

## IMPORTANT DATES TERM 3 2007

27 <sup>th</sup> July	VCE Formal
31 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 7 AIMS English
1 <sup>st</sup> August	Year 7 AIMS Maths
	VCE Parent/Teacher Interviews
2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Injections year 7 boys/girls, 10/11/12 girls
9 <sup>th</sup> August	Year 12 Information Evening
14 <sup>th</sup> August	VCE group performance [Evening]
16 <sup>th</sup> August	Cyberbullying Discussion 7pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> August	Year 10 VCE/VCAL Info Evening

## REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES:

Please notify the relevant coordinator as soon as possible if your child is absent:

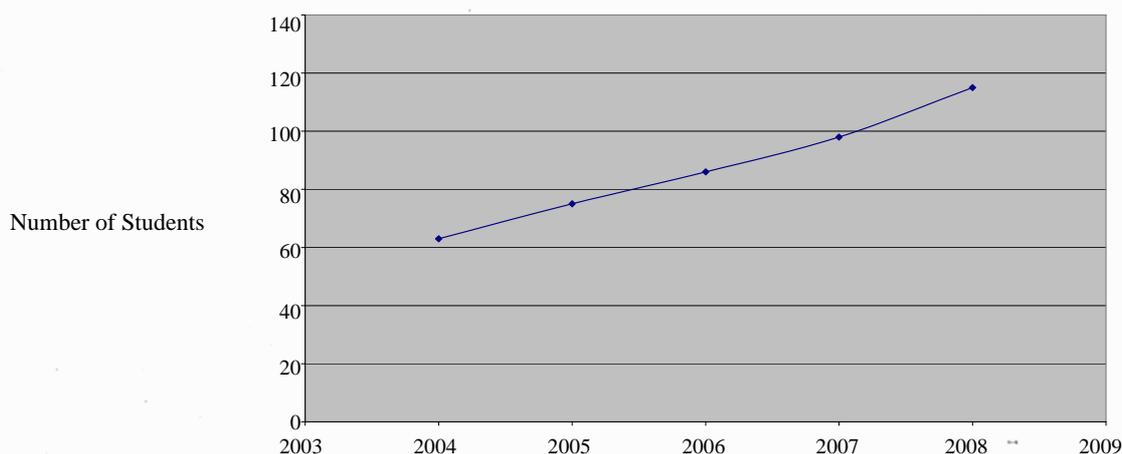
Year 12	Christine Farmakis	9458 6141
Year 11	David Hysen	9458 6138
VCAL	Barbara Carydis	9458 6103
Year 10	Mark Gillies	9458 6112
Year 9	Lyndal Roper	9458 6113
Year 8	Caroline McLachlan	9458 6171
Year 7	Robert Basso	9458 6170



SRC Year Level Representatives: Morgan Flinn, Kristina Tachtsis, Katerina Kyprianou, Emmanuel Plesiotis, Sam Wannous

## ENROLMENTS 2008

Year 7 Enrolments



Our year 7 enrolments continue to show a significant increase with the number of students enrolled at year 7 in 2008 standing at 116. This is close to a doubling of year 7 enrolments since 2004 and the highest year 7 enrolment since 1997.

The School Council is keen to cap our total enrolments at 750 students which means a maximum of 140 students at year 7. This enrolment cap will be negotiated with the Northern Region in 2008.

This steady increase in enrolments is a reflection of the outstanding achievements over the past four year in academic results (especially VCE), music, media and sports awards as well as the student survey results, the highest seen by our school reviewer.

*'On virtually every measure Thornbury High is an effective school' – school review 2007 [see p.2]*

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT SCHOOL REVIEW SUMMARY

The school review is an independent summary of what the School has achieved in the past four years as well as being a set of recommendations for the future. Our review is a very positive report and paints a picture of significant improvement. It provides us with independent feedback that our hard work has resulted in outstanding outcomes for our students. The report clearly identifies the staff as playing a big role in the turnaround in the performance of the students and the new image the School has in the local community. I would also like to thank parents and students for their hard work and commitment to the school. This report represents the beginning of a new phase in the School's development and I look forward to working with the School community over the life of the next strategic plan.

*It is therefore my intention to seek a second five year term as Principal of Thornbury High.*

Peter Egeberg  
Principal

**Comments from the report (for full report see [www.thornburyhs.vic.edu.au](http://www.thornburyhs.vic.edu.au) - about the school, strategic plan):**

*On virtually every measure Thornbury High School is an effective school. The school, its leadership, teachers, staff, students, and parents are to be congratulated on how the school has performed during the 2004 to 2006 period. Improved performance is observed on all indicators used for school review, with the school moving from below like school group (LSG) benchmarks to above during this time.*

*The school has faced substantial challenges during the charter period. The school leadership, leading by example, has been most successful in meeting those challenges in a strategic manner. Many concrete actions illustrate the improvement culture being built along with the determination to allocate resources to the end of improved student performance at Thornbury. The School leadership is clear about actions that need to be taken to achieve further improvement in student outcomes.*

*Student learning outcome data indicate generally strong performance patterns at Thornbury High School. This performance has meant that the school achieved all of the Charter targets that were set. All VCE indicators show strong performance at this level. There has been a consistent upward trend in the All Study mean indicator since 2002. Review of individual mean VCE Study scores for 2006 shows all but one Study mean to be above the LSG mean for the respective Study. VET and VCAL completion rates are above statewide rates. The combined Year 8 and 10 teacher assessment data show a general downward trend in the percentage of students well below standard in both English and Mathematics.*

*Trends in the teacher, student, and parent opinion surveys are very positive, with outstanding results recorded across the 2006 surveys. The majority of variables in each survey are reported as being in the excellent band. Student opinion is exceptionally positive, and the teacher and parent opinion survey scores have generally moved from below benchmarks in 2004 to above in 2006. Students have high motivation levels, confidence in their learning, experience stimulating learning, and have very good relationships with, and high regard for, teachers. The teacher and parent surveys reinforce these positive perceptions.*

*The school has a tradition of innovation, and has some high profile and successful programs. A strong tradition in the use of learning technologies is seen in the establishment of a radio station in the 1980s with a progression to the current Class TV program aired on Channel 31. The school has achieved impressive results in music and sport, particularly given its size. It received Best Band awards along with district sports champions in both 2005 and 2006.*

*Thornbury High School has achieved some outstanding results in the data related to engagement and wellbeing. The strong performance in this outcome, as in the other two student outcomes, is undoubtedly the result of strong and active leadership, teachers who develop sound relationships with their students, motivated students, and parents who value what the school provides.*

*The 2006 Attitudes to School Survey data is outstanding, and the highest seen by the reviewer.*

*The school, its leadership, its teachers, and its students are to be congratulated on the achievements during the 2004 to 2006 period.*

## CYBERBULLYING

The recent tragic loss of life of two adolescent girls in Melbourne presented us with a stark reminder of the potential consequences of inappropriate use of the internet. Children are using the internet and internet services, such as chat rooms, from an increasingly early age. For society - including children - the internet is an important research, communication and information tool. Young people send emails, have chats in IM (instant messaging), create websites and are increasingly using these communication tools as a social lifeline.

However children, their teachers and parents need to be aware that there are potential risks and dangers inherent in internet use, as well as strategies that can be utilised to ensure that their online experiences are positive and safe.

As parents and educators we are all concerned about the potential damage caused by 'cyberbullying'. **Cyberbullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour, by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others.'**

(Bill Belsey: [www.bullving.org](http://www.bullving.org)).

As well as bullying and harassment, other potential dangers for children using the internet include:

- exposure to inappropriate material; spam or electronic junk mail
- unreliable information
- financial risks
- personal information and privacy issues
- possible development of an addiction to computer use.

The fact is, parents should [and must] take a role in their children's internet activities. There are several things parents can do to make the internet safer for their children:

1. *Set basic rules:* Decide how long your child can be online, what sites they can visit and what types of activities they can engage in.
2. *Emphasize trust:* Teach them that not everyone can be trusted and that things such as addresses, age, phone numbers and photos should not be given out.
3. *Computer location:* Put the computer in a family room such as the kitchen or living room. It is recommended that you don't put the computer in your child's bedroom so that you have better awareness of what they are doing.
4. *Don't allow children to have passwords and separate accounts.* As a parent, you should be able to scrutinise any messages coming into your computer in your home.

5. *Finally, busy children will have little time for inappropriate, 'idle' Internet use.* Encourage a range of interests such as sports, outdoor activities, family board games, youth groups and reading. .

As a School, we have developed a range of policies to address the issue of inappropriate use of information and communication technologies and harassment or bullying. In response to several recent incidents within the School, all students have been reminded at level assemblies of School policy on use of mobile phones and the internet. In particular:

- Mobile phones should be switched off and kept out of sight in classrooms.
- Mobile phones and devices with cameras are not to be taken into toilets or change rooms.
- Photos are not to be taken of other students without their permission.

Students were also reminded that, as stated in the Student Planner: "*Bullying or harassment is subjecting another person to any form of behaviour which is hurtful,.. threatening or frightening.*" The 'forms of behaviour' which constitute bullying include unwanted phone calls, SMSs or emails, or the posting of personal and hurtful material (including photographs) on a website.

We would appreciate the support of parents in ensuring that all of our students understand the nature of cyberbullying and the consequences of using information and communication technologies to hurt or defame others.

**Meredith Stephenson Assistant Principal**

## SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE



**Congratulations** to Peter Lee, one of the key members of Thornbury High's Sustainability Group, and his wife Nipha on the birth of their son 'Loki'. Let's all work towards a sustainable future for Loki and his children.

## SCIENCE NEWS

Congratulations to all students who sat the 'Science Competition' last month. It makes your science teachers proud to see you 'having a go' and applying your knowledge.

The following students received High Distinctions, Distinctions and Credits:

<b>High Distinction</b>	Raka Supriatna
<b>Distinction</b>	Ben Wright
<b>Credit</b>	
Tom Benetti-Baker	Leon Huybregts
Michael Pasin	Daniel Rogers
Kristina Tachtsis	Matthew Aretas
Morgan Christie	Anthony Murphy
Oliver Matthews	

Just remember, many great scientists including Sir Isaac Newton acknowledged that their great achievements were not only due to insight and genius, but hard work and persistence! So, 'keep-on-keeping-on'.

**M.Foster Science Coordinator & THS Science Teachers**



Peer Support Leaders organise year 7 House Soccer Match

### **DO YOU NEED TO APPLY FOR EMA?**

**Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)** is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children. To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; **and**
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 **or** be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner **or** be a foster parent.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 3 [16 July 2007].

**The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2007 for the second payment.**

Parents with continuing eligibility who were paid the first instalment of 2007 through this school **will not** be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who have transferred children from another school after 30 January 2007 and prior to or on 4 August 2006, must reapply at this school for the second instalment. Application forms are available from the school office. Please contact Vicki on 9480 4066 if you have any queries.

## **SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS**

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all students who have successfully completed units 1 and 3.

A reminder to all year 12 students: now is the time to start to prepare for end of year exams. Study habits need to be reviewed and students must prioritise their studies and other commitments. Students who need further help to organise new Study Plans are urged to make an appointment with Ms Farmakis. It is also strongly suggested that both parent and student attend the upcoming VCE parent/teacher interviews. Teachers will be looking at past performance and suggesting learning strategies to maximise end of year results.

### **YEAR 11 AND 12 PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> August, Between 5.00pm And 7.30pm**

Students were given appointment sheets on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July. Would parents please encourage their child to make the necessary appointment times with their teachers

### **SENIOR SCHOOL FORMAL – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July – Early Dismissal**

All senior students have been given the arrangements for Friday. A summary appears below:

#### **YEAR 12 STUDENTS ATTENDING THE FORMAL**

- Are required to attend period 1 and 2 classes as scheduled
- May go home at recess time with parental permission

#### **YEAR 12 STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING THE FORMAL**

- Must attend school as scheduled on Friday.

#### **YEAR 11 STUDENTS ATTENDING THE FORMAL**

- Are required to attend all scheduled classes on Friday.

### **YEAR 12 PARENT/STUDENT INFORMATION EVENING – PART 2**

Venue: Kaye Coghlan

Time: 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> August

Agenda: VTAC Application Process and Post Secondary Options

Parents and students of Year 12 are encouraged to attend this briefing. Essential information about 'where to next' will be discussed.

- All you need to know about applying for tertiary study.
- Important dates and time line for the application process.
- Importance of attending Open Days.
- Direct versus indirect pathways to the career of your choice.

- Special Entry Access Schemes (SNAP – RMIT, Access and Equity, Special Year 12 Consideration).

Invitations to the evening will be sent home with students on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July.

If you require further information regarding this evening please contact Christine Farmakis – 94586141 or Christine Bartsh - 94586137

### YEAR 11 COORDINATOR

Ms Anagnostopoulos is on long service leave for all of term 3. Mr. David Hysen has taken on the role of year 11 Co-ordinator for this term. He can be contacted on 94586138.

**VCE TEAM (David Hysen, Christine Farmakis and Christine Bartsh)**

### MUSIC NEWS

The Year 8 band is continuing this term to prepare for their performance at Monash for the Melbourne Bands' Festival. Notices have been sent home and parents need to be aware of the very early starting time! Students will need to be at school at 7am on Friday 17 August in order for us to perform at the allotted time. Parents are most welcome to come along and be part of the audience in the beautiful Robert Blackwood Hall at Monash University to support the band. Please refer to your child's notice for details.

### AMEB INSTRUMENTAL EXAMS

Students wishing to undertake AMEB practical exams on their instruments need to note that entries are due in now for the last session of the year. This public examination system provides musicians with the opportunity of playing for an independent examiner and to be graded accordingly. It is excellent preparation for exams and VCE music. There is a cost involved. Interested students and parents should check with their respective instrumental teachers for further details.

### YEAR 7 BAND

This band continues to rehearse before school on Tuesdays. Parents are reminded to support their child to get to school at this time in order that the rehearsals are fully attended and successful for all involved. If you are experiencing difficulty with this please contact the music department.

### WHY 'DO' MUSIC?

Learning a musical instrument and being part of an ensemble teaches students skills such as concentration, fine motor skills, eye-hand co-ordination and ear-hand co-ordination, listening, being part of a team, organisation, responsibility and socialising. Plenty of studies have shown that music attracts the smartest students; some research is being done to prove a link

between *learning* an instrument and *increased* smartness. This is because playing music has an amazing stimulatory effect on the different lobes of the brain, in fact unlike any other activity.

So, these are all good reasons to keep going, keep practising, never, never give up playing music! Keep those brain cells alive, stay bright and ward off senile dementia!

### DATES

17<sup>th</sup> August      Year 8's to Monash  
30<sup>th</sup> October     End of Year Concert

**Diana Norton**

### CAREERS NEWS

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE** is running information evenings (6:30 – 8:00 pm) for year ten students and parents: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July Mill Park Secondary College & Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July Copeland Theatre, University of Melbourne. Contact Greg Frank 8344 4736 for information and bookings.

**TALK ON CAREERS IN I.T.** (free) for years 9-12 students and parents. Venue: The Great Hall, Xavier College, Kew, 7:15-9:00pm Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July.

**CERTIFICATE & DIPLOMA IN "SCREEN"** at Footscray City Secondary College School of Film & TV: an open day for this well-know course is to be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August 1:00-4:00pm

**VTAC GUIDES 2008** are on sale at the General Office (\$13)

### YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE:

Students selected a wide variety of jobs for the work experience week held in June this year. Jobs ranged from those in local offices to a surf shop at Torquay-where Bethany Joss really enjoyed herself. Dylan Elliot had a good time at "Rubber Records" and was rewarded with lots of "freebies" Several students have obtained further offers of part-time work – especially in the retail field.

James Griffin received high praise from Dr Bhaskar in Clifton Hill:

*The week in the Doctor's surgery was really enjoyable – better than school. The computer work was the best part and it was good when Dr Bhaskar took me out to lunch – she was really nice and let me participate when she saw some patients. I wouldn't want to do it for a living because it's too much work!*

James Griffin 10B

Andoni Christou and Tas Tourtsakis both went to architects' offices. Tas received a glowing report from Hart Designs and Andoni designed a practical and environmentally friendly house at Mills Gorman Pty Ltd:

*I had a good time at Mills Gorman. It was fun going into the City every day. I liked designing my house, but I don't really want to be an architect because there is too much work involved.*

Andoni Christou 10A

**Selected open days for Universities, TAFES & private providers** are in the next two months –. [for a complete list and opening hours, see the VCE Noticeboard]:

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

Deakin University (Melbourne Campus –Burwood)  
Monash University (Melbourne Campuses)

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August** Box Hill TAFE

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> August**

JMC AcademyHolmesglen TAFE

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August**

Australian Institute of Public Safety  
Institute for Design Entertainment & Arts (IDEA)  
Victoria University (Footscray Park Campus only)  
William Angliss TAFE

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August**

Footscray City College School of Film & TV  
Photography Studies College  
RMIT (City & Bundoora Campuses)  
University of Melbourne (Parkville)

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> August**

Australian College of Natural Medicine  
Australian Catholic University (Melbourne Campus – Fitzroy)  
Victorian College of the Arts

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August**

LaTrobe University (Bundoora Campus)  
Swinburne University (all campuses)  
University of Ballarat  
Burnley campus of University of Melbourne

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September**

Elly Lukas College (see also other dates)

**Fairfield Primary School  
Art Show  
10 years of Community Art**

**Opening  
Saturday August 4<sup>th</sup>  
5 – 8pm**

**Family Day  
Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup> 10am – 4pm  
Langridge Street Fairfield  
Ph. 9489 2966**

**“GIRLZ ONLY”**

Fun, Chil'n, tlk'n, food, friends,relax n'stuff  
**Thurs 4-6pm @Youthzone**  
4 info call 0418 518 356 or 8470 1175



## CYBER BULLYING

For young people the Internet is an important research, communication and information tool. They are accessing the Internet and using Internet services such as chat rooms from an increasingly early age.

Adults, charged with the care of the next generation, feel as though they are shut out, neither knowing nor understanding what happens in this on line world.

This presentation by Robyn Treyvaud will explore:

- Cyber bullying
- Problematic usage which includes chat rooms, games and mobiles
- Publishing on the web (myspace etc)
- Strategies for parents and schools

(Robyn has 30 years experience as a teacher and school leader. Recently Robyn has taken a lead role in the area of Cyber safety in Australia establishing the 'Cyber Safe Kids' Project.)

**When:** Thursday August 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm to 8.30pm

**Where:** Thornbury High School  
238 Collins Street Thornbury  
9480 4066

**Cost:** \$10 per person or \$15 per family

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**Cyberbullying Presentation**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to Thornbury High School.

\$10 per person

\$15 per family

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