

# Newsletter No. 13

Monday 31 August, 2009



## Verification Meeting for Triennial School Review *The Celebration of another Step in our Journey of Continuous Improvement*

On Friday, August 21, the Executive Director of Schools, Mr Norm Fuller, standing in for Ms Sue Pearce, visited our school for the Verification Meeting for our Triennial School Review. This is a formal accountability process where the school presents its findings in our required review of school performance and our plans for the next three years. At this school, we have a well-established culture of review and planning in our commitment to a continuous journey of school improvement. For us, the meeting was the celebration of another important milestone in this journey. Also in attendance were Mr Ian Griffiths, District Officer – ETRF Performance and Ms Virginia Young, Acting District Officer – School Improvement.

Our visitors were welcomed to our school by Year 8 students, Courtney Daniec, Minaali Prasad, Jack Perrett and Gray Wagner. The assembled group included School Council members, current and past student representatives and key staff representatives who would all participate in this accountability process to our employer, the Department of Education and Training (DETA). All were treated to a light lunch of 'finger food' by a well organised Hospitality student crew who provided discreet service as we commenced the work of this business meeting.

A comprehensive report outlining the process and findings for the Triennial School Review and a draft Strategic Plan for 2010 – 2012, which had been endorsed by our School Council had been provided to the Executive Director of Schools and other officers well prior to the meeting. The school principal, Ms Janelle Deakin, introduced the session by presenting the background to our school planning and review processes and the school's journey of school improvement.

Three students, Mackenzie Jackson, Vice School Captain, Naomi Wilkie, Vice President of the Student Representative Council and Ethan Jones, Student Representative from School Council presented their perspective on student outcomes at Pine Rivers State High School. Past student, Chris Mills, who is a first year student in IT at QUT and who was involved as a Year 10 student at the 2006 Verification meeting also presented his personal perspective on what this school has achieved in the last three years. A common thread was the quality of the teaching, the diversity of opportunities for students and the tremendous care and concern for our students. The students identified the ongoing improvement of facilities as a priority.

The details of the process for the review were provided by Ms Deakin and Debbie Schier, parent representative from School Council, provided a

parent perspective on the challenge of gathering opinion from all stakeholders.

Seven of the key staff facilitators for our Triennial School Review provided succinct summaries of the significant findings and future proposed actions for the eight focus area for our review, Quality Teaching, Literacy, Numeracy, Integration of ICTs, Behaviour Management, Engagement of Students with Curriculum, Year 12 Results and Destinations and Positive Relationships with Community. They were Ms Sue Alexander, Deputy Principal, Ms Penny Bate, Head of Department, Languages and Literacy, Mr Mal Hartwig, Head of Department, Maths and Numeracy, Mr Bryson Stansfield, Head of Department, Learning Technology, Mr Paul Brown, Head of Department, Student Welfare, Ms Janelle Amos, Deputy Principal and Mr Gordon Power, Head of Department, Science and Environment.

The meeting involved our visitors posing a number of questions in order to clarify specific achievements and challenges ahead of us, as well as input to confirm our strong achievement in school performance as compared with other schools.

The Triennial School Review has involved a lot of effort on behalf of many school community members, especially of our staff Leadership Team and our School Council. Thanks must be extended to all involved in a leadership role in this process including Mr Jeff Lurie, Chair of our School Council, the parent representatives, Ms Sharon Brown, Mr Shane King and Ms Debbie Schier, the staff representatives, Ms Sue Alexander, Ms Claire Bowerman and Ms Amy Sullivan and Student Representatives, Shivnesh Goundar and Ethan Jones. We can celebrate now, but we have already begun the work to address the issues identified to make this an even greater school over the next three years.



## Former Olympian Guest at Sports Presentation Assembly

Guest at our first Sports Presentation Assembly for 2009 conducted on Friday August 14 was former Olympian, Mr Nick Sprenger. Nick competed in the 200 metre freestyle event at both the Athens and Beijing Olympics. He currently works as a Podiatrist after completing his degree at QUT supporting the players in both the Brisbane Lions and the Queensland Reds. Nick urged all students to seize the opportunities presented to them at school to achieve their goals.

The assembly was conducted by Secretary of the Student Representative Council, Kathleen McGlone and Rebecca Draheim provided assistance with the presentation of certificates.

Pine Rivers State High School continued to excel in sport in our first semester this year with strong team performances and a number of exceptional individual performances. Congratulations to all who

were presented and to those who have participated, competed and assisted in sport this year.

<p><b>Interhouse Swimming Carnival</b>  <b>Winning House</b>  <b>Pine</b> – 2217 pts  <b>Rivers</b> – 2213 pts  <b>Swimming Age Champions</b>  <b>Open</b>          Jasmin Tavella          Jack Newell  <b>16 years</b>          Tiahn Welsh          Brenden Hall  <b>15 years</b>          Lauren Thomson          Taylor Cameron  <b>14 years</b>          Keely Stewart          Marcus Hall  <b>13 years</b>          Taylor Lupton          Daniel Turner</p> <p><b>Interhouse Cross Country Carnival</b>  <b>Winning House</b>  <b>Rivers</b> – 167pts          Pine – 120pts  <b>Cross Country Age Champions</b>  <b>Open</b>          Samantha Tesch          James Macintyre  <b>16 Years</b>          Simone Spencer          Jason McDermott  <b>15 years</b>          Cameron Cleland          Rhiannon Richer  <b>14 years</b>          Chloe Crotty          Jesse Osborne  <b>13 years</b>          Amy Hersant          Ben Tesch</p> <p><b>Pierre de Coubertin Awardee</b>          Samantha Tesch</p> <p><b>State and Australian Representative Swimming</b>          Brenden Hall  <b>Track and Field</b>          Samantha Tesch          Corey Buckler          Ben Tesch          Jesse Osborne  <b>Hockey</b>          Aaron Lund</p> <p><b>Metropolitan North Regional Sport Reps Swimming</b>          Jack Newell          Courtney Lupton          Keely Stewart          Marcus Hall</p> <p><b>Pine Rivers District Champions - Summer Season</b>  <b>Year 9 Girls Volleyball</b></p>	<p><b>Rugby Union</b>  <b>Open Boys</b>          Bronson Murphy-Tibble          Patrick Rasmussen          Anu Tu          Charlie Wanma          Jesse Waharai</p> <p><b>Netball</b>  <b>Open Girls</b>          Jasmin Tavella</p> <p><b>Touch Football</b>  <b>Open Girls</b>          Samantha Tesch</p> <p><b>Touch Football</b>  <b>15 &amp; U</b>          Chloe Crotty          Jay Patterson</p> <p><b>Soccer 15 &amp; U</b>          Monique King</p> <p><b>Soccer</b>  <b>Open Boys</b>          James Macintyre          Charley Taplin</p> <p><b>Triathlon</b>  <b>Open Boys</b>          Aidan Jones</p> <p><b>Basketball</b>  <b>Open Boys</b>          Matthew Goodall</p> <p><b>Rugby League</b>  <b>15 &amp; U Boys</b>          Robert Budd</p> <p><b>Golf</b>  <b>Open Boys</b>          Cameron Smith</p> <p><b>Aspley Broncos Challenge Champions</b>  <b>Year 10 Boys Rugby League</b>          Dylan Anderson          Cameron Andrew          Trent Blackman (c)          Ryan Boden          Robert Budd          Cameron Cleland          Daniel Couchy          Luke Crowe          Benjamin Eeles          Nicolas George          Nasser Haddad          Zachary Lister          Angus Maher          Joseph McKenna          Adam McMillan          Ben Pearce          Brent Roberts          Steven Talarek          Brayden Tom          Zachary Turner          Isi Walls          Brandan Zale</p> <p><b>Player of the Season Interschool Sport Summer Season</b></p>
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<p>Chloe Crotty          Kate Dunlop          Nicole Geddes          Madeleine Heinemeyer          Brianna Law          Cassandra McGrath          Samantha McKenzie          Felicia Sutton</p> <p><b>Year 9 Girls Futsal</b>          Sasha Ackfun          Arra-Amour Degenaar          Emma Kearney          Monique King          Tamara McLean          Emma Orme          Caitlyn Saltmarsh</p> <p><b>Pine Rivers District Representative for Metropolitan Finals</b>  <b>Yrs 8 Boys Touch Football</b>          Liam Banham          Alexander Casella          Tyson Gamble          Brandon Krol          Krisneel Kumar          Ben Tesch          Jake Townsend-Bone          Lupe Tuisamoa          Daniel Turner          Brandon Watkins          Jacob Watson</p> <p><b>Yr 9 Boys Touch Football</b>          Luke Handley          Reece Homosi          Jesse Osborne          Jay Patterson          Jayden Pianeda          Nathaniel Powell          Benjamin Smith          Jake Wilkie          Bryce Wockner</p>	<p><b>Basketball</b>  <b>Year 8 Boys Team</b>          Chris Rollinson  <b>Year 9 Boys Team</b>          Brendan Harrison  <b>Year 8 Girls Team</b>          Chloe Winter-Morse  <b>Year 9 Girls Team</b>          Jessica Van Melis          Kala Shaw</p> <p><b>Cricket</b>  <b>Year 8 Boys Team</b>          Robert York  <b>Year 9 Boys Team</b>          Jayden Campbell</p> <p><b>Touch Football</b>  <b>Year 8 Boys Team</b>          Tyson Gamble  <b>Year 9 Boys Team</b>          Jake Wilkie  <b>Year 8 Girls Team</b>          Courtney Daniec  <b>Year 9 Girls Team</b>          Hannah Cunningham</p> <p><b>Volleyball</b>  <b>Year 8 Boys Team</b>          Faagi Teo  <b>Year 9 Boys Team</b>          Jayden Lees  <b>Year 8 Girls Team</b>          Melanie Smith  <b>Year 9 Girls Team</b>          Chloe Crotty</p> <p><b>Futsal</b>  <b>Year 8 Girls Team</b>          Sarah Chessell  <b>Year 9 Girls Team</b>          Emma Orme          (Yr 8 player in Yr 9 team)</p>
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**Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Tests**

**Tomorrow Tuesday September 1  
 Wednesday September 2**



The Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test for Year 12 students will be conducted tomorrow Tuesday September 1 and Wednesday September 2 as follows:

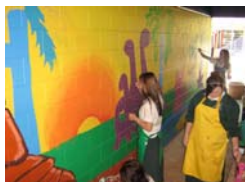
<p><b>Tuesday AM</b>  <b>Paper One</b>  <b>Writing Task (WT)</b>  <b>2 hours</b></p>	<p><b>Wednesday AM</b>  <b>Paper Three</b>  <b>Short Response (SR)</b>  <b>2 hours</b></p>
<p><b>Tuesday PM</b>  <b>Paper Two</b>  <b>Multiple Choice (MC)</b>  <b>1½ hours</b></p>	<p><b>Wednesday PM</b>  <b>Paper Four</b>  <b>Multiple Choice (MC)</b>  <b>1½ hours</b></p>

The students will enter the hall at 8:50am each day in order to receive their instructions for the examination. Students are required to bring all specific equipment required. **School uniform must be worn for all sessions.**



**SPORT**  
**Year 9 Student Selected to Represent Queensland in Acrobatic Gymnastics**

Congratulations to Olivia Gourlay of Year 9 who recently competed in the Queensland Championships for Acrobatic Gymnastics. Olivia competed in the Level 7 women's group section and her group won that section. Olivia and her two partners have now been selected in the Queensland team to compete in the Australian Championships in Canberra in December.



**Year 12 Student Awarded Commendation in Creative Generation Excellence Awards – Visual Art and Design.**

Congratulations to Tamika Schier of Year 12 whose art piece has recently earned her a commendation in the Creative Generations Excellence Awards – Visual Art and Design. Tamika was presented with her award at the University of Sunshine Coast Gallery on Thursday evening by the Minister for Education and Training, the Honourable Mr Geoff Wilson.

**Indigenous Youth Parliament**



*Thursday August 27, 2009 at Parliament House, George St, Brisbane.*

**Purpose:** To engage minority groups in the democratic process and to give Indigenous and Pan Pacific students the opportunity to experience active citizenship in the hope that they will become future leaders in their respective communities. It is also hoped that at least one student will take up a political career.

**Participation:** This year Pine Rivers State High School with its Year 11 team is part of the Opposition in Parliament.

Tina Eleipa	Leader of the Opposition, MP Surfers Paradise
Waveney Yasso	MP Burdekin
Fay Anderson	MP Currumbin
Tallilah Malase-Makata	MP Gaven
Jai Wragge	MP Dalrymple
Luke Rokotoro	MP Lockyer
Ben Pouhila	MP Noosa

**Bill to be debated: Youth Bill 2009**

Pine Rivers State High School with other schools will debate against this Bill which includes raising the drinking age to 21 years; imposing a curfew from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am for all under 17 year olds and increasing police powers to search minors. Tina, Waveney, Fay and Tallilah will argue against this Bill. After this session of parliament, there will be an Adjournment Debate. Jai, Luke and Ben will present speeches on any topics that impact on Youth in Queensland.

Students have met regularly at Homework Club to prepare for this experience. They have learnt the protocols of parliament and the importance of participation. They know that it is difficult for an Opposition to win but have realised the importance of democracy and debate. The speeches are ready to go! This event will also be filmed and the school

will be given a copy of the day in Parliament on DVD.

Students have also had the opportunity to meet with other schools in the district and are looking forward to this exciting event. Some of the schools on the Opposition side are Caboolture, Morayfield, and Bray Park State High Schools and Mt Maria. Schools for the Government are Redcliffe, Deception Bay and Clontarf Beach State High Schools and St Columban's.

Coach: Mrs Johns  
 Teacher Aide assisting: Julie Yasso  
 Indigenous and Pan Pacific Committee – Mrs V. Hunter and Mr Denis Bobongie (Intercept Youth Services)  
 Parliamentary Education Officer – Roylene Mills



**From the Guidance Officer**  
**What is Mental Health?**

Mental Health is a positive state of wellbeing used to describe emotional and social wellness. It involves feeling positive about ourselves, the people and events in our lives, and being able to live life to our fullest capacity. Our mental health influences everything we do:

- How we think, feel and behave
- The way we relate to other people
- The way we respond to the challenges of everyday life; and
- How we cope with events such as changing jobs, having a baby, retirement, loss and physical illness

Things to do to improve your mental health

- Exercise daily – at least for 30 minutes
- Eat healthy foods – avoid drinking too much coffee, eating too much fat, and sugars
- Visit your doctor regularly to ensure good health
- Build a community around yourself – having people to talk to makes life happier and more enjoyable
- Keep busy and involved – in family, school, work, leisure
- Drink plenty of water
- Have adequate sleep
- Seek help if you are feeling down, don't let the blues take over you
- Be kind to yourself – do things that you enjoy eg. a relaxing bath, take a movie, go to dinner
- Do things for other people – not only will they benefit but it is a boost for you as well
- Practise thinking good thoughts, avoid bad thoughts
- Watch comedy shows, seek out humour, laugh loudly

Mental health is an essential part of our overall health and affects our physical health; as our physical health also affects our mental health. It is also strongly related to our behaviour, particularly our social behaviour and relationships with others. So put the effort in and work to be mentally healthy.

*Adapted from: Austn Network for Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention for Mental Health.*

**Mr Deryck Anderson, Guidance Officer**

**2009 Economics Competition**

Earlier this year eight Year 12 Economics students participated in



the University of Queensland, Student Economics Competition. This multiple-choice format competition has been running for many years and is open to all economics students across the state. Questions are very rigorous and are designed to test a broad range of economic knowledge and understanding.

**Congratulations** are therefore to be extended to all students who participated and especially to those listed here for their impressive and well deserved achievements.

High Distinction	Tom Elze
Distinction	Courtney Smith
Credit	Tess-Anna Gilfedder, Kate Ramsay, Kyla Duffy

**Ms Phillipa Stevens, HOD, SOSE**



### ATTENDANCE:

#### IT'S NOT OK TO BE AWAY!

Open and transparent communication lines between parents, students and teachers are the backbone to laying a solid foundation on which to build effective learning. We are fortunate at our school to have such a relationship within the school community.

On a daily basis both parents and students are seeking suggestions on things such as:

- What can we do to improve my son/daughter's understanding?
- Can we organize more help for them out of class time to build their understanding?
- Do we need to find a tutor for them?
- Can the school work with us to sort out their peer group hassles?

These frequent requests reflect the genuine and sincere ambitions that parents have for their children.

It would be fair to say that all parents want a better life for their children than they have had. Yet while all these positives are happening, there is one glaring inconsistency. That is, many of the very same people who are striving to find ways to build their children's understanding, condone absences for pursuits such as shopping, helping at home, babysitting etc.

Let's get it right – we not only have to do the right thing, we have to do the thing right. So when it comes to our students let's adopt one of Stephen Covey's famous adages:

"The main thing is to make the main thing the main thing" – your son/daughter's education and future.

Should you require support in saying **NO** to your son/daughter with regard to any matter, including unacceptable reasons for absences, please do not hesitate to contact his/her Year Level Co-ordinator.

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

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

#### PAYMENTS DUE FOR TERM 3:

2009 Resource Hire Scheme Fees need to be paid in full by end of this term (Term 3).

**\$3 for all Year 8 and Year 9 students** for "Popping Lead Balloons" – Cyber Bullying production 09/09/09

**\$23.50 for Year 9 German students** – Des Alpes Restaurant 11/09/2009

**\$85 for Year 10 Recreation Studies students** - Mt Barney Hike Camp (various dates).

*All students were invoiced \$2 for "Motivational Media – Rebound". This production took place on 14/07/2009 in our school hall. A large number of students still need to pay for this activity.*

All payments can be made by cash, Eftpos or cheque at the payments counter between 8am and 3.30pm. Telephone payments can also be processed using Mastercard or Visa.

DATES TO REMEMBER	
Mon 31	<b>YEAR 12 INTERRUPTION-FREE BLOCK</b> Yr 12 Golf Assessment Day
Tue 1	<b>QCS Test (WT &amp; MC1)</b> SRC Executive meeting – MMC 1 <sup>st</sup> break Yr 12 Non QCS – Brendale Manufacturing Industry Visits
Wed 2	QCS Test (SRI & MCII) Year 10 RSC Camp (3) Aquatics Club meeting
Thu 3	Yr 10 RSC Camp (3)
Fri 4	Year 10 RSC Camp (3) Walkathon Presentation Assembly
Mon 7	Year 11 Golf Assessment Day Year 8, 2010 – Confirmation of Enrolment Letters posted
Wed 9	Year 10 RSC Camp (4) Student Leaders Morning Tea
Thu 10	Year 10 RSC (Camp 4)
Fri 11	Yr 10 RSC (Camp 4) Yr 9 German Excursion (P 3&4)
Mon 14	Yr 8 (2010) Acceptance of Placement at PRSHS posted

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### SHAFT (Mon 21 Sept – Friday 2 Oct 2009)

Stand up paddle, surfing, go-karting, horse riding, slot cars and much more – it's all part of a 10 day program presented by Moreton Bay Regional Council for teens looking for low cost, fun activities over the holidays.

SHAFT, Super Holiday Activities for Teenagers program, is open to school students in Years 8 – 12 living or attending school in the Moreton Bay Region. The program will be held from September 21 to October 2, 2009. Bookings will be taken between Friday August 28 and September 11, 2009. Book early to avoid disappointment.

For more information visit

[www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/schoolholidayfun](http://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/schoolholidayfun)