

## IMPORTANT DATES TERM 1 2011

7 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 7 camp week
14 <sup>th</sup> March	Labour Day [No school]
15 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 9 Camp (9D, E, F,G)
16 <sup>th</sup> March	P.D Arvo 1.40pm finish
25 <sup>th</sup> March	Belated Women's Day
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 7 & 10 Injections
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Parent Teacher Interviews
4 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 11 Pastoral Care Camp
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day term 1
27 <sup>th</sup> April	Term 2 begins

## REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES:

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

Year 12	<i>Christine Farmakis</i>	9458 6141
Year 11	<i>Mary Anagnostopoulos</i>	9458 6138
Year 10	<i>Jan Wason</i>	9458 6125
Year 9	<i>Jan Wason</i>	9458 6125
Year 8	<i>Alan Williams [8A-D]</i>	9458 6150
	<i>Ryan Miller [8E-H]</i>	9458 6150
Year 7	<i>Grant Wason</i>	9458 6168
	<i>Helen Herouvim</i>	9458 6170



Gemma and Madi from year 7

## HOMWORK CLUB OPENS!

The Homework Club is up and running again for the new year. The location is the school library and sessions will run from 3:10 to 4pm every Monday and Wednesday (excluding days with shortened timetables). Maths and English assistance will be available.

The Homework Club offers a relaxed learning environment and aims to provide students with consolidation of class work. Staff will be present throughout to answer any queries and provide additional support. Students of all year levels are welcome to join.

### Homework Club Team

## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

One of our students was hit by a car inside the school grounds!!! A car was driving the wrong way out the “in” road entering from Matisi Street when it knocked the student from his bike, thankfully he is ok.

The car did not stop – incredible but true.

We all need to be more aware when picking up our students after school. The staff at the school cannot do it alone.

Parents are still parking in the “no standing” zones at the front of the school. When we approach them the most common reply is – “I will only be a minute”. They are no standing zones for a reason – the safety of our community.

Parents are driving in the “out” gate at Matisi Street and amazingly now we hear out the “in” road.

The bottle neck at the Collins Street gate is a major concern. Cars stop in the middle of the road, park at the entrance of the gates and even double park in the car park!!!

### WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Please, if you see someone doing the wrong thing ask them to move. Collect your child in Jones Street or Matisi Street, this will cut down the traffic.

*Be aware of our students.* They ride bikes, walk and run and because they feel safe in the school grounds their road sense is not as strong as it is on the streets.

### IS YOUR CHILD IN YEAR 7 OR YEAR 10?

If so they should have received Immunisation Consent cards. We will be visiting the secondary schools in March so please return all cards as soon as possible *even if your child is not having any vaccines*. If your child is in years 7 or 10 in 2011 these vaccines are funded for the 2011 year only. If you have any queries or your child did not received the immunisation consent cards, please contact Darebin Immunisation Service on 8470 8562.

### HOW TO CREATE A HAPPY SCHOOL KID

We were reading an article back in January from the Herald Sun on “How to create a happy school kid” Now, whilst most of our students seemed to have settled into the school year well, (hopefully any that are struggling have been picked up by the coordinators, if not; they are only a phone call away), I thought it might be timely to share with you 5 points from Dr Susan Walker, who was interviewed for this article

1. Daily Routine – keep it consistent and balanced with homework, rest, reading, relaxation and exercise
2. Monitor use of time – this includes the watching of TV and the use of computers

3. Have a positive attitude to school – take interest in what your child does at school and possible career options
4. Have high but realistic expectations – encourage special interests
5. Encourage learning at home – help with homework, encourage reading and extracurricular activities



### BOOKS

We handed a lot of books out last Friday and the last lots should be out by the time you receive this newsletter. If you have any problems please contact Academic and General on 9375 7570.

**Meredith Stephenson, Assistant Principal**

### ARE YOU CYBER-SAFE?

Cyber-safety (the safe use of computers, mobile devices and the Internet) is a growing concern amongst parents, teachers and students. Across Australia, as many as one in ten high school students have reported being cyber-bullied, either via mobile phone texts or websites such as Facebook. Recently the Leader newspapers ran a successful campaign and opened our eyes to the extent of the problem.

At Thornbury High, cyber-bullying is treated very seriously, in line with our firm approach to any form of bullying. We do not tolerate it in any way and we deal with it immediately. However, cyber-bullying is a lot harder to deal with, as it often occurs out of school on computers or websites that teachers cannot monitor. We therefore rely on the cooperation and support of families to help us deal with these types of incidents.

### What to do if your child is being cyber-bullied

- Don't be angry with them. This will discourage them from telling you in the future.
- Praise them for letting you know about it – this is a big step.

- Never ban them from their computer or mobile. Experts all say that this never works.
- Keep all evidence – print or save anything you are concerned about.
- Don't respond to nasty comments – it often lands your child in trouble as well.
- Most sites have a 'report abuse' button by comments. Also block or delete the bully from your child's account.
- Inform your child's coordinator immediately.

Thornbury High has just written a cyber-safety policy (available on the school's website) and is including cyber-safety in many lessons this year.

**Simon Townley, Assistant Principal**

## CURRICULUM NEWS

### REPORTS AND INTERVIEW ARRANGEMENTS

Parents/guardians are reminded that the interim Parent/Student/Teacher interviews are on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March. Interview times are between 10am - 1pm, 3pm - 5pm and 6pm - 8pm. Interview Appointment Sheets will be distributed to students on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 attend the interviews with their parents.** The report will be mailed home on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March. If you have any concerns, please contact the school on 9480 4066.

**Curriculum Team**

## YEAR 8 NEWS

We would like to congratulate the Year 8s once again on their attendance record thus far and the care they have taken with their uniform.

Please keep in mind that CATS for many subjects will be due in the coming weeks. Check your child's planner every night. If you notice that there is nothing written in there, contact us immediately so that we can follow up with classroom teachers and help support the student in remembering to use their planner.

### THE YEAR 8 TEAM

#### Coordinators

Absences and Lates – please call

8 A - D Mr. Williams 94586 133

8 E - H Mr. Millar 9458 6150

#### Year 8 Manager

Ms. Maharaj 9458 5120

### STUDENT VOICE

The Northern Metropolitan Region's Powerful Learning document offers a commitment to student

voice and sees it as “means of directly influencing school improvement and improving the quality of teaching and learning”. Thornbury High School continues its commitment to exploring the concept of student voice and how it best fits our school and students.

An integral part of student voice is the Student Representative Council. Application forms for the Student Representative Council (SRC) were due on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March. Students will be interviewed in the coming weeks before a final decision is made. This year the SRC will be mentored by our School Captains. These two groups will work closely together to ensure the voice of every student at THS is heard.

Watch this space to find out who our SRC members are and for upcoming SRC news.

**Ms. Maharaj, Student Voice, Yr 8 Manager**



## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

Year 9 students attended their first excursion on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February. It is the first of many excursions Year 9 students will be attending using public transport. All students assembled at Fairfield train station on time and in full school uniform to travel to Reach to participate in a program called Heroes Day. Year 9 students are to be commended for their excellent behaviour throughout the day and their valuable participation in the Reach program. This program aimed to get students to recognise who they, to set goals to learn to acknowledge and respect everyone, be true to yourself as everyone is a hero in their own way.

Below are some comments students have given of the day.

*“We did a range of activities about how to trust and respect each other and learnt to be yourself. I thought it was great day learning new things. We were given*

*the chance to say sorry or thank you to people we loved or to people we had been mean to” Lucy*

*“We were taught the theory of layers and how it affects your personaliy” Yianni*

*“There were many activities, we watched movies, listened to speeches from Jim Stynes, an ex footballer who has cancer. He was inspirational.” Elodie*

*“I had a fantastic day” Tristan*

Some Year 10 students will soon be attending a Leadership Day to assist them in their aspirations in becoming future school leaders.

### **YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE**

Work Experience dates are 20<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> June. Students need to source our potential work experience places. Students are encouraged to speak to parents, relatives, friends and the school to secure a work experience placement as soon as possible. The Career ‘s Coordinator Catherine McCrann is available Monday to Thursday on 9458 6136.

Parents are reminded to contact the school on 9458 6125 if your child is absent. Students must be at school on time in full school uniform with all their books. If parents are still having problems with getting books please contact your child’s Coordinator.  
Year 9 Coordinator Barbara Carydis 94586113  
Year 10 Coordinator Georgia Stavrakis 9458 6167.

**Middle School Team**

### **FROM THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

#### **GOING TO THE NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM (NYSF)**

Attending the 2011 National Youth Science Forum was an experience I will never forget and I feel truly privileged to have been given the opportunity.

I first heard about the program from my school. It instantly grabbed my attention and I applied to my Rotary club for district selection. On the 10th of January, over a hundred students from around Australia and internationally left for Perth. For me, this consisted of a 4 hours journey by air. During our 12-day stay, we resided in Currie Hall, located on the campus of the University Of Western Australia.

The scientific program included lab visits, lectures by prominent speakers, site visits, open forum debates, formal dinners, and university and industry presentations.

From the scientific program I gained a greater understanding of the scientific community and networks throughout Australia and the world. It showed me how broad the field of science is and the intrigue of investigation of specific fields of science.

I believe one of the greatest skills we must possess to be successful in life is the ability to communicate our ideas and understand the ideas of others. These are the most important personal skills I believe I was able to develop and grow at the NYSF, interacting with people from all walks of life and various professions of science.

It was by this interaction with one hundred and forty five other students from across the country that I was able to have such an amazing time and establish some great friendships. With similar interests and a passion for a field of science, the ease of conversation made it remarkable meeting so many different people. From discos to shopping centre adventures, chanting and everything in between I will never forget the amazing people I was able to meet during the NYSF.

Finally what I took away most from the program was a greater understanding of my future and the path I want to take. I now understand that there are so many different options and opportunities for young Australians and if you have the passion and commitment you can achieve anything.

I strongly recommend this program for all students entering year 12. This program has been for me an unforgettable learning curve and I am truly grateful for having had the privilege of participation in this one-in-a-lifetime experience.

**Apurva Sharma, Yr 12**



### **SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS**

#### **YEAR 11 PASTORAL CARE CAMP**

Thank you to the families who have supported the camp to Queensland. We have booked tickets with Virgin Blue Airways, flying out on Monday April 4<sup>th</sup> and returning on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The second instalment was due on February 5<sup>th</sup>, and the final instalment of \$350 is due on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2011. Students will receive more information shortly.

## ABSENCES

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. In VCE Form Assemblies are not on every morning. Please refer to the table below for dates when Form Assembly is not on.

Form Group	Gold Week	Blue Week
12 A	No Form Assembly Tuesday	No Form Assembly on Tuesday
12B	No Form Assembly Wednesday	No Form Assembly Thursday
12C	Form Assembly Every day.	No Form Assembly on Tuesday and Wednesday
12E	No Form Assembly on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.	No Form Assembly on Friday
11A – 11D	No Form Assembly on Wednesday	No Form Assembly on Tuesday and Wednesday
11E	No Form Assembly on Friday	Monday

We look forward to meeting with all Parents and Guardians on March 31st when we have our first Parent Teacher Interviews.

**Senior School Team**

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC NEWS

### ALL FORMS ARE NOW DUE IN!

A reminder to students and parents that all hire forms, band contracts and email contact notices are overdue and should be returned ASAP.

### SYDNEY/CANBERRA MUSIC TOUR

Forms and the \$100 deposit for the Sydney/Canberra Music Tour were due back at the start of this week. If you have not paid the deposit and/or returned your

form but you intend on going on the tour I need to speak to you early next week as numbers need to be booked. A final costing should be given within a few weeks.

### SCHOOL VOCAL GROUP

A number of students have turned up to the first few rehearsals and we are starting to sound fantastic! If you are interested in having a sing, come along. Rehearsals times are always in the bulletin so keep an eye out.

I will also be holding auditions for students wishing to be involved in a smaller, more advanced vocal group. See me for more details.

### MUSIC PARENTS GROUP

It was so good to see so many parents/guardians turn up on Tuesday night for our Music Parents meeting for the year. We are always after more people though. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday April 5 at 7:00pm.

### PIANO, GUITAR, BASS, VIOLIN LESSONS

I have organised a private teacher for piano, guitar and bass to come into the school and teach from here. I will also most likely organise a violin teacher. All students are invited to join up to lessons. Costs are approximately \$25-30 per 30 min session or \$15-18 for a paired lesson. See me for an enrolment form.

### PRACTICE ROUTINES

Here are some handy tips for ensuring you get enough practice in between lessons.

1. Take your instrument home – that normally helps!
2. Keep your case open in a safe spot that you walk past regularly. It may remind you to put the thing in your mouth.
3. Practise every day. It is like brushing your teeth. Practising for an hour on Monday night will not do as much for you as 5 minutes every day.
4. The best place to practise is normally somewhere shut off from the outside world, however if concentrating for long periods of time is an issue, take your instrument to your TV. Watch TV for an hour, but mute the TV every commercial break and play! This will be 15 minutes of practise – the perfect amount for a year 7 student.

If you follow these tips you will keep up with everyone else and you'll be able to tackle harder and more enjoyable songs.

### YEAR 7 INFO NIGHT – THURSDAY MARCH 10

This is another reminder to the Year 8 Band that you will be required from 6:45pm until 9:00pm this Thursday March 10<sup>th</sup>. Please wear clean school uniform and meet in the Band Room 94.

**Kyle Schutz, Music Coordinator**

## FROM THE WELLBEING OFFICE

### THORNBURY HIGH SCHOOL IS PLEASED TO INTRODUCE OUR NEW SCHOOL NURSE FOR 2011, BEC GRIMES.

Hi THS!! My name is Bec Grimes and I am the new Adolescent Health Promotion Nurse. I recently finished up at the Royal Children's Hospital after 3 years of paediatric nursing. My passion is to deliver the best and most



up to date health information relating to young people and their current issues. I am so excited to bring something new and fresh to the welfare team this year as well as getting to know and work alongside you all.

*Bec is at Thornbury High School on Thursdays and Fridays. Students can self-refer (without parent consent) for information on a range of health and wellbeing issues.*

### “UP START” BREAKFAST CLUB 2011

“Up Start” Breakfast Club is back on in 2011! Starting on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, the program will once again serve free and nutritious breakfast to students of Thornbury High School. “Up Start” will run every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning from 8-8:30am. Food will be served in the conference room with student and community volunteers cooking up a storm in our new commercial kitchen.

**DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** To keep this valuable program alive we ask members of our school community to donate generously. We are currently seeking to stock our pantry with the following items:

- Spreads (vegemite, honey and jam)
- Juice (long life is best)
- Cereals (a variety is always welcome, though we like to steer clear of high sugar items).

For more information please call the school's youth worker Jo.A on 9458 6171.

### NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK 2011

Included: you, me, us!

To celebrate National Youth Week this year, Thornbury High School will be looking at issues relating to Diversity and Inclusion. Under the banner “Included: you, me, us!” students at Thornbury High School will work with key staff, organising and implementing a wide range of activities and programs

that address and celebrate issues of difference and belonging.

Student volunteers are still needed! Please see Jo.A if you would like to get involved.

National Youth Week will be held Last Week of Term 1 ...April 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Jo Apostolopoulos, Youth Worker**

## YEAR 7 RESEARCH SKILLS

The library orientation program for all Year 7's has been extended and revamped to include an introduction to the school's computer network, with a focus on cyber safety and effective use of the Internet. The program is conducted over three weeks, and will be followed up by classroom activities throughout the year. This will give us a consistent approach across the school's learning areas, and will help our new students get the maximum benefit from school resources.

**Glenn Bason, Library**



## AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION 2011

The Australian Mathematics Competition is an annual event in August. The competition comprises of multiple choice questions completed under test conditions. One of Thornbury High School's goals is the promotion and recognition of excellence in academic and personal achievements and we believe that the entry of students into national competitions such as this one do help students to achieve their goals. The benefits to students include the practice and revision of their mathematics skills, and the opportunity to use their skills in a wider context than in the classroom.

At Thornbury High School many students sit the competition each year and all students participating

receive a certificate and detail analysis of their performance.

Over the last few years we have had students receive Distinction and Credit certificates for their outstanding performance. The date of this year's competition is Thursday 4 August and students wishing to participate should see their Mathematics teacher. The cost for the competition is \$5.50 and money should be handed in by 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Marina Avramopoulos**

## NEWS FROM THE CAREERS OFFICE

### YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

Work Experience week is fast approaching (June 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>). It is important that all year 10 students begin securing their placements now. Remember to network!

### THE SCHOOL FOR EXCELLENCE

Master Classes are highly specialised weekly tuition classes that are designed to ensure that students reach their full potential (including the elite A+ scores). These programs are based on a unique 10-step system that ensures students receive the best opportunities to optimise their VCE scores.

These small group tutorial classes are suitable for students of all academic abilities as students are discreetly streamlined into different groups, so that appropriate instruction and attention may be provided. All students will receive comprehensive notes that include the relevant concepts, checklists and further examples and exercises.

If you have any further queries about the master classes including program times, tuition fees and location, please contact the career advisor.

### THE NATIONAL CAREERS & EMPLOYMENT

Expo returns in 2011 and presents students with a fantastic way to discover career options and make informed decisions about their future.

The Expo discusses;

- Graduate, Apprentice & Trainee Opportunities
- Employment and Training Seminars
- Universities, TAFE and vocational education and training
- Industry and organisations with Full & Part-Time Jobs on offer:

Date: 25 - 26 Mar 2011

Time: Friday: 9am – 4pm + Saturday: 10am – 4pm

Admission: FREE ENTRY

The Expo invites visitors both young and old to come along and get careers advice, discuss study options with leading Universities, TAFE and private education providers, source information on industries of interest and speak directly with major employers such as the;

Victorian State Government & Government Agencies, Defence Force Recruitment, Victoria Police, Master Builders of Victoria, Qantas, Flight Centre, BAE Systems, Rail Careers and Villa Maria about employment opportunities within their organisations!

**Catherine McCrann**

## SECONDHAND UNIFORM SHOP

Open: Every Monday (during term), 3.00 – 4.00pm

Location: First Aid Room 1 (near Reception) • You get 50% of 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 on 9480 4066 with any queries.

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## YEAR 7 SCHOOL START BONUS

The School Start Bonus was introduced in 2006 to assist parents/guardians of Prep and Year 7 students to meet the start-up costs associated with commencing Primary and Secondary schooling.

Most students enrolled for the first time in Prep and Year 7 in Term I are eligible for the bonus. The School Start Bonus is separate from, and additional to, the Education Maintenance Allowance.

If you have not received your \$300 School Start Bonus or have misplaced it, please contact the school office on 9480 4066.

## RELAY FOR LIFE/CANCER FUNDRAISER

Anyone interested in sponsoring or donating towards raising money to support the anti-cancer council see Pam (e.s.s) for further details or donate at the office in purple box.

# DRAFT

