

# Newsletter No. 4

Monday 16 March, 2009



## BURGERTOWN

*an Australian Premiere  
at the Pine*

A delicious new musical  
comedy

Our 33<sup>rd</sup> musical is set against the backdrop of a Chicago diner. It is the story of Danny Reilly, a cook who accidentally invents the hottest new craze in fast food and takes the humble diner to the soaring heights of stardom and fortune. Will his dreams for success and romance come through? Come and meet all the fun and kooky characters in a song and dance spectacular guaranteed to get your feet tapping.

### Performances

on

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

Tickets Cost: Adults \$13 Concession \$9  
(and we won't ask if you want fries with that!)

Tickets are available online at the school site [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com) (credit card required) or phone the school box office on 3881 4704 to book. Students may pay at the office and take their receipt to the hall during ticket collection times (morning tea and lunch). Get in quick as seats will sell fast!

You are invited to an evening of fine music  
at the  
**AUTUMN CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT**  
Featuring soloists and instrumental music  
ensembles  
**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Auditorium (Gympie Road access)**  
**At 6.15pm**

The Autumn Chamber Music Concert will  
then be followed by the  
**PRIMA MEETING**

(Pine Rivers Instrumental  
Music Assoc)

**Tuesday 17 March 7.30pm AGM**  
**Attention All Band Members**

Meetings are held every **third** Tuesday of the month. The AGM will be held in the AUDITORIUM. An invitation is extended to all parents of students in the Instrumental Music program (especially Year 8 and new parents) to attend this meeting and we welcome nominations for executive positions. Come and meet fellow parents, our Principal and conductors and share in the benefits that your involvement will bring to supporting your child in this music program.

PRIMA supports the Instrumental Music program in particular – Concert Band, Stage Band, Wind Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble and the String Ensemble by raising funds for instruments and music and promoting student musicianship in festivals, competitions, camps, tours.



## Parent – Teacher – Student Interviews

**Wednesday, March 18**

On Wednesday, March 11, all students were issued their Academic Progress Report to take home to their parents / caregivers. With this was information about the Parent Teacher reporting evening to be conducted this week on Wednesday, March 18.

All parents/caregivers are welcome to make appointments with the relevant subject teacher on this occasion through their child. If the subject report indicates that an interview is required, we strongly advise that this be organised to address the concerns. If you still would like to speak with the subject teacher about areas identified in the report or any other subject – related matter, you are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity.

We also want the student in question present at any interview in order to ensure the best outcome.

**Pine Rivers  
Parents' and Citizens' Association  
Annual General Meeting**  
Wednesday, March 25, 2009  
7:30pm  
Staff Common Room

## Chocolate Drive Fundraising Progress



Thanks to all who have supported the school's Chocolate Drive 2009 to date. The Year 12 Enterprise Committee have distributed chocolates to 450 students to date whose parents / caregivers have given them permission to participate. We would like more families to take part in our major fundraiser for 2009, with funds being directed to enhance our school facilities and resources. This Thursday, March 19, is our final date for distribution of chocolates.

All unsold chocolates (returned in perfect condition) are due back by Monday March 30. Friday April 3 is the final date for receipt of monies from students who wish to be considered for incentive prizes as below:

- Every 3 boxes sold is a movie voucher
- Every 5 boxes sold is a \$20 Westfield voucher
- Yr 12 students receive \$4 per box sold off their formal ticket

The major prizes are:

- Top 3 sellers receive an Ipod
- Top Prep Class receives a class prize

Once again, thank you to all families who have supported the school in this fundraising venture. Any questions should be directed to Ms Guilfoyle on 3881 4792.





## Importance of Ensuring Measles Vaccination Records are Up-To-Date

All students were provided with a letter to take home to parents/caregivers on Friday March 6 regarding the importance of ensuring that Measles Vaccination Records are up-to-date. This relates to the situation at Beerwah State High School where there have been a number of confirmed cases of measles and the requirements for documentation of vaccination to be presented immediately should this occur at any school.

### Letter from Queensland Health

*Dear Parent/Carer*

#### Importance of Ensuring Measles Vaccination Records are Up-to-Date

As at 6 March, there have been seven confirmed cases of measles at Beerwah State High School. As vaccination rates on the Sunshine Coast, particularly in the hinterland, are lower than the state average, it is possible that measles cases could occur at some time in the future in your child's school.

Measles is a highly infectious disease that is spread from person to person by airborne droplets. It can cause serious complications such as pneumonia and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

To protect children against this disease, two doses of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine are needed. Vaccination is recommended at 12 months of age and 4 years of age. Children who have missed one or both of their MMR vaccines may be susceptible to measles infection.

I urge you to check that your child has had two doses of MMR or another appropriate measles vaccine and that you have a written record of this. If you do not have a record of two vaccinations, there are several options:

- search for your child's personal health record of 'baby book', where your doctor or other immunisation provider has written the vaccines given and dates of vaccination;
- get a copy of your child's immunisation history statement from the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (ACIR);
  - online – you can register for online services at [www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online](http://www.medicareaustralia.gov.au/online)
  - at your local Medicare office
  - by calling 1800 653 809 and requesting an immunisation certificate (you will need to provide your child's Medicare number);
- ask your doctor or another immunisation provider for a letter with dates of MMR vaccination;
- ask your doctor to contact the Queensland health VIVAS immunisation register to obtain dates of MMR vaccination.

MMR vaccine can be obtained from your doctor. The vaccine will be provided free, but your doctor may charge a fee for the consultation.

Having your child's MMR vaccination records ready on hand will save a lot of time and effort in the event that a case of measles does occur at your school.

If a measles outbreak does occur at your child's school, all parents will be asked to provide written details of their child's MMR vaccinations.

In an outbreak, if your child does not have evidence of two doses of vaccine, then they will be required to stay away from school until MMR vaccine has been given. Children with records of one dose of MMR vaccine can go back to school immediately after they receive another vaccine. Children with no record of having received any doses of measles vaccine will be required to stay away from school for two weeks after the MMR vaccine has been given, or two weeks after the onset of rash in the last case of measles at the school.

I urge you to ensure your child is vaccinated and thank you for your cooperation and assistance in ensuring that you have the necessary paperwork, should this be required, to show that they have been vaccinated. This will minimise the disruption to the school and to your child's education should a measles case occur at school.

If you would like further information on measles a fact sheet is available on the Queensland Health website – go to <http://access.health.qld.gov.au/hid/> and search for measles.

If you have any further questions about measles or the information in this letter please contact 13HEALTH (13432584)

**Dr Jeannette Young, Chief Health Officer  
Queensland Health  
6/3/2009**



#### Metropolitan North Regional Representatives in Sport

Congratulations to the following students who have recently been selected in the Metropolitan South Regional Trials for the Metropolitan North Regional Team to compete at the Queensland Secondary School Championships:

Robert Budd	15 years Rugby League
Aidan Jones	Triathlon
Chloe Crotty	Girls Volleyball



#### Metropolitan North Secondary Schools Swimming Trials

On Thursday March 4, 15 of our students represented the school and the Pine Rivers District at the Metropolitan North Secondary Schools Swimming Trials held at Albany Creek Leisure Centre.

Against quality state and private school opposition from across the entire region, the Pine Rivers students stood tall with a number of impressive performances. The following students were successful in gaining selection in the Metropolitan North Swimming Team to compete at the Queensland Secondary Schools Swim meet to be held at Chandler Pool in early April:

- Jack Newell (Year 12)
- Brenden Hall (Year 11)
- Keeley Stewart, Marcus Hall (Year 9)
- Courtney Lupton (Year 8)

Courtney Lupton was a dominant performer on the day, with a number of gold medals and regional records to her name. Jack Newell also smashed the regional record for the Men 50m Freestyle, while

Keeley, Marcus and Brenden all qualified for multiple events. Taylor Cameron (Year 10) narrowly missed qualification in 3 events, despite heat swim wins and personal best times in the very competitive 15 Years Boys age group. Students should be congratulated for their dedication and professionalism on the day and the level of parental support at the pool was fantastic.

**Mr Joel White, Team Manager**



### Triennial School Review

An external facilitator, Ms Irene Buhaj, will facilitate focus groups over two days on Monday 23 and Tuesday March 24 in order to provide more detailed advice to inform our Triennial School Review.

Four groups of students from Year 10 and Year 12 will provide input on two topics, 'quality of teaching' and 'behaviour management'. Four groups of parents (10 approx. associated with each year level, 9 to 12) will be invited to provide advice around the focus areas for our review as above:

- Quality of teaching
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Integration of ICTs
- Behaviour Management
- Engagement of students with curriculum
- Year 12 Results and Destination
- Positive relationships with community

All parents are encouraged to complete the satisfaction survey which will be distributed at Parent Teacher Reporting on Wednesday, March 18.

Any other parent / caregiver who wishes to provide a view or comments in relation to the above focus areas is able to do so by emailing : [the.principal@pineriversshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:the.principal@pineriversshs.eq.edu.au)



### Lions Youth of the Year Contest

Three of our students have competed recently in the Lions Youth of the Year Competition. This event involves students presenting a 5 minute prepared speech and an impromptu address on a certain topic.

Congratulations to Sarah Peachey of Year 12 who succeeded in progressing to the next round in the Pine Rivers Lions Club contest. Congratulations also to Mackenzie Jackson and Brendan Xenos for their success in the Albany Creek Lions competition.

### Non-Uniform Day

#### Wednesday March 18

The Year 12 Social Justice Committee is working with the Student Representative Council to conduct the first non-uniform day for 2009 to celebrate **World Harmony Day** on Wednesday, March 18.

Students who choose not to wear full school uniform will contribute a gold coin as a donation.

A high standard of dress is required as usual on these occasions. This is stated clearly in the School Responsible Behaviour Plan booklet for all school community members which should have been taken home earlier this year.

**These are as follows:**

- Dress must not cause offence or embarrassment to members of the school community. Normal school rules apply to the wearing of jewellery and make-up
- Footwear must comply with work place health and safety requirements – they must be enclosed and substantial if in Science Labs, kitchens and Workshops. No thongs or sandals are permitted.
- All skirts or dresses must be of a suitable length so as not to cause offence
- Inappropriate slogans should not appear on clothing
- No bare midriffs, singlets, halter neck tops or dresses, or strapless tops may be worn.

Funds raised will be split between Overseas Aid in Africa and Aid in the Pine Rivers Area.



### Donations to the Victorian Fire Relief Fund and the North Queensland Flood Appeal

Thank you to everyone who donated to these worthy appeals. The Year 12 Social Justice Committee received \$830. This money has been banked with these two appeals. Fantastic effort everyone!



### Pine Rivers Students Clean Up!

Sunday March 1 was Clean Up Australia Day, a day

when many people get involved in activities to clean up local waterways and parks.

As part of the school's contribution for Clean Up Australia Schools Day, half of the Year 12 Environment Committee students spent an hour with their teacher on Thursday March 5, in Access, cleaning up the section of 4-Mile Creek that borders two of the school ovals.

This year, as a result of extensive ongoing work by the Moreton Bay Regional Council, the creek area has had a wonderful overhaul. Many of the non-native Camphor Laurels have been cut down and replaced by native riparian vegetation. A lot of the weed that was choking the creek has also been removed. This has attracted back a lot of ducks, fish, lizards and the occasional koala.

Thankfully, there were none of the large items in the creek that we have pulled out in previous years, such as shopping trolleys and tyres. This year our haul consisted mainly of plastic bottles, plastic bags and other small plastic rubbish, cans, cigarette butts and a huge number of assorted snack food wrappers, in fact, a total of nearly 2 cubic metres of rubbish!

We know that the litter contributions were not all from students at this school, and it may have taken some time to accumulate, but it is still a disturbing amount of rubbish. This sort of litter is a hazard to the animals that live in the creek (and the ocean that the creek eventually empties into). It is also a real eyesore and gives a poor impression to pedestrians as they pass by the school. Please let's all do our best to work together, clean up our act, dispose of our litter thoughtfully in the many bins provided and look after our immediate environment more in the future.



### Next Step 2009

The Queensland Government will again be conducting its annual statewide destination survey of all students who completed Year 12 in 2008. The Next Step survey is a brief confidential survey that aims to gain a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers.

Any person who completed Year 12 last year can expect to receive a telephone call or a paper-based survey by mail, between March and May 2009. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate in the survey. Thank you for your support of the Next Step Survey in 2009.

For more information visit [www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/](http://www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/) or telephone toll free on 1800 068 587.



### Messages to Students from Parents/Caregivers

Recently, our office staff have had an increasing number of requests to pass on messages about domestic arrangements to students throughout the school day. This cannot be sustained with the huge work demands for our staff. Please plan carefully for these before your child leaves home. In an emergency, of course, we will endeavour to pass on information as required and to manage the student's welfare. Just a reminder that it is almost impossible to get a message to a student on Thursday afternoon due to sporting arrangements.



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

Many students have their education progress severely interrupted by absences which are more often than not, unnecessary, and for reasons fairly low on the 'important to my future' scale.

To reach their potential at school, **students need to attend regularly**. This means a few days off per year due to genuine illness – not a 9 day fortnight which accumulates to 20 days absent, 100 periods absent, the equivalent of 4 school weeks absent in a year. How could any student be expected to keep up with work in such circumstances? **Parents – you have a critical role to play in protecting your own child's future.**

Absences can be minimised by arranging dental and medical appointments after school or during the holidays. Shopping, helping at home, and visiting relatives may all seem important at the time – but not as important as a **person's FUTURE**.

We (parents and the school) need to work together to help students to understand the importance of being at school whenever possible, and that trivial reasons for absence are not sufficient to discharge

parents' legal responsibilities. We see this as a key issue in developing students' work ethic and preparing them for future options (work and further study).

School and parents have a legal responsibility to account for the whereabouts of young people on a daily basis.

Should you require support in saying **NO** to your son/daughter on their attendance or any other issue please contact us immediately.

We all can work together to make a difference to your student's future.



### Traffic Congestion and Safety Issues Ash Court Entrance

Parents and caregivers are requested to refrain from entering the school grounds by car via Ash Court to collect their children after school. There is excessive traffic congestion created and we are concerned for the safety of all.

There is a set down area at the front of the school from Gympie Road, which was constructed by the Council for this purpose. We would suggest that parents park there or legally on the streets adjoining the school (not Ash Court). Students having to walk a distance to the vehicle should be a healthy option.

### 2009 SNOW TRIP

Looking for adventure? The Pine Rivers State High School Snow Trip is on this coming July in the second week of the winter vacation.



Interested? Year 11 and 12 students are invited. Get some friends together and team up or just come by yourself and make new friends.

The trip departs from Pine Rivers on Saturday July 4 for 5½ days of skiing and snowboarding at Perisher Blue, the biggest snow fields in the Snowy Mountains. Stay in Jindabyne, the social hub of the snow fields. Don't miss one of the highlights of your school days.

Book your place with Ms. Handfield (3881 4757 Science), Mr Hammond (3881 4792 Multimedia Centre) or Ms Beasley (3881 4755 Phys Ed.) Keep your eye on the Daily Announcements for snow trip news and updates.

**The Education Tax Refund – Get 50% back**



Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students.

This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

### Are you eligible?

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- the Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- the Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- a scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

### What can you claim?

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- laptops, home computers and associated costs — for example, internet and paper
- educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- stationery and art supplies
- school textbooks and associated learning materials
- trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.

Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit

[www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au)

### When can you claim?

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009.

**Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.**

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

For more information:

- visit [www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au](http://www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au)
- phone the Tax Office on 13 28 61.



## FROM THE GUIDANCE OFFICE

### DISCIPLINE VS. PUNISHMENT

Discipline is different from punishment because it teaches children to learn from their mistakes rather than making them suffer for them. In fact, imposing suffering actually shifts the focus from the lesson that needs to be learned to who is in control. As a result, punishment focuses on the

parent being responsible for controlling a child's behaviour, rather than the child controlling his/her own behaviour, which is the focus of discipline.

In *Positive Discipline*, Jane Nelsen offers guidelines for using consequences, which she calls the Four Rs of consequences. These four Rs actually apply to *all* discipline techniques, not just natural and logical consequences. Whatever discipline technique you choose, make sure it meets the following four criteria:

- Whenever possible, **REVEAL** the consequences of misbehaviour ahead of time so children will know what to expect the next time they *choose* to misbehave.

'If you don't get your homework done then you can't spend time on the Playstation' Notice how the responsibility for the behaviour and its effect are on the child rather than the parent. Can you tell how different this sounds than if the parent said, "*Don't spend all afternoon playing on the computer.*" First of all, this wording gives the child the idea to go and spend all afternoon on the computer then challenges them to test the rule by wording it like a power threat.

- The discipline should be logically **RELATED** to the misbehaviour. Sending a child to bed or restricting a child from TV has nothing to do with not getting homework done.
- Present your comments in a **RESPECTFUL** manner that lets children know they have a *choice* about how they behave.

"When I see you are getting your homework done, well then I'm happy for you to play the computer."

Notice how different this sounds than,

"*That's it, get off that computer and get your homework done!*"

- Provide a **REASONABLE** solution that will allow children an opportunity to correct the behaviour while the lesson is fresh in their minds. For example, "*You can play on the computer once you show me your homework.*"

If any one of the Four R's is missing from the discipline, it turns the technique into punishment, which has Four (new) Rs: **Resentment, Rebellion, Revenge, and Retreat** (lying, learning to not get caught, or avoidance). If your child reacts in any of these ways, review how you presented your discipline. One of the Four Rs of Discipline may be missing.

*Mr D Anderson, Guidance Officer*

*Adapted from: "T.I.P.S.: Tools for Improving Parenting Skills," Dayton Parent magazine*



## G'DAY USA PROGRAM Opportunity For Students January 2011

An opportunity exists for students at Pine Rivers State High School to take part in a Cultural Exchange trip to the United States of America for twenty days. **This is not a school excursion or endorsed by the school.**

Destinations include: Disneyland, Universal Studios, Knott's Berry Farm, Mexico and San Francisco. A feature of the tour is that the students spend ten days living with an American family.

For more information, please contact Mr Kirk Manwaring in the HPE staffroom.



### TUCKSHOP NEWS:

Thank you to the new volunteers who have been calling in to lend a hand after dropping their students to school. Mornings are busy when preparing the fresh healthy menu items now available. Have you tried the new Chicken Caesar wraps? **Don't forget:** Students and staff can now place their orders before school to ensure you get what you want at lunch break. Salad boxes are available by order only. We will be trialling some of the winter menu items in the coming weeks, so students, watch out for new additions in the daily news.

### **The next fortnight's roster:**

Tues 17 Cazna S (1/2), Jo A, Julie Mc  
 Wed 18 Lyn B, Lexie Mac, David E  
 Thurs 19 **No Volunteers – could you help?**  
 Fri 20 Julie Mc

Mon 23 Josie H  
 Tues 24 Ros H, Julie Mc  
 Wed 25 Christie G  
 Thurs 26 Lexie Mac  
 Fri 27 Ray Mac, Julie Mc

Mon 30 Josie H

Congratulations Julie Mc on winning the February draw for a movie ticket. Get your name into the box by volunteering just 1 day per month. The more you volunteer, the more chances you have to win.



### UNIFORM SHOP NEWS:

Just arrived: Sport shorts – sizes M, 2XL, 3XL and Sport shirts – XS, M.

A large amount of second-hand winter wear currently available.



### LOST PROPERTY

Lost property is handed to, and can be claimed from the School Office. After a couple of weeks it is then stored in the Uniform Shop where further claims can be made on Fridays. Currently in the Uniform shop, there is a variety of school items as well as clothing, pencil cases, hats, and sport balls.

	Kirra SLSQ Camp (6 day) Be at School by 3pm
Mon 30	Years 8.3 and 8.7 Moreton Island Camp Musical Dress/Technical Rehearsal 5pm – 9pm QSSS Swimming Reps only
Tue 31	Musical 11:30am Matinee <b>BLOOD BANK 9AM – 3PM</b> SRC Exec. Meeting MMC M/Tea
<b>APRIL</b>	
Wed 1	SRC meeting Dining Room M/Tea <b>Musical Opening Night 7pm</b> Aquatics Club meeting
Fri 3	Musical Presentation Assembly (Senior and Junior assembly) <b>Musical 7pm</b>
Sat 4	<b>Musical Finale 7pm</b>
Mon 6	Year 12 Biology Camp

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### **Southern Cross Cultural Exchange**

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange, an Australian not-for-profit organisation specialising in international student exchange programs, is seeking volunteer host families for high school students scheduled to arrive in Australia in July 2009 from Germany Italy, France, Holland, Australia, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark Finland, Japan, Brazil, Canada and the USA. Host families can choose from students staying for a range of either 3, 4 or 10 months and they all attend local high schools whilst they are in Australia. The main purpose of cultural exchange is to challenge youth towards international understanding and tolerance, encourage further learning, self knowledge and awareness – invaluable characteristics in today's world.

We organise all the flights, school enrolment, transportation, insurances and support systems. Just imagine your son or daughter having a brother or sister for a few months from another country. It's a great opportunity for Australian students to learn that there is a world of variety and opportunity waiting for them – different languages, foods, sports, customs, and perhaps an overseas visit to look forward to later on.

To enquire, call Southern Cross Cultural Exchange now toll free on 1800 500 501, visit [www.scce.com.au](http://www.scce.com.au) or email [scceast@scce.com.au](mailto:scceast@scce.com.au)

### **GUIDING offers opportunities for FUN, ADVENTURE, CHALLENGE and FRIENDSHIP**

Lawnton District Girl Guides has vacancies for

- Girls aged 6 (or in Year 1) to 18 Years
- Female Leaders / Helpers 18+

To find out more contact Denise Rodwell (07) 32852612, Sylvia Milner (07) 32055964 or Debbie Lawrence on (07) 32056373

<b>DATES TO REMEMBER</b>	
Mon 23	Years 8.6 and 8.12 Moreton Island Camp
Tue 24	Yr 12 Art Excursion
Wed 25	<b>Student Leaders M/Tea</b> All Day Musical Rehearsal 9am – 3pm <b>7:30pm P &amp; C meeting - AGM</b>
Thu 26	Yr 10 QUT Exp Day
Fri 27	Middle School Band Rehearsal
Sun 29	Musical Bump In