IMPORTANT DATES TERM 1 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9th March</td>
<td>Labour Day [No School]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-13th March</td>
<td>Year 9 Camp Coorong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th March</td>
<td>School Council Subcommittees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th March</td>
<td>Staff Development [1.40pm dismissal]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School Council 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th March</td>
<td>Year 6 Information Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th March</td>
<td>Shave for a Cure/VCAL BBQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>Music term 1 concert period 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th March</td>
<td>School Athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th March</td>
<td>Parent Teacher interviews [no classes]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th March -1st April</td>
<td>Year 7 Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th March-3rd April</td>
<td>Year 11 Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd April</td>
<td>Last day of term 1 [1.09pm dismissal]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th April</td>
<td>Term 2 Commences</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES:
Please notify the relevant coordinator as soon as possible if your child is absent:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>Christine Farmakis</td>
<td>9458 6141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>Mary Anagnostopoulos</td>
<td>9458 6138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Caroline McLachlan</td>
<td>9458 6167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Lyndal Roper</td>
<td>9458 6113</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>Anne Herschell [8A,B,C]</td>
<td>9458 6150</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Georgia Stavrakis [8D,E,F]</td>
<td>9458 6133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Grant Wason</td>
<td>9458 6168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT
MARCH WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Every year we have four whole school assemblies. In term two the focus is sport, term 3 the focus is our year 12 students and term 4 student achievements. This whole school assembly had a dual focus of welcoming our new students and acknowledging student leaders.

Yesterday I spent some time with two year 7 classes and I asked them two questions: ‘What has surprised you about THS?’ and ‘Do you have any concerns?’

In terms of surprises, typical comments included:
- we learn something new everyday
- we go home early every second Wednesday
- everyone mixes together and they are friendly and kind
- it is easy to make friends
- the number of computers
- four periods per day
- homework is not as hard as I thought
- there are so many books in the library
- no one bullies you or teases you
- how many CATS we get and how quickly we get them

In terms of concerns, comments included:
- long queues at the canteen
- getting detention
- too much homework
- forgetting my sports uniform
- the lockers are too crowded

One of the strong messages coming through is that the year 7 students feel safe and welcomed at our school. From talking also to the new students at year 8, 9 and 10, a similar picture emerges. Everyone is to be congratulated for helping the new students make such a good start at their new school.

Matt Commerford, a former student, organised the ‘You can make a difference’ music concert at the Furlan Club to raise funds for victims of the Black Saturday bushfires. See page 2.
In conducting SRC interviews and talking to students over the past two weeks it is very clear that many students have a view that the SRC does not achieve much of significance for the students at THS.

Typical comments are
- We never meet
- All we do is meet and talk but nothing happens
- The school’s OK and nothing needs to change
- No one listens to us
- I don’t know what the SRC does

A past student and school captain, Matt Commerford, is a great example of how you can achieve significant results and make a difference for others. Matt was deeply affected by the recent bushfires as he knew a number of people who had lost houses. He felt helpless but he wanted to do something that would make a real difference to those who had lost everything.

Matt is a musician so it made sense for him to try to organize a fundraising concert. Having managed to convince a number of bands to perform, Matt’s next challenge was to find a venue and organize publicity and additional equipment. To do this he approached his old school which has a good relationship with the Furlan club and, as they say, the rest is history. (Matt raised over $2000).

I tell this story for two reasons: one, I am very proud of Matt’s achievements but, more importantly, if one is to make a difference then you need:
- to be prepared to give up some of your time to make things happen
- to not only have ideas but a realistic plan to achieve these ideas
- to be able to work with a team of people
- to be organized
- to convince others about your ideas
- [most importantly] to be passionate about your cause.

The invitation is there for students to have a real say in their school but the challenge is for our new student reps to not only make a commitment to improving the school but most importantly accept the responsibilities and hard work that goes with this.

Peter Egeberg  Principal

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parents/guardians are reminded that the interim Parent/Teacher interviews are on Thursday 26th March.

These interviews provide an excellent opportunity for you and your child to discuss his/her progress and to build communication between parents and the School. Interview time blocks are as follows:

- 10am - 1pm,
- 3pm - 5pm
- 6pm - 8pm.

These are short interviews – 5 – 10 MINUTES ONLY. If a parent would like a longer interview, please ring your student’s subject teacher to arrange it. All students will be issued with a Parent/Teacher booking sheet on Thursday 19th March.

Parents are encouraged to make interview times with their child’s teachers. There are no scheduled classes on this day, but students are expected to accompany their parents to interviews.

The mid-year report will be mailed home on Monday 23rd March. If you have any concerns please contact the school on 94804066.

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Some reminders for 2009:

1. All class times are documented in the School Planner
2. Uniform – over the last few days we have had a couple of students coming to school totally out of uniform due to it being wet. As we are a uniformed school this situation is not acceptable. If you find that your child’s uniform is still wet we ask that you send your child to school with his wet uniform and we will put it in the dryer. Your child will need to get to school between 8:00 and 8:30 am, to see Mrs Stephenson who will have the clothes ready for your child to attend Form Assembly
3. Early finish days commence at normal time but students will be dismissed at 1:40pm. There is no lunchtime on these days and the canteen will only be open at recess
4. All contact with teachers and coordinators should be made via appointment or phone: -
   Year 7/8 Manager – Mark Gillies Year 7 Coordinators – Helen Herouvim, Grant Wason Year 8 Coordinators – Anne Herschell [8A,B,C] Georgia Stavrakis [8D,E,F] Year 9/10 Manager – Ann Vassos Year 9 Coordinator – Lyndal Roper Year 10 coordinator – Caroline McLachlan Year 11/12 Manager – Maria Ioannidis Year 11 Coordinator – Mary Anagnostopulos Year 12 Coordinator – Christine Farmakis
5. Transport concession Cards: -
   2009 Victorian Public Transport (VPT) Student Concession Card Application Forms
   An increase in the child concession age: Students now need a concession card to buy concession fares when they turn 17. Previously, this applied when students turned 15.
6. Thornbury High School is well respected for the way it looks after its students, for the expectations it sets and implements and for the outcomes
achieved by our students. This is reflected in the comments that we receive from parents and other community members. As a school we will continue to build on this to ensure that your children have access to the best education and support that we can provide. As parents you play an important role in this through:

- Supporting our school and the expectations that we set
- Supporting in helping establish appropriate work habits at home
- Showing your son/daughter an interest in what is happening at school, regardless of the year that they are in
- **Being willing to contact us when you have any concerns about your child’s progress or have information that we should know so we can better support our students**

The above are all important in ensuring that your child gets the most out of his or her time at the school. We need to work together to ensure the best for our children. This is a focus for us at Thornbury and we believe that this is a strength that supports and improves the outcomes achieved by our students.

**Meredith Stephenson  Assistant Principal**

**HOMEWORK TIMETABLE TERM 1**

All students in year 7 to 9 have their own homework timetable printed on their timetable. A copy of the homework timetable is included in this newsletter along with guidelines on homework implementation. Please ensure your child completes the required homework as set out in the schedule.

**CATs**

A list of Semester 1 CATs for years 7 to 10, along with the process for submission of CATs, is being mailed home with the School News and is also now available on the school website: [www.thornburyhs.vic.edu.au](http://www.thornburyhs.vic.edu.au)

**Curriculum Team (Judy Stafford, Carmel Ryan and Christine Bartsh)**

**SECOND HAND BOOK PAYMENTS**

Cheques for the sale of last year’s second hand books are in the process of being handed out to students to take home to parents. This will continue over the next three weeks as cheques are processed at school. We encourage parents to bank these cheques as soon as possible. Any cheque which is not cashed or is lost will incur a $15 charge to parents.

**Carmel Ryan/Jan Wason**

**STUDENT WELLBEING REPORT**

On Monday 16th February Jan Moody from Apprenticeships Plus spoke to all year ten and VCAL students and other interested senior students about alternative pathways. Thornbury High School has a strong commitment to the VCE program, but it also

THS NEWS  March 5th 2009
provides pathways for students who wish to pursue an apprenticeship or a traineeship. Jan talked to students about the advantages of school-based and full time apprenticeship and traineeships. She spoke of all the government incentives available for students who are seriously interested in pursuing a trade. Students found the talk informative and very useful and many collected some relevant information at the end of the presentation. Please talk to your child about this presentation as you play an important role in helping your child make decisions about their future pathway.

On Friday 6th of March all the year nine students will attend a presentation called Getting the conversation started. It is a forum, which will invite and inspire students to find out more about our indigenous culture. Stay tuned for more information next newsletter.

Barbara Carydis  Student Wellbeing Coordinator

MATHS NEWS

Mathletics is a fun and educational computer program used throughout the maths curriculum to reinforce skills learnt in the classroom. Students can answer questions about their particular topic on the computer and progress through as the topic progresses. When they have completed the tasks they can play Mathletics Live. This is a continuous worldwide competition in which students take on other international students in basic arithmetic (adding, multiplying etc.).

World Maths Day is a worldwide event that aims to have students competing in Mathletics Live over a 48 hour period. Students from Thornbury High School will be competing with students in 150 countries across the world. There are competing students in Kuwait, Romania, Argentina, Canada and all across the world. At Thornbury, the competition will take place at lunch time on Wednesday 4th March in the library and computer rooms. All students are welcome to compete. Last year saw 1 million students competing to answer a total of 200 million questions. The questions asked reinforce the basics that every student needs to know like multiplication tables and simple subtraction.

All students should already have a Mathletics account and do not need to register beforehand. Simply turn up to the library at lunch time on Wednesday to compete.

Shaun Ferris

MUSIC NEWS

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS

The music department is off and racing again for another great year. All bands have started rehearsing except Year 7 Band which starts Term 2, Wednesday mornings from 8:15. Please remember to let a music staff member know if you are unable to make it to a rehearsal.

FORMS

I am still missing a lot of forms from students for both instrument hire and band contracts. I needed them over a week ago. Get them in please. Please remember your fees will be due soon also.

RECORDING STUDIO

The recording studio is only a few months away. In the meantime there will be a lunchtime concert with the music staff performing on Tuesday 10th March. Come along to see your teachers live on stage. Special guests should be attending also.

MUSIC PARENTS

The first meeting for the year was on Tuesday 3rd March. Thank you to all who attended, I appreciate the support so much. This group is a fantastic way for parents and guardians of music students to meet other parents, assist in the development of the music department and to give feedback to me on how you feel the music program is running. The next meeting will be on 5th May and I always enjoy seeing new faces.

PIANO AND VIOLIN TUITION

I have organised a wonderful teacher to come in one day per week to teach both the violin and piano but I
need more students before the lessons can start. Cost will be $25 for a 30 minute lesson. Please see me in the music office for a form.

**BATTLE OF THE BANDS**

Do you have a band that writes original music? Would you like your own CD to be recorded in our brand new recording studio for FREE?? More details will come soon but I will be organising a Battle of the Bands for Thornbury High School students only. The winners will receive a recording session in the new recording studio free of charge. More details soon, in the meantime start writing and rehearsing those songs.

**DO YOU WANT TO PERFORM AT LUNCHTIME?**

If you have a band, solo, duo or trio that can perform at lunchtime can you please come see me? I want to start performances at lunchtimes throughout the year. This can be a great way to get your music heard by other students and teachers.

**TERM 1 CONCERT**

Term 1 Concert will be held in the Kaye Coghlan Centre Period 4 on Tuesday March the 24th. We hope to see you there!

Kyle Schutz  Music Coordinator

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I then looked into getting an apprenticeship in IT and got one working at Alphington Primary School. I learnt more in 2 weeks at Alphington than I did in a whole year at TAFE about what makes computer’s tick. After completing my Traineeship at Alphington, I heard on the grape vine that Thornbury was looking for a new IT Tech. I spoke to Meredith Stephenson and a month or so later I was working at Thornbury.

Kim Bell

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**BEYOND BLUE FILM AD CAMPAIGN AT THORNBURY HIGH**

On Saturday 27th of February, ‘Beyond Blue’ filmed three commercials at Thornbury High School. The commercials will be aired nationally across all free-to-air television stations, and will be launched in conjunction with the ‘Beyond Blue Youth Depression Awareness’ campaign.

The commercials featured 17 Thornbury High School students from years 10 to 12. ‘Beyond Blue’ have kindly donated $3000 to the Thornbury media department, which will be used to assist students in editing media products.

Emma McCulloch  Head of Media

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**YEAR 7/8 NEWS**

Our new year 7’s are continuing to adapt to high school life beautifully. Our year 8’s are making sound improvements on both individual and group levels.

Parents please don’t forget to check your children’s planners and make sure they are in full uniform.

Year 7 camp payments are now due. The closing date has passed, however, if you have been unable to make the payment please contact Mark Gillies immediately on 9458 6171.

Year 7/8 Team

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**INTRODUCING KIM BELL OUR NEW ICT NETWORK TECHNICIAN.**

I have been into computers my whole life. My parents found this annoying because I was always pulling apart electronic things and trying to put them back together again.

I first started at Thornbury High School as a student in 2001. Going through High School I tried to study as many Music and IT subjects as I could because it’s what I love.

I finished at Thornbury in 2006 and decided that TAFE was the way for me to study IT.

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**SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS**

We begin by thanking all Year 12 VCE students and parents who supported us by attending the Year 12 VCE Information Night on Thursday 26th February. It was a warm night, and some of you gave up the opportunity to watch the Collingwood-Richmond match, but we appreciated your company on the night and hope the information was insightful. If you wish to discuss any of the issues raised on the night please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you to the Year 11 students who have supported the Year 11 Pastoral Care Camp to Queensland. Close to 40 students have paid their deposit and although the camp begins with a 24 hour bus ride to the Gold Coast, staff and students are
excited about the upcoming adventure. This week we will meet with our students to discuss the finer details of the trip, including what to bring and of course to organise sleeping arrangements. The final amount of money is due Friday 6th March. If there are any issues let us know.

It is great to see that many of the parents are contacting the Senior School Office when their child is absent. A reminder that a student should only be absent if they are ill or injured. If your child is absent please phone us to explain the reason. If this is not possible a note is required when the child returns to school. VCE and VCAL students must meet the 90% attendance requirement in order to successfully complete their programme. This includes attending Form Assemblies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form Group</th>
<th>Gold Week</th>
<th>Blue Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 A Mr. S. Barlow</td>
<td>Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.</td>
<td>Monday and Thursday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12B Mrs. S. Stojanovski</td>
<td>Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12C Ms. D. Strantzen</td>
<td>Monday, Wednesday, Thursday.</td>
<td>Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12E Ms. E. D’Amore</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11A Mr. S. Barlow</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11B Mr. R. Manning</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11C Ms. M. Anagnostopoulos</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11D Ms. M. Gill</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11E Ms. E.D.’Amore</td>
<td>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.</td>
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We’d like to welcome Lukas Friesen, an Exchange Student from Germany. Georgia Lawrasia, our School Captain responsible for looking after our International Students, took a few minutes to chat to Lucas and find out a little more about him.

**Lukas Friesen (11D)**
Exchange student from Germany- Nev-Ulm. While studying here he lives with a homestay family in Fairfield.

Lukas arrived in Australia at the end of January, 2009. This is his first trip overseas and he chose Australia because he would like to improve his English skills.

Lucas chose to study in Australia because he has always liked to visit Australia and it is not overpopulated.

His first impressions of Australia have been very positive and he has found the people very friendly.”In Germany, people would never talk to a stranger on the street. In Australia, even when you do shopping, you could have a little chat with a stranger, or on the street, people basically are friendlier to each other.”

Lukas chose Thornbury High because the school web site was very impressive. He is currently studying Accounting, Chemistry, General Maths, History, Biology and English. He is enjoying the work and has made a few friends. When asked about the differences between the two school systems, Lucas explained – “The school year in Germany begins in September. We are not able to choose any subjects, instead must study 10 compulsory subjects including French, English, German, Biology, Chemistry, and Maths. We have 6, 45 minute periods a day, but I find the 4 period a day more effective because you can’t do much in 45 minutes.”

Lukas will be with us until the end of Semester 1. When he is not studying he enjoys playing the keyboard, windsurfing and Ju-Jitsu (for 9 years.) While he is enjoying his stay with us, he does miss his younger brother, family and friends, but tells us he keeps in contact with them via emails.

Lukas is unsure as to what he would like to study, but knows that he would like to return to Australia after his studies are completed.

Good luck Lukas.
Interviewed by Georgia Lawrasia.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL 2009**
School council membership has been set for 2009. The new Council president will submit a detailed report of office bearers and members after the next meeting.

**STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME:**
SEASONAL FOOTBALL TRAINING

The “Gialloblu” Football Club will be establishing new squads in the 2009 season. We are seeking interested junior players to attend pre-season training and join the Under 13, Under 14 or Under 15 squads. Gialloblu will resume football training from the Tuesday the 3rd of March. We provide a variety of training locations, times and facilities to suite all players and members. The club family day will be held on Sunday the 15th March at the Furlan Club (1 Matisi St. Thornbury). For further information, please contact George by: Email: gialloblu@bigpond.com, or Phone: 0433 102 847.

EDUCATION TAX REFUND

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

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
- phone the Tax Office on 13 28 61.
## HOMEWORK TIMETABLE FOR YEARS 7-9
### Semester 1, Term 1 2009

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<thead>
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<th>MONDAY BLUE</th>
<th>TUESDAY BLUE</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY BLUE</th>
<th>THURSDAY BLUE</th>
<th>FRIDAY BLUE</th>
<th>MONDAY BLUE</th>
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<tr>
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<td>LOTE</td>
<td>Science</td>
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<td>Maths</td>
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- Teachers are required to set homework on the day the subject appears on the Homework Timetable.
- The subject teacher is to decide when that homework is due.
- Homework for Art, Technology, Music, PE will be set when required.
- Teachers should ensure all students have homework on these nights and that it is written in the planner.
- Teachers should avoid giving homework on other nights unless students are not using their class time effectively or have a test or assignment due.
- Teachers need to decide on a consequence if homework is not done (eg. A note in planner and a teacher detention for a repeat offence).