**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

I spent part of last term overseas, travelling to New York, England, Paris and Singapore. The main purpose of the trip was to visit schools and to attend a leadership conference in the English cities, Birmingham and Nottingham. The other reason was to have an extended break from the School!

After a 14 hour flight to Los Angeles followed by another five hours, I arrived in New York for some much anticipated sight-seeing. I visited many famous locations including jam-packed Times Square, beautiful Central Park, elegant 5th Ave, canyon-like Wall St and the thought-provoking United Nations Building and the Twin Towers site. While I visited no schools in NYC, there was a great deal of publicity about cheating in literacy and numeracy tests.
In one case a principal directed that the correct answers be set up on an overhead projector during the test! I was reminded that we have the NAPLAN tests as just one of a number of ways to measure a school’s performance.

Travelling via London, I attended the conference in Nottingham and Birmingham along with two thousand other head teachers, mainly from Britain, but also from the USA, Canada, South Africa, Singapore and India. It provided me with an opportunity to hear about the latest trends in education and leadership.

I visited two schools in England: Beauchamp College in Leicester (which has 2000 students aged 14-19) and Ashby School in Nottingham, a specialist school for technology and languages founded way back in the 1500s and now boasting 1500 students. One of the interesting features of both schools (and a point I will return to) was the emphasis they give to “student voice” and “student involvement.” When speaking about our own school, I emphasised the supportive relationships we have between teachers and students, our reduction of bullying and our special programs such as Quest, ClassTV, Music, Art and Sport. Whilst in London I stayed with Rick Manning who is currently on leave from Thornbury High School but working in some of the metropolis’ secondary schools. Rick is enjoying it, despite the hard winters, and tells me that student-teacher relations are much more formal in British schools.

I took the opportunity to travel to Paris on the Eurostar to do three days of sight-seeing with my brother. He felt the need to take me to as many historical sites as possible and we frequently zoomed around the city in taxis whose drivers seem to have no fear or patience in the “circulation.”

I was planning to visit Queenstown Secondary College in Singapore on my way home, but I had to return early for family reasons. The principal is interested in visiting us next year.

The two schools I did visit both have a strong focus on “student voice,” expressed in particular, in four areas:

- Finding ways for students to have input in improving the school (as we do through our surveys and year 12 exit interviews)
- Finding ways that students can contribute to the running of the School (as we do with the SRC and School Council student representatives)
- Finding ways in which students can help each other (as we do with Peer Support, captains and coaches)
- Finding ways in which students can support the ways they are taught and learn – this I am keen to explore through having students on teacher interview panels and students observing and providing feedback to teachers such as on assessment tasks.

After spending a number of weeks overseas, I am more convinced than ever that Thornbury High is a unique and innovative school with great students and hard-working staff. Due to these excellent relationships, we have already adopted many of the ideas I have mentioned. We have students who are willing to participate and teachers who are fully aware of the difference they can make in the classroom and outside it.

While it is important that the School keep abreast of global trends, personally it is great to be back home and, in particular, great to be back at Thornbury High. Thanks to Meredith Stephenson and Simon Townley for their work during my absence.

Peter Egeberg. Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

LOST PROPERTY
It is amazing how many articles of clothing, text books, stationary items and electronic equipment, such as mobile phones, are misplaced or lost by our students. Those that are named are returned to the student but unfortunately most are not named. Sometimes we find that, by mistake, students have picked up other jumpers, etc that are named but not theirs. So I ask that parents do two things:
1. Name all articles of your child’s uniform, books etc.
2. Check your child’s uniform for other student’s names and return to their coordinator.

Thank you all for your support

DROPPING OFF AND PICKING UP OF STUDENTS
With the increase of student numbers, the dropping off and picking up of students continues to be an issue. Here are some tips for making the area safer for our children:
- Use Matisi Street car park. Enter via ENTRY ONLY gate opposite Fogular Club – the area is newly paved and clearly marked – follow signs and arrows. Exit via EXIT ONLY gate at bottom of car park. There is plenty of parking
- Do not park in no standing areas at front of school, this includes just stopping to drop off students or pick them up
- Do not enter the side road to the left of the front gates. This is a major walk way for students.
- Have your child walk to Jones Street
- Pick up your child in Matisi Street

Meredith Stephenson, Assistant Principal
MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

We have had positive start to Semester 2 and all students are working well.
Our Year 9 students, Harold Arquiza, Samuel de Zoete, Nathan Hawkeswood, Simon Huska and Merryn Roe, have arrived safely at Alpine School, (Gnurad-Gundidj Campus, in Glenormiston.) and are having lots of fun meeting their roommates and have started bonding with them. The latest news is that our students have been extremely helpful in the area of duties. As Merryn is the only girl from Thornbury – the Melbourne Girls High girls have been helping her do bathroom duty whilst the boys then assist the girls by cleaning the boys bathroom when Melb Girls are rostered on. Very community minded of them and we should all be proud!

Over the holidays one of our students, Julio Melo Barba, represented Victoria in the Australian National Weightlifting championship. Julio did extremely well and the record books had to be re-written as he broke many records in his age group. Overall he came in 3rd place. Congratulations and well done Julio.

SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

We welcome all our students back from the term break and hope they are prepared for a busy term 3. This term we welcome several new students, including Suzanne Cherian who begins Semester Two in Year 11 and two exchange students: Pierre Wassar from France (who is with us for five weeks) and Gian Luca Leone from Italy (who is with us for the term). We hope they enjoy their stay at Thornbury High School. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank all Parents who attended the Parent -Teacher Interviews on Thursday 15th July. We hope the feedback you received was beneficial and will be used to further enhance your child’s studies at THS.

SENIOR SCHOOL FORMAL

For many of our students, the highlight of the term will no doubt be the Senior School Formal – yes it is finally only weeks away! This year we are pleased to have an overwhelming number of year 11s join in the celebrations. On Thursday 22nd of July we will be meeting with all students who will be attending the Formal to explain our expectations. The Formal will be held on July 30th and:

- Year 12 students attending the Formal will be informed that they are in fact required to attend period one and two classes as scheduled. They may then go home after period two if we have parental consent. (The permission form must be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the sub-school.)
- Year 12 students who are not attending the Formal must attend all classes as normal.
- Year 11 student attending the Formal must attend all scheduled classes.

YEAR 10 INTO 11 COURSE COUNSELLING

While our Senior School students are busy preparing for their formal many of our Year 10 students are pondering their courses for 2011. In order to make a well-informed decision the School provides an in-depth counselling course for all Year 10 students. During the next two weeks parents/guardians will receive an invitation to our Year 10-11 Information Night which is to be held on Thursday August the 19th, 2010. During this meeting the process for enrolling in VCE/VCAL will be discussed in detail and parents/guardians will need to make an appointment to meet with the counselling team allocated to their child. We look forward to seeing all Year 10 parents on the night.

YEAR 12 VTAC NIGHT

On August 12th, 2010 we invite all Year 12 parents and students to attend the VTAC Information Night. This is an important information session for all VCE and VCAL Year 12 students who plan to continue with Tertiary Studies. A formal invitation will be mailed home this week with specific details and a reply slip to be completed and returned. We look forward to seeing you on the night.

Senior School Team
ELENI TO PLAY SOCCER FOR UNDER 12’S VICTORIAN TEAM

Congratulations to Eleni who has been selected, after seven really hard trials, to represent Victoria in the Under 12’s soccer team. She will be going to Newcastle [NSW] from August 29 to September 3 to play against teams from the ACT, NSW, QLD and SA. Good luck Eleni!

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS

TASMANIA MUSIC TOUR
In the final week of Term 2, Music students from 8-12 embarked on a Music Tour of Tasmania. It was a relatively calm journey over on the Spirit of Tasmania (only one student’s stomach fell victim to the three meter waves). Students in Nathan’s cabin were treated to a 3am trumpet practice session. Fortunately no one else was woken by his dedication to VCE music study. Upon docking in Devonport we made our way down to Port Arthur where we were greeted by warnings of missiles (footballs). The ghost tour was enjoyable, as was the tour of the prison the following morning. We then made our way up to sunny Launceston where we visited Cataract Gorge. The owner of the luxurious accommodation in Launceston allowed us to rehearse in his restaurant for which we were very grateful. Everyone was very excited to meet Emma and Merryn, who had flown over to join us for the rest of the trip. After a huge night of rehearsing we had a relatively early night, ready for a big day of performing.

The next day we were up early, packing our bus and on to Exeter Primary School. We workshoped one song with their ‘senior’ band (grade 5,6 and 7) then we performed to a welcoming crowd. After the fastest pack-up in history we made our way down to Prospect High School, where we were a ‘Concert Band showcase’ for a school that is trying to get a Music Program happening. After setting up in 14 minutes the concert went very well.

It was then on the road to Launceston College. The Guitar Ensemble rehearsed and performed with world-renowned guitarist Gareth Koch while our Concert Band enjoyed a workshop with a combined Concert Band led by Peter Quigley. Everyone was well and truly exhausted, but joined in with some drama games until bedtime. The next day was a lot more relaxing, with a walk around Launceston followed by watching Launceston College’s huge production “Back to the 80’s”. After looking around Launceston some more it was time to head back to Devonport to catch the ferry home. Calm seas were a welcome relief and most were in bed quite early. Although the 5:20 wake up call felt way too early, there was a sigh of relief for the trip to be over, not to mention the prospect of getting a good nights sleep in a bed that doesn’t sway with the ocean. Many thanks to Diana Norton, Sean Nihill, Nick Dean and Wayne ‘Bags’ Walters (our coach driver) for being such wonderful staff members. Special thanks to Emma McCulloch for flying over with so much enthusiasm and energy. Where is our tour going next year? I’ll let you know very soon. Suggestions welcomed.

AUSTRALIAN MUSIC EXAMINATION BOARD EXAM RESULT
Congratulations go to Dean Iovenitti who achieved an A in his First Grade A.M.E.B Clarinet exam last semester. What a fantastic achievement!

MUSIC PARENTS MEETING
On Tuesday August 3rd at 7:00pm our ever-expanding Music Parents group will be meeting. New members are encouraged to attend and are always welcome. Come on down to show your support of the Music Program and enjoy a glass of wine with some cheese and crackers.

YEAR 7 AND 8 MUSIC CAMPS
The Music staff are very much looking forward to our Music Camp at Camp Adanac in the Yarra Valley August 9-11 (yr 7) and 11-13 (yr 8). The money and forms were due last week. Absolute final date for payments are this coming Wednesday 28th.

Kyle Schutz, Head of Music Department

CAREERS OFFICE NEWS

YEAR 12 COURSE SELECTION
This term is a very busy time for our Year 12 students who will be planning and submitting their course preferences for 2011. An Information Evening will take place on August 12th where the process will be outlined. In addition to this session, students should be planning to visit the upcoming Open Days where they can obtain a valuable insight into the extensive range of courses on offer and the prerequisites for entry. The 2011 VTAC GUIDE Is now available online at www.vtac.vic.gov.au and will shortly be available for purchase from newsagents. Students will be kept informed of its release. These Open Day organisers also run information sessions on their special entry programs. Students have been advised to attend any
institution they may be considering applying for through these entry programs.

**HERALD SUN MELBOURNE CAREERS EXPO**

This expo will be located at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from Friday 30th July until Sunday 1st August. (10.00am until 4.00pm on the weekend.) Year 12 students have been provided with a free entry pass. Further information can be found at [www.careerexpo.com.au](http://www.careerexpo.com.au)

**INTERESTED IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AS A CAREER?**

An Information and Demonstration Evening is being offered by Austin Health to explore occupational therapy as a career. This evening will take place on Thursday 2nd September. For further details contact the Careers Office.

**MONASH UNIVERSITY COURSEWORK SCHOLARSHIPS 2011 GUIDE**

This publication is now available in the Careers Office for students who may be considering applying for courses at Monash University.

**OPEN DAY REMINDER**

This is a reminder to students that the tertiary Open Days commence on 25th July. Please make sure you check your list of days and plan your attendance. A full list is available from either the Senior School Office or the Careers Office. Please note that a number of Open Days are held prior to our Information Night.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**Book Week** is August 20-27, and we’ll be celebrating with a dress-up day. There are two themes: Alice in Wonderland, and Cosplay (come as your favourite anime or manga character). We hope that the whole school will get involved, so get out the Janome and start on those costumes.

**VIP SHOPPING NIGHT – THURSDAY 5TH AUGUST 2010 - YOU ARE INVITED**

Dear students, staff, family members and friends, Thornbury High School invites you to join us at Collins Booksellers Northland on Thursday 5th August for our VIP Shopping day/night.

Upon presentation of this flyer you will get 10% off all purchases on the day. While at the same time you will be supporting the school as Collins Booksellers will donate 10% of the sales price back to the school. Please feel free to pass on this flyer to others.

This offer is valid all day on Thursday 5th August 2010. We hope to see you there.

Mary Anagnostopoulos/ Glenn Bason

**FROM THE CURRICULUM TEAM**

**COMPULSORY ASSESSMENT TASKS FOR SEMESTER 2**

The CATs are common tasks which have been developed by the teachers of the year level (7 to 10). Each CAT has consistent assessment criteria across the subject and year level.

- These tasks were developed to assess student progress, to ensure acceptable work standards and to help students manage their time and meet deadlines.
- Many of the CATs will be completed in class, but some parts of the work will have to be completed outside the class room. Students will need, in some cases, to complete a number of classroom tasks as preparation for the CATs.
- Students at years 7 – 10 must work towards completing all CATs to an acceptable standard. Integration students may have modified tasks.
- The CATs may consist of tests, assignments, work folios, oral presentations or homework tasks.

A list of all Compulsory Assessment Tasks along with the Policy for submitting CATs has been mailed home with this newsletter. Please contact the school if you have any questions regarding the CATs.

Curriculum Team

**DEBATING NEWS**

Our year 9-11 debaters will compete in their final round of the 2010 season tonight.

**YEAR 11’s/B Grade:** Secret Topic (Get there at 6pm to debate at 7pm) *(Thornbury = negative)*

**YEAR 10’s/C Grade:** That the Police should hold the DNA of ALL Australians on a National Database *(Thornbury = affirmative)*

**YEAR 9’s/D Grade:** That smokers should be denied access to Medicare *(Thornbury = negative)*

**Good luck to all!!**

Whilst Term 3 sees the end to the senior’s comp it also heralds the start of the Debaters Association of Victoria’s Junior School Competition. Year 7 and 8 students will be given the opportunity to participate in our inter-school squad as well as our first ever inter-house competition (to be held at Thornbury High School).

Why should you get involved?? Debating is a fantastic opportunity to foster important skills like public
speaking, research and writing a speech/essay as well as working in a team. 
So if you are in year 7 or 8 and think you’d like to get involved, we would like to invite you to a special training session on **Tuesday the 27th July during period 3**. You will need to sign up at the general office by **Friday 23rd July**. Places are limited so sign up ASAP. Students will receive further information on Monday. 
Thank you, **Johanna Apostolopoulos**

**HAVE YOU BANKED YOUR SECONDHAND BOOK MONEY YET?**

Cheques have now been distributed to all families who elected to be directly reimbursed for second hand books sold at the end of 2009. If you have not yet received a cheque, please check with your child or contact the school. Parents are requested to please bank these cheques as soon as possible.

**CLASSTV NEWS**

Channel 31 has made the successful transition to digital and can now be seen on channel 44 digital as well as channel 31 analogue.

ClassTV has launched a new series of migration stories called “Unpacked by Kids” where students interview their parents or grandparents about their migration experience in an edutainment format. This means we concentrate on both being informative and entertaining. The first show exploring the Vietnamese Refugee experience will air the 20th July with a repeat the following Saturday 24th at 12 O’clock. We would like this program to continue throughout the year and extend an invitation for families to get involved. The format is simple; students ask basic questions about the reason for coming to Australia and how it felt. The show is also very much about exploring the actual student as a product of the collective experiences of family, friends and society. The stories also require photos, looking back pre-migration and early shots of life in Melbourne. To get involved call Paul Van Eeden here at Thornbury High 94804066

A big “well done” to Nu Tran and Mary McCloskey who spent three days interviewing at the Alliance for International Education World Conference at Melbourne University during the holiday break. They stole the show with offers of free accommodation around the globe as they charmed the international delegates. Each day they presented a short film at the Plenary Sessions capturing the spirit of the conference. Emma McCulloch’s students also picked up a $1,000.00 prize for the best short film on the topic of “What makes a Global Citizen”. Emma White Reese in year 10 starred in the film and accepted the award. The film can be seen on our website [www.classnet.com.au](http://www.classnet.com.au)

**Paul Van Eeden**

**EMA 2nd INSTALMENT – DO YOU NEED APPLY?**

The 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.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 3 (**12 July 2010**). The EMA application must be submitted to the school by **6 August 2010** for the second instalment.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of **2010** through this school will **not** be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after **26 February 2010** and prior to or on **6 August 2010**, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

**Contact:** School Office for application form and further information.
COLLINS BOOKSELLERS NORTHLAND

Invites the students, staff and family members from THORNBURY HIGH SCHOOL to a VIP Night to be held on the 5th August 2010.

On presentation of the flyer you will receive 10% off the price of your book purchases. In addition, we will donate 10% of the sales price to your school. The more you buy, the more your school receives. Now is a great time to start stocking up on some great winter reads. You can pick up some real bargains, and help the school at the same time.

This offer is only valid for the 5th August 2010 and no further discounts apply.

SPORTS NEWS

Well not much more can be said, except for the fact that Nicholls are legends! Congratulations to them for winning the house competition for the 6th year in a row! This year they let Onus get to within 9 points (1 race win) which is a little close for my liking! So, go Nicholls and best of luck next year to Blair, Onus and Saunders.

Sharon Bonnici on behalf of the Sports Department

ART SHOW

Entries are open to exhibit at the MusArt Festival at Wales St. Primary School, Thornbury on 11th September 2010. Applications close August 13.

Call Sophie 0419 560 755 for information, or email Haralambakis@optusnet.com.au

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GREASE TICKET BOOKING

Adult ticket = $15
Student ticket = $10
Family (2x adult, 2x student) = $40

Return in an enclosed envelope with the CORRECT money to your COORDINATORS OFFICE.

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THS NEWS July 23rd 2010
Please also refer to Student Planner Page (III) Homework Guidelines or the THIS website under Key Policies.

Teachers need to decide on a consensus of homework or no homework. A lack of a planner and a teacher determination for a report grade.

Teachers should avoid giving homework on other nights unless students are using these nights effectively or have a need or assignment due.

Homework for ALL students will be set when required.

The subject teacher is to decide when the homework is due.

Teachers are required to set homework on the day the subject appears on the Homework Timetable.

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YEAR LEVEL

Semester 2 Term 3 2010