

IMPORTANT DATES TERM 2 2007

8 th , 12 th & 13 th June	Year 11 Exams
11 th June	QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY [NO SCHOOL]
13 th June	Year 12 Exams 14 th June GAT
15 th June	CORRECTION DAY [NO SCHOOL]
19 th June	Midyear Music Concert
29 th June	Last day of term 2 [Dismissal 1.09pm] Reports distributed
16 th July	Term 3 begins

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES:

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

Year 12	David Hysen	9458 6141
Year 11	Mary Anagnostopoulos	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

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION VISITS THORBURY HIGH

Professor David Hopkins visited the school this week to find out about our innovative programs. David was the chief adviser on school standards to the Department for Education and Skills in the United Kingdom. He was also chair of the School of Education and Dean of the Faculty of Education at The University of Nottingham.

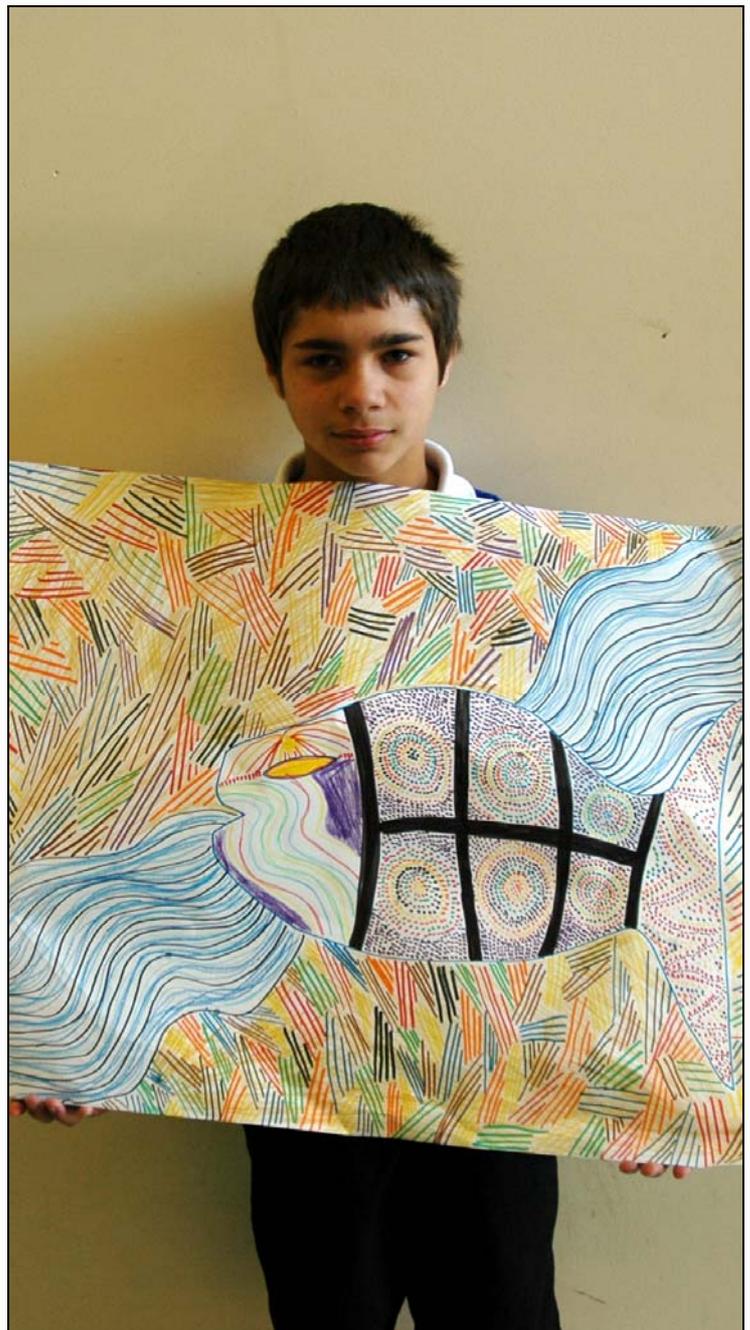
David's professional interests are in the areas of teacher and school development, educational change, teacher education, and policy implementation and evaluation. He is a long time consultant to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development on issues of School Improvement and Teacher Quality, and has lectured and consulted in some twenty countries on these themes. David has published extensively on educational issues. David is also a mountaineer and has climbed in many of the world's great mountain ranges.

David was very impressed with many of the new programs at the school in particular the Year 9 Quest Program and ClassTV.

In the year 9 Quest program students are involved in an 'authentic learning' program with an emphasis on working in teams and making connections to the local community. It also embraces the extensive use of information and communication technology. David was keen to find out about *what* students were learning and *how* they were learning in the Quest Program.

David was interviewed by Kerry Glennon for ClassTV. ClassTV is the only youth program on television which is produced, directed and filmed by students. For the second consecutive year the program has been shortlisted for the best youth program on Channel 31.

David is currently at the forefront of the drive to



'Truce' by Brent Watkins 7B

tailor education to individual needs, interest and aptitude so as to better fulfil every young person's potential. This approach is already known as 'Personalised Learning'. Thornbury High is moving in this direction with the range of student pathways and support from year 7 through to year 12.

Peter Egeberg



Kerry Glennon interviews Professor David Hopkins for ClassTV.

SCHOOL PURPOSE AND VALUES

Last week the staff at the school started the process of developing a strategic plan by discussing the School's purpose and values.

Strategic planning needs to be anchored in the school's fundamental reason for its existence – it's very purpose. A school's statement of purpose answers the basic questions of 'What are we here for?' and 'What is the school's fundamental reason for being?'

Core values arise out of what we believe to be important about people, about society and about knowledge. Values inform and shape how the school is organised, how people relate to each other, as well as the content and processes of teaching and learning.

Staff groups developed a number of 'purpose statements' with general agreement about the importance of the following values:

- Responsibility and respect
- Knowledge and skills
- Integrity and compassion
- Resilience and wellbeing
- Community and inclusion
- Diversity and opportunity
- Excellence and persistence

The School Council and Student Representative Council will complete a similar activity then the purpose statement and values will be fine tuned at the next staff meeting.

Peter Egeberg Principal

PARENT COMPLAINTS

When issues occur it is important that parents and caregivers have a clear process for raising their

concerns. The school welcomes the release by the Education Department of the Parents' Complaints brochure which is reprinted in this newsletter on p.6.

WINTER UNIFORM

A number of students do not have a school jumper/windcheater or jacket. This means that some students are coming to school during winter in a shirt or polo top which is not good for their health or wellbeing.

The wearing of non school jumpers, jackets, skivvies or tshirts is not acceptable and students will receive detentions for this breach of the school's uniform policy. This includes students who wear incorrect uniform to and from school.

I seek the support of all parents with this matter and remind you that the uniform shop is open every Wednesday from 1pm – 2pm or parents can purchase uniform from the GPI Store at 218 Settlement Road, Thomastown (9464 7555).

Any families having financial difficulties with uniform should contact the Student Wellbeing Coordinator (Elisabeta D'Amore) for assistance.

Meredith Stephenson Assistant Principal



Year 7 Art Models: Jake Tham 7B

MUSIC NEWS

Senior Band on PS Tour

On 24 May Craig Harrison took the Senior Concert Band on the final primary school tour of this current series. By all accounts it was an outstanding success with the band performing to enthusiastic audiences' at all three schools. This was a 'day off' for our students (Curriculum Day) but attendance was good despite this.

Mid-Year Concert

The Mid-Year Concert will take place on Tuesday 19th June in the Kaye Coghlan space commencing at 7pm. All large ensembles will be performing so please come

along and support your child and enjoy the evening. This is a great opportunity to catch up with friends and family and is always a fun event. At 6pm there will be a fund-raising BBQ to which all students and parents are invited. More detailed notices are being set home via music students.

Year Eight's to Monash

The Year 8 Band has been entered to perform at the Melbourne Band's Festival held at Monash University in August. The school has sent groups in other years to this prestigious event and students always gain a lot from it, as it includes a workshop on stage with one of the adjudicators, a detailed recording and a chance to 'assess' the other musical groups. Date TBA.

Music Faculty Exams

This year the music department has decided to hold their own practical exams in order to assist with the writing of reports and to give students an opportunity to perform individually. These will take place during the next few weeks. The aim is not to stress the students but nonetheless ask them to play some pieces and scales for their teachers.

Dates:

Mid-Year Concert	Tuesday 19 June
End-of-Year Concert	Tuesday 30 Oct
Yr 8's to Monash	August
Year 8 Camp	Nov 12-14
Music Dept Exams	Nov 19-23

stretching, light dumbbell lifting and throwing balls to each other.

I had never thought about working with the elderly before, but after my first day I feel it's the most rewarding thing I have ever done. Not only were the people kind and friendly, they were also incredibly interesting to talk to. They told me about the history of Macedonia and what it was like when they were young.

I am looking forward to my next visit.

Senat Ismailovski



YEAR 9 QUEST PROGRAM IN THE CITY SCHOOL

Half of the year 9 students attended the City Centre School at Melbourne Central last week, 28th May to 1st June.

It was great to see the students' enthusiasm for the program which had the students carrying out research projects related to life in the city.

For many, it was their first experience of travelling independently on public transport and they had first hand experience of our crowded train system.

Students surveyed the public, conducted interviews and participated in a wide range of activities.

The gym sessions at Fitness First pushed their physical fitness and the constant working in the City sent them home tired but happy.

The second group have been attending the City Centre this week and there will be reflections from these students in the next newsletter.

The Quest Team

DEBATING ROUND THREE

Another interesting round at Ivanhoe Girls Grammar with two wins out of four teams.

A year 12 team comprising Andrew Braddock, Krane Allen and Bashir Mohamed beat East Doncaster successfully arguing that "All politicians have the



VCAL COMMUNITY WORK

As part of the Year 11 VCAL Personal Development course, students are expected to undertake a period of voluntary work within the local community. I volunteered, through the Northern Migrant Resource Centre (NMRC), to work with elderly Macedonian Citizens every Wednesday from 10.30 am until 2 pm.

The NMRC provides services for migrant and refugee families residing in the Northern metropolitan suburbs.

At my first visit on the 16th May I helped the staff serve breakfast and lunch.

Between meals I went for a walk around the centre's gardens with several of the ladies. After lunch I assisted with a series of gentle exercises, such as

right to a conscience vote”. Andrew was awarded best speaker! Well done!

Max Kulesa joined Ben Finnegan and Ben McCloskey in his first ever debate against a tough Ivanhoe girls team. Max performed well given it was a secret topic, which means you get there an hour before hand and are given the topic on the day. Well done Max.

The year 9’s [Pravena Beeskov, Leah Theodosiadis and Vireak Chhoeung] also won against Ivanhoe girls. A highly entertaining debate with Vireak in fine form keeping all amused.

Due to exams, the 10’s were forced to forfeit.

Paul Van Eeden

CLASSTV UPDATE.

ClassTV notches up 85 episodes this week and takes on an extra timeslot at 11.30 pm Thursdays with a new show called ClassTV Up Late. Our Saturday and Tuesdays afternoon shows are “PG” and “G” rated. Most material made at schools have adult themes such as violence. The “G” rating means content suitable for 4 year olds, PG again limits the content we can use from schools around Melbourne. So tune in to our new show hosted and put together by year 12 Media Students, in particular George Prokopis, Krane Allen and Martin Janssen.

Paul Van Eeden

SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

EXCITING NEWS WATER TANKS.

The water tanks that will be used to flush the 9/10 toilets are being installed. Work began last week and should be completed by the end of June.



WATCH THIS SPACE because students will be monitoring water usage and recording how much water the school is saving.

STRAW-BALE RECORDING STUDIO

Work is continuing on our Sustainable building program, we hope to start construction early term 3. Already there have been donations of materials and labour. (see our web site www.thsp.com.au) Australian Shop Fitting, one of our neighbours, is

donating Plywood that will be used to hold insulation under the flooring. Insulation has been donated by Huntsman.



All students and staff and members of the community are invited to “One Sustainable Evening” the concert managed by the students of Thornbury High to promote awareness of sustainable issues at the school and beyond. All money raised will be used to incorporate new sustainable initiatives into the school.

Be a part of your future!
VCAL Sustainability Team

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

MID- YEAR EXAMS – (Unit 3 and 4)

All students sitting a unit 3 mid-year exam or the GAT, have received a personalised timetable as well as a booklet containing the VCAA rules and regulations. This booklet has all the exam times for the whole of 2007.

A copy of the unit 3 mid-year exam timetable appears below.

All year 11 students undertaking a unit 3/4 subject and all year 12 students are required to sit the GAT on Thursday 14th June. All exams will run according to VCAA guidelines.

Tuesday June 12 th	Wednesday June 13 th	Thursday June 14 th
Biology (9.00am-10.45am)	Psychology (9.00am-10.45am)	GAT (10am-1.15pm)
Physics (11.45am-1.30pm)	Chemistry (11.45am-1.30pm)	
Accounting (2.45pm-4.30pm)		

Year 12 students will not be required to attend class on the day of a scheduled exam.

CAREER PLANS/PATHWAY GOALS

All year 12 students are reminded to make an appointment with Mr. Smith – MIPS co-ordinator, to discuss their individual career plans/goals for next year, if they have not done so already.

YEAR 11 PASTORAL CAMP – GREAT KEPPEL ISLAND AND SURFERS PARADISE

A reminder to students and parents, attending this

camp, that the third payment of \$180 was due on Friday 11th May. All airfares have been booked and it is important that the payment schedule is maintained. A brief meeting was held last week and the choice of theme parks we will be visiting was voted on. The three will be Wet N Wild, Movie World and Dreamworld. More detailed information regarding accommodation, air travel etc will be distributed early in term 3. Please see Christine Bartsh with any concerns.

YEAR 11 EXAMS

Year 11 exams begin on Friday 8th June and finish with the makeup exam, after the GAT on Thursday 14th June. All students have been given the exam timetable and had the exam rules explained. Unit 2 and 4 classes begin on Monday 18th June.



MENTOR BREAKFAST

It was an early start for us on the 11th May. We arrived at the fabulous Hilton on The Park Hotel at 6.45am for a 7am start. We were invited to attend the 12th Annual Girl Guide Mentor Breakfast. Fiona Lacovangelo was the main guest speaker. She told us her story of becoming a zoo-keeper, her dream job. From this breakfast we learnt that life is not always perfect, that we must not give up and we need to soldier on through adversity to achieve what we want to do. This experience inspired us and gave us more confidence in ourselves to pursue our goals.

Jillie Ly and Jessie Angus

SENIOR FORMAL

A reminder for year 11 and 12 students that the formal will be held on the 27th July at Nine Darling Street, South Yarra. Full payment for formal tickets need to be paid the front office by Monday 18th June. Any year 12 students intending to bring a guest, need to complete an 'Application to bring guest' form from the VCE office before purchasing their ticket. Formal Committee

FREE2GO - RACV

The RACV has released a new motoring assistance program developed especially for young Victorians.

The program is available to all Victorians aged 18 years of age, as well as year 12 students. Free2go offers all the benefits of RACV membership and comes with Roadside Care and is free. For more information visit the website of RACV - Free2Go
VCE TEAM (Mary Anagnostopoulos, David Hysen and Christine Bartsh)

COMMUNITY STAGE BAND!

**All levels of playing welcome.
We welcome all instruments
Especially Percussion, Guitar, Low Brass
and Piano!**

When: Tuesday 12th of June at 7:00 – 8:30pm
Then each Tuesday after.

Where: Thornbury High 238 Collins St
(Thornbury music room)

Contact: 9480 4066 / 0417 112 508 or
Email: Stephenson.meredith.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Bring your instrument

Come and give it a go!

THS UNIFORM SALES
COLD WEATHER HAS ARRIVED...

We have lots of long school pants for both girls and boys.
 We have dropped our prices to an all time low

\$20 a pair or 2 pairs for \$35

Sizes available are: Girls – 6,10,12,14,16,18 and 20
 Boys – large sizes only 40, 42, 44,46 & extra large size 56

Also girls/boys school shorts @ \$15 or 2 pairs for \$25
 Girls sizes – 8,10,12,14 and 16
 Boys sizes – 16 and 18 only

SPRAY JACKETS WITH OLD SCHOOL LOGO
ABSOLUTE BARGAIN \$5 [Medium & Large Sizes Only]

Please contact the school office.

**PROUD SPONSORS OF YEAR 7 [2007]
 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:**

MAPS Marketing 03 9846 7983
Finchley Road Electrical 0419 154 523
Remake Automotive Repairs To All Makes & Models Excellent prices & Friendly Service Cnr Darebin Road & Station Street Fairfield 3078 Ph: 9482 4022
Grocon (03) 9631 8833

Parent Complaints

The Department of Education is committed to good communication and treating everyone with dignity and respect.

The Department has developed this information to improve communication for us all when addressing concerns or making a complaint that is related to the school or your child's education.

- **Do you have any questions about the school or something you would like to discuss?**
- **We are happy to talk to you...**
- **Your views and suggestions are important to us.**
- **Remember, teaching and learning works best when there is a partnership between you and your child's school.**

How do I raise an issue or make a complaint?

Parents and caregivers are strongly encouraged to contact their child's school in the first instance on all matters involving their child's education.

Step 1

Identify your topic or issue

Making notes is a good idea as it ensures that you cover all points. Think about the resolution you would like to see as an outcome.

Step 2

Contact the school and speak to the Principal or Assistant Principal

They will discuss an appropriate way forward with you. This may include organising a meeting for a mutually convenient time.

Step 3

Meet with the school's principal or assistant principal or teacher

If a classroom teacher is to be present it is more convenient for a meeting to occur outside of classroom hours.

Step 4

Contact your local Department of Education Regional Office

If the matter is unresolved at the school level, you may wish to discuss it further with the community liaison officer at your regional office. Contact numbers for regional offices can be accessed at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/structure/regions.htm> or phone 1800 809 834

Step 5

If the matter is unresolved at the regional level you can address your complaint in writing to the Deputy Secretary, Office for Government School Education, c/o Manager, Community and Stakeholder Relations Branch, 33 St Andrews Place, East Melbourne VIC 3000.

General Information

You may be supported at any meeting by a friend, colleague or a representative from a support organisation.

Parents and caregivers have a number of rights including the right to obtain copies of Departmental or school policies and procedures.

For further information for parents and caregivers visit <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/contact/parentcomplaint.htm>

Support Organisations

- Parents Victoria (03) 9380 2158
Outside Melbourne: 1800 032 023
- Association of School Councils in Victoria (ASCIV) (03) 9808 2499
- Victorian Council of School Organisations (VICCSO) (03) 9429 5900
- Victorian Multicultural Commission (03) 9208 3184
- Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc. (VAEAI) 9416 3833