

# Newsletter No. 10

Monday 20 July, 2009



## ANNUAL EXPO Building Brighter Futures Wednesday July 29 4 – 7pm

Next week, on Wednesday July 29, we will be conducting our Annual EXPO. The theme for 2009 is 'Building Brighter Futures'. Parents and caregivers are invited to join students and staff as we showcase our unique culture and the diverse range of programs available at our school to enable all students to pursue excellence.

We are seeking your assistance to promote our EXPO to prospective families. We are targeting Year 4 – 7 students and their families. The program will include information about our school and enrolment procedures delivered by the principal in the Multimedia Centre auditorium at 5:30pm.

Information about our school's Gifted and Talented program, **Step Ahead**, will be a feature of a session to be conducted at 6:15pm in A15.

At the Auditorium, a session will be conducted to assist students choosing Career Pathways commencing at 6:00pm. This will provide information on programs available to better enhance student's chances of gaining the career of their choice.



## Pine Rivers State High School to have **Building Education Revolution Science Centre**

During the vacation, the Federal Government announced those schools who were successful in their submissions to receive Building Education Revolution funding to establish a Science Centre. Pine Rivers State High School is pleased to report that it is among those secondary schools throughout the nation, with \$1.9 million funding.

Our project was to construct an annexe and remodel an aged facility (circa 1971) to create a contemporary Science Centre with integrated IT facilities to provide quality teaching and learning to engage the full range of students for the full range of career pathways.

## Oral Reporting Wednesday July 22 3 – 8pm

On Wednesday July 22, parents and caregivers are invited to attend the school with their child in order to collect the Semester 1 Academic Report from the relevant PREP teacher.

The interview will occur in the Hall for Years 8, 10 and 11 and in the library for Years 9 and 12. This will provide an opportunity to discuss the student's academic progress to date with the teacher who is

allocated to monitor his/her general progress on a daily basis.

Parents / caregivers of Year 10 students will have an opportunity to view their student's Senior Education Training Plan (SETP), which will be pivotal in the subject selection process to occur this term.



## SCHOOL GETS HALL UPGRADE

The Queensland Government's Gambling Community Benefit Fund will provide \$26,133 to Pine Rivers State High School for the purchase of a data projector, stage curtain and lighting to replace furnishing and equipment items in the school hall that will enhance the staging of performances and community related events.

Supported by the P & C Association, this upgrade of the school hall's stage curtain, a set of Front of House lanterns and a projection system were all needed items to improve the quality of presentations, functions and performances for both the school and groups in the wider community.

## Subject Selection Program 2009

Term 3 is an important time during which we conduct a comprehensive program to prepare our students and their parents and caregivers to make the necessary subject choices for the 2010 courses of study.

The following events will occur throughout this term to communicate the necessary information and to offer individual assistance to students and parents / caregivers

<b>Monday August 3</b>	7:00pm start
Audience	Year 8 and 9 students and parents
Topic	Year 9 and 10 courses 2010
Venue	Hall
Parking	Basketball Courts (enter via Ash Court)
<b>Tuesday August 4</b>	7:00pm start
Audience	Year 10 students and parents
Topic	Year 11 Courses 2010 and QCE
Venue	Hall
Parking	Basketball Courts (enter via Ash Court)

## TAFE/UNIVERSITY AND CAREERS INFORMATION

As the end of the year is fast approaching, it is time for our Year 12 students to begin applications for Tertiary study in 2010.

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) handles the Tertiary applications for all Queensland and Northern NSW Universities and Full time Diploma level TAFE courses. The *QTAC Guide* is published each year and lists all the courses that require a QTAC application. Year 12 students received their QTAC guides on Friday July 17. Each *QTAC Guide* will have a sticker attached with the student's name, PREP class, and LUI number that they need to apply online at the QTAC site. **Applications close on September 30, 2009.**

### PREP information

All students will receive an 'Introduction to QTAC' lecture during PREP on Friday July 24. This will outline for students the use of *QTAC Guide* and the application process.

### Sunrise and Twilight QTAC Workshops

These sessions will be held during week three and four of this term. Two morning (7:30-8:30) and two afternoon sessions (3:00-4:00) will allow students to work in a smaller group to examine the QTAC application process and ask important questions about the process and career pathways. Whilst these sessions are not compulsory it is highly recommended that students sign up for one of these sessions. A sign up sheet will be available in the Guidance Office waiting room.

### Second Break Career Series

The 'second break career series' will include presentations from a range of Universities, Training Organisations and employers who will address students about the range of offerings and opportunities available. Each session will take about 30 minutes and a calendar outlining the sessions will be provided to students with their QTAC guide.

For more information, you can make an appointment to see the Guidance Officer, or students can log on to the new '*Guidance Office Online*' site through the Pine Rivers State High School 'I-School' link on the School Web Page.

### From the QCE Coordinator

#### **Year 10 QCE and SET PLANNING**

In the last 4 weeks of the Term 2 Access Program, Year 10 students were introduced to the concept of the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) and the planning required for students to achieve a QCE in the Senior Phase of Learning. The sessions were led by the QCE Coordinator working with the PREP teacher.

The development of the Senior Education Training Plan (SETP) is a formal process for young people (usually in Year 10), which will help them succeed with their learning in the Senior Phase (Year 11 and 12) and progress towards the achievement of a QCE. The school and parents are involved in assisting students with this planning.

An overview of the QCE can be found on the school moodle in the Year 11 Career and QCE site and further information can be found on the QSA website- [www.qsa.qld.gov.au](http://www.qsa.qld.gov.au).



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER FOR CAREER PLANNING

### TERM 3

**July 22 Parent Teacher Reporting** - an opportunity for Parents/Caregivers to be briefed on their child's proposed SET Plan.

**August 4 – Subjection Selection Information Evening** Year 10-11

**August 28 – Subject Selection** due online

**Early September** - SET Plans will be finalised and Learning Accounts will be activated by students.

**Mrs Mary Anne Neihl Phone 3881 4791**



### **Suspensions and Exclusions Data for Pine Rivers State High School**

The Suspensions and Exclusions Data for Pine Rivers State High School demonstrates that at this school we continue to act swiftly with zero tolerance of violent and other unacceptable behaviour.

We include the number of Retrievals in the Behaviour Management Centre, which is a proactive step taken at this school to assist students to change their behaviour.

Our school has had a strong reputation in the wider community for its tough stand on discipline and students know that serious consequences will be invoked in accordance with our Responsible Behaviour Plan.

Suspension	2006 Total	2007 Total	2008 Total	Sem 1 2009
1 – 5 day suspension	145	153	207	185
6 – 20 day suspension	3	8	5	7
BMC Retrievals	186	151	154	99
Cancellation of enrolment	2	2	1	0
Exclusion	4	6	6	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>296</b>

Behaviour management has been one of the 8 focus areas for our Triennial School Review this year. Students, staff and parents have responded positively to our commitment to strong discipline at this school with the following achievements identified in our work in the last three years.

- Clearly articulated behaviour management processes
- Development and implementation of Responsible Behaviour Plan in accordance with EQ Policy
- Successful work with enthusiastic Behaviour Management Committee with ongoing review of Responsible Behaviour Plan
- Successful promotion of culture of respect, pride, effort and safety for all students
- 2008 Review of Behaviour Management Centre and endorsement of BMC programs and operations by students in 2009
- Strong leadership of administration team working with Student Support Centre team to improve student behaviour
- Considerable progress with consistency in implementation of Responsible Behaviour Plan

- Transition from effective behaviour management data collection to One School Reporting
- Improved standards re uniform through follow-up coordinated by Year Level Coordinators
- Work of Truancy Officer with follow-ups with truancy and absenteeism

Students who participated in the focus groups with an external facilitator in our review commended our school's tough stand on violence and specifically referred to the use of suspensions as an effective response.

Although our school community has acknowledged that we have made significant progress in the last three years in the area of behaviour management, there was agreement that we will need to continue to respond strongly and consistently to inappropriate behaviour as a priority. The following are proposed actions for the future:

- Strong focus on student induction to code, values and beliefs and expectations of all school community members
- Provision of disciplined supportive learning environment where staff are firm but fair and do not permit disruption of learning of students
- Greater efforts to achieve consistency and staff support of one another with implementation of Responsible Behaviour Plan
- Personal response from all teachers to reports made by students re bullying/harassment
- Full implementation of One School Behaviour Module to support implementation of Responsible Behaviour Plan
- Staff professional development including:
  - Essential Skills for Classroom Management
  - teaching strategies to manage students with challenging behaviours
  - teaching strategies to engage students
  - differential teaching
  - understanding of students from other cultures
  - training for case management
- Further development of whole of school culture around restorative practice to promote quality respectful relationships in and outside of classrooms
- Increased access to interagency support



### Year 8 Ambassadors with Year 7 Visits

Late last term, Pine Rivers State High School participated in the annual Year 7 visits by the state secondary school teams in the Pine Rivers district. Our school representatives were the principal, the deputy principal Year 8 2010, the Head of Department, Middle Schooling and two Year 8 students formerly from the particular primary school. The team talked to Year 7 students about high school in order to assist them to make a smooth transition and promoted the strength of the public school system. Schools visited included Strathpine, Petrie, Kurwongbah, Lawnton, Strathpine West, Bray Park, Dayboro, Undurba and Kallangur State Schools.

Congratulations to our Year 8 ambassadors who participated and helped to reassure their Year 7 friends about the next phase of schooling.

School	Ambassadors
Bray Park	Alex Galpin, Melanie Smith
Dayboro	Nicholas Bradley, Millicent Chambers
Kallangur	Liam Banham, Rebecca Schilling
Kurwongbah	Alex Broughton, Sally Paczkowski
Lawnton	Shenae McKay, Joel Sullivan
Petrie	Bailey Collins, Taylor Lupton
Strathpine	Kirstie Richards, Chris Rollinson
Strathpine West	Shanice Cahill, Josh Ross
Undurba	Wes Fielding, Iesha Horsburg



### Year 8 Enrolment 2010

Families wishing to enrol their children in Year 8 in 2010 should complete enrolment applications and return them to their children's primary school for collection by the high school or forward them directly to Pine Rivers SHS by Friday August 28.

Enrolment packages will be available in all of our main feeder primary schools by next week, that is Week 3 of Term 3. All students wishing to enrol at our school will be asked to complete the application form based on our Teaching and Learning Culture. This is the same for those that live in the local catchment area and those who don't.



### Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test Practice Exam

**Monday July 20 – Tuesday July 21**

This week, today Monday July 20 and tomorrow Tuesday July 21, Year 12 students will have their first formal practice for the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test. This will be conducted, as for the real test, which will occur late this term on Tuesday September 1 and Wednesday September 2.

Year 12 students have been involved in a comprehensive program to prepare them for the QCS test, which commenced in Year 11 Access. This included a preliminary practice test conducted on Wednesday April 22 before an intense program began for Year 12s in Access.

All Year 12 students who are eligible for an Overall Positive (OP) and others who are ineligible who have chosen to sit for the QCS Test will take the practice examination over the two days.

Those students who are ineligible for an OP who are not sitting the test will be required to seek permission from parents to stay at home for these two days. We expect that the time will be spent completing assessment requirements.

The permission note must be delivered to Head of Department, Senior Schooling, Mr Cutler, in A8.



### You are invited to Danc'Ed in the Spotlight Festival

*Dance'Ed in the Spotlight* will be spinning onto the stage again August 14 at the Redcliffe Cultural Centre. Pine Rivers will join other North Brisbane and Sunshine Coast district schools

showcasing classroom achievements in a non-competitive and festival environment.

*Dance'Ed in the Spotlight* promotes excellence in Dance education by providing a window on the diversity and quality of dance experiences undertaken in primary, secondary, state and private educational settings. Come along to a wonderful evening of dance artistry.

For book or admission details call the Redcliffe Cultural Centre on 3283 0407. For all other enquiries please ring Jess Hall at Dakabin State High School on 3491 5444.



### Go for IT gURL!

On Thursday June 4 and Friday June 5, three Year 10 girls, along with Ms Waters, attended workshops at QUT, Garden's Point. The

workshops are offered to girls with the intention of showing them just what they can achieve in the area of Technology, no matter what their intended careers are.

Sarah Nizami, Lauren Nielsen and Alexandra Duff were able to experience University life for two days whilst listening to industry specialists, female students and lecturers. They also had hands-on experience in programming, web development and gaming skills. Sarah said "I enjoyed it there. It encouraged me more to do something in IT in the future". Alexandra and Lauren found the most interesting part was to do with Web Design.



### Walkathon 2009

#### Friday August 7

#### Walt's Wonderful Walk

The annual School Walkathon will be conducted on Friday August 7. The day has become a celebration of our unique culture at this school. The Walkathon promotes teamwork and is a major school fundraiser. We urge every student to enter into the spirit of the day, to get 'physical', have fun and help to raise funds for the school.

The theme for this year's walkathon is Walt's Wonderful Walk with all our favourite Disney characters. The Coordinator is Ms Carol Ann Morel who will liaise with staff from all faculty teams.

The day begins at 8:40am with student PREP classes dressing in theme being presented to the whole school. Students are encouraged to work with their class to design and prepare their 'costumes' and performances. We will leave the school for the walk at about 10am. Sun safety is paramount.

The walk takes us to Sweeney's Reserve. Students are instructed to carry water with them for the walk, but will also encounter a water stop and an orange stop en route. At Sweeney's Reserve, students and staff will be entertained with games, music, food and competitions.

The Walkathon is one of only two RED food days at Pine Rivers for this term. After the long walk students will have the opportunity to purchase hamburgers, hotdogs, water, juice, soft drink, ice creams and chocolates.

At 2:00 pm, the **Disney Characters** enter their final phase with the walk back to school where students gather on the basketball courts for a final roll marking.

Students participating in the walkathon have 3 options as follows:

**Option 1:** Walking and collecting sponsorship. Cards and funds are due Tuesday August 4.

**Option 2:** Walking and donation (\$5 minimum. \$16 will entitle students to free hamburger and drink at Sweeney's)

**Option 3:** Not walking. Donations are encouraged also. Supervision will be provided for these students at school on the day.

Students have had to nominate their option. Those who opted for Option 1 must collect their sponsorship card from Ms Morel in the Science staffroom.

**Sponsorship cards and funds raised must be returned to the office by Tuesday, August 4.**

Everyone is encouraged to support this activity which is most enjoyable for all involved. We ask each student to make a \$5 minimum donation to participate, but students who raise more are eligible for some excellent incentive prizes which have been donated by our local businesses. This is a regular school day and all students are expected to attend. Alternate supervised activities will be provided for students who are unable to or who choose not to participate in the Walkathon back at school.

On the day, students **MUST** wear hats, sun-block, sensible walking shoes and carry water. Students are NOT to bring dogs, bikes, walkmans etc or skateboards. No student will be permitted to stop off en route – at shops or friends or relatives' houses.



### ARMIDALE FORENSIC CAMP

Whilst other students were snugly wrapped up in their pyjamas watching Crime Investigation shows on TV, a group of 12 Year 9 students were in frosty Armidale actually conducting forensic investigations. They were participating in the annual Armidale Forensic Science Camp which attracts over 100 gifted students from as far a field as Darwin, Perth, Melbourne and Canberra.

Students worked in small teams using forensic tests and experiments together with witness statements and criminal databases to solve complex crimes. Once solved, the detectives then took on a variety of roles including barristers and witnesses to conduct a court case to convict the criminals.

The Forensic Science Camp runs in the last week of the school holidays and is extremely popular with the Year 9 STEP Ahead students. Firm friendships are forged and students will always remember the challenge and frustration of persevering with a difficult problem, and the pride and satisfaction when the solution is found.

Congratulations to the following students who participated this year:

Alex Bell, Hayley Benardos, Hannah Dodd, Emma Elze, Matthew French, Coen Imoda, Sarah Luckman, Zoe Power, Dana Ramke, Phillip Raven, Emily Ross, Jed Theed

**Mrs J Trueman, Coordinator**



### **ATTENDANCE: IT'S NOT OK TO BE AWAY!**

The way you train is the way you play; if you miss training or train poorly, then you will perform below your potential. The same principles apply to attending classes and applying yourself.

Students who regularly miss classes or are not fully engaged in their lessons may develop gaps in their knowledge base. This severely restricts both their understanding and progress. It is difficult enough to make up lost ground when a student is genuinely ill, but verging on impossible when away for reasons which are not valid and acceptable. Such condoned absences also show a state of mind that places a low value on a student's education.

The days of starting at the bottom of an organisation and working your way up are virtually gone. Entry for most jobs/careers relies on a certain level of education to a certain standard and both the willingness and capacity to pursue further training. It is for this reason that students should use their time at school to develop work habits that will see them successfully transition from school to work. Employers look for employees who are motivated, are good communicators, work well in a team, can resolve conflict in a positive manner and who are at work on time and regular in their attendance.

Please support us in our efforts to improve student attendance. Remember it's not okay to be away. Should you have any concerns in relation to your student's attendance or require support saying NO to your student in regard to any absences, please contact their Prep teacher or Year Level Coordinator.

Lets all work together to make a difference to your child's future.

**Be on time. Be at school. That's the rule!**



### **From the Guidance Officer *Helping children become resilient***

Definition: 'Resilience – the ability to cope in times of stress or hardship.'

As parents we work to equip our children with the tools they need to solve their own problems, to respond to difficulties, to feel good about themselves and others, and to perceive the future in a hopeful and confident manner.

It would be great if all children arrived with a Do it Yourself Manual but here are some ideas to help your child become resilient.

Brooks and Goldstein talks of 10 key principles for resilience

- Be empathetic – teach understanding of how another person might feel, recognize your own feelings.
- Communicate and listen effectively – and respond to what your child is saying.
- Love your children in ways that make them feel special and appreciated – let them know you love them unconditionally.
- Accept your child for who they are and help them to set reasonable goals – goals for today, and goals for the future. It's good to work towards something.
- Help them experience success in what ever they show competence in.
- Focus on positives, reword negative talk – sometimes the positive may be hard to see, but it's there. Always end a conversation with something positive. Instead of saying 'don't ....', say 'what you want your child to do'.
- Help them to understand that 'mistakes' are just things yet to be learnt.
- Develop responsibility, compassion and social awareness by providing opportunities where your child can contribute or give back to others.
- Teach your child to solve their own problems and make appropriate decisions (What's the problem?, What are the choices? Which is the best choice? Try it. If it doesn't work review your choices.) This also helps them to take responsibility for their actions.
- Discipline in a way that promotes self- discipline and self worth. Punishment is one form of discipline and often a least effective form as it teaches the child what not to do rather than what to do, and can often build resentment. It is difficult to teach your child a better way to behave when you yourself are angry and upset. So be calm, tell your child what you want them to do, and praise your child for doing the right thing. Have though a plan in place for dealing with noncompliance. But be calm. Your child is watching you and will copy how you behave.

In following these principles we will contribute to helping our children be resilient, to be emotionally healthy, equipped to successfully confront challenges, and bounce back from setbacks.

*Adapted from 'Raising Resilient Children' by R.Brooks and S. Goldstein*

**Youth Works**  
preparing our youth for a working future

Blazers from \$185.00  
Girls' panama hats from \$50.00

### Careers and Employment Night

**When:** 23 July – 6:00pm  
**Where:** North Lakes State College, Performing Arts Centre  
**Who:** Years 10 – 12

Students and parents are invited to attend an Information Evening about secure career and employment opportunities in today's economic climate.



### Pine Rivers High BOOKFEST 22 August 2009

Donate your unwanted Books, DVDs, CDs, Games, Magazines and help raise funds for Pine Rivers State High School.

Your donation is greatly appreciated. Please take your books to the Print Room "J" Block. For more information phone Sharlene on 0417 708 654. Organised by PRIMA (Pine Rivers Instrumental Music Parent Group), money raised goes to purchase music instruments.

**Pine Rivers State High School  
P & C  
ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES  
Term 3  
Commence on July 28, 2009  
For more information  
Call Ashley on 3886 1368 or visit our  
website  
[www.pineriversshs.eq.edu.au](http://www.pineriversshs.eq.edu.au)**

DATES TO REMEMBER	
Mon 20	QCS Test Practice – Yr 12
Tue 21	QCS Test Practice – Yr 12 SRC Exec Meeting – MMC 1 <sup>st</sup> break 7pm Year 10 RSC Parent Information Night Winter Chamber Music Concert 6:15pm PRIMA meeting 7:30pm
Wed 22	SRC meeting D/Room <b>P &amp; C Meeting 7:30pm</b> Parent Teacher Reporting – Semester 1
Thu 23	<b>School Council 6:30pm</b>
Fri 24	1 <sup>st</sup> Academic Presentation Assembly (Guest Speaker Ms C Male, MLA) 2010 Yr 8 student enrolment packages distributed to primary schools for Yr 7s
Mon 27	EXPO Guide Training (Period 1) Old Arts Council (Period 1) Cinespark Film Festival
Tue 28	District Athletics SWD Multi Sport EXPO
Wed 29	Student Leaders M/Tea <b>EXPO 4pm – 7pm</b> 6:00pm Careers Night 6:15pm Step Ahead Session (A15)
Thu 20	Year 12 Multi Strand Excursion (Anatomy Museum) Healthy Schools Committee 3pm
Fri 31	2 <sup>nd</sup> Academic Presentation Assembly

#### MATHS TEAMS TOURNAMENT CHANGE OF DATE

Due to Maths Teams Tournament coinciding with Teachers' Day of Industrial Action in May, the Tournament has been rescheduled for Tuesday July 28. Details remain the same for this tournament and letters have been forwarded home via participating students.



#### P&C NEWS:

Join us at our next monthly meeting – Wednesday July 22 at 7.30pm in the staff common room of the Admin building. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by the cancellation of the June meeting due to a clash with *State of Origin*.



#### TUCKSHOP NEWS:

Welcome back to a new term 3 - already! If you find yourself with some spare time each week or month why not volunteer at the Tuckshop. The staff are friendly and inviting and we will certainly make good use of your generosity. Call Faye on 3881 4738 to show your interest.

With a '5<sup>th</sup>' week this month we will be short of volunteers, **can you help?**

- July Tues 21 Cazna S, Jo A, Julie Mc
- Wed 22 **can you help?**
- Thurs 23 Lexie Mac, Julie Mc
- Fri 24 Raye Mac, Julie Mc
- Mon 27 Josie H
- Tues 28 Ros H, Julie Mc
- Wed 29 Lyn B – **can you help?**
- Thurs 30 Ursula Mc – **can you help?**
- Fri 31 Raye Mac – **can you help?**
- August Mon 3 Josie H



#### UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Advance warning is given that as new stock arrives the following price rises will have to occur: **Senior boys' short sleeved white shirts** - \$21.00

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### **Australian Air League – Strathpine Squadron**

The Australian Air League is a uniformed youth organization which has, as its prime goal, the encouragement of an interest in aviation.

Boys and girls from the age of eight years through to 18 years are eligible to join a squadron as a cadet and participate in the weekly meetings and regular activities. The Strathpine Squadron meets at St Paul's College, Bald Hills on a Monday evening.

For more information, students can call Matthew Hasking on 0424 150 889 or send an email to us at [oc.strathpine@airleague.com.au](mailto:oc.strathpine@airleague.com.au)