

Shailer Park State High School

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2

March 2009

Excursions in Learning

Daisy Hill Day



Southbank
Photography

Year 11 Tourism



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**Principal
Ray McConnell**

Welcome to our March newsletter with the 2009 Year of Creativity being recently launched by the Department of Education Training and the Arts. Creativity has become the new essential skill for all young people in the 21st Century where innovation through creative thinking goes hand in hand with a clever and skilled workforce, state and nation. This highlights an opportunity this year for Shailer Park State High School to celebrate the many creative skills of our teachers and students whether it is in science, mathematics, technology, social sciences, the arts or in personal pursuits. Our Hall of Fame in the MPS certainly attests to the diverse range of talented past students who have received an excellent grounding at this great school.

This week we held our 2009 Student Leader Induction Ceremony in a packed multi-purpose shelter with our entire student community, special guests and many proud parents and family members watching our students receive their badges. Congratulations to our Senior School Captains and Vice Captains, House Captains, Student Leaders, Music Captains and Student Council Leaders who have aspired to a leadership position and will now move on to represent their student body. I am confident that these students will be excellent ambassadors for Shailer Park State High School. Special thanks must go to Mrs Lewis for her organisation of our induction and Mrs Collins and Mrs Silcox for preparing the wonderful morning tea.

On behalf of our school community, I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Irene Egan, one of our wonderful Teacher Aides who has given many years of service to Shailer Park SHS. I believe Irene has been a foundation staff member at this school from the very beginning and holds a wealth of knowledge about our history, traditions and students over 29 years. Irene has played many important roles including the Alumni Register, P&C Secretary, Wall of Fame and Instrumental Music Aide. We wish Irene a happy and restful retirement and no doubt we will still see her in and around our school community.

**Senior School – Years 10 to 12
Lynne Smith**

Queensland Core Skills Test (QCS)

All OP eligible students and students wishing to be awarded a rank will sit the QCS test on Tuesday 1 September and Wednesday 2 September. To ensure that our students are well prepared for this test, all year 12 students will sit a practice QCS test on Tuesday 7 and Wednesday 8 April. The tests will take the same format as the QCS. The Writing Task and Multiple Choice I test papers will be held on Tuesday and the Short Response and Multiple Choice II papers will be held on Wednesday. All students in Year 12 are currently being prepared for these tests during LAN lessons and all will be required to sit the practice tests. After this, non-OP students may choose not to participate in the QCS preparation classes. They will then be able to concentrate on assessment tasks during the LAN lessons.

Work Education Certificate

Students in Years 10 and 11 are currently undertaking a Certificate I in Work Education. On satisfactory completion of the course, the students will be able to bank 2 points towards their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), which is awarded at the end of Year 12 to all students who have banked a minimum of 20 points and met the other essential criteria. This is the first time that Year 10 students will have completed a Certificate I qualification. We are currently investigating the introduction of a Certificate I in Hospitality for year 10 students with the possibility of trialling this during the remainder of 2009. The introduction of Certificate courses in Year 10 has been made possible by the classification of Year 10 as a part of the Senior Phase of Schooling.

Leadership Ceremony

Our 2009 school leaders were recognised in a formal assembly on Wednesday 12 March. Congratulations are extended to our school captains, Natalie Dudkowski and Anthony Cannavo, the vice captains Danielle Keenan, Jessica Maris, Nathan Schleeman and Nicholas Schmalenberg, the sports captains, the Student Council representatives and the other Year 12 school leaders. Our captains and vice captains have already demonstrated their commitment to their roles and I am confident that they will serve the school with distinction throughout 2009.

Daisy Hill Day – Years 8 & 12

Year 8 started the year off to a flying start as they balanced, jumped, ran and dodged their way through the activity day at the Daisy Hill national park. All of the activities were smoothly run by the year 12 mentors and it was a great opportunity for the year 8 students to interact with some of the school's finest seniors.

The six classes rotated through six activities which included crossing an imaginary crocodile infested river, tug of war, and running a gauntlet of flying tennis balls.

All the students had a highly enjoyable and social day and everyone present took home lasting memories.

Special thanks to Mr Bradley, Mrs King and the year 12 mentors for organising the sausage sizzle, delicious cake and the running of a fun-filled day.

Josh Fuller
Year 8 Co-ordinator



Year 11 Tourism Cruising

Friday 27 February, 36 Year 11 Tourism students visited two Brisbane City tourist attractions. The city's most prominent attraction, Southbank, hosts 12 million visitors annually. The students visited Southbank Corporation's new Visitor Information Centre and in the boardroom they were treated to a presentation on the site's history, place in Queensland's Tourism industry and the future of Southbank.

From there, the students boarded the *Kookaburra River Cruise*, together with members of the general public. For students, the highlight of the day was the two hour luncheon cruise, which included a full commentary.

Students 'claimed' spectacular riverfront homes and luxurious boats as their own for the day. A few brave students steered the paddle wheeler from time to time throughout the cruise.

On disembarking, some international visitors to Brisbane sought out the teachers to compliment us on our students behaviour and demeanour. As teachers we were very proud to represent Shailer Park High with this group of well groomed, enthusiastic and well mannered students.

Kim Herholdt & Cecilia Hall
Tourism Teachers

Photography snapshots at Southbank

Monday 23 February, 32 aspiring senior Creative Arts students captured the abundance of traditional and contemporary buildings and structures at Southbank Parklands on their cameras. They are currently looking at how technology can be used to help artists develop and produce good artwork. The images created by these students will be edited and developed into paintings in the next few weeks.

Students, accompanied by Ms Cooper-Boyd, Ms Dunbabin and Ms Wilkie, explored the Goodwill Bridge, the Boardwalk and Grand Arbour before morning tea. Before lunch they photographed traditional buildings such as the Plough Inn with its lattice wrought iron work sandstone blocks and intricate details.

Right: Congratulations to Year 11 student Samantha Halliday on this very interesting and artistic photograph taken on the day.

After lunch they captured images of the Nepalese pagoda and the Giant Wheel. There were many impressive images created by these talented students and we look forward to displaying some of their work in Facets Art gallery later this semester.

Shelli Dunbabin and Christel Wilkie
Creative Arts teachers



Instrumental Music News

Congratulations to Cindy Hardy and Jessica Harrison on their selection as Music Captains for 2009. Both girls are outstanding members of our instrumental program and Mr Court looks forward to working with them.

Bravo and fingers crossed for our students who auditioned for the Logan Albert Beaudesert Advanced Music Camp on Friday March 13. This camp is held at Watson Park, Dakabin from May 4th to 7th.

There will be a Pizza & Movie night to be held in P1 starting at 5.00 pm (following Concert Band rehearsal) on Wednesday March 18th. All instrumental students are invited to attend. The evening concludes at 8.30 pm.

Instrumental Music Calendar

Mar 18	Pizza & Movie night in P1 for all Instrumental students starting at 5 pm
May 4-7	Logan Albert Beaudesert Advanced Music Camp (no lessons or rehearsals this week)
May 17	Sausage Sizzle fundraiser at Bunnings Underwood
Jun 1-5	Quota Beenleigh Eisteddfod
Jun 17	Strings Day of Excellence at SPSHS (tentative)
Jun 18	Band Day of Excellence at SPSHS (tentative)
Jun 22-25	Logan Albert Beaudesert Intermediate Music Camp Kingston College
Jul 16-19	Shailer Park High Band Camp at Kindilan OECC
Sep 13	Logan Music Fest at Kingston Butter Factory
Oct	Prestige Music Fest (dates to be decided)
Oct	SPSHS Instrumental Music Awards Evening
Nov	SPSHS Awards Evening
Nov	Year 12 Graduation

Middle School – Years 8 & 9
Jacqui Lewis

Congratulations to students who received their badge in recognition of the leadership they give to the school. It is an important honour to be acknowledged for the effort each individual makes, be it as a captain, school councillor, or senior leader. Each student must show both a commitment to their area of leadership and exemplary behaviour. Barbara Stone, State Member for Springwood, addressed all students on the merits of leadership and “Leadership is something you have to earn”.

Last week we started the Shailer Park Year 8 Leadership Program. Fusion Australia are working with us to deliver this program to 15 aspiring leaders. We look forward to seeing these young people develop skills that they will be able to use at school and in life.

Our first practice test for NAPLAN went well, with nearly all our students sitting the test. It is very important that students are at school for each of the test days. Improving literacy and numeracy results for all Queensland students is a major focus for Education Queensland and the staff continue to address the needs of our students in all subject areas. As parents you can help by encouraging your child to read and discussing with them what they have read.



Puddleduck for 0 – 5 year olds
Join the fun!

Attention all parents and caregivers of 0 to 5 year olds. Puddleduck Playgroup has begun again.

The year 12 Early Childhood students have been busy preparing themselves for the commencement of their playgroup. The students run an educational playgroup in their classroom each Thursday morning, 9:00am to 9:50am during the school term.

The students plan and prepare play-based activities for 0-5 year olds as part of their curriculum. Playgroup gives them invaluable experience, interacting with young children whilst implementing developmentally appropriate play-based activities.

A large number of these students go on to careers in the childcare industry with a wealth of knowledge and skills from their experiences of playgroup.

0 – 5 is a crucial age in a child’s development, and play is an integral part of this. It paves the way for future learning. A playgroup allows children to play, socialise, experiment and take risks in a supportive, nurturing environment.

If you are interested in joining Puddleduck Playgroup, please contact Kathryn Woodward or Erin Garbutt on 3451 2764.

Thought of the Week

Leadership is action, not position.
~Donald H. McGannon



Year Level News

Year 8 – Josh Fuller

Parents are invited to attend a **Year 8 Parent Night** on Thursday 19 March from 6:30pm in G Block (Maths Block).

The evening will provide parents with the opportunity to become acquainted with members of the school community who nurture the Year 8 students.

The evening will include an address by Year Level Coordinator, Josh Fuller and a talk given by the Care Team. You will also have the opportunity to meet with Year 8 teachers.

We hope you will be able to come along to this valuable and rewarding night.

Year 8 Representatives

Congratulations to Student Council Representatives Lauren and Mitchell.

Year 10 – Anna Elliott

As previously mentioned, I had a number of Year 10 students nominate for the role of Year Level Representative. There were many enthusiastic and committed nominees.

I am pleased to announce that our representatives for this year are **Rebecca** and **Kyle**. I am sure these two students will work hard at being the voice of our year level.

Congratulations Rebecca and Kyle.

Year 9 – Sarah Morris

I would like to formally acknowledge and congratulate a number of excelling Year 9 students across a variety of fields.

Congratulations to our new Year 9 Student Council Representatives who were selected last week. I am pleased to announce that Amy and Sammi have been chosen to represent our cohort in 2009. I am sure that both students will work hard and do their utmost to contribute to Shailer Park in a positive manner. I expect them to lead by example in all facets of their schooling, both inside and outside the classroom.

Similarly, I would like to recognise Emily, who was our Year Level Representative last year. Although she missed out on the initial nomination process this year due to absence, I believe that she will also continue her work with the Student Council and help out our new representatives wherever possible.

I would also like to acknowledge the sporting talents and achievements of a number of Year 9 students who are members of the school futsal/soccer teams. Both our boys and girls teams have done exceptionally well in their respective competitions over the last couple of weeks with both teams being awarded the overall winners trophy at the end of their competitions.

Well done to all the Year 9 students who are making such pleasing and positive contributions to our school.

Year 11 – Kim Herholdt

An excellent start to the year for the Year 11 students. The students have already demonstrated commitment, enthusiasm and teamwork during events such as Round Robin, fund raising efforts and excursions. I am very pleased to see how the majority have settled into the serious business of their studies.

Letters were issued about the Leadership Camp to be held in October at Tallebudgera Outdoor Recreation Centre. This will act as preparation for students to be the leaders of Shailer Park in 2010. A deposit will be required by 2 June to establish numbers for this exciting event.

Keep up the positive attitudes and behaviour students!

Year 12 – Anne Maree King

International Women's Day

International Women's Day celebrates not only the achievements of women but also the continual work in improving the condition of women throughout the world, especially in developing countries.

On Thursday 5 and Friday 6 March, seven Year 12 students were given the privilege of attending two separate events to celebrate and continue the awareness of such issues regarding women.

Natalie Dudkowski, Jessica Marris and Danielle Keenan were accompanied by Mrs Beverley Gurney to a breakfast at the Brisbane Convention Centre hosted by Unifem Australia, while Kirra Keating, Mahalia Emberson, Danielle Russell and Claire Hutchinson accompanied me to a breakfast hosted by the Beenleigh Soroptomist Society.

Everyone at both events was touched by the very moving, true stories of the guest speakers. Ms Lulu Mitshabu spoke about the tragedy of life for many African women and the frightening fact that it is more dangerous to be a woman in African Congo than it is to be fighting in the frontline. Mrs Hetty Johnson, founder of the organization 'Bravehearts' highlighted the tragic but true reality of child abuse and what we need to do wipe it out. The girls have come back inspired and willing to help spread the awareness and continue the support of the wonderful work of women in these organizations.



Resource Hire Scheme

Thank you to those families who have now completed their payments for the Resource Hire Scheme. For those who are paying by instalment, your Term 1 \$57 payment is due.

For your convenience, payments can be made by internet, cash, cheque, credit card or eftpos. The office is open from 8:00am – 3:00pm for parents or by phoning the finance officer Sue on 3451 2703 (Credit Card payments only). If you wish to pay via internet banking, the BSB is 064 170, A/C 00090123. **Please use your student's name as a reference for this transaction.**

Guidance News

Careers Events

- 8-9 May **Careers & Employment Expo**
Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre
Friday 9am – 4pm
Saturday 10am – 4pm
- 18-19 Jul **TSXPO Tertiary Studies Expo**
RNA Showgrounds
10am-4pm daily
- 26 Jul **QUT Open Day**

QUT News

QUT for Parents is an electronic newsletter with information about courses, facilities, scholarships & support services. Parents can subscribe at qut.com/parents.

Parent Information Sessions – Wednesday 3 June at Kelvin Grove Campus. 6.30 – 8.30pm. Details are available at go.qut.com/liaison/events.

Parent's brochure with information about decision making, study costs, support, career outcomes & scholarship is available at go.qut.com/resources/index.jsp.

Holiday Campus Tours – Gardens Point, Kelvin Grove & Caboolture Campus, 10am-12pm daily.

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

- 6-17 Apr **Holiday Campus Tours** (daily)
- 10 Jun **Information Evening** for Parents & prospective students
5pm – 7.30pm
UQ Centre, Union Road
St Lucia.
- 29 Jun – 7 Jul **UQ Student Centre**
St Lucia Campus
- 21 Sept – 9 Oct **Open Days**
2 August 9am – 3pm
St Lucia Campus
- 19 August 3.30pm – 7.30pm
Ipswich Campus
- 23 August 9.30am – 3.00pm
Gatton Campus

NAPLAN – Year 9 students

P&C News

“Research shows that children perform better at school when their parents are involved in their Education.”

Join the P&C

Actions always speak louder than words when it comes to valuing your child's learning. Joining the P&C is one of the best ways to show your children how much you value their education and how interested you are in what they do. By joining the P&C you are showing your children how committed you are to helping students and your school community.

A lot can be and has been achieved through the P & C and the school working together towards common goals. To continue the great work, P & Cs need people from all walks of life and with a range of talents who are committed to delivering great outcomes for our children and school. Everybody has a role to play and your ideas will be heard. The more people involved, the more exciting and successful it will be.

The next P&C Meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 April from 6:30pm in Sapphires Restaurant & Training Centre.

At the commencement of this meeting the P&C will re-convene the Annual General Meeting to receive and present the audited Financial Statements 2008.

How you can help

Are you interested in contributing your thoughts on school policy; do you have an hour or two to spare to assist in the bookshop, uniform shop or canteen; can you find 2 hours once a month to attend a P&C meeting? These are all ways you can be part of your schools P&C.

There is a number of ways to be involved:

Just by joining your P & C you add your voice to what's happening in the school

- Attend P&C meetings.
- Uniform Shop volunteer.
- Tuckshop volunteer.
- Classroom helper.
- School Council / committee member.

You can contribute opinions on:

- Positive School wide Behaviours
- Student Dress Code
- School Routines
- P&C Budget
- School Budget
- School surveys.

School Nurse News

On 12, 13 and 14 May more than 200 000 students across Queensland will take part in the national literacy and numeracy tests.

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.
- **Don't forget to bring a calculator to the test!**

Information for parents:

A parent brochure is available on the NAPLAN website www.naplan.edu.au .

Nearly one million people in Australia suffer from diabetes. Around 140,000 of these have Type 1 diabetes. Type 1 diabetes is the most common condition in children, with 95% of children having Type 1, and most being diagnosed when they are less than 15 years of age. The number of people developing Type 1 diabetes increases by 3.5% each year. (Source: jdrf.org.au)

It is when these young people become teenagers, and their health needs change from a child (paediatric care) to adult care that they can experience confusion and uncertainty.

The change in care (transition) occurs at a time when there is also a lot happening in their life, such as starting work, studying intensely or moving out of home. Also, it is a time when young people are starting to take more responsibility for their diabetes management, something which can seem over whelming at times.

In response to this a fabulous website has been developed by the Mater Children's Hospital. www.sweet.org.au

There are many helpful hints, suggestions, fact sheets and information for young people and their caregivers.

I highly recommend that everyone seek out this site, because even if you do not know anyone with diabetes yet, it is an almost certainty that you will do over the next few years.

**Cheryl Hewlett
School Nurse**

Parent -Teacher Evening

When: Tuesday 28 April

Time: From 3:30pm

Where: Shailer Park High
G Block

***Full details to follow in the next
newsletter***