Performing Arts Faculty News

Arts Showcase

We had a very successful Arts Showcase in the PAC. The performances went off without a hitch, and this would not have been possible without the dedication of the Arts staff and their students. Thank you so much to our dedicated staff across the entire school for organising the event and making the PAC look so wonderful!

A big thank you also must go to the parents, students and staff who came along and supported the students last night. It meant so much to the arts department and the students to have you there!

Congratulations to all who participated - you did an amazing job!

Instrumental Music News

During Week 1, Term 4 students from the Pacific Pines cluster and beyond met at Park Lake State School for a strings extravaganza. Students representing Park Lake, Pacific Pines Primary and Pacific Pines State High, Gaven State School and Coombabah State High came together to work on a diverse range of pieces. These included Firework, Sad Movie, Apache, Gabriel's Oboe and Pirate's Theme.

With a strong emphasis on student led collaboration, they were involved in a number of tutorials led by senior school students. Often students in the junior school look up to those in the high school and by working together can overcome difficulties in note reading and rhythmic challenges. Furthermore, by working together the more advanced students developed their self-confidence and self-esteem. Music is a great tool for developing goals and a sense of community in the cluster.

The final performance was a huge success with the grades 3-6 attending as an audience as well as parents. Mr. Sue Yek played the piano and Ms. Marten from Gaven S.S. conducted most of the pieces. Thank you to those parents who volunteered their time to assist students being transported across to the school.

- Mr David Sue Yek, Strings Conductor

School Musical

Yep, your eyes are reading correctly - we are well underway preparing for next year's musical... The Addams Family!

Performances will begin in May, check out this clip for a glimpse into what awaits us. The cast
of the original 'The Addams Family' on Broadway performs on David Letterman.

We can't wait to see what our Performing Arts Staff and Students come up with!

Science Faculty News

Tall Poppies Program

Congratulations to Joanna Saunders who was invited to participate in the Growing Tall Poppies science partnership program run in conjunction with Griffith University.

The Tall Poppies program follows an enhanced work-experience model, where students will be paired up with Physicists from the University, see their research and laboratories first hand. In a group of 4, they will then design their own physics-related research project, that they will present at the end of the 3 days to university guests and parents.

The Tall Poppies program has a really impressive track record for providing authentic science experiences for students and increasing retention rates of girls in science to 90%.

STEM Ambassadors at Pacific Pines State School

Late term 3 saw some of our STEM ambassadors cross the road to work with Mrs Groth’s 5A class and their Maze development task. The primary students loved the help from our STEM Ambassadors, some of the feedback from 5A:

"THE STEM AMBASSADORS FROM PACIFIC PINES HIGH SCHOOL AND THEIR HEAD OF DEPARTMENT MR BEN CRAMP WERE AMAZING AND TRULY ‘LIFTED’ THE OVERALL SUCCESS OF THE EXPERIMENT. THANKS SO MUCH (Mrs Groth)."

Thanks again to students Bradley Haynes, Isabelle Bygrave, Joanna Saunders, Trev Scown, Kaeden Fournier Lewis and Emily Stone for showing what great ambassadors they are for Pacific Pines State High School.

Home Economics Faculty News

I would like to extend a very big thank you to the grade 10 Food Studies students and grade 11 Hospitality students who volunteered to help the Hospitality department prepare and serve breakfast for many of our year 12 students sitting the recent QCS test.

Our students very willingly volunteered their time and arrived at school at 6:30am ready to cook a great breakfast for their year 12 peers. AND what a fantastic job they did! With enthusiasm, teamwork, organisation and much enjoyment, despite the early hour, a well cooked and appetising breakfast was the result. By all accounts, the yr 12’s loved it. I would also like to thank parents and caregivers who supported us by transporting students to school at such an early hour.

- Ms Kerryn Rodwell, HOD - Home Economics

Japanese Faculty News

JAPAN TRIP 2016

Fourteen students enjoyed two weeks travelling around Japan in the September holidays. Miss Palfreyman, Mr Willgoose and Miss Hicks were the lucky supervising teachers and it is safe to say we all had a FANTASTIC time. Now that we have had time to settle back into everyday life, we can look back and reflect on some of the amazing moments we shared:

- Viewing Mt Fuji from the shinkansen (bullet train)
- Kody’s horse head mask
- Stocking up on Harry Potter merchandise at USJ…
- Peak hour on public transport
- Convenience store meals, bakeries and vending machines
- Homestay and Junior High School visits
Maiko experience for the girls
Boys trip to Fushimi Inari Shrine complete with orienteering adventure
Seeing sumo wrestlers
Sleeping on futon with ‘rice’ pillows at traditional inns
Japanese style bathing
20 minute impromptu trip to Harajuku
Akihabara for all things anime
Falling asleep on trains
Visiting beautiful attractions such as kinkakuji and Hiroshima Castle
Learning about history at various museums, shrines and temples
Feeding the deer at Nara and Miyajima
The tranquillity of Japanese gardens
Feeding koi fish in the gardens and castle moats
Wearing masks when we had colds
Cruising along the Sumida River
The emotion of the Peace Memorial in Hiroshima
The welcome party with taiko drumming performance
Lots and lots of long, steep escalators
Suffering the humidity one day, battling typhoons the next

Of course there is so much more to say but not enough room to say it. The students were awesome, the trip was awesome, everything was awesome. Bring on the next trip!

- Miss Palfreyman, Japanese Teacher

Business Faculty News
CERTIFICATE III BUSINESS

During Term 3 our class organised and presented four trade displays at the Mental Health Expo held in our PAC. Classes were invited to attend to learn about, make contacts with professional organisations and raise awareness of mental health issues. We then included a barbeque fundraiser with proceeds going to the R U OK? Foundation. We are very proud that we were able to raise $134 which will further support young people in our community with mental health issues. Thank you to all those who visited and purchased at our BBQ. Our class also created a short 30 second video as a competition submission of our efforts and achievements. (see below)

After the trade display, the students held a fundraiser with proceeds going to the ‘R U Ok? Foundation’ for mental health support of young people. The class put on a BBQ and managed to raise $134 PROFIT that could be donated.

About a week later the RTO via their website put up a competition, our students wanted to enter. The winner would get an additional $200 donated to the ‘R U Ok? Foundation’ on their behalf and a $200 JB Hi Fi voucher to share between them. The class decided that they would prefer to pool the money and buy a video camera for the class to use. They were so excited and a little confident as they had already decided what to spend the prize money on!

The students prepared their entry however didn’t want to get their hopes up given it is our first year and many other schools have larger class sizes and have participated in the course itself for many years.

Mrs Richardson received an email from the Administration Manager from the RTO, informing the students that WE WON! In addition, our Head of Department for Business, Ms Dennis has agreed to match the prize value so the class will be purchasing TWO new cameras for the class to use!

The students are absolutely thrilled and we couldn’t be more proud as a school!

- Mrs Nicole Richardson, Experienced Senior Teacher (Business)

SEP Faculty News
Let's Go Surfing Day

On Sunday morning, 23 October, students enrolled at Pacific Pines in the SEP were invited by the Disabled Surfers’ Association of Australia to participate in an event called “Let's Go Surfing Day” at Flat Rock Beach, Currumbin. This event was originally initiated by PPSHS Year 12 student Mason Hagen.

The aim of the day is to foster inclusivity where the SEP students feel a sense of belonging to the Pacific Pines community. The students can comfortably build relationships with other mainstream students; they all can feel the challenge of learning something new and experience something different and exciting. This event allows kids with disabilities the opportunity to participate in surfing, something that many of these kids would otherwise never be capable of doing themselves.

The students were buddied up with at least one volunteer from our school, someone they know and are familiar, and comfortable with. We had 5 SEP students and 4 students from our Leadership/Kokoda teams attend as participants and volunteers respectively.

Everyone had an amazing time. If you see Mason around, please take the time to congratulate him, he deserves great recognition for his work.

It was fantastic to have the support of staff for supervision at the event, thank you Mr Wooten, Ms Hicks, Ms Watson and Ms Davoren!

There are more ‘Let’s go Surfing’ events coming up soon - for more information please visit: [http://disabledsurfers.org/qld/gold-coast-branch/](http://disabledsurfers.org/qld/gold-coast-branch/)

Health & Physical Education Faculty News

Pacific Pines Panthers Basketball

Congratulations to our Pacific Pines Panthers Basketball team who played a fantastic season against Helensvale SHS, Coombabah SHS, Keebra Park SHS, Upper Coomera State College and Southport SHS.

The team, coached by Noah Parker improved dramatically throughout the season and displayed exemplary teamwork.

Congratulations to our award winners:

MVP: Jack Ridley
Most improved: Tre Langmaid
All-rounder: Jack Eastwell

We look forward to watching you all play next season!

Facebook

If you haven't yet visited our [Facebook page](http://disabledsurfers.org/qld/gold-coast-branch/) please come and have a look. We post regular content, important information as well as report on all the fun activities and excursions that go on in the school.

We also LOVE when parents submit articles of their students’ achievements in extra-curricular activities.

We are always open to feedback so feel free to drop us a private message of the things you
Information Technology News

What is BYOD?

BYOD stands for Bring Your Own Device. It is a new pathway supporting the delivery of 21st Century Learning. This model allows students to bring an IT device to Pacific Pines State High School that best supports their learning needs (within specifications).

BYOD is a term used to describe a digital device ownership model where students use their privately owned devices to access various applications to enhance learning. Previously this has not been allowed. BYOD recognises the demand for seamless movement between school, work, home and play.

Pacific Pines State High School is committed to moving students forward in a contemporary learning environment. In 2016, Pacific Pines State High School is offering a BYOD model to give parents and students greater choice in device, functionality and budget. Students are able to work with technology they are comfortable and familiar with.

For all information - please visit our website.

Parents & Citizens Association

Research overwhelmingly demonstrates that parent interest in children's learning is positively related to achievement. The more parents are involved in their children's schooling, the more beneficial it is to their child. This holds true for all types of parental involvement.

In High School we don’t have parent reading groups or craft days where you can come in but we do have the Parents and Citizens (P&C).

Our role in the P&C is to be a voice of the parents to the school. We are a group of concerned parents who take on a more formal role to assist the school by providing feedback on school policies and activities. Some areas of influence we have had are the uniform, bell times and take home laptops. Our objectives are to promote further improvement of our school.

The P&C meeting is a great way to know what is happening in the school and our Principal or one of the Deputies come along and keep us informed of what is happening in the lives of the school community. It helps us as parents to see the bigger picture, not just the grade our child is currently in, but also what will lie ahead. The P&C is the governing body for the canteen and uniform shop.

In primary schools, they often do fundraising through chocolate drives, cupcake stalls, Easter raffles and fetes which require a lot of time and effort. All of our fundraising comes from canteen profits and the uniform shop. If you come along to our meetings, we won't be asking you to do any fundraising.

We welcome and encourage new people to come along and see what we’re about. We hope that you will join us in making Pacific Pines High School a great school for our children.

Meetings

P&C Meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month from 6pm in our Administration Building.

Meeting Minutes

You can view meeting minutes on our website.

Policies And Procedures

Early Departures

Students required to leave school before the usual departure time must bring a signed note from their parent/caregiver explaining the reason for their early departure.

This note is to be presented to the Student Services Office before school on that day. An 'Early Departure Slip' will be issued. Students must report back to the Student Services to sign out immediately before leaving school.

Our staff are unable to relay a message to or collect a student during class time as this causes...
too much disruption to their lesson. We are unable to locate students during break times.

Uniform Shop

If you're wanting to avoid the mad rush and huge lines to purchase uniforms for next year, we highly recommend coming to the uniform shop before it closes on December 6th!

We can very easily exchange uniforms (providing the tags are still attached) should your child grow out of them over the school holidays. This is a quick and easy process that would take far less time then waiting through huge lineups prior to school commencement next year.

For our 2017 Uniform Policy, opening times and prices visit our website.

Tree Removal

It has recently come to our attention that some students, parents and community members have expressed concern due to the recent removal of various trees from our school grounds.

The now removed trees have contributed to the considerable damage to the Sports Hall and have caused significant damage through roof corrosion and blocked gutters and downpipes. The trees' root systems were also the cause of damage to stormwater and sewer pipes and contribute to structural problems in some buildings. In addition, the watercourse through the school has been cleared to mitigate flooding (mostly noxious weed/pines/black wattle).

HOWEVER, we are happy to advise that for every tree that has been removed, a number of plants/bushes/trees will be put in its place! Here are a few snaps of gardens that have already been planted. We have over 2,000 new plants that have been/will soon be planted this year.

A HUGE thank you goes out to our Facilities Team who have done an amazing job. We think these gardens look fantastic and look forward to seeing the end result.

International Visitors

Bring French Culture to Life

Why not volunteer to host an international student from France next year? We have a small group of delightful French students coming to Australia for 10 weeks to immerse in local culture, experience our schools, sports, environment and lifestyle. All students speak excellent English, have their own spending money, cover all school expenses, and we arrange all aspects of their program. It's fun and interesting to help these young people achieve their Australian dream. If you'd like to know more, please email your interest to rl@scce.com.au