Rio Tinto Big Science Competition

Earlier this year in June, seventy students from years 7 to 12 took part in the Rio Tinto Big Science Competition. This is the premier test of science knowledge and skill. Out of these students we had:

1 PERFECT SCORE (Jordan King 7A)
3 High Distinctions (Ryan Avent 7A, Warne Heland-Chaplin 8A, Harish Vallury 9A)
22 Credits

38 Participation certificates

Jordan will be travelling to Canberra to receive a Top Scorers prize at Parliament House. Only 58 students in Australia scored a perfect score on the test.

Shaun Ferris, Science Coordinator

Principal's Report

Outstanding Survey Results put Thornbury in the Top 5% of the Government Schools for Student Motivation, Learning Confidence Connectedness to School

The “Student Attitude to School” survey results have recently been released to all schools by the Education Department. This survey, completed in early term 2, provided students with an opportunity to comment on wellbeing, teaching and learning and student relationships. The students have overwhelmingly given the school a ringing endorsement of the quality of education at Thornbury High School. These outstanding results reflect the significant time staff and coordinators put into student attendance, retention, engagement and wellbeing. Students at this school have a very positive perception of their ability. They also feel cheerful, relaxed, happy and energized at Thornbury High School.

The challenge for the school community is to maintain these results over the coming years as well as to manage the significant growth in student numbers and the building of new facilities.

For a copy of the complete survey, go to our website and follow the links to ‘about the school’ then ‘reports, plans and survey’.

Peter Egeberg, Principal
From the Assistant Principals

August is Education Support Staff (ESS) Month

So who are these ESS on our staff, what do they do and why is August their month?

Every school is made up of teachers and ES staff. The ES staff play a vital role in the areas of Integration, Office & Business Management, Maintenance, Hospitality, Science, First Aid, Library, Sub School Support, Welfare, Literacy, Koori Support, Student Support, Careers, Vass, AV, ICT and Counselling.

August has been put aside to acknowledge our school’s ES staff and the work that they do.

The theme for this year is “Fair Go for our ESOs”. Education Support Staff work daily with teachers, principals and colleagues to ensure a state education system of the highest quality is delivered to students and the community.

At our school we are very fortunate to have a terrific team of ES staff helping to care for and educate your children and run our school.

So on behalf of the students and staff, I would like to thank our ES staff for their work, support and effort.

How many days of school did your child miss last semester?

0-6 days (100-94%) - Normal range. A child with this attendance rate is able to take full advantage of the teaching and learning opportunities available to them.

7-10 days (93-90%) - Below average rate. A child with this attendance rate could miss over one year of schooling between prep and year 10.

11-20 days (89-80%) - Poor attendance rate. A child with this attendance rate days could miss out on up to two years of schooling between prep and year 10.

20+ days (under 80%) - Very poor attendance rate. A child with this attendance rate days could miss out on over two and one half years of schooling between prep and year 10.

REMEMBER:

• Students need to attend school regularly to make the most of educational opportunities.

• There is direct link between school attendance and achievement later in life.

• Poor attendance makes it difficult to form positive relationships, with their peers.

• When young people are in school every day, they are safer, less likely to be victims of crime or to become involved in crime.

Have you paid your fees?

Financial statements were sent to all families recently with the expectation that payments will be made promptly for compulsory charges. Whilst most staffing and basic items are provided through government funding, we need parent support through the payment of realistic charges that the School Council has set. Please contact the General Office on 9480 4066 if you have any queries regarding your statement or would like to discuss payment methods.

Meredith Stephenson,
Assistant Principal

Parent Forum

Following our successful Cyber-Safety forum earlier this year, we are pleased to invite you to an information session entitled Managing Adolescent Development. This promises to be a useful and informative evening as the guest presenter is John Roberts, Manager of Student Wellbeing for the Northern Metropolitan Region. John is highly experienced in teenage issues and is an intelligent and confident speaker.

The success of these evenings is dependent on parent interest and support. If you are interested and are free at 7pm on Wednesday 24th August, please come along.

Simon Townley,
Assistant Principal
News from the Careers Office

Year 9 Students:
All year 9 students need to begin considering their 2012 work experience placement. Work experience week will be held June 18th to June 22nd. Be aware that placements fill up fast. To achieve the best experience from work experience week, students should start securing their placements now. I will be coming around to classes this week with further details.

La Trobe University VCE Parents’ Information Evening:
La Trobe University is holding a VCE Parents Information Evening on Wednesday 31 August, 6.00-8.00pm.
This event has been designed for Year 11 and 12 students and their parents. The aim of the evening is to demystify university and make sense of the many options available to students, while also offering advice to parents on how they can assist their children. More information and registration details for this event can be found at www.latrobe.edu.au/parents.
If you would like any further information about this event or anything else happening at La Trobe, please don’t hesitate to contact the Future Students Centre on 1300 135 045.

University and TAFE open days are listed in the table to the left, please note: Not all institutions have been listed; please refer to their website for more information on open days.

Catherine McCrann

Paul’s Milk, Coles and Woolworths

Yes, we are collecting all your Paul’s Milk bottle caps, Woolworths receipts and Coles vouchers. Our school will receive 10 cents for every cap collected. All money raised from Coles and Paul’s milk caps will go toward purchasing new P.E and sports equipment. All money raised from Woolworths receipts will go towards buying new books for our library.

Chess Club Update

It was another thrilling Friday at chess club last week with Danielle “Barnsie” Barnes entering the competition. She has on a couple of occasions mentioned her chess prowess and it will now be tested against students in the chess arena. Ryan “faffer” Miller suffered a serious defeat this week when he lost to the rising star Darcy “yet to receive a nickname” Giuliani. A scoreboard has been running all year with students getting one point for attendance, one point for a win, half a point for a draw or stalemate and zero points for a loss. The leaderboard is:
1. Marcus “hammer time” Tosevski (32 points)
2. Shaun “vanilla thunder” Ferris (22.5 points)
3. Fabio “the Italian stallion” Maccarone (21.5 points)
4. Dean “powerhouse” Iovenitti (20.5 points)
5. Johnny “chess lord” Bonello (13.5 points)
Thornbury High will be entering a chess team in the Victorian Schools Teams Championships on Friday September 9th. Any students who would like to enter should see Mr Ferris sometime this week. Shaun Ferris.
Science Week at Thornbury High School

It’s National Science Week. What are our students up to at the moment in their science classes? Year 7 is studying volcanoes and natural disasters and making foam volcanoes in class. Year 8 students are studying the human body and have just finished dissecting hearts (from sheep) in class. Year 9 students are “looking” at the eye and light and have finished performing a dissection of an eyeball (from a cow). Year 10 students have been extracting DNA molecules and are now making parachutes and balloon racer cars. Year 10 students have also just been on an excursion to the genetics lab at La-Trobe University.

Bridge Building Competition

On 3rd August three girls from year 8 entered the Aurecon Bridge Building Competition, a state wide competition held at Scienceworks each year. Stephanie Charalambous, (8G) Sharlene Martinez (8A) and Claudia Manno (8G) won a competition between all year 8 science students to build the strongest bridge out of paddle pop sticks and glue. They then had to build a bridge out of balsa wood, string, cardboard and glue that would span 65cm. Their bridge held 33kg which placed them 9th out of 50 other teams from across Victoria. The judges were very impressed by their unique design and channel 10 interviewed them for “Scope”.

Chemistry students doing one of Ms Farmakis’s notorious experiments
Senior School News

Year 12 Students
We thank all Year 12 students and their parents who attended the VTAC Information Night on Tuesday August 9th. Each Year 12 student will now work with the counselling team to determine their tertiary pathway and enter their preferences via the VTAC website. All applications need to be finalised by the end of this term.

We encourage all students to attend the University/ TAFE Open Days that are available and spend time carefully considering all options available to them.

Senior Formal, 2011
Our excitement for this year’s Senior Formal began months before the special night on August 5th. Indeed, planning for the Formal was almost as fun as the event itself. The girls have the most preparing to do: the dress, the shoes, the accessories, the hair-and-make-up, the stressful “Is-she-wearing-the-same-dress-as-me?!” moment. The boys are more low key about the whole affair; nonchalantly deciding on a suit at the last minute and adding a dab of gel to their hair before they set out.

Nonetheless, arriving at Lincoln of Toorak via various glamorous means of transport, ascending in the lift and stepping through the glass doors into the luxurious foyer, well, the excitement was palpable. To stand back and survey each group and couple as they swept in was an elating experience. The girls positively exuded elegance and beauty and deserved all the compliments they were showered in, and the boys could be described as no less than dashing. Teachers looked worlds away from the figures we’re familiar with. Without the whiteboard as a backdrop and when they’re not asking for homework, the teachers are completely different people; more jovial and looking very exceptional, decked out in their finest.

Now the real fun begins as we hit the dance-floor to exhibit our sweet moves. Yes, at a formal it’s perfectly fine to whip out the Sprinkler, Lawnmower, or even spend the night engaged in an Awkward-Two-Step. Besides dancing, a formal is all about the photos. Everyone had many snap-shots taken to capture the special night we’ll remember forever.

Behind the scenes a handful of devoted Year 12 students had eagerly volunteered to constitute the Formal Committee, whom under the careful guidance of Ms Farmakis spent many a lunchtime orchestrating preparations so that the night could go off without a hitch. Nu Tran and Mary McCloskey spent weeks filming and editing footage of the hilarious Year 12’s and their antics, the end product was an especially entertaining highlight of the evening. Ben Diacos’s ticket design was very classy and makes an excellent memento. Our hard work and enthusiasm paid off, and has given us a night to remember, especially the Year 12’s who, when our final year of school comes to an end, can reminisce about the fun times we had at our last Formal. Rebekah Dibenedetto

Unit 3 and 4 Mid Year Results
Last week students received their results for the June Mid Year Exams. These results contribute a third of the students overall Study Score and should be used as a guide as to what students can further do to improve on their overall results. As we approach the end of the Year we encourage all students enrolled in a Unit 3 and 4 subject to begin preparations for the end of year exams.

Year 10 into 11 Course Counselling.
By the time this newsletter is published we will have met with Year 10 students and their parents to introduce the programs available to students for 2012. Course Counselling, where each student meets with a counselling team to discuss Post Compulsory Pathways, will be held on Monday 22nd August. There will be no formal classes for Year 10 students on this day, but they must attend a meeting to discuss and submit their 2012 program. Maria Ioannidis, Senior School Manager
Sports Report

Year 8 Girls Soccer
The Year 8 Girls Soccer Team just missed out on making the Conference Finals after losing the Northern Metropolitan Regional Final last week. The team was without 5 keys players from the last round, however their replacements played exceptionally well, topping our group. Unfortunately, without any substitutes on the day, our girls ran out of legs and were beaten in the final by Melbourne Girls Grammar School.

Library News - Best Selling Author Visits THS

On Thursday the 4th of August, a group of about 40 students from all year levels had the amazing opportunity to meet Lauren Kate, bestselling, American author of the Fallen series. Lauren started with a reading from her new and highly successful book Passion, and then proceeded to answer any questions we had for her. We found out about her inspiration and motives behind each character and her plans for the final book of the series, as well as the processes that she goes through for each novel, finishing off with personal book signings! She was such an interesting and lovely person, who had studied Fiction Writing at University before becoming a world class writer. Lauren has been on tour all over the world for her new book and it was such a wonderful opportunity for her to take time out of her busy schedule to come and visit our school. We were fortunate in that we were the only Government school she visited while in Victoria. Check out more photos of her visit on the ‘Fallen’ Facebook page. She also let the Class TV crew interview her. You can catch the interview on Thursday 18th August at 4.00pm with an encore performance on Saturday 20th August at 1.00pm.

Merryn Roe 10D

Book Week 2011
August 22nd to August 26th is Book Week and the Library will be celebrating with the theme Harry Potter, in honour of the last film release. We plan to send the ever popular series off in style, with week-long activities, including book quizzes and a visit from author George Ivanoff. TUESDAY 23rd August will be dress-up day, and we encourage all to come as their favourite book character. We expect to see many popular novel and manga characters, and would love for students to come dressed as their favourite Harry Potter character. Just remember, muggles dressed in ordinary clothing isn’t dress-up and doesn’t count.

Premier’s Reading Challenge 2011
The Premier’s Reading Challenge is coming to an end on 31st of August. Students need to make sure that they have registered all their books on The Premier’s Reading Challenge website. If students don’t have their password they should ask their English teachers or visit the library. Mary Anagnostopoulos.
Middle School News

Year 9 and 10 year level assemblies were held this week. Students were shown the school student survey results. The results were good and showed an improvement on last year’s results. During the assembly awards were also given to students who achieved excellent academic results and students who continue to work at their best. Congratulations to all these students.

The Information Evening for all Year 10 students was held in the Kaye Coghlan Centre, Tuesday 16th August and information for course counseling was confirmed. This is an important time for students and they need to explore and think about where they are heading and make the most of opportunities they are being offered.

Current Year 9 students have been issued their Elective Choices Sheets and Handbooks on Friday 19th August. Parents and students need to read these carefully and students should make their choices wisely as once they have been allocated electives it is difficult to make changes as classes are full. Elective Preference sheets need to be returned by Friday 2nd September 2011.

Recently Ryan Millar visited the Alpine Students at Dinner Plain. It was a great opportunity to see how our students are going. The students were all glad to see him and they enjoyed telling him about their new home. They are all having a great time and have benefitted from this wonderful opportunity. The students are working on their community projects and have enjoyed their EXPO preparation.

Great news! Thornbury High school has also been successful in their Alpine school application and we will have an opportunity to send a new team of six Year 9 students to Alpine School of Leadership in Term Four 2012.

Ann Vassos, Middle School Manager

Get Mad — Managing Adolescent Development

Is the next school community forum being held in the school library on: Wednesday 24th August, at 7.00 for a 7.30pm start. Finger food & light refreshments will be available from 7.00pm. Write it in your diaries now so you don’t miss out. Further details about the guest speaker and program to follow soon. All welcome!

2nd Hand Uniform

Open: Every Monday (during term), 3.00 – 4.00pm Location: First Aid Room 1 (near Reception)

• You get 50% off the selling price. See THS website for further details.
• We still need more stock! Don’t forget to go through your wardrobes and bring in anything that’s in good or excellent condition for sale.
• Please place all uniform items in a plastic bag with your Seller’s Form and drop into front reception. Donated items are appreciated.
• We are only able to accept CASH or EMA entitlements. Contact the school with any queries.

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