

Newsletter

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From the Principal's Desk

Staffing

As a result of our increased numbers of students this year, we have qualified for an additional teacher. This is great news. I have recruited a teacher, Mr Geoffrey Vargas, who will take up duty with us on Monday, 2 March. Mr Vargas is a mathematics science teacher. I look forward to welcoming Mr Vargas into our school.

Year 9 NAPLAN Preparation

Key staff and I have been working on our preparation for our Year 9 students as they prepare for their National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). This will consist of a series of tests on 12, 13, 14 May. Students will be setting a practise test in early March as part of their preparation. Our English and Maths programs as well as Literacy and Numeracy programs are designed to help students with these tests.

Swimming Carnival – TOMORROW Friday 27 February

Our swimming carnival is on this Friday at the pool. Mrs Townsend has done a lot of work in preparation so this is a great day. We welcome parents and would hope to see you enjoying the day with your students. If you wish you may like to offer to help with a stopwatch, just see Mrs Townsend. The P & C will be cooking burgers for lunch so this may be an ideal way of meeting other parents as well.

P & C AGM – Thursday 5 March 2009

The P & C AGM is on Thursday 5 March at 6pm in the meeting room. Please come along to support the P & C. This is the forum for parents to have their say into various aspects of school policies and procedures.

Tender of Machinery

We are required to replace some of our Manual Arts machinery. Some of it is in very good condition. Please see the separate article in this newsletter.

Student Leadership Induction Ceremony – Friday 6 March 2009

At present we are finalising all our student leaders from all year levels. These student leaders will form the student council here at school. All of the senior leadership positions, school captains, school vice captains and house captains as well as senior leaders were elected last year.

All of these students will receive their badges at a whole school ceremony at Kianga Hall next Friday morning at 9.30am. All parents, especially parents and family of badge recipients are most welcome. There will be a morning tea afterwards provided by the P & C.

Sustained Student Leadership

Student Leaders at our school often do not receive formal leadership training. A PCAP funded initiative has been developed to address this matter. This year some selected Year 8 and Year 11 students will be invited to attend a leadership camp at 'Coolwaters' at Yeppoon. After their training, there will be ongoing sessions and web based connections to encourage these students with their leadership. It is hoped that in future years this program could continue. This is a wonderful opportunity to develop the leadership potential of our students.

Moura State School Senior Induction

On Tuesday, I attended the Moura State School Senior Induction ceremony with our School Captains and Vice Captains.

It is always good to attend these ceremonies as many of the students have siblings at the High School.

It is good for our two schools to establish these close ties as so many of these students move through and into our high school. I like to think that our two schools share a common educational family and therefore sharing is vital. I hope to see strong representation from Moura State School at our Induction Ceremony.

Alan Campbell – PRINCIPAL

HOME EC NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Home Economics / Hospitality Department desperately needs magazines to use for research and as a resource for assignments. The types of magazines that would be particularly helpful are food magazines like *Good Taste*, women's magazines like *New Idea*, *Woman's Day*, *Women's Weekly*, *Choice*, *House & Garden*, *Home Beautiful* and *Vogue*. Parenting / Family guidance magazines are also of interest for the senior classes. Please deliver any magazines you think may be of benefit to the school office and let the staff know they are for the Home Economics Department. Many thanks to those of you, who may be able to assist us with this request.

Michelle Briggs
Home Ec Teacher



IMPORTANT REMINDER NAPLAN PRACTICE NEXT WEEK

TUESDAY 3 March - Session 2 & 3

WEDNESDAY 4 March - Session 2

THURSDAY 5 March - Session 2 & 3

Letters were sent home to all Yr 9.

It is a requirement of Ed Queensland that all Yr 9 students in the state complete a practise test.

Students will need to have the following materials for both the practice and actual tests:-

- 2B or HB pencils
- Eraser
- Pencil sharpener
- Blue or black biros (for Yr 9 writing test)
- Calculators for the numeracy (calculator) test
- If your student will be away on these dates, please contact Natalie Thomas or Kirsten Williams to arrange alternative days for your student to complete the tests.

P & C NEWS

The P & C wishes to extend an invitation to all staff and parents to our **AGM** which is on **Thursday 5 March at 6.00pm** followed by a general meeting. All Welcome!!

Swimming Carnival



The swimming carnival is **TOMORROW, Friday**. Below are a few reminders:

- Students are required to arrive at the pool by 8.45am. Students are not required to go to school first. Bus students will be dropped off at the pool.
- All students will be required to stay until 3.00pm and will be dismissed from the pool. This includes all Year 11 and 12 students. Bus students will be picked up from the pool.
- Students are encouraged to wear house colours.
- A BBQ lunch is being supplied by the P & C. Burgers are \$5.00 and were to be pre-ordered.
- Parents and community members are more than welcome to attend. At the end of the day there is a parent/teachers vs students relay and we need swimmers!
- If a student is absent on the day, a phone call to the office is required.

Regards
Lacey Townsend

2009 is the Year of Creativity

Following on from the success of last year's Year of Physical Activity, the Department of Education, Training and the Arts has declared 2009 the Year of Creativity (YOC).

Creativity isn't just about the arts – it's an important skill we need across all subjects at school and of course, at home.

So, in every Queensland school, it's time for parents, carers, staff and students to get creative in everything we do: writing, teaching, thinking, problem-solving, experimenting, drawing, acting, dancing, performing and learning.

This year's YOC events and projects include the Ideas Festival, Creative Generation, the Queensland Academies' Creative Challenges and many exciting music, writing and photography competitions with fantastic prizes.

YOC has also secured special Creative Ambassadors including neuroscientist Dr William Tan, chef Alastair McLeod, actor Paul Bishop, writer Sam Wagan Watson, reporter Melissa Downes, 'The Shak' presenters, actress Leah Purcell and author Rebecca Sparrow.

To keep track of the YOC events and competitions throughout 2009, bookmark the Year of Creativity website www.yearofcreativity.deta.qld.gov.au/

Why Reading Stories is Important

Books help to develop your child's language, knowledge and understanding, as they introduce young readers to a huge variety of new words and topics.

If your child is familiar with books and reading, they will be better prepared to take advantage of all learning.

Taking the time to read to your child, or introducing them to a number of different books will make them more comfortable reading at school.

Reading is also a way for parents to spend quality time with their children and will help to build a stronger relationship between you and your child.

Children learn by example, so watching you read and talking together about reading will show your child that reading is a valuable a skill and an excellent way to spend free time.

If you would like more information about reading with your child visit:
www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

Our State, Your Stories competition

Students in Years 5 -12 are invited to enter an exciting new writing competition, Our State, Your Stories.

As part of the *Year of Creativity*, students choose a photo from the John Oxley Library or The Courier-Mail online collections for their inspiration on the past, or use their imagination to write about Queensland in the next 150 years.

The competition winners will:

- win a Dreamworld passes pack
- have their work published in The Courier-Mail, the *Year of Creativity* and Q150 websites, and have their story permanently added to the John Oxley Collection
- attend a writer's workshop with author Rebecca Sparrow
- receive a Brisbane Writers Festival prize.

Contribute your vision of Queensland to the Q150 and *Year of Creativity* celebrations by entering Our State, Your Stories.

Entries close 9 April 2009.

To enter the competition, visit the *Year of Creativity* website:
www.yearofcreativity.deta.qld.gov.au/

For more information, contact the Marketing Officer on 07 3237 1937 or email rebecca.turner@deta.qld.gov.au

DATES TO REMEMBER	
Thurs 5 March	P&C AGM at 6pm
Fri 6 March	Senior Induction Ceremony
Thurs 12 March	NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE
Tues 17 March	School Photos TODAY
Thurs 9 April	Cross Country

NEW

MATHS TUTORING



I will be offering tutoring to all Year 8 students for Maths on **Thursday afternoons** from **3.15am** to about **4pm** in **Room A5**.

If you would like to enquire about tutoring please ring the school office on 49975888.

Ms Anna Hogg

The following information is mainly for primary school children but could be useful to all parents.

HOW YOU CAN YOUR CHILD WITH WRITING

The best way to help your child with writing is to encourage them to use real occasions in family life to practise. This can include writing notes, messages, reminders or even helping to keep a family diary.

Here are some other ways to help your child with their writing:

- if they are unsure of how to spell certain words, encourage them to have a go. Keep a dictionary close by and start a spelling list
- read your child's writing and discuss what you like about it. This makes writing fun and encourages children to keep writing
- if possible, give examples of your own writing to your child to show how it is important in your daily life and your work
- talk to your children about the types of writing they do at school and praise their efforts as well as correcting grammar or spelling
- encourage them to use a computer keyboard if there is one available
- encourage your child to make greeting cards for special times of the year and

suggest they write their own verses or messages

- when reading their draft writing and commenting on what you like about it, remember not to change the writing. Leave all the creative decisions to the writer.

If you would like more information or tips about helping your child with their writing visit www.education.qld.gov.au/parents/map/

Fight Fire Fascination

Many children will, at some stage during their childhood, display a natural curiosity about fire. But playing with fire is another matter all together.

As parents and carers, you play a pivotal role in educating your child about fire safety.

However, what do you do when you find your child playing with matches or lighters, setting rubbish or paper alight or even burning toys or other people's valuables?

Children don't often consider the ramifications of starting a fire, and if you suspect your child's fascination with fire is risking their safety or the safety of others, help is at hand.

The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service has developed the Fight Fire Fascination Program to support parents in their efforts to educate their children about fire and promote fire safety.

Through the program, also known as *Triple-F*, specially trained firefighters work directly with your child and family in a series of home visits.

They explain the consequences of playing with fire and teach your child to make positive choices with regards to fire and help them understand how their behaviour affects others.

The Fight Fire Fascination is a free confidential service that brings together the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, schools, and other services, where necessary, to help families address this very serious issue.

To find out more about the Fight Fire Fascination program visit www.fire.qld.gov.au or contact your local fire station.

Rugby League

The Rugby League program will commence in week 6 of this term. Our school has been accepted into the Rockhampton District Competition and now our under 15 team will be training in preparation for this competition.

Students have attended a meeting to register their interest in playing. Within the next week students who have registered their interest will receive an information package which will outline the program and expectations.

I would like to thank all parents, guardians and students who attended our meetings and have shown their support for the program. I would also like to thank Mr Bill Dowden and Mr Ross Clancy who have kindly volunteered their time to coach the team.

Training will commence on Wednesday 4th March from 5.00-6.00pm at the Moura Recreation Grounds. If your child is unable to attend they are required to inform Mrs Townsend. Senior players are also welcome to the training session. Seniors also have the opportunity to undergo accreditation for officiating and to assist with running water during the junior games.

You will receive more information about Moura State High School's Rugby League Program in the information package. If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me through the high school office.

Regards
Lacey Townsend



Year 8 HPE

Below are the date changes and make up lessons for year 8 HPE swimming;

Year 8A

Week 6 Swimming – Monday
2nd March
Swimming – Wednesday
4th March

Swimming for year 8A will be completed after Wednesday 4th March

Year 8B

Week 6 No Swimming on Thursday
5th March
Swimming – Friday 6th March
Week 7 Swimming – Thursday
12th March
Swimming – Friday 13th March

Swimming for Year 8B will be completed after Friday 13th March



FOR TENDER From Moura State High School

- 2 Waldown Series IV Drill Presses, 4 speed, bench mounted, 13mm chuck included. Both are in good used condition
- 1 Halco Metalmaster Lathe with stand, Model AL330 with a 3 phase motor. Motor not working. Purchased new in 2003.

Items are all offered on an 'as is' basis. Delivery charges will be borne by the purchaser. No warranties will be implied or given with these items. All offers are to be in writing. A reserve price will be set on each of these items with the Department of Education, Training and the Arts reserving the right not to accept all tenders.

Items can be viewed at the Moura State High School Monday to Friday during the hours of 8:00am-8:30am and 3:00pm-4:00pm.

All tenders to be placed in an envelope marked 'CONFIDENTIAL – OFFER FOR ADVERTISED ITEM' These can be left at the Admin Office of the Moura State High School.

Closing date for tendering is Monday March 16, 2009 at 3:00pm.