

The Informer



From the Principal Tim Farrell

4th. March, 2009

EDITION 3

Year 5 School Camp – Currimundi Active Recreation Centre

Having listened to the positive feedback from students and staff, I have once again been convinced of the valuable role played by a year level camp in your child's development. Having been involved in organising class camps before, I know there are times prior to departure when you can wonder whether all the work and responsibility involved is worth it. Once you have arrived and been part of the experience you realise just how valuable a school camp is in strengthening student and teacher relationships, improving self-responsibility, group skills and undertaking activities (like the low ropes course and surfing) that involve students in problem solving and personal growth. It was rewarding to hear the students helping and inspiring each other as they met the challenges that were presented. I would like to thank Dr Keim, Ms Moore, Mrs Campbell and Mr Veale for planning and organising the camp. I'm sure all of the students appreciated their efforts.

Building the Education Revolution

The goal of the Australian Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER) is to have a major stimulatory impact on the national and local economies through the building of new and refurbishment of existing school infrastructure. Our school will directly benefit from this program with a proposed facilities solution to include *a new multipurpose hall, new resource centre (library) and a new science innovation technology centre*. I will be meeting with the facilities manager and P&C president shortly to discuss the proposal. I am confident that these much needed facilities will continue to contribute towards attracting and retaining motivated parents and their children to our school.

Preparatory Year – Car Parking

Please exercise caution when delivering your child to and from our prep precinct by motor vehicle. With the addition of 2 extra classes this year, parking has become problematic and Council is looking into a long term solution for us. Where possible, arrive ahead of time, park in neighbouring streets and walk your child to prep.

Learning about length and measurement

From an early age, your child is taught about length and measurement in the classroom. You can share experiences in your home to help improve their numeracy skills. Explain to your child that the length of something is the distance between two points.

You and your child can measure the length of objects using different items as measuring units e.g. hands, fingers, feet, straws, paperclips, ice cream sticks or even pencils.

March

4 TH	7pm P&C meeting
11 th	7pm IMSC meeting
12 th	Prep S & W Excursion
14 th	Bike Week VSSSC - Dewar Shield [®] Carnival
18 th	Prep A & B excursion 7pm Swimming Club meeting
23 rd	Henny Penny Hatchlings at Prep
25 th	National Ride To Work Day

April

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Note from Mrs Mac
Page 2

Music News
Page 2

Swim Club News
Page 2

Community News
Page 4

YMCA News
Page 4

Here are a few ways you can explore length with your child:

- during daily activities, take the opportunity to ask your child to compare lengths of different objects, or line up objects, such as shoes, from longest to shortest
- remember to keep asking questions using language such as 'which object is shorter, longer, lower, wider or thicker ?'
- encourage your child to compare the heights of people in your family or objects in your home. You and your child could create a height chart and record the height of visitors and friends and discuss your findings
- provide experiences and opportunities for your child to estimate length and get them to verify their estimations
- as your child learns about metres and other standard units of measuring such as centimetres, you can encourage discussion on estimating the lengths of various objects.

If you would like more information to assist your child in understanding length and measurement as well as improving his/her literacy and numeracy skills, visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL/MUSIC NEWS

A new study proves children and teens who study music do better in maths and reading at school (Courier Mail Feb14:19). These findings certainly support our beliefs here at Virginia State School with more than 70% of our upper school learning and instrument, all of our year 2-7 students singing in a vocal group and our entire school actively engaged in music. Our students are certainly able to use their music skills in all areas of their learning.

NATIONAL RIDE TO WORK DAY

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. Please send in the form below to the office if you and you child will be riding to school on this day? (Please check that your child's bike is roadworthy before you leave home! Students must be competent riders and lower school students would need to be accompanied by an adult) I will organise some meeting places for riders to congregate and join forces to ride into school together. Get your bikes ready! I would love to give out a cold drink and a muesli bar to each rider as they arrive, but would need your help to donate some poppers and packs of muesli bars before the event. If you can help, please leave your donations at the office before Friday 20 March. Last year, a lot of our school staff and students were at the gates to welcome our riders into the school. It was such a nice feeling! If any parents, grandparents or friends could make the time to be at the front entrance of the school to welcome our riders in at 8.30am and to help hand out drinks and food, I would be delighted with your support.

Child's Name _____
Class _____ will be riding to school on
Wednesday 25 March. I will/will not (parent's
name) _____ be riding with
my child.

Signed _____ (Parent)

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.

IM

Beginner lessons are progressing very well with some very talented students emerging already. Lessons for IM Wed students who are attending Creative Generation rehearsals will be on Thursday this week, so remember to bring your instrument on Thursday.

CREATIVE GENERATION

Many thanks to all of those students who have returned their forms for Creative Generation. First rehearsals are this week for our 31 students. We aim to have a great time singing!

JUNIOR CHOIR

Our junior choir will be rehearsing every Friday morning from 9.30am – 10.00am. Students will be working with Mrs McLennan and Miss Stevens. We love our new songs!

Regards
Mrs McLennan

TERM 1 INVOICE

Each student should have brought home their Term 1 invoice last week, together with an explanation of the 2009 education expenses across the year levels. With the introduction of the Federal Government 50% Education Tax Refund, you will be able to claim for eligible education expenses. Eligible expenses are items that support a child during school and improve the quality of education. These cover the purchase, lease, hire, hire-purchase of:

- Laptops, home computers and associated costs (e.g. this could include a number of computer components purchased to build a home computer, and include repair and running costs);
- computer-related equipment such as printers, USB flash drives; and disability aids to assist the use of computer equipment for students with disabilities (including repair and running costs);
- home Internet connection (establishment and maintenance);
- Computer software (such as word processing, spreadsheet, database and presentation software and educational games; and Internet filters and antivirus software);
- School textbooks and other paper-based school learning material (including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationery - for example pencils, pens, compasses and glue).

Please send along your payment (either by cash, cheque, credit card or eftpos) in a clearly named envelope to your child's class teacher. Keep any invoices and receipts so that you can claim the Education Refund via your tax at the end of the financial year.

BUSHFIRE APPEAL

A big thank you goes out to all the families who participated in the free dress day. Due to your generosity we raised \$824.00. All of this money will go to help support those who have suffered in the Victorian Bushfires.

SPECIAL P&C MEETING

DATE: Wednesday 4 March

VENUE: Staffroom

PURPOSE: To elect a President, Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer.

This meeting will be followed by a General Meeting.

TIME: 7pm

TREES ON THE FOOTPATH

The problem of overhanging trees in the drop off zone has been brought to our attention. This area is Brisbane City Council property we have contacted the council to have the trees trimmed. The council has a program of street tree maintenance, including four visits per year to each ward area. Your request will be actioned as per this schedule. Brisbane City Council will be doing maintenance in your Ward during the month of April 2009.

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.

SWIMMING CLUB

The Swim Club monthly meeting will be **March 18 at 7pm** in the staff room.

Amongst the usual discussions, we need to discuss Trophy Night, painting of southern grandstand, duck-defence 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!

Russell Armour
Chairman 08/09.

ADVERTISE HERE

Australian Newsletter Services are the company that provide the paper, free of charge, for our Informer. They are currently looking for advertisers for the 2009 newsletter paper. If you would like to place a colour add on the back of our 2009 newsletters please call Yvonne Schoch on 1800 245 077.

WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

A past student is participating in the World's Greatest Shave, with the aim to raise at least \$300 for leukaemia foundation. Donations can be made left with Mrs Miller, at the school office or 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.

TENNIS COACHING

Senior Group –

Wednesday mornings 7.45am-8.45am there are 2 vacancies for students years 5-7.

Junior Group –

Monday mornings 7.45am -8.45am there is one vacancy for a student in years prep to grade 2.

Ring Ian Anderson on 0403828075 if your child is interested in one of the positions.

MOSQUITOS

Many of our students are currently suffering terribly with mosquito bites. The Brisbane City Council will spray the creek this week. As an added precaution we suggest that parents apply mosquito repellent to their children before arrival at school each morning.

BOONDALL SCOUT GROUP

Lucille Street, Boondall currently have vacancies for Joey Scouts (aged 6-8 yrs)

Wednesdays 6-7pm, Cub Scouts (aged 8-11yrs) Tuesdays 6.30-8.30pm.

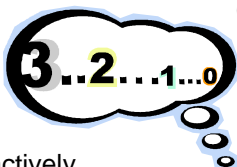
Inviting all boys and girls to come try us out. Are you interested in having lots of fun, making new friends, discovering new skills, going on cool excursions and earning badges?

Enquiries to our Group Leader Gail Forrest on 32613475, Mobile: 0402408394



INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

Sunday 8 March is International Women's Day – a day to recognise and celebrate the journey of women and their achievements. The theme is *Our Women, Our State*. The theme recognises women and the events, places and stories of significance that have helped make Queensland the state it is today. The day also ties in with Queensland's [Q150](#) celebrations, acknowledging women's contributions to shaping Queensland since 1859. For information on events happening around the state visit the [Office for Women](#).



COUNTDOWN TO EARTH HOUR

actively

It is just four weeks from tomorrow until we flick the switch for Earth Hour 2009 – the World Wildlife Fund's global environmental initiative that aims to raise awareness of the climate change issue and makes it possible for individuals to take action and reduce greenhouse emissions. The Department of Education, Training and the Arts is supporting Earth Hour as part of its commitment to environmental sustainability. All

families can take part on Saturday 28 March by turning out their lights and turning off non-essential electrical appliances from 8.30pm to 9.30pm. It is important that businesses and individuals who participate register on the earth hour website in order to make their involvement count. Visit the website for more information about how to take action and make a difference. www.earthhour.org

HEALTHY LUNCH TIPS

Spreading a little butter or margarine on a sandwich will help keep it from getting soggy. Most sandwiches do not need a lot of butter. Here are some yummy fillings for sandwiches, pita breads or Lebanese breads.

-Cream cheese, chopped celery and sultanas

-Grated carrot and cheese with "lite" mayonnaise

- Chopped cooked chicken and mayonnaise with lettuce

- Grated cheese and chopped celery or carrot

- Leftover roast meat with grated carrot, cheese, lettuce and chutney or tomato sauce

- Lean ham, sliced cheese and a pineapple ring (wrap separately for adding at lunchtime

- Peanut butter and grated carrot

- Vegemite, cheese and tomato

- Take a roll and a banana to eat together

- Take a roll, a sliced boiled egg wrapped in food wrap and lettuce to build your sandwich when you are ready to eat it.

