IMPORTANT DATES TERM 2 2009

27th May       Staff development [1.40pm dismissal]
3rd June       Year 9 Party Safe Day
5th June       Year 11 Exams
8th June       Queen’s Birthday [Student free day]
9th-10th June  Year 9 C&D City School
12th June      Report Writing Day [Student free day]
15th-19th June Year 9-12 Music Tour
15th-19th June Year 10 Work Experience
15th-19th June Year 9 A&B City School
23rd June      Mid Year Music Concert
25th June      Year 11/12 Report night

26th June      Last day of term [1.09 dismissal]
                Reports Distributed

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 Mary Anagnostopoulos  9458 6138
Year 10 Caroline McLachlan  9458 6167
Year 9 Lyndal Roper  9458 6113
Year 8 Anne Herschell [8A,B,C] 9458 6150
                Georgia Stavrakis [8D,E,F] 9458 6133
Year 7 Grant Wason  9458 6168

OUTSTANDING RESULTS IN DISTRICT ATHLETICS

Over the past six years, Thornbury High School has achieved outstanding results in the District Athletics, finishing first or runners up - and this year is no exception.

Seventy students from Years 7 – 12 attended the District Athletics Carnival on Wednesday 6th May at Meadowglen Athletics Track. A number of students displayed outstanding performances including Amber D [7D], Ahmed A [7F], Stella R [8A] and Candice S [10B]. Throughout the day, Thornbury High students continued to feature on the podium and with only the relays to be run we were sitting in second place. From 11 relay teams, six managed to cross the line in 2nd place, while our 15 Boys relay blitzed the field to take 1st place.

So at the end of the day, Thornbury High was top of the table on 928 points, almost 100 points in front of our closest rival Mill Park. What a fantastic effort from all athletes involved, and good luck to those who are going onto compete at the Northern Zone Final on the 29th May.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thornbury</td>
<td>928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Park</td>
<td>832</td>
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<td>Reservoir</td>
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<td>Preston Girls</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banksia</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2009 BULLYING SURVEY

Two weeks ago all students completed our annual bullying survey. This is the sixth year that the survey has been held. This survey allows students to have a say about issues to do with bullying at the school.

How Serious Is The Problem?
The survey results are clearly saying that the level of bullying at Thornbury is very low and the majority of students (82%) have answered ‘never’ to having experienced the different types of bullying described in the survey. Last year the percentage of students never bullied was 75%. The school encourages all students to keep us informed if they experience or see bullying.

Students have indicated that teasing, name calling and being made fun of is the main types of bullying from year 7 to 12. The areas where some students sometimes see bullying are the Canteen (6% of students), back oval behind the art rooms (4%) and lockers (3%).

Naming of students
This year very few students were named as bullies and 50% of those named were named once. Across the school there are two students who were named by close to 15 students. These students will be monitored closely (with zero tolerance in future cases) as well as being provided with counselling and organising meetings with parents.

What Should We Do With Bullies?
All students named as bullies are spoken to by coordinators and monitored closely for the rest of the year and, in some cases, parents are also notified.

What Happens When Students Report Bullying?
If a student reports a bullying incident to a teacher or coordinator they will be asked how they want the problem dealt with. This may initially mean:
• Discussing strategies to deal with the bully
• Alerting teachers so that they can monitor the problem
• Speaking to the bully
• Organizing a meeting with the bully and victim

Possible Strategies To Reduce Bullying:

Student Comments
• Make us do more activities about being bullied and help us know how important that it is to life
• You can’t stop bullying. If someone’s making fun of me and for a bully to pick on you, you need to show that you’re hurt. If you don’t show emotion then they will get bored and go away.
• Students patrolling the yard, Make bullies write apology letters
• Teaching students to open their minds and broaden their horizons
• Name the bullies, meet them and monitor them
• Take cyber bullying seriously even though it happens outside the school it is often brought to school. Cyber bullying can be deleted if the person has common sense
• Keep up the good work because bullying at THS is rare. Lack of bullying excellent at THS, we are relatively bully free
• Bullying at this school has been reduced by a massive degree and there is little or no bullying at this school that I am aware of.
• Have more school-based activities so it brings the school together. It makes every student feel welcome as if they belong to the school, makes students feel included and not ignored.

The full survey results will be presented to year level assemblies and the Student Representatives will be asked to make recommendations. Parents are encouraged to discuss the survey results with their children.

One very strong message from the students is they want the bullying survey to continue (with only 18 students saying no).

At this school we embrace diversity because this is what makes Thornbury High an outstanding school. Thanks to staff, students and parents for all your efforts in making Thornbury High a safe, happy and secure place to learn.

Peter Egeberg Principal

UPDATE ON NEW AREA/BUILDINGS AROUND THE SCHOOL AND FUNDING

We have received $200,000 from the Federal Government to undertake minor works around the school. You may have heard in the media that all schools are receiving funds to stimulate the economy. Whilst the primary schools were the big winners financially, our school was eligible to apply for and receive this money under the “Pride in Schools” funding.

After consultation with the students, staff and parents the money will be used in the following areas:
• Sport – cricket nets and new indoor basketball rings
• Classrooms – 2 new interactive boards and blinds
• Outdoors – more shaded area, BBQ area and seating
• Water tanks – for use on staff toilets and Dundas Street oval
• Recording Studio – completed, decked and landscaped

We also applied and were lucky enough to receive $199,212 from the Federal Government under the Trade Training Centre umbrella to upgrade our kitchen
to TAFE standards so that we can offer Certificates in Hospitality as of 2010. All plans have been done, architects/builders selected and we are just awaiting the final sign off from Canberra. Once received work will begin immediately.

We are also currently in negotiation with the Department to sell off a parcel of land on the Flinders Street boundary. Part of the money received will go back into the construction of new facilities such as additional classrooms in 11/12 area, enlarging the senior student’s common room and a performance venue in the area of the Kaye Coghlan Centre.

We look forward the first two items being completed throughout this year and the third within the next 3 years.

**SCHOOL FEES DUE**

At the beginning of term 2, statements were sent out to all families with a request for payment of outstanding fees.

If we are to maintain the quality facilities and programs we have at Thornbury High School, we need to have all families contributing to our school via payments of charges and contributions.

Whilst most staffing and basic items are provided for through government funding, we need parent support through the payment of realistic charges that School Council has set.

Thank you to those who have paid outstanding fees. Families who have not yet paid are asked to do so as soon as possible. If you are experiencing financial difficulties or have any queries, please do not hesitate to speak to the Business Manager/Assistant Principal/Principal.

**LOST UNIFORM**

Each day there are a number of jumpers and other items of uniform found around the school. With names written on these items, we can quickly return them to their owners. However, a large proportion is unnamed and has yet to be claimed. **Please label your child’s uniform.**

**UNIFORM**

**GIRL’S SUMMER DRESSES**

With winter fast approaching, I have to wonder if the girls are warm enough in their summer dress? There are plenty of skirts and long pants available in the uniform shop which is open every Wednesday from 1:00 – 2:00pm at the school.

**SCHOOL JACKETS**

A gentle reminder that the only jacket to be worn to and from school are school jackets which are also available via the uniform shop.

**SCARVES**

Students are asked to only wear single coloured scarves in the colours of navy, black or white.

**MORE INFORMATION?**

All uniform information can be found in your child’s school planner on page xi.

**ILLNESS**

Over the last few weeks we have been sending a large number of children home each day due to illness. If your child is unwell in the morning please keep them home for the day and ring the Coordinator to inform them of the fact. It is VERY rare that a child “picks up” throughout the day.

Parents are reminded that if family & emergency contact details need to be updated, they should be done ASAP.

Meredith Stephenson  Assistant Principal

**District Athletics Victors: 15 Boys Relay Team – Morgan, J, Andrea, F, Komang, P & David, W**

**NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM LITERACY & NUMERACY [NAPLAN] TESTING – YEARS 7 & 9 STUDENTS**

Students at years 7 and 9 have just completed the NAPLAN tests - National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy tests. The tests are conducted by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) and it is compulsory for all schools to conduct the NAPLAN.

All year 7 and 9 students were required to sit these tests in English and Mathematics. The results of the tests provide diagnostic information for parents and teachers, about a child’s performance in Literacy and Numeracy. This information can be used to support teaching and learning programs and improve student achievement.

Later in the year you will receive your child’s personal report. The report will describe your child’s particular skills in reading, writing, language conventions and numeracy. The report will also show how your child performed in relation to national benchmark standards. These benchmarks describe minimum acceptable standards for students across Australia. For more
information about the tests please consult the NAPLAN website at http://www.naplan.edu.au/home_page.html

Curriculum Team

**SCIENCE NEWS**

**8E @ SCIENCEWORKS**

8E recently went to Scienceworks as part of their investigation into machines and electricity. We had an early start with Sportsworks and the Mathamazing exhibition, followed by **House Secrets**, exploring the science behind familiar objects in our homes. Highlight of the day was a lesson on electrical safety in the Lightning room.

**Monique gets a static charge.**

In a first for THS, 10C science students extracted DNA from a kiwi fruit, under the supervision of Science Teacher candidate Sakina Raza.

Only a few years ago this type of activity was only found at university level under the direction of Nobel prize winning scientists. Science just gets bigger and bigger.

Glenn Bason  Science Department

**MUSIC NEWS**

Everyone in the Music Department is very excited and looking forward to the Senior Tour of Adelaide coming up in a few weeks (June 15th until 19th). There are some fantastic venues we will be performing at including the Monarta Zoo.

The second Music Parents meeting for the year was held two weeks ago with a wonderful turn out of enthusiastic, hard working parents (and a student) with some wonderful ideas. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday June 2nd at 7:00 pm in the music room (Room 94).

**ATTENTION PIANO TUNERS:** The music department wants to sell some pianos but they are in desperate need of tuning. If you are a piano tuner or know someone who is and is willing to donate some time to this worthwhile cause, I would love you to contact me on 9458 6128.

**WANT TO LEARN PIANO OR VIOLIN?** I nearly have enough students wanting to learn violin or piano. I need one or two more students before the teacher can start. Lessons will be $25 for 30 minutes, paid by the term. If you are interested see Mr. Schutz in the Music Office ASAP. Violin students will need to

regularly. In the planner on page iii there are guidelines that can assist parents with information about Homework expectations. Parents are encouraged to sign the planner and use it as a means to communicate with teachers.

Year 9 students are starting to prepare for their City School experience. This Program challenges students to accept responsibility, work in teams and reflect maturely on a whole range of issues. Supervision in the program will be provided between 8.30am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday. The City learning centre is located on Level 2 at Shop 254 in Melbourne Central. You can find more information about the program at www.fya.org.au.

Year 9C &9D students will attend from 9th June -12th June. Year 9A &9B students will attend from 15th June -19th June. Some students are not attending with their form due to other commitments. Can Parents please sign all forms and make payments as soon as possible to the General Office.

All Year 10 students should have organized their work experience placement and students will be completing The Safe at Work unit in the next couple of weeks. Students who have not organised a place need to see Mr Barlow urgently. Work experience starts on the 15th until the 19th of June.

Year 10 students need to also start revising for their mid year exams. Exams are on the 9th & 10 of June.

Middle school Team
purchase their own violin, however one is available to use in your first few lessons.

**ITEMS FOR RAFFLE**
I am after donations for a music raffle that will happen in the next few weeks. The Music Department does not run without the support of the whole community. Items can be dropped off to the music office Monday to Friday.

**MID-YEAR CONCERT**
The Thornbury High School Mid-Year concert will be held in the Kaye Coghlan Building on Tuesday June 23rd from 6:00 pm. All music students will be performing, and everyone is welcome to attend. There will be music (obviously), raffles and a BBQ. This is always a wonderful event and I would encourage as many people to attend as possible. Show your support to your fellow students, and come see all of their hard work pay off.

**ALL INSTRUMENTAL STUDENTS**
There seems to be a lot of instruments living here at the school when they should be taken home to practise with. In Year 7 students should practise on their instruments for at least 10 minutes per day - that's only three commercial breaks. Mute the telly and blast away. Year 8 students should practise for a minimum of 15-20 minutes. Year 9 upwards you should be practising at least 30 minutes a day. The hard work does pay off, but consistency is required. Of course, if you want to practise more than the recommended amount that is fantastic, just make sure you take regular breaks. It's also very important for parents to be supportive of this process. I apologise for the sounds the instrument will make in the first few months, but this will soon turn into beautiful music, I promise!

**LUNCHTIME CONCERTS**
Again, I am looking for students who wish to perform at lunchtime. Speak to me if you are interested.

Kyle Schutz  Head of Music Department

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**STUDENT WELLBEING REPORT**

`Docs In Schools` is an exciting youth health initiative that is now available to all students at Thornbury High School. `Docs In Schools` seeks to achieve the following outcomes:

* Improved physical and emotional wellbeing for young people
* Early intervention and prevention of physical and mental health issues
* Linkage of young people into `youth friendly` health services within their localities
* Provision of a culturally sensitive health service to meet the needs of young people from a range of cultural backgrounds.

This program was developed in response to the growing evidence of significant barriers encountered by young people when accessing a GP, such as cost, travel, and waiting times, and the subsequent negative impact on their physical and emotional wellbeing.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and Australian Youth Health studies have called for reform in the way these services are delivered to young people. `Docs in Schools` has done just that by providing a youth-friendly General Practice limited service to young people within their school environment, alleviating each of the identified concerns.

**GP Clinics at Thornbury High School:**
Every four weeks on a Thursday (8:30am - 10:30am) Dr Terry Ahern (a highly experienced GP from the Bell Street Medical Clinic) will be available at Thornbury High School. Any student can make an appointment to see Dr Ahern via Barbara Carydis (Student Wellbeing Coordinator), Emily Graham (School Nurse) or their Year Level Coordinator.

All appointments are bulk-billed and no physical examinations or prescribing of medication is done during the school clinics. Rather, Dr Ahern will offer education, counselling and referral (if necessary).

The appointments are mostly about making students feel comfortable about speaking to a GP about any health concerns they have, encouraging help seeking behaviour and detecting, preventing and intervening early when illness arises.

If you have any questions regarding the ‘Docs in Schools’ program please do not hesitate to contact Barbara Carydis (Student Wellbeing Coordinator) on 9480 4066.

Student Wellbeing Team

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**SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS**

It was an early start for four of our Year 11 students, Emilie Pertama, Courtney Burgess, Rachael Mountney and Chloe Michael, who attended the 14th Women of Note Mentor Breakfast on Friday May 15th, 2009. Women of Note, is proud to bring some 100 women who have made a variety of contributions to the community together with 100 Year 11 students to enable the young women to:

- Experience a high profile event.
- Hear an inspirational speaker.
- Make valuable contacts at a time when they are faced with important choices about their future career paths.

The 6.30am taxi pick up, collected us from the school gates and drove us to the Melbourne Arts Centre in the City. On arrival, we were given name tags, business cards and show bags. We were separated and seated with other students and a mentor with a background in our own chosen career pathway. This enabled us to
ask questions and gain some insight into our chosen career.
Guest Speaker, Viv Benjamin, a full time volunteer, spoke to the audience about her journey and achievements with the Oak Tree Foundation and her desire to “make poverty history.”
Overall the morning was very insightful and the food was very tasty!"  
Rachael and Chloe (Year 11)

REMINDER RE CHEQUES FOR SECONDHAND BOOKS.
A reminder to parents who have yet not banked cheques received for second hand books to please do so as soon as possible. Any cheque which is not cashed or is lost will incur a $15 charge to parents.

EMA CHEQUES ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO BE PICKED UP FROM THE GENERAL OFFICE. If you would like to allocate your ema to outstanding charges or if you have any queries about EMA, please call Vicki on 9480 4066.

TOP GRADES SEMINAR
All students from years 7 to 11 have been distributed with complimentary Family Passes to a Top Grades Special Event. Limited seats are available to a seminar on strategies for obtaining top grades. This 90-minute seminar will be held in your local area. www.topgrades.com.au/free Or call (03) 9531 0531

YEAR 7/8 NEWS
IS YOUR CHILD ‘FULLY SICK’?
With the cooler weather hitting us, our normally resilient and tough Year 7 and 8 students have been slightly depleted with cases of runny noses, coughs and sore heads. Thankfully, the Junior School teachers and coordinators are the toughest in the state and will continue to soldier-on drug free! If your child is sick, please allow them to rest up and simply give their coordinator a call in the morning.

WHAT ARE THE TEACHERS UP TO?
The teachers have scoffed at suggestions that cold weather, the severe economic crisis and swine flu should be getting them down. Instead, their evenings and weekends are filled with excitement as they brainstorm new CAT ideas and practice their roll calling voices!

SURVEY RESULT
In a recent poll (Term 2, 2009) it was proven that Year 7 and 8 was still the place to be in ’09. The most caring, honest, polite and, of course, humble students at Thornbury High are found in the Junior School. The jealousy has started spreading throughout the rest of the school to the point where Year 12’s are desperate to hang out on OUR new decking and come to classes in OUR new building. Year 12’s, as humble as we are: you guys are SO last year!

CRUSH ALERT
Rumour is that Ms Herouvim has been offering Mr. Millar lifts home at the end of each day. Read into that what you will…

FUN IN ART
Below is a picture of 8F students in Peter Lee’s art class.

PROUD SPONSOR OF YEAR 7 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS [2009] GROCON
WATSONIA HEIGHTS SOCCER CLUB – WOMEN’S OPEN AGE TEAM 2009
Watsonia Heights Soccer Club still requires more players for its women’s open age team. The team is open to women and girls who will turn 15 years, or over in 2009. New players without previous experience are most welcome. Our home ground is conveniently located at Gabonia Avenue, Watsonia, not far from Watsonia Station, just of the Greensborough Bypass from the Western Ring Road. For further information please contact John McKee on 0414 436 285 or visit our website at http://watsoniaheightswsc.sportzvault.com/

HOST FAMILIES URGENTLY NEEDED FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS
A number of Exchange Students, boys and girls aged 15-18, are relying on volunteer host families to enable them to come to Australia to study and live during their half, one or two school semester stay here. Should you feel you and your family could afford to have an extra host brother or sister at mealtimes and have a spare bed, share room or own, for even 6-8 weeks, please contact Klaus Schumann on (03)97584279. You can make a friend for life with your Italian, German, Belgian, French, Dutch, Japanese or Brazilian student and their family. Hope to hear from you.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR A SURVEY ON CHILDREN’S EVERYDAY ACTIVITIES
The Royal Children’s Hospital is looking for parents of typically developing children/adolescents to complete a survey on their child’s everyday activities. This information will help us understand the needs of children who have had a brain injury.

What would I do?
Complete one 40 minute survey
• The survey asks about your child’s everyday activities; for example, shopping, interacting with others, and organising leisure activities

Where & When?
• We can meet you at your home or at the hospital - whatever is easier for you
• Your child will not be interviewed

We’d be happy to hear from parents of:
• Children between 8 and 14 years old
• Typically developing children (who have not had a brain injury or other problems with development)

At the end of the project, we will give you a summary of the study findings.

Interested? Want more information?
Please contact: Ms Vivienne Champness
(ph: 0421 957 651 or email: vivienne.champness@mcri.edu.au), or return the slip below

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I am interested in participating in the above Royal Children’s Hospital project (HREC no:27104).
Contact person: Ms Vivienne Champness, Research Assistant (0421 957 651)
Parent’s name: ________________________
Child’s name: ________________________
Child’s age: ________________________
Contact number: ________________________

Please return this slip to:
Ms Vivienne Champness
Department of Psychology
Royal Children’s Hospital
Flemington Rd, Parkville VIC 3052

Music Lessons
Guitar  Bass  Drums  Keyboard  Singing
All styles  All ages  Experienced Teachers
Enrol Now!!!

The Jam Hut
571 High St Preston, 3072
9471 1023  0414 644 958

District Athletics - Some 12–13 Boys athletes: Julius, D, Alex W, Lewis P, Louis. M & Jesse I
Wildlife & the Black Saturday Inferno

- Look us up – www.wildliferescuers.org.au
- Put us in your phone and call if wildlife needs help 0417 506 941

Saturday February 7 will long be remembered as one of Australia’s most tragic days in history. The inferno, which claimed many human lives, also had an unmeasurable impact on our native animals. While many animals were killed in the fires, which some experts estimate to be in the millions, there are many that have somehow managed to survive. These animals have been, and continue to be, under a great deal of stress. They may be suffering from burns, they may be young that have lost parents, and as you can imagine, there is little food remaining and available. After a bushfire, wildlife continues to suffer for up to a year while their habitats regenerate. For the animals which were badly burnt, and rescued, it can take many months for them to recover.

Wildlife rescuers, like me, are still out searching fire ravaged areas on a nightly basis. In the last week alone, we have rescued 8 wombats (including babies whose parents had died). We promptly deal with the needs of these brave, often hurt and scared little animals and take them to trained carers who spend countless hours tending to their wounds, feeding and re-training them to eventually, hopefully, release them back into the wild. Unfortunately for every life that is saved, it seems that there are many others that have perished, or are in such bad condition, they have had to be put to sleep.

As well as continuing to rescue from bushfire areas, Wildlife Rescuers are called out on a daily basis to help wildlife in trouble in suburbia and beyond. At any time of the day or night, rescuers may be called out to untangle a duck tangled in fishing line, birds, possums or kangaroos hit by cars, baby joeys thrown by panicked mothers, or to the even more cruel deliberate acts, such as the recently publicised shooting of 2 kangaroos, in Bundoora, with a bow and arrow. After darting and sedating the kangaroos, one had to have the arrow, which had broken in its hip, removed whilst the other kangaroo had to have the arrow removed from its head. I am pleased to report that both are doing well at this stage, the infection has been kept under control and an arrest has been made!

The enormous amount of care required by injured animals does result in significant costs and, as a group which totally operates on a volunteer basis, we hope that people will find it within their means to donate to the Wildlife Rescuers to help them continue their valuable efforts to save our Native wildlife. Your donation may go to our wish list:

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<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Cost per item</th>
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<td>Insectivore (1kg)</td>
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<td>Catching loop pole</td>
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By Sharon Bonnici (A volunteer with Wildlife Rescuers)

A possum burnt in the fires