

# Newsletter No. 2

## Monday 19 February, 2007



### Day 8 Enrolment Figures

Our Day 8 Enrolment showed that 1449 students were enrolled and in attendance at Pine Rivers State High School. Our Year 8 cohort for 2007 comprises 10 classes with a total enrolment of 275 students.

The Day 8 enrolment per year level was as follows:

Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12
275	284	279	330	281

Of these students, 67 were enrolled in our Special Education Unit.

A total of 103.1 teacher numbers is our staffing entitlement. We have a number of permanent part time teachers working at our school, which means that the total number of teacher staff is actually 111.



### Wide Range of Subjects Offered and Quality Teaching are again the Most Important Issues in Catering for our new Year 8 Students.

Our enrolment package for Year 8 students included our Client Opinion Survey. This survey has been administered for the last 6 years. We thank those families who took the time to complete this survey. The responses have been collated and we publish the findings in this newsletter for you.

The School Council which sets the strategic direction for the school uses this information to check our school's strategic direction and priorities against our clients' needs.

The most important issues for our Year 8 parents in catering for their children continue to be the wide range of subjects offered and quality teaching. The ongoing review of our curriculum and a focus on the teaching and learning are two of our strategic priorities for 2007-9.

The following are the views of our Year 8 parents.

#### 1. Why have you chosen to enrol at Pine Rivers:

1. Live in area 60%
2. Heard it was a good school 50%
3. Recommended personally by friends, family etc. 41%
3. My brother / sister attends / attended Pine Rivers 41%

#### 2. How did you find out specific information about our school?

1. Older brother / sister 44%
2. EXPO 32%
3. Visits from high school staff to primary school 26%
3. Year 7 teacher, principal, etc. 26%

#### 3. What have you heard about our school that was important for you?

1. Wide range of subjects offered 74%
2. Safe and supportive environment 56%
3. Quality teaching 53%
4. Excellent reputation in community 49%
5. High standards expected of students 47%

#### 4. What is the most important issue for you in catering for your student's needs?

1. Wide range of subjects offered 74%
2. Quality teaching 69%
3. High standards of discipline 60%
4. Safe and supportive environment 57%
5. Access to modern technology 54%

In response to the question about people's satisfaction with our Enrolment Management Plan, that we have been required to develop in order to manage our enrolment.

Yes	88.23%
No	0%
Unsure	10.29%



### School Uniform Standard

The great majority of our students are wearing our school uniform according to the requirements and with pride. We thank parents and caregivers for their efforts to ensure that our students are outfitted appropriately, as per the school policy. The new Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 is quite specific about the school's authority to enforce the agreed uniform standard at school and on the way to and from school.

The standard is published in the School Prospectus 2007, which is available on our school website at [www.pineriversshs.eq.edu.au](http://www.pineriversshs.eq.edu.au)

All students have been issued with a booklet outlining our School Responsible Behaviour Plan which outlines also our school uniform requirements. This should have been taken home to parents / caregivers. The student diary also gives precise information about the school uniform.

As was pointed out to all students at the end of last year, the shoe standard is very specific and is in accordance with Workplace Health and Safety requirements. Full black shoes with black laces must be worn with the formal uniform. It is unfortunate that some female students have persisted in purchasing 'Mary Jane' shoes which do not comply. Also the shoe standard for the sports uniform dictates that shoes must be of a substantial nature (eg leather or vinyl) – black shoes or predominantly white shoes must be worn. Canvas shoes or slippers are not appropriate.

There has not been any change in the uniform standard re shoes. This has always been the requirement at this school. The specifics were published in the School Prospectus 2006 and parents enquiring about our standard at the School Uniform Shop have always been informed of the specific shoe requirements.

**Students who are "out of uniform" are required to present a note of explanation to a Deputy Principal or their Year Coordinator on each occasion.**

Today, we publish again in our newsletter the school uniform requirements for the benefit of interested community members. Our parent community has demanded that the school sets and maintains high standards of presentation, which set the tone for student behaviour at all times.

**Our students are expected to wear the full uniform also on their way to and from school and on excursions representing the school.**

### SPORTS UNIFORM – BOYS AND GIRLS

#### Shoes:

Shoes must be of an impervious nature (eg leather, vinyl) due to Workplace Health and Safety requirements. Black shoes with black laces, or predominantly white

- shoes with white laces, must be worn with the sports uniform.
- Sports Shirt:** Bottle green knit polo shirt with gold collar and school emblem.
- Sports Shorts:** Long green knit unisex shorts with Pine Rivers emblem. **These are the only shorts approved.**
- Sports Socks:** Ankle length white, or green and gold band, or "RIVERS" logo socks.
- Sports Hat:** Sun protective headwear must be worn for all outdoor activities.
- Skirt:** Bottle green permanently pleated, wrap around style (option for girls).
- Sports Briefs:** Bottle green stretch sports brief. Must be worn with skirt.
- Jumper\*:** V necked bottle green with school emblem.
- Spray Jacket\*:** Bottle green with gold feature available ONLY from the school shop.
- \* Can also be worn with formal uniform.
- Spray Pants:** Bottle green with zippered ankles.

#### FORMAL UNIFORM - GIRLS

- Skirt:** Bottle green Cesarella. Front/back box pleats. Length below knee level.
- Blouse (Yr 11-12):** White polyester cotton peplum blouse, short sleeves with shaped cuff trim, long pointed collar, single pocket.
- Tie:** Bottle green with pine tree emblem. Years 11 and 12 only.
- Blouse (Yr 8-10)** Green and white check Cesartron No 355 fabric. Short sleeves, open neck collar, gathered onto yoke at back/front. Peplum to sit below waist.
- Hosiery:** White ankle length socks with the option of black or flesh-coloured pantyhose for winter.
- Shoes:** No knee-high socks or stockings. Shoes must be of an impervious nature (eg leather, vinyl) due to Workplace Health and Safety requirements. Full black shoes with black laces must be worn with the formal uniform.
- Blazer:** Bottle green with Pine Rivers pocket. Years 11 and 12 only. To be worn with formal uniform only.
- Hat:** Optional. White panama, bottle green under brim, bottle green band.

#### FORMAL UNIFORM - BOYS

- Trousers:** College grey.
- Belt:** Black or dark grey ( to match college grey trousers).
- Shirt (Yr 11-12):** Long/short sleeved white business shirt worn with tie. Must be worn tucked in.
- Tie:** Bottle green with pine tree emblem. Years 11 & 12 only.
- Shirt (Yr 8-10):** Silver grey with school emblem on pocket. Must be worn tucked in.
- Socks:** Dark grey or black.
- Shoes:** Shoes must be of an impervious nature (eg leather, vinyl) due to Workplace Health and Safety requirements. Full black shoes with black laces must be worn with the formal uniform.
- Blazer:** Bottle green with Pine Rivers pocket. Years 11 and 12 only. To be worn with formal uniform only.

**NB:** The wearing of T-Shirts visible under the normal uniform shirt or blouse is **NOT** acceptable.

**HATS:** All students **MUST** wear hats and sunscreen **at all times** when involved in outdoor activities.

**JEWELLERY:** Permissible items include a watch, a signet ring and a maximum of two pairs of earrings (sleepers or plain studs only). Body-piercing jewellery is discouraged, but if worn must be covered. Other items such as necklaces and bracelets are not to be worn. A necklace of demonstrable religious/cultural significance can be worn under clothing if **not visible**.

**MAKE-UP:** Any make-up worn should be of a protective nature (eg tinted sun-block) and not of a decorative nature (eg bright nail-polish, eye-shadow, mascara, glitter).

**NON-UNIFORM DAYS:** Dress must be of a standard that does not cause offence or embarrassment to members of the school community. Normal school rules apply to the wearing of jewellery and make-up. Full details are set out in the Behaviour Management Plan.



#### Reporting – Semester One 2007

The Australian Government's requirements for continuing funding to government schools has had huge implications for reporting processes in schools. Last year, we communicated to you that The Schools Assistance (Learning Together – Achievement Through Choice and Opportunity) Regulations 2005 now requires that student reports include, for the subject studied, an assessment against achievement levels or bands defined by the education authority or school. These levels or bands must be labelled A, B, C, D, E and should be clearly defined against specific learning standards.

In order to meet these requirements, we have had to review our processes for reporting student progress to parents. The following is an outline of the reporting process for Semester One:

Preliminary Reports Issued 19 Feb - 2 Mar	An A5 Report is issued to <b>ALL Year 8 students</b> for each subject studied. The report communicates student progress in relation to behaviour, commitment, class work, self management, academic progress and <b>independent home study</b> .
Progress Letters As required from 12 Feb	Progress letters are issued to students in <b>Years 9-12</b> and communicate specific concerns relating to the student's progress. A letter will be sent home (or telephone contact made by the subject teacher) when we believe intervention is essential in order for student to be successful.
Progress Reports Issued 18 April	<b>Year 8-10:</b> will meet the requirements of the Schools Assistance Regulations 2005 using the template issued to schools late last year. This report will meet federal government requirements and will rate student's Behaviour, Effort and Academic Progress in KLA's using A-E ratings. <b>Year 11-12:</b> will report on student progress in subjects and will meet QSA requirements with comments on Behaviour, Effort and Academic Progress.
Oral Reporting 18 April	All parents/caregivers are invited to meet with their student's PREP teacher (with their child) to collect the Progress Report from all teachers
Semester Report Issued 6 July	As per Progress Reports. Year 8-10 reporting in KLA's using a common template. Year 11-12 reporting on progress in subjects in line with QSA requirements.

We also encourage parents and caregivers to contact the school at any time throughout the year to discuss their student's progress with the relevant subject teacher. Teachers may be contacted by telephone or by e-mail. Please be aware that our teachers have timetabled classes and other assigned duties throughout the day, so it is often impossible for them to return your calls immediately.



### Rivers House (Rhinos) Dominates in 2 House Swim Carnival

The trial of the two house competition with the recent Swim Carnivals was very successful. Team spirit was abundant and competition fierce for the overall trophy.

Rivers House (Rhinos) was superior in the Senior competition involving Year 10, 11 and 12s but the Pine House (Panthers) swung into action to win the Junior carnival involving Year 8 and 9 students. Overall points were as follows:

House	Junior	Senior	Overall
Pine	969	896	1865
Rivers	832	1364	2196

Age Champions were as follows:

13 yrs	Kevin Lyon Rhiannon Richer, Lauren Thomson (Tied)
14 yrs	Brendan Hall, Tiahn Welsh
15 yrs	Daniel Vickery, Jasmin Tavella
16 yrs	Jack Newell, Katrina Schieber
17 yrs	Michael Fields, Kimberley Sauer

Congratulations to all who participated to make the event such a success.

#### House Leaders

The following students have been selected as House Leaders for the trial year of the two house competition.

#### Year 12:

Pine	Nicole Dunne, Michael Fields, Amy Hartley, Troy Hill, Candice Luff
Rivers	Paul Muscat, Kelly Napier, Jaclyn Smith, Lara Tyson, Jasmine Walker

#### Year 11

Pine	Laura Doherty, Isaac Kosior
Rivers	Katrina Schieber, Dale Seeto

#### Year 10

Pine	Trent Flanders, Chantelle Lax
Rivers	Mat O'Sullivan, Georgie Sumner



### News from the Business Faculty

On Tuesday and Wednesday February 6 and 7, the Pine Rivers State High School annual swimming carnivals were held. As is the custom, several Year 12 BCT students were responsible for entering and computing the results and calculating the accumulated house points for the swimming events.

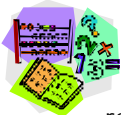
The girls were commended on their professionalism and their ability to work without direct teacher supervision, which is a reflection of the skills and abilities taught within the BCT curriculum.

The students involved where: Hannah Brasch (both days), Amy Kerr, Courtney Wilcox, Alesha Cook and Nicole Flamank. Thanks girls for giving up your time, showing maturity and great work ethic in working with staff and other students in running another successful swimming carnival.

**Go Panthers!!! (All girls were panthers! and they still didn't win.)**

### News from the Maths Department:

*"Mathematics is the music of the mind; music is the mathematics of the soul"*  
– **Gotfried Leibniz**



**Mathematics Text Books:** Students are required to bring texts to every maths lesson. Texts are purchased by the maths department and then hired to students. Students are responsible for their texts and need to replace them if lost or damaged. Texts are not to be left in the classroom / cupboard. Any books, which are left at school, are the students' responsibility.

**Year 12 Maths A Texts:** The extra texts required for the larger than normal number of students have been late in arriving at school. We ask for tolerance from the teachers and patience from students/parents while we wait for them to arrive.

**Year 10 Maths Classes:** Last year students chose as their maths subject: Introductory Maths A, Introductory Maths B or were invited into Foundation Maths or Elementary Maths Mastery. We believe there are still a number of students who have chosen an unsuitable subject (either well below or above their capabilities). Parents and students should check now whether the correct subject has been chosen – Introductory Maths A and B are the prerequisites for their namesakes of Year 11.

**Graphing Calculators.** The maths department has purchased Casio CFX9850 calculators. These have then been hired to Maths B students through the text and resources scheme. Nearly all other schools require students to purchase their own or have a separate hiring fee. Our expectation of students is that they take good care of them, including replacing flat batteries – so that they may be used by future Maths B students.

#### Australian Maths Challenge and Enrichment Series:

These two enrichment activities commence on April 17, 2007. The Challenge is a three week problem solving activity – solutions must arrive in Canberra approximately two weeks after the Easter break. Students work individually or in pairs on a number of problems in their own time.

The Enrichment Series runs for the equivalent of a full semester (16 weeks) and begins immediately after The Challenge. The activities are demanding but very rewarding. For this reason, maths staff support the activity through tutorials during the lunch break. It is expected that approximately one or two hours per week of the student's own time will be needed.

The cost of the Maths Challenge is \$18.70 per entry and the Enrichment Series costs \$31.90. For any student who wishes to nominate for both, the mathematics department is willing to subsidise them – this is negotiable, but if the student pays (say) \$40.00 the Maths department will help out with the rest. For examples of past challenges and enrichments, parents or students should contact Mr Hartwig on 3881 4747.

**Nominations for both stages close on 26 February.**

**Mr Mal Hartwig, HOD Mathematics**

### Swimming Club News



Pine Rivers Community Aquatics Club is the school based swimming club, and it is a sub committee of the P&C and welcomes new members.

The club offers quality coaching from Learn-to-Swim to squad training at very competitive rates. We are also proud of the fact that this season we were able to offer past/present Pine Rivers' students positions in which they have performed very well, including Harley Connolly, Head Coach, and Learn to Swim teachers, Ebony Smith, Phoebe Kosior, Chris Vickery and Tara

Dunne. Tara has just left us to pursue her tertiary studies and we wish her all the best.

The school's swimming facility is one of the best 25 meter venues in Brisbane and is perfect for club activities including swim nights and carnivals. If you require learn to swim, want to get fit, improve your swimming or swim for the state we can help you.

**For further inquiries call Harley 0410380846 or Brett Smith 0142282419**



**From the School Nurse**

Hi, my name is Nerissa Baker and I am the new School Based Nurse for Pine Rivers State High School. I am here Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - **ALL DAY**. I can be contacted on 3881 4709 or students can make an appointment on the booking sheet in the entry.

Any problems or concerns students or parents have, are able to be discussed in a confidential manner.

Look forward to meeting you.

**Ms Nerissa Baker, School Based Nurse**

**Casual Cleaning Register**



If you are interested in putting your name down on the Casual Cleaning Register, please reply in writing to The Registrar, Pine Rivers State High School, Gympie Road, Strathpine. Qld 4500. **A current Blue Card is required.**



**UNIFORM SHOP NEWS:**

Back to school sales have run smoothly and we have managed to outfit everyone at this stage. Many thanks to our hard-working helpers and patient parents during those busy periods.

Ordering for the Winter-wear will soon take place, however there is still a reasonable supply of new stock available for those who may feel the cold early, as well as some great bargains in our secondhand supply. We have a lay-by system if you wish to take advantage of making payments on your new winter gear, or any other new uniform needs.

Don't forget our regular hours for new and second-hand uniforms during the school year as follows:

**MON, TUES, THURS, FRI  
8.30 – 11.30am  
CLOSED WEDNESDAYS**

**TUCKSHOP TALES:**

A busy start to the new school year has seen an overwhelming acceptance of the new *Healthy Schools Menu*. Why not check it out for yourself by calling into the Tuckshop to see how things operate. We have welcomed a few new volunteer Mums to our roster and we thank them for their time, however we do have room for more...so, if you would like to spend a day or a few hours per month providing this important service for our school, please contact Anne or Lewella at the Tuckshop on 3881 4738 or 3205 2794. They will be only too happy to take you on board.

**P&C NEWS:**

As a result of the great fundraising *High School Movie cards* in 2006, we have 14 double movie passes to give away, compliments of Birch, Carroll & Coyle. 19 lucky students earned their passes at the end of 2006 by answering a simple question in the newsletter and now we are giving you another chance. So find the tear-off in this newsletter, answer the question, complete your details, find a parent/caregiver to sign, place your entry in the marked box in the office – simple as that! Competition will close Friday March 2.

Winners will be displayed on the student noticeboard outside Admin from Monday March 5.

**Question:**

**What colour and type of shoes must you wear with your formal uniform?**

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name .....

Prep Class: .....

Phone no: .....

Parent/Caregiver's Signature : \_\_\_\_\_



**From the School Chaplain**

Greetings one and all. How exciting it is to be back amongst the thick of it, at the outset of a new year. Like many, it took me a couple of weeks to get body and mind back up to speed, after a relaxing holiday. Week one was like hitting a brick wall – where have all these people come from? What happened to my afternoon nap? What on earth is a diary? Be that as it may, things are definitely underway, back to the hundred mile-an-hour pace that we're used to. Having set some time aside for reflection and planning, I've set myself some challenging goals for my work this year. One of these is to have time to really listen to and converse with people, without having the pressure of other meetings and appointments pushing me to "wind up" the conversation. In slowing down a bit, I can meet folks "where they are", and have sufficient head space to put their needs above my own.

A busy life often crowds out the most important things first. As the Chaplain, the physical, emotional, social, spiritual and mental health of those I mix with is a high priority. My reflections in December of how I spent my time and resources professionally will, I hope, prove this was the case.

I wish you success this year, and Peace.

**Dave Hockey, School Chaplain**

**Dates to Remember:**

Mon 19	SRC Year Elections to be held this week. Torch Testing Year 8.10 Moreton Island Camp (5 days).
Tue 20	Torch Testing Year 11/12 Art Excursion Yr 11 CRC Parent Information Evening <b>7:30pm Parent Music Committee (PRIMA)</b>
Wed 21	Year 12 Leadership Camp (3 days) Torch Testing
Thu 22	Tutor Training Torch Testing <b>School Council Meeting</b>
Fri 23	Year 10 Rugby League Testing UQ Nominations for Regional Swimming due
Mon 26	Year 8.8 Moreton Island Camp (5 days)
Tue 27	Year 11 Ancient History Excursion Year 9 Step Ahead Museum Excursion SRC Induction
Wed 28	Healthy Schools Committee SEU 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch Year 10 Rugby League Camp (3 days) <b>P&amp;C Meeting 7.30 pm Administration Block</b> Student Leaders M/Tea
Thu 1	Year 12 Environment Committee Creek Cleanup (during access) Regional Swimming Carnival

