

From the Principal *Tim Farrell*
2009

4th. February,

Welcome

Virginia State’s teachers realise that every school year is special to students and parents and we endeavour to ensure that our children grow not just academically but socially and emotionally as well. It may be their first year of primary school or their first year of instrumental music or interschool sport or choir or their final year of primary school. Every year in primary school is special and each student has the potential to achieve something quite extraordinary in the academic, sporting, cultural and citizenship areas.

All students should be setting three (3) goals for this year: strive to make this a special year for themselves and the school; try to qualify for an end of year award; have academic success as a major goal but try to succeed in at least one other area (sport, music, student council, class leader, citizenship etc). If everyone succeeds in these three goals, the school and students should have a highly productive year. I do need to impress on the students the importance of ‘best possible’ academic performance. A laissez-faire approach should not be adopted. Students will continue to be given broad opportunities and experiences in a wide spectrum of activities but they must understand that these are set around their fundamental responsibility – success in academic work. Busy occupied students benefit from the concept that ‘success breeds success’.

All parents, particularly those new in 2009 are encouraged to become involved in the school whether it be through the P&C Association, tuckshop, swim club, classroom parent representative, uniform shop, classroom tutors or any other area that may benefit our students academically, sporting or culturally. Constant involvement from parents signals to children that school is important to you and your child. Your actions will speak a lot louder than your words in convincing your child that school is important.

Improved facilities and resources contribute towards attracting and retaining motivated parents and their children at our school. During 2008 we modernised our library with a re-fit of shelves, tables, chairs, ICT devices and new paintwork. Our current facilities are a strong drawcard – so please consider a strong involvement with our school during 2009. A successful school cannot operate in isolation of the parent body. If parents want their children to be part of an energetic and high achieving school, they have to become involved and give the school the type of assistance that is appropriate for them. I look forward to working with you and our committed staff throughout the year to improve the learning outcomes of all students. Welcome to all of our new students and families – we wish you happy learning in 2009. Welcome to our new staff – Mrs Anne Richards (1FR), Ms Emily Brady (6B), Ms Jasmin Malmborg-Moore (5M), Mrs Debra Curtis-Pryce (special education teacher), Mrs Di Walsh (music teacher term 1), Mrs Libby Davidson (physical education teacher), Ms Rachel Guttler (Head of Curriculum), Mr Richard Earle (School’s Officer –Grounds and Facilities) and Mrs Ruth Jones (teacher aide) – Welcome to Mrs Helen Holleran (2/3H) who returns from 12 months leave.

New Teacher appointed

As a result of increased enrolments, our school has been allocated an additional teacher. Ms Bernadette Albert will commence teaching a newly formed (4th) preparatory year class from Monday 9 February. This class will be temporarily located in E Block room 22 while a more permanent classroom solution is made.

What’s happening in the month of:

- February**
11th IMSC AGM
7.00p.m.-Music Room
Beginner
music lessons
commence
12th IM lessons
begin
Parent Night-
5.00, 5.45 and 6.30pm
BBQ
13th Bramble Bay
Swimming
14th VSSSC “Mole
Trophy” Carnival 3pm
warmup, 3.30pm start
16th Arts Council
Yrs 1-4
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

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Interhouse Swim Carnival

Congratulations to Jacaranda house on their convincing win at last week's interhouse swim carnival. Team Captains, Taryn Armour and Ryan Honour were very proud of their team's winning margin (663 points) over Poinsettia and Wattle houses. Approximately 20 swimmers will qualify for the Bramble Bay Trials which will be held on 13 February at the Albany Creek Leisure Centre. Age Champions were 10 yrs – Emily Honour (F) and Angus Battersby (M); 11 years – Keely Veale (F) and Joel Smith (M); 12/13 yrs – Taryn Armour (F) and Thomas Da Forno (M). Congratulations to these swimmers on their outstanding individual performances.

Meet-the-Teacher session

Teachers will be conducting an information session for parents on Thursday 12 February in classrooms. Information about classroom procedures, expectations and current units of work will be shared with parents. This will be a great opportunity to meet our new teachers and families. We look forward to seeing you on this night. The timetable for these sessions will be:
5pm – years 6 and 7 (including 6/7TR)
5:45pm – years 3 – 5 (including 3/4S)
6:30pm – prep – year 2 (including 2/3H)
Sausages on bread will be available to families throughout the evening.



A note from Mrs. McLennan

Welcome back to 2009. As most of you are aware, I am still sitting in the deputy principal's chair! Most are questioning my sanity, but I felt that a smooth transition into 2009 would benefit from one less change in everyone's lives. Di Walsh was a great asset to our music program and our school last year and she will be continuing to look after the class music lessons under my direction for term 1. I will still be running all of the instrumental music side of things with bands and lessons, and also working with Junior choir, senior boyz vocal and senior girlz vocal.

I am still coming to grips with the loss of Alison Stoneley, a true friend a great colleague! Her presence throughout the school was very fluorescent and I continue to miss her every day. A memorial service will be held later in the term. I have asked Miss Stevens to join our Junior choir as she has a true love of music and will bring her own special personality to our group. (Alison will be our choir "Angel"!)

IM

Our first IM newsletter- "Keynotes" has gone out already and parents should now have an idea of 2009 events and dates. If I have to change a date, it will appear on the next Keynotes. Please make sure you keep a current copy of these notes on hand. I expect all students and parents to read these notes, as it is necessary for students to have an idea of what is happening and when as well as

parents. It is a great idea to sit down with your child and read through the notes together!

Concert Band rehearsals have already started with a very promising group for 2009. Our first engagement is the Captain's Inauguration on Thursday 19 February at 9.30am. Please note that the rehearsal for concert band that morning will commence at 7.30am instead of 7.45am. (we have lots to organise!!)

Stage Band rehearsals will commence in week 4 on Friday 20 February. All 2nd and 3rd year trumpets, trombones, saxophones and percussionists are expected to attend.

Adult beginning musicians

Any adults wishing to learn an instrument this year need to see me for testing asap. Every Wednesday morning from 8.00am -8.45am will be adult music classes. These will commence in week 4, on 18 February (for testing only). If you have already been tested, your first lesson will be the following week- Wednesday 25 Feb. Continuing adult musicians are also welcome from Wednesday 25 Feb. 2009 promises to be a very good year!

Regards

Mrs McLennan

PARKING

Parents are reminded that parking inside the school grounds is not safe! Please park on the street or in the parking bays in the pick-up area for short term parking. Even if you are collecting or dropping off your child at the OHSC, we would appreciate you parking outside the school grounds. Parking in the school grounds is for staff ONLY! We aim to keep your child safe and car movement kept to a minimum where our children walk, so please assist us in this very important matter.

ANIMALS

We ask that animals are not brought into the school ground. Please ask your child's teacher or the office for permission for animals to be brought in for class presentations. Again, this is a safety issue and our job is to keep all of our children at Virginia State School safe and happy. We appreciate your support in this matter.

TUCKSHOP NEWS

Kylie Seymour has commenced work as the Acting Tuckshop Convenor this week. We thank Kylie for stepping into this role and look forward to seeing her in the tuckshop. As communicated last week, the menu for Term 1, a note requesting volunteers and the opening date for 2009 will be sent home soon. Any parents interested in volunteering in the tuckshop can also leave Kylie a note in the P&C pigeon holes which are located in the school office. Welcome to your new role at Virginia Mrs Seymour.

Solar Boat Challenge

A story about our school's involvement in the challenge last year will feature on *Totally Wild*. The Solar boat challenge segment will be going to air on Friday 13th of February at 7:30am on Network Ten. Please don't miss it!

Sports News

Jordan Albassit of 4G has attained his Red III belt in Taekwondo. Congratulations Jordan!

A Year 3 student is in need of a 'Ride to School Buddy'. Preferably a Year 6/7 student who passes by the corner of Goss and Bilsen Roads on their way to and from school. Please call 0413 910 346 if it is possible for your child to help out.

Protecting against the sun

Queensland state school students are protected from our harsh sun by the Department's *Developing a Sun Safety Strategy* policy.

This policy requires that all schools provide an SPF 30+ broad spectrum waterproof sunscreen to students for outdoor activities and ensure they are wearing protective clothing. It also requires schools to develop educational programs on sun safety.

Schools develop sun safety strategies in consultation with their school community, and parents are encouraged to support the strategy by providing their children with appropriate protective clothing, including hats, sunglasses and swim shirts for water-based activities. Under the Department's policy, swim shirts must be worn by Prep to Year 7 students during all water-based activities except during races at school swimming carnivals.

The Queensland Cancer Council's website has plenty of tips for parents on reducing the risk of over-exposure to the sun. Visit their site at: http://www.cancerqld.org.au/reduce_risk/prevention/prevent_sunProtection.asp

Australian Girls Choir

Is this your daughter?

'She wanders around the house singing all the time, even the Ads!'

'She's always dressing up and doing concerts'

'She can't sit still while there's music playing'

Girls will become more confident as they learn singing, dancing and performing

Our senior performers dazzle the world, but first they entertained their Mums and Dads

If she likes to sing, dance and play then let us inspire her to see the world as her stage

www.ausgirlschoir.com.au

Call us to arrange a complimentary tryout class!

Ph: 3256 0207

Broncos Come & Try Clinic

Thinking of playing Rugby League this year?

Come and try league skills in a fun and safe environment

Open to boys and girls aged 5 to 13 years who DO NOT play club rugby league

FREE showbag for participants & Info session for parents

When: Sunday 8th February – 9.30-11.30am

Where: Broncos Leagues Club, Fulcher Road, Red Hill

PRE - Registration essential

To book your spot: Phone Kate 3858 9127 or email katec@broncos.com.au

Meet Karmichael Hunt

FOR SALE

Yamaha flute – serviced after last use. \$400 O.N.O.
Phone Leonie on 3267 7641.

Mayne Tigers AFL Sign On Day

When: Sat Feb 7th 12pm - 2pm and Sun Feb 8th 10am - 12pm

Where: Mayne Tigers Clubhouse, Oxenham Park, Crn York & Duke Sts, Nundah

Players needed from 7- 15 years of age.

For more information call Julie on 0401 021 236

Kung Fu Kids returns Wednesday the 4th of February 2009!

Happy Chinese New Year and welcome back! 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 four 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 enrollments or info visit kungfukids.com.au or PH: Philippe on 0421 280 485 .

NORTH STAR STRIKERS

FOOTBALL SIGN – ON

2009

O'Callaghan Park, Jennings St, Zillmere.

**PLAYERS OF ALL AGES WELCOME
COACHES AND MANAGERS
REQUIRED FOR ALL AGE GROUPS**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT
TERRY SCHARF 0402 449 578**



LEADING PARTICIPANT IN THE NORTHERN BRONCOS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

SIGN ON DATES

Sunday 8th February 2008

Stafford Bowls Club via Hayward St off Webster Road or take the entry to Stafford City Shopping Centre off Stafford Rd 9.00am to 4.00pm

New players need proof of age-Birth Certificate or Extract or current Passport

Qualified Coaches All Age Groups

Opportunities provided to all junior players

Qualified First Aid Officer at all Home Games

Level 1 accreditation in Responsible Service of Alcohol

President - 0408 787 441

Secretary -0411 029 202

Email enquiries to brothersjuniors@optusnet.com.au

Under 6 to Under 18

Players must have had their 5th birthday before they play Under 6

KIDS WE NEED YOU NOW!