



BRIGHT FUTURES

Shailer Park State High School

Issue No. 12

"Good Teachers – Good School"

28 August 2006

Keep Shailer shining in 2007

Make Shailer Park High your school of choice in 2007. All year 7 students are welcome to enrol now. We accept enrolments every day; it is helpful to ring Mrs Anna Welch on 3209 8710 to make appointments.

Shailer's new middle school building will offer six new learning spaces featuring performance and computer facilities. Add to these the 100 new dual core computers provided through the Australian government's *Investing In Our Schools* program and the future looks bright.

Shailer High offers a vibrant home for The Arts providing opportunities to talented students across Logan City in Art, Dance, Drama, Instrumental Music and Visual Arts.

Our Parents and Citizens Association has again offered scholarships in Academic, Sport and The Arts.

In year 8, the *Inspire* program for gifted and talented students allows like minded students to do exciting transdisciplinary work. The **Sports Excellence** class is designed to attract students with a passion for sport. Sports Excellence leads into Shailer's sports specialisation program in Years 9 to 12 with Futsal, Basketball, Volleyball and Netball.

John Milne
Principal

Music is alive at Shailer



Congratulations to the Concert Band and Stage Band who represented the school at the Brisbane Show (EKKA) on Friday 18 August. They played with their usual enthusiasm and flair.

The next performance will be at Music Fest held at the Kingston Butter Factory on Sunday 3 September. Please come along and support the school.

Stage Band: 11:45am
Concert Band: 12:15pm
Strings: 2:30pm

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Off to the Ekka – education at Shailer is fun

Early Childhood and Home Economics students visit the Ekka

On Friday 18 August, our year 11 students travelled by train to the Ekka. With an early start to catch the train, we arrived at the show with a healthy appetite so we headed straight for the food hall. Students were able to sample (free!) Greek yoghurts, tropical fruit, honey, coffee, vegie chips and ginger punch.

The students then admired the beautiful arts and crafts before attending the *Cotton Fashion* parade. Wow! With front row seats, the students were mesmerised by the stunning and creative Australian fashion designs.



At the Queensland government pavilion, students participated in learning activities and sourced interesting promotional materials. After (a nutritious?!) lunch, the students were divided into their subject groups with the Home Economics students focusing on the fresh produce and quilting displays while the Early childhood students visited the farmyard animals, ABC television and the Police exhibits. Priscilla and Jordan (aka Karaoke Queens) entertained us when they performed *Bob the Builder* at the ABC stand. All the students were given an emergency arm band just in case they got lost and Mrs Wright and Ali tried on the police handcuffs at the Police stand. Finally we visited the Showbag pavilion, before heading home. Thank you to the students who made it such an enjoyable day.

Mrs Kathryn Woodward, Mrs Heidi-Lee Cramp & Ms Christine Wright

Mathematics equals excellence for Shailer high students

- The students enjoy learning in the newly painted building.
- The Year 12 *PMV* students are working on scale drawings for their assignment and exceeding expectations with the new syllabus format.
- Mr Corbett and Mr Bradley are pleased to report the students in Year 11 *Maths A* are all arriving to class with their scientific calculators
- Year 12 *Maths A* students have been given the chance to pass with the creation of levels of classes where students are given the opportunity to revisit *Maths A* course or to extend their result.
- There has been an accelerated start to *Maths C* in Year 10 which is proving popular.
- With the integration of graphics calculators increasing, students in *Maths B/C* are now using calculators for most lessons.
- The students of the Year 7/8 program are enjoying the experiences provided which is reflected in their attitudes towards maths and the program
- There are more teachers getting involved in changing teaching pedagogy for Year 8 classes.
- Tutorials are available Monday and Wednesday afternoon plus Thursday lunch hour.

**Ros Christopherson
Mathematics Head of Department**

Principal's Outlook



Primary and secondary teachers are starting their planning for Years 7-8 Middle School in 2007.

Our enthusiastic Rotary debating team has a chance of being in the finals; coming up soon. Well done Mrs Davies and team!

The Senior Gala showcased promising acting talent in a night of comedy and drama.

Two days of music excellence involved 120 Year 7 students from our local primary schools visiting to display their excellence in the Strings or Concert Band. Thank you to the instrumental music specialists.

The final Round Robin for the year saw students competing at a high level, achieving wins in

- ◆ Year 8, 9 and 10 girls volleyball
- ◆ Senior boys volleyball
- ◆ Senior boys cricket
- ◆ Open rugby league
- ◆ Junior girls Australian Rules
- ◆ Open girls volleyball
- ◆ Year 8 and Senior Girls Futsal

Thanks to Sportsmaster Mr Harris, staff and students.

John Milne
Principal
jmiln17@eq.edu.au

Shoes – breaching WH&S

In recent weeks it has been observed that a number of girls are wearing slip-on shoes. These are in breach of Workplace Health and Safety regulations. Enclosed footwear as per the uniform policy **only** is acceptable.



Allison Crane
Deputy Principal

Spotlight on Science

Australian Science Olympiads

On Wednesday 23 August, four Shailer students, Brenton Wagner, Kimberley Hopper, Callum Web and Rory Webb sat for the qualifying exams for the Physics Olympiad. Should they be successful, some of these students could represent Australia in an International Physics competition.

Rotary Connection

John Wintour and Andrew Steele will be guest speakers at the Loganholme Rotary Club dinner to be held in Sapphires Restaurant and Training Centre on Monday 28 August. The focus will be on Investing in School Science innovations. They will be presenting multi media presentations and experiments to demonstrate the use of dataloggers in the science curriculum.

LAB Science Forum

The Logan Albert Beaudesert Science Forum 'Connecting Science' to be held at Shailer Park on Wednesday 30 August is being organised by Mr Wintour. Representatives from some 40 local schools will be in attendance to share how to make Science more relevant and fun in classrooms.

John Wintour
Science Head of Department

EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT
Tue 29 Aug	SET Plan Night Year 10
Thu 31 Aug	Gold Card Awards
Sun 3 Sept	Music Fest Performance at Kingston Butter Factory
Tue 5 Sept	P&C Meeting 7pm in the Learning Centre
Wed 6 Sept	QCS Test Year 12
Wed 6 Sept - Fri 8 Sept	Seaworld Nara Year 11 Tourism
Wed 13 Sept - Fri 15 Sept	Leadership Camp Year 11
Fri 15 Sept - Wed 20 Sept	Exam Block Year 12
Fri 22 Sept	Maths Olympiad Years 7 & 8
Fri 22 Sept	End of Term 3
Mon 9 Oct	Start of Term 4
Mon 23 Oct	Student Free Day

BCT and Business Excursion

On Monday 21 August the Year 11 and 12 BCT and Business students, accompanied by Ms Hutchinson and Mrs Stoneman, toured Castlemaine Perkins at Milton, one of Queensland's most recognisable and responsible companies. Students saw first-hand the traditional brewing techniques of the Queensland icon XXXX and learnt of medieval times when brewing was confined mainly to monasteries. The monks used X as a standard symbol of quality. The number of Xs represented the strength and quality of the brew.

The students were led through the production plant from caps to bottle tops and witnessed the latest technology used throughout this process. Students were informed of the many ways Castlemaine Perkins protects the environment by recycling 99% of waste products and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

As well as being a highly successful and innovative company, Castlemaine Perkins holds the philosophy of being community-minded, supporting many charitable organisations raising money for worthwhile causes.

After having lunch, the students embarked on the next tour, Suncorp Stadium, Queensland's premier sports stadium. Students were informed of the history of the stadium, the facts and figures of the day-to-day running of the stadium, the events management and job recruitment. Our guide then led us through the concourse to the corporate boxes, function rooms, dressing rooms and lounge areas. The students received accolades from National and International players and visitors.

Overall, a very interesting and informative day was had by all – the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

**Mrs Stoneman
& Ms Hutchinson**



Suncorp Stadium

Bright Futures – Shining Stars

Bright Future – Shining Stars is a free, interactive forum for girls in Years 10 to 12. This event aims to inspire girls who may be considering a career in science, engineering or information and communication technology. Bright Future – Shining Stars will feature three inspirational women: Miranda Forwood, Melissa Griffith and Jennifer Martin. The three panel members, who have each achieved success in these industries, will share their stories about the challenges and rewards of their chosen careers.

There is opportunity to interact and ask questions during the panel session and at the networking function after the event.

Interesting displays and take-home careers information will be available.

- When: Wednesday 20 September
3:30pm to 5:00pm
- Where: Parliamentary Annexe,
Parliament House, Brisbane
- Cost: Free
- Bookings: Close Wednesday 13 September
- Information: www.women.qld.gov.au/brightfutureshiningstars

Aviation Careers Expo 2006

A range of aviation and aerospace organisations including Australian Aerospace, Alteon, Asia Pacific Aerospace, Australian Aerospace, the Australian Defence Force, Airservices Australia, Boeing Australian, Jetcare, Qantas, Smiths Aerospace, Virgin Blue, flying training schools, cabin crew trainers, among others, will be present. Learn about a career as a flight attendant. You can fly a simulator – either aircraft or helicopter. You could also win a prize to the Qantas Founders Museum.

- When: Saturday 2 September
9:30am to 4:00pm
- Where: Brisbane City Hall
- Information: www.aviationaustralia.aero or contact Aviation Australia 3860 0900.

Myfuture Student Video Competition

The 'myfuture student video competition' gives young people the opportunity to submit 2-3 minute video clips that profile a range of occupations showing real people in real workplaces.

Entries will explore the duties, tasks, working conditions and personal requirements, learning pathways and qualifications required for their chosen occupation. Entrants are encouraged to be creative and have fun!!! Selected entries will appear on national TV on the School Torque program and may be chosen to be available on the myfuture website www.myfuture.edu.au.

The prize pool includes editing computers, video cameras, ipods and the chance to appear on national television. Entrants registering as part of a school will receive a free copy of *Video Production – a classroom survival guide*.

Entry kits will arrive in schools across Australia shortly. Individual entrants can obtain a kit on request by emailing us. Entry forms can be downloaded from the School Torque website www.schooltorque.com.

Registration closes 29 September with entries closing 1 November 2006.

Inquiries: admin@schooltorque.com or phone (02) 9522 8855

**Narelle McDonald
Guidance Officer**

Dangerous driving

Parking at the rear of the school is becoming a problem. The road beside Insports leading into the school is quite hectic with parents travelling at a speed greater than the recommended speed limit and students walking up the middle of the road. Please be aware of the dangers as accidents can and do happen.

For the safety of students in the school there is no entrance to the circular driveway (in front of the administration building). There is ample parking available in the bottom car park (in front of the bus shelter)

Understanding the Adolescent Brain

By Michael Craig Miller MD – Harvard Medical School

It's a good thing parents get 12 years to bond with their children before they become teenagers. Otherwise they might not be so motivated to help them grow into adults. Teens are often annoying, demanding, moody, gloomy, and defiant. If their reckless behaviour doesn't kill them, it may scare their parents to death. And parents are partially justified in being scared: it's a time when rates of addiction and mental disorders spike, along with the risk of accidental death, suicide, and homicide.

A Messy Transition

Child development specialists say this angst-producing time may be a necessary—though messy—phase for adolescents to go through. The bond between parents and children can be so strong that we might never let go if we didn't live through a time that makes separation look pretty good.

It's an adolescent's job to become independent, explore limits, take risks, break rules, and rebel against the older generation. Powerful sexual impulses and romantic feelings emerge, too. Adolescents are keen to discover the world and create their own culture to replace the status quo. This is also a time of contradiction. Though teenagers may trash their parents, they still need adult support and protection.

Intellect or Emotion?

Regardless of the *purpose* of these behaviours, knowing something about the biology behind them may help everyone deal with this time more comfortably. It's not that teens lack smarts. By age 15 or 16, adolescents do about as well as adults on tests of intellectual ability. But because they are far from being fully developed *emotionally*, they often forget to think. The thrill of driving fast, the adventure of diving into unknown waters, and the excitement of sex overwhelm their judgment.

Peer pressure is powerful, too. Teenagers can adamantly tell you they would never get into a car with a drunk driver, but come Saturday night, it may be embarrassing not to go along with their friends. Gang violence, reckless driving, and drinking get worse in groups. Unlike adults, adolescents take more chances when friends are watching.

How the Teen Brain Becomes an Adult Brain

These differences between adolescents and adults have a basis in brain development. Throughout childhood, the brain undergoes dramatic changes.

Nerve cells grow and they develop more connections. A substance called myelin covers the cells, increasing the speed of nerve signals about 100-fold. Finally, "pruning" occurs, which eliminates connections that are not needed. This makes communication more efficient from nerve to nerve, from circuit to circuit, and between the right and left sides of the brain.

Nerve connections evolve throughout life, but the biggest changes occur from birth to the early 20s. Each brain region undergoes the growing and pruning process at different times. Basic functions (the ability to smell, see or move) mature first. The areas responsible for more advanced tasks mature later. For example, the part of the brain that controls vision (the visual cortex) starts its burst of growth when a baby is 4 months old. By preschool, it has been pruned to its adult level. In contrast, the reasoning part of the brain (the prefrontal cortex) starts its growth spurt at age 3 or 4, and most pruning doesn't occur until middle or late adolescence. Among the last connections to mature are those between the prefrontal cortex and the "emotional" part of the brain (limbic system). Emotional learning and self-regulation depend on these links.

A circuit of particular interest is the one that links the reasoning parts of the brain to the brain's reward system. The weakness of this connection during adolescence may explain why teens are particularly prone to the power of addictive substances and romantic love. For example, adolescents become addicted to nicotine faster and at lower doses than adults do. And brain scans show that the brains of teenagers are much more sensitive to novel experiences compared to adult brains.

Hormones are at work, too. The adolescent brain pours out stress hormones, sex hormones, and growth hormone, which in turn influence brain development. Testosterone production goes up 10-fold in adolescent boys. Sex hormones act in parts of the brain that are important for the regulation of arousal and mood.

Helping an Adolescent Grow Up

A fundamental aim for adolescents and the adults in their lives is to tolerate the inevitable exasperation on both sides. Research supports using a parenting style that avoids extremes of punishment and permissiveness, though it's difficult to define those terms in practice.

The adolescent—and his or her brain—need the opportunity to be independent, but at times they need structure, too. Here are a few guidelines to get you started.

- Be warm but not lax
- Be firm but not harsh
- Accept the adolescent's increasing need for independence.
- Avoid trying to control what you have limited power to control.
- Show, don't tell. If teens see you being loving, generous, industrious, and sincerely committed (to people, work and hobbies), it will mean more than a lecture.
- Focus your attention on the riskiest behaviour: any combination of drinking and driving, drug use that impairs judgment and might put them at grave risk, irresponsible sexual activity (especially leading to illness or an unwanted pregnancy).

You can't avoid the turbulence that is a normal part of biological growth. So don't try. Instead, understand how the adolescent brain evolves and create conditions where that brain can grow into the best it can be! You might find it is more fun and the relationship with the teens in your life may become more satisfying.

Ms Julie Cantrill
Youth Health Nurse



Dental Van

The School Dental Service will be relocated to Shailer Park State High School from Tuesday 5 September to offer a dental examination and, where necessary, general dental treatment. Eligibility for services includes all children in Years 8, 9 and 10.

Initial forms are for you to consent to treatment (if you choose) and information on your child's medical and dental history. Consent forms have been sent home, please return these forms as soon as possible. Please note that an examination or consequent treatment cannot commence until a signed medical/ consent form has been received. Any questions can be directed to the Oral Health Staff on 0412 096 620.

Shailer Showcase is coming!

Shailer Showcase will be held on
Wednesday 18 October

We need performers to audition in the three areas of Music, Dance and Drama to find the best that Shailer Park High has to offer. See the Performing Arts staff for details.

Parents get ready to see to greatest performers at Shailer Park High.



New child employment laws

New child employment laws have been created specifically to protect school students from workplace exploitation and to ensure their studies are not adversely affected by work.

Most of the new laws that came into effect from 1 July 2006 relate to school-age children who are under 16 years of age and have not yet completed Year 10.

The laws include a general minimum working age of 13 years (although children 11 years and over can do supervised work delivering newspapers and advertising materials), provisions to limit children's hours of work during school terms, and clarification of employers' obligations to child employees.

A state-wide direct mail campaign will commence shortly to further inform parents and employers about the new laws.

For more information please visit
<http://www.dir.qld.gov.au/industrial/family/youth/index.htm>