

# Newsletter No. 3

Monday 2 March, 2009



## Executive Director of Schools, Ms Suzanne Pearce, Guest Speaker at Senior Induction Ceremony

On Friday, February 20, our Year 12 students formally accepted their leadership role as Senior Leaders at our Senior Induction Ceremony. This year, our guest of honour was Ms Suzanne Pearce, newly appointed Executive Director of Schools for Sunshine Coast South District.

We also welcomed back to our school, as is the tradition, the two previous School Captains when our current Year 12s were in Year 8, in 2005, Elizabeth Briant and Tom Carey. Mr Jeff Lurie, President of our P & C Association and Chair of our School Council joined the official party. We received apologies from Ms Bonny Barry, MLA, State Member for Aspley, Mr Peter Dutton MP, Federal Member for Dickson, and Mr Alan Sutherland, the Mayor of Moreton Regional Council.

We appreciated the attendance of a number of local principals, Mr Mike Woodward, Petrie State School, Ms Alison Rose, Kurwongbah State School, Ms Jan Dann, Strathpine West State School and Mr Larry Burke, Tullawong State School (ex Kurwongbah State School.)

The ceremony was chaired by our 2009 School Captains, Tamika Schier and Nick Elze. Student Representative Council Members, Shivnesh Goundar, Naomi Wilkie, Kathleen McGlone and Brendan Xenos and Vice Captains, Mackenzie Jackson and Amelia Gourlay were also part of the official party.

Our Year 8 students had the opportunity to observe this ceremony as part of their induction to our school. We welcomed the numerous parents / caregivers, grandparents and other relatives who joined us to celebrate the occasion.

Congratulations to all Year 12 students who took the pledge to be Seniors for 2009. Your role is a vital one as leader and learner in our challenge to provide the best opportunities for everyone to achieve their personal best.

Congratulations to the following students who were presented formally with their leadership badges:

School Captains	Tamika Schier, Nick Elze
School Vice Captains	Amelia Gourlay Mackenzie Jackson
SRC Executive President	Shivnesh Goundar
Vice President	Naomi Wilkie
Secretary	Kathleen McGlone
Treasurer	Brendan Xenos
Music Captains	Taylor Perrin, Bridget Pulbrook, Ryan Hill, Thomas Elze
House Captains	Melanie Aviles, Jarred Easlea, Megan Bechard, Trent Flanders, Samantha Tesch, James MacIntyre, Georgia Sumner, Thomas McGrath



## Progress Reports and Parent Teacher Interviews

**Distribution of Progress Reports:  
Wednesday March 11**

**Parent-Teacher Interviews:  
Wednesday, March 18**

On Wednesday March 11, all students will be issued with their Progress Report for Semester 1 to take home to parents/caregivers. The Progress Report will contain reports from each of the student's subject teachers and the PREP teacher. This will communicate student progress to date for each subject in relation to behaviour, respect, work ethic, class work, self management, academic progress and independent study. The PREP teacher will report separately on behaviour, participation, punctuality and attendance and wearing of sports uniform and formal uniform.

Each teacher will also indicate on the report whether there are concerns that need to be discussed at the Parent Teacher Reporting evening to be held on Wednesday, March 18. Information about the Parent Teacher Reporting evening will be distributed with the report on Wednesday March 11. Parents will need to arrange a time for an interview with the relevant subject teacher. It is vital that the student is in attendance at this meeting.

Semester 1 reports will be distributed to parents and students by the PREP teacher at a second Parent Teacher Reporting evening, week 2 of Semester 2 on Wednesday July 22.

Other significant concerns identified by the subject teacher throughout the semester will be communicated to the parent/caregiver via a Progress Letter or by telephone. We look forward to strengthening the parent/teacher partnership through our reporting process in order to produce the best possible outcomes for all students.



## Triennial School Review

Our School Council met on Thursday February 19. A busy agenda included

decisions about the process for our Triennial School Review.

The staff embarked on the review first up this year on a student free day with cross-faculty teams examining the focus areas for review as below and facilitators producing a report for School Council.

- Quality of teaching
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Behaviour Management
- Integration of information communication technologies
- Engagement of students with curriculum
- Year 12 results and destinations
- Positive relationships with community

Faculties will now devote time this term to a review of each of these areas from both a faculty and whole school perspective.

Parents / caregivers will be encouraged to complete the annual school survey at Parent/Teacher Reporting. It was decided to involve 40 parents / caregivers (10 associated with each year level, 9 to 12) in a focus group to gather specific information about our school's progress 2007-9 and recommendations for the future. This will supplement the mass of data collected from our school and EQ surveys in 2007 – 2009.

Students who completed the Year 9 and Year 11 EQ Surveys in 2008 will be invited to work with an external facilitator to provide more detailed advice around the topics of 'quality of teaching' and 'behaviour management'.

We are determined to continue to improve what we do to produce even better outcomes for our students.



### Parent Teacher Reporting Annual Survey

Each year at Parent Teacher Reporting, parents and caregivers are encouraged to complete a school survey organised by our School Council. With our Triennial School Review, we are asking parents/caregivers to complete this survey earlier this year at the Parent Teacher Reporting evening.

Parents are asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with various aspects of our school, as in previous years as follows:

- that your children are getting a good education at this school;
- with the quality of teaching;
- that this school is helping your children to prepare for the future;
- that this is a good school;
- with the behaviour of students at this school;
- with student discipline at this school;
- with the buildings at this school;
- with the grounds at this school;
- with the access your children have to computer technology;
- that the school is encouraging your children to be fit and healthy.

Parents are also invited to raise any issues of concern and/or make suggestions for improvement. We appreciate your taking the time to complete this.



### Year 9 National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Tests May 12, 13, 14

In Term 2, all Year 9 students will sit for the Year 9 National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) Tests. This will occur on May 12, 13 and 14.

At Pine Rivers State High School, all teachers are teachers of literacy and numeracy. All will be working in a team approach to give our Year 9 students experience with the full range of NAPLAN test materials over the next three weeks.

This includes the writing task in the narrative genre, reading tasks, testing of language conventions and numeracy using calculators and numeracy without calculators. This work will assist students to become familiar with what will be required. It will also assist teachers to identify gaps in students' skills, which we will continue to work to address.

All Year 9 students will also have a formal practice for the NAPLAN tests under full test conditions on April 23.

It is important that all students take this work extremely seriously and that they understand that their individual literacy and numeracy results matters for them and their future.

Students and parents can access the NAPLAN test materials on the QSA website on [www.qsa.qld.edu.au/assessment/1449.html](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/assessment/1449.html) Students can access the literacy tasks through our school website through "Literacy on Line".



### BURGERTOWN a hot musical for 2009

Something new...  
Something more...  
Something fresh...  
What's in store.....  
For Burgertown....

**Burgertown**, the hottest new thing to hit Pine Rivers. Danny O'Reilly chases dreams for success, romance and a fast food future. A mix of kooky but delightful characters make this a wonderful and fun musical to watch.

#### Performances on

Wednesday April 1, Friday April 3, Saturday April 4  
make a date on your calendar!

*Tickets on sale from 12 March School Box Office  
Enquiries 38814704*



## Help Needed for the Musical

**PRIMA** – The Parent Music Support Committee needs your help to staff the canteen and coffee shop during the upcoming musical. You do not have to be associated with any of the bands to offer help. We appreciate all the help we can get. The music program provides enjoyment for every student in the school through their performances at events and assemblies. This is a brief description of what is required for help.

**Canteen:** We need 1 or 2 people before the show. We need about 5 or 7 during interval. This is during the 3 performances.

**Cast and Crew Canteen:** We need 1 or 2 people to stay with this canteen all night, therefore have broken this time into 2 time slots. Stock will be supplied from main canteen as required. This is during the 3 performances.

**Coffee Shop:** We need 2 to 3 people in the coffee shop. The coffee shop is only on Friday and Saturday night.

**Raffle:** This will be to sell tickets before the show and during interval, every night.

The members of PRIMA thank you in anticipation of your help during the musical. This is our major fundraiser for the music program. Any enquiries regarding the above, please call Lorraine Kachel on 3205 4979.



## Update of Student Details for Communication Purposes

Parents and caregivers are requested to update student details on our data base as a matter of urgency. These include change of home address and phone numbers and work addresses and contact numbers for parents/caregivers, as well as additional emergency contact information

The school requires accurate information in order to effectively communicate with parents/caregivers about their children. This is particularly important in emergency situations when ambulance and/or hospital treatment is required. We will be moving to a Mobile Phone Short Messages Service (SMS) in Term 2 to send text messages to parents notifying unexplained student absence as previously explained in our first newsletter.

Please ask your child to collect a Change of Details Advice Form from our office, complete it and return it to our administration section.



## Successful Year 8 Welcome BBQ!

Despite the rainy weather the event was a huge success thanks to the Year 8 students participating and enjoying their afternoon in a positive and responsible way. The efficient and safe running of the event was again due to a dedicated team of Year 8 PREP teachers, Year 11 QIP students, Year 12 Committees (Health, Events, Sports, Media etc), Certificate in Recreation students (lifeguards), the sound crew and a myriad of assisting teachers – a typical Pine team effort!

Also a big thank-you to Lawnton Country Markets for their generous donation of watermelons & oranges!



## Chocolate Drive Fundraiser Term 1

The Year 12 Enterprise Committee is conducting our school's major fundraiser this term. This is in the form of a Chocolate Drive, which is one of our 'red' activities for 2009, in accordance with the Smart Choices policy. To this end, the drive will involve the sale of small, treat size Cadbury chocolates for \$1.20. All chocolate sales must occur outside of the school.

Parents/caregivers should have received information about the Chocolate Drive from their children. Permission letters were due back last Thursday, February 26, although forms will still be accepted early this week. Chocolates will be distributed this week in Period 4, Thursday March 5 or first and second break Friday March 6, then every second break and after school until Thursday March 19. All monies should be finalised by Monday, March 30. Incentive prizes will be presented on Assembly on Friday May 1.

Please support this worthwhile fundraising venture to raise much needed funds for the school.

Any questions should be directed to Ms Helen Guilfoyle on 3881 4792.



## School Based Police Officer to Target Students Involved in Assault and Graffiti

As School-Based Police Officer, I have a role to educate students about the law and the consequences if the law is broken. At Pine Rivers State High School, high standards of behaviour are expected of all students as per the Responsible Behaviour Plan, which reflects the law.

Unfortunately in a large school there are always a small minority who choose not to do the right thing and who can make life unpleasant for others. These are the students whom I will be targeting in partnership with the school administration this year. Every student at this school has the right to feel safe in the school environment and enjoy their time here without fear of being assaulted or bullied. Students who are victims of an assault of any kind will be encouraged to make a complaint so that offending students will not only face the serious consequences invoked by the school, but the full prosecution process initiated by me.

Likewise, persons who cause damage to school or community property by graffiti will learn that graffiti is a criminal offence classed as wilful damage and will face school and police action.

We all need to work together so that this school continues to be a great school where students enjoy a safe environment and students heading down the wrong path learn swiftly before it is too late.

**Senior Constable Simon Judd. SBPO.**



**From the Guidance Office**  
**Dealing with Anger**  
**How Parents and Carers Can Help**  
**Be aware of feelings**

Children and Teenagers need to learn that having angry feelings is normal and okay, but that reacting aggressively towards others when you're angry is not. Adults can help young people become aware of feeling annoyed, frustrated, angry or furious by naming feelings. Learning to say, "I'm feeling angry" or "I'm really frustrated" gives them a way to separate feeling angry from how they react.

**Time to talk**

Talking to the young person about what has put them in an angry mood will help them to see that feelings have causes, and that solutions can be found. Once you find out what they were angry about you can help them to think up better ways to handle the problem. This kind of conversation doesn't work while they are really angry. Sometimes it must wait until later.

Teenagers often find it easier to talk in informal situations where they feel less pressure. Find a relaxed time to talk to your child about feelings. You could open with "Do you get angry when...." Or "Have you ever become angry because...." Even the age old question "Do people your age get angry when...."

**Find alternatives**

Getting children and teenagers to think through a difficult situation helps them develop problem solving skills. Asking, "Is that what you wanted to happen?" or "What else could you have tried?" encourages children's helpful thinking. Thinking of alternative solutions helps them plan different ways of reacting next time. Be sure to praise their efforts.

**Have ways to calm down**

When emotions are strong, it is easy to act without thinking. Encourage your child to take control and allow time for the emotions to subside. Walking away, using a quiet spot to think, or doing something else like riding a bike, or listening to music, are all activities that can assist in reducing strong emotions.

*Adapted from : [www.kidsmatter.edu.au](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au)  
 Mr Deryck Anderson, Guidance Officer*



**STATIONERY SHOP NEWS:**

Any items that were 'out-of-stock' in the original back to school pre-ordered packs are now available from the Stationery shop. Also available now: Yr 9 German workbooks AND workbooks for engineering, construction and furnishings.

Don't forget the stationery shop hours for 2009:  
**Mondays only, 8 – 9 am.**



**TUCKSHOP NEWS:**

We have been kept very busy in the Tuckshop with new menu items proving popular with students, as well as the old favourites. Daily sales are slowly increasing with more speciality items being offered at 2<sup>nd</sup> lunch. **Students note:** Lunch orders can now be placed at the tuckshop before the 1<sup>st</sup> school bell every morning. Students with special dietary needs are

most welcome to see the Convenor at this time as well.

Introduced as a trial and now regularly on the menu are the **Chicken Caesar salads** @ \$4.50ea. **Salad boxes** (with an optional choice of meat) have been trialled and are available periodically, and as an ordered item. We have recently trialled **Baguette rolls** with a choice of ham, chicken, roast beef and lots of fresh salad @ \$5ea.

Also we have on offer a new range of **vege-chips** from the drinks counter: Salt & Vinegar, Italian Supreme, Honey Soy and BBQ @ \$1ea.

Thank you to our willing volunteers each month, we welcome any new parents, friends or family members to join our team for as little or as long as you want. The next roster as follows:

**March**

- Tues 3 Melissa F, Julie Mc
- Wed 4 Lexie Mac, David E
- Thurs 5 Ros H, Ursula Mc
- Fri 6 Julie Mc
- Mon 9 Josie H (1/2 day)
- Tues 10 Lexie Mac, Julie Mc
- Wed 11 Lexie Mac
- Thurs 12 Jenny K
- Fri 13 Jill D, Julie Mc
- Mon 16 Josie H (1/2 day)



**UNIFORM SHOP NEWS:**

New supply of **grey shirts** – sizes 12,14,16 – for junior boys have now arrived.

Orders for **winter uniform** have now been placed with our supplier and should be here before the cooler weather. A good supply of **secondhand winterwear** is available as well as the discontinued nylon jackets (sizes 10,12,14 only) @ \$25ea and matching nylon pants (sizes XS,S,M,L) @ \$15ea. Some fleecy tops (sizes 10-12) and pants (sizes 10,12, 18-22) that have been on the shelf for some time need to be cleared @\$10ea. Don't forget our regular shop hours:

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday**  
**8.30 – 11.30am**  
**CLOSED WEDNESDAYS**

DATES TO REMEMBER	
Mon 2/3	Year 8.4 Moreton Island Camp (all week)
Tue 3/3	SRC Executive Meeting MMC M/Tea
Wed 4/3	SRC meeting Dining Room at M/Tea Immunisation Year 8 Girls Catch up Aquatics Club Meeting
Thu 5/3	Clean Up Australia Day – Period 4 Year 12 Environment Committee Chocolate Drive Distribution International Women's Day Breakfast Met North Regional Swimming Carnival
Fri 6/3	Senior / Junior Assembly Chocolate Drive Distribution
Mon 9/3	Yr 8.1, 8.10 Moreton Island Camp (5 days) Year 11 Dickie Beach Surf Camp (5 days) Year 12 TSL Excursion 8 – 4pm
Wed 11/3	Student Leaders M/Tea Dining Room Progress Reports Issued
Thu 12/3	Year 12 HOS/HPA Excursion Year 12 Chemistry Excursion
Fri 13/3	Senior/Junior Assembly
Mon 16/3	Year 8.8 Moreton Island Camp (5 days) Yr 11 CRC Lifeguard Camp