teaching, thinking, problem-solving, experimenting, drawing, acting, dancing, performing and learning. This year's YOC events and projects include the Ideas Festival, Creative Generation, the Queensland Academies' Creative Challenges and many exciting music, writing and photography competitions with fantastic prizes. YOC has also secured special Creative Ambassadors including neuroscientist Dr William Tan, chef Alastair McLeod, actor Paul Bishop, writer Sam Wagan Watson, reporter Melissa Downes, 'The Shak' presenters, actress Leah Purcell and author Rebecca Sparrow. To keep track of the YOC events and competitions throughout 2009, bookmark the Year of Creativity website www.yearofcreativity.deta.qld.gov.au/

EDITION 2

What's happening in the month of:

February

18th Swimming Club Meeting
19th Captains Inauguration 9.30am
20th Stage Band commences 7.45am
25th P&C AGM 7.00pm Staffroom
25th-27th Year 5 Camp
27th Summer sport commences

March

3rd-4th Creative Generation Rehearsals
12th Prep S & W Excursion
14th Bike Week VSSSC
"Dewar Shield" Carnival
18th Prep A & B excursion
23rd Henny Penny Hatchlings at Prep

April

1st Parent/Teacher interviews
7th & 8th Raw Art Visit
8th Disco
9th Easter Bonnet Parade
10th Good Friday

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DP/music news

Well, we are now into week 4 and most students have settled in well. Specialist lessons have commenced and there is a lovely feeling around our school! Must be that "One Virginia Spirit"!

Captains' Inauguration

Our 2009 school leaders will be presented with their badges at the "Captain's Inauguration" on Thursday 19 February at 9.30am. Concert Band will be performing and all members are required for rehearsal at 7.30am. Formal uniforms please! All welcome.

Free Dress Day

Virginia State School will be supporting the Victorian Bush fire Red Cross appeal along with many other QLD schools this Friday, 20 February with a free dress day. Students are invited to wear free dress and bring a gold coin for their donation. Parents and local community members are also welcome to leave their donations at the office. Please remember our free dress policy of sun-smart and closed in shoes.

National Ride to Work

Once again, Virginia State School will be participating in the National Ride to Work day on Wednesday 25 March. Last year, we had over 60 riders join us in our trek to school. More information in the next informer. Get your bikes ready!

IM

36 very excited beginner instrumental students commenced lessons last week and I know that there were many families being entertained throughout the week with (hopefully!) musical sounds.

Stage Band rehearsals commence this Friday 20 February at 7.45am. All second year saxophones, trumpets, trombones and percussionists are required. Keyboard players as well!

Creative Generation

Many thanks to all of those students who have returned their forms for Creative Generation. Please make sure that your child has done this before Wednesday 18 Feb. I'm sure that there are more singers out there in years 5-7 who would love to be part of this venture. It truly is an amazing experience.

Adult musicians

I am trying to promote our family and community spirit by involving more families in our IM program. We already have some wonderful families who are part of the IM program with Mum, Dad, and Granddad learning with their children. Parents and grandparents are invited to join the IM program, especially when their child is commencing tuition in year 5. If you are willing to buy your own instrument, learn along-side our students, practice, attend rehearsals and performances, then you are welcome to become part of our Virginia music program. Adult lessons are every Wednesday morning 8-8.45am. Concert Band rehearsals are every Thursday morning from 7.45am. Please let me know if you are interested.

Disco

Our school disco will be held on Wednesday 8 April. The student council have decided on a "Superhero" theme and would love to see how inventive our families can be. We are looking for new superheros, so start thinking! Junior disco (P-4) runs from 4.30-6.00pm and senior disco (5-7) runs from 6.30-8.00pm. Tickets are \$5.00 ea and will be for sale before school, the week leading up to the disco.

Regards

Mrs McLennan

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!!

To cover reading books.

We have a gorgeous new reading scheme ready for teachers to start using with infant classes...EXCEPT...there are still a squillion* books to be covered! If you feel comfortable with covering books with contact and are able to give us some time, please see Robyn Gale, Dawn Baigrie or your child's teacher. The books can be covered at home if this is easier. (*slight exaggeration)

WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

Hi, my name is Kirsty Miller and I was a School Leader at Virginia State School in 2006. This year, along with some friends at my new school, I am participating in the World's Greatest Shave. We aim to raise at least \$300 for leukaemia foundation. Please sponsor our team by getting online at www.worldsgreatestshave.com.au. Go to sponsor a team. Our team name is Poly Force. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. Donations of \$2.00 or more are tax deductible. Donations can also be left at the office with Mrs Miller.

VIRGINIA STATE SCHOOL SWIMMING CLUB

Mole Trophy – 14 February 2009 @ Virginia State School

The weather held for our club to host this years Mole Trophy. Due solely to our lack of under 9 swimmers, the points tally does not indicate the great performances by all Virginia swimmers. Tom Farrell & Joel Smith "swam up" for the entire carnival – Superb efforts boys! Hamish Chappell & Matthew Thomas showed their

courage and endurance to swim in their first ever 50m event! You should both feel extremely proud, excellent swims! Oscar Stewart's first carnival indicated he will be back for more – Thanks Oscar! Oliver Savage, Max Florence (Grade 3), Tarnee Wessling (Grade 2) and Lauren Hafner (Grade 1) covered the remainder of the Under 9 events. Virginia could not submit teams for Under 9 relays, simply due to not enough numbers! PLEASE Under 9's – WE NEED YOU IN THE CLUB. Every seniors performance was gold, too numerous to mention individual swims, but the 13+ mixed relay teams events were breath-taking for spectators & swimmers. We have a fine group of senior swimmers in the club, your performance in the water and on the pool deck, is what makes our club the envy of others. It takes an army of people to host a carnival, and Virginia parents made our host a smooth operation. Big Thanks to all of you!

RESULTS:
Virginia 425
Somerset Hills 561
Geebung 593

LAST CARNIVAL THIS SEASON: Dewar Shield @ Virginia Sat 14 March 2009

SWIMMING CLUB MEETING

The Swim Club monthly meeting is **this Wednesday 7pm** in the staff room.

Amongst the usual discussions, we need to discuss Trophy Night, painting of southern grandstand, duck-defense and storeroom termite invasion...

I have also been approached (again) about parents using the pool, this is something we will also address at this meeting.

Hope to see you there!

LEARn TO SWIM

Learn to swim is now starting on Mondays after school for the remainder of the season.

If you are already in LTS and wish to join on Mondays also, or you know someone looking for LTS lessons, please get them to either email the club or laffanfamily@optusnet.com.au so we can book children in.

There is only 8 weeks of swimming after this week, so time is of the essence!

The Education Tax Refund – Get 50% back

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students. This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

Are you eligible?

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- the Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- the Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- a scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

What can you claim?

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- laptops, home computers and associated costs — for example, internet and paper
 - educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
 - stationery and art supplies
 - school textbooks and associated learning materials
 - trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.
- ❗ Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

When can you claim?

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009.

- ❗ Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

➤ For more information:

- visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

- phone the Tax Office on 13 28 61.

MARKET DAY CAR BOOT SALE

Saturday 14th March 2009 9am – 1pm

Come and join us for a great family day out!!

There will be:



- ❖ Face painting and entertainment
- ❖ A variety of stalls from local businesses and child related services
- ❖ Sausage sizzle and drinks
- ❖ Raffles
- ❖ Bric-a brac car boot sale

17 Approach Rd Banyo

For more info please phone 3267 8980

Kung Fu Kids recommenced on Wednesday 4th of February 2009!

Kung Fu Kids offer a fun self-defence program for kids from 3.15pm to 4.15pm every Wednesday at school during the school term. It's a great way for kids to stay active, healthy and improve their confidence. Thanks to your support in term 4 2008 we were able to raise \$120 for your school. Remember the more Virginia kids enrolled in our program the bigger the donation to your P&C so please continue with your support. Kung Fu Kids is now on FACEBOOK so why not register as a fan!. For enrolments or info visit www.kungfukids.com.au or Ph Phillipe on 0421280485.

YMCA 32663159 0400099656		
 <p>'Playing Safe and Having Fun'</p>		
OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE NEWS		
IMPORTANT MESSAGES HI AND WELCOME TO ALL OUR RETURNING AND NEW FAMILIES. WE ARE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO GETTING TO KNOW EVERYONE. THERE WILL BE LOTS OF FUN ACTIVITIES AND THINGS TO THIS YEAR SO IF YOUR NOT ALREADY ENROLLED COME ALONG AND SEE US TO SEE IF YOU CAN BE. HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON	COMING UP AT OSHC... WE WILL BE EXPERIMENTING WITH CREATIVE AND MESSY ART AND ALSO TAKING PART IN LOTS OF EXCITING SPORTING ACTIVITIES	JOIN US THIS WEEK FOR... 23RD FEB BRACELET MAKING TABLE TENNIS 24TH FEB PLAYDOUGH MAKING SOCCER 25TH FEB DOT PAINTING TOUCH FOOTBALL 26TH FEB RECORD CHALLENGE TEN PIN BOWLING 27TH FEB CLAY CRICKET
 <p>YMCA We build strong PEOPLE strong FAMILIES strong COMMUNITIES</p>		

WOMEN CONNECTING

Women of all ages are invited to come and enjoy a free Open House at Womenspace, the unique centre of community for women in Brisbane.

When: 22 February 2009, 1 - 4:30pm

What: many different stalls; mini-pampering treatments; relaxing music; luscious afternoon tea

Where: 12 Homebush Rd, Kedron, Brisbane.

Free Admission

All women are welcome.

Find out more about this and other exciting activities at Womenspace at www.womenspace.org.au

Enquiries: 3357 7444

Email: coordinator@womenspace.org.au

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Anglican Parish of Nundah holds Sunday School every Sunday from 8.30am at the St Francis Church on the corner of Cavendish and Cameron Sts, Northgate.