Principals Report

Outstanding staff survey results

Every year the Education Department surveys staff, students and parents.

Our staff survey results have just been released and the results are excellent (see Web site and go to reports, plans and surveys).

Student management, parent partnerships, student motivation, staff role clarity and manageable work demands place the school in the top 10% of Victorian secondary schools. Staff at Thornbury High School feel valued and consulted.

One of the priorities from the school review is to improve the induction program for new staff. This year we have up to 18 new staff members and the school is keenly aware of the need for these staff to be inducted into the unique ethos and culture of Thornbury High school.

Building program is to be shelved

While Thornbury is a high performing school which is growing rapidly (930 next year), we are not considered as needing upgraded or new facilities to maintain this progress. This decision is both short-sighted and very unfair. The school will continue to maintain its current facilities to ensure the best possible learning environment for our students and teachers.

The School Council will also continue our campaign to use the money from the sale of a small pocket of land (along Flinders Street) for the development of a double Gym and multipurpose performance area.

The school will fight vigorously for at least $2 million from the sale with the intention of fast tracking this development. I have told the Department of Education that this development cannot be shelved or put on hold.

Peter Egeberg, Principal

Winner of Thornbury’s Got Talent—Hayden Smith (8A) with some of his adoring fans.

Early finishes 2012

Due to the introduction of Vocational Education courses to Wednesday afternoons, our early finishes for 2012 will be on a THURSDAY. These early finishes will occur approximately 3 times each term and the date will be advertised both in the student’s planner and the newsletter.

Meredith Stephenson, Assistant Principal
Years 7-12 Academic and General Second-Hand Book Sales

Academic & General Bookshops will arrange a second hand book sale at Thornbury High School whereby students can buy and sell current books to Academic & General Bookshop:

Thursday 8th December, 9am - 2pm – Students may SELL their used books.

Tuesday 13th December, 9am - 2pm – Students may BUY used textbooks.

All second hand book sales and purchases will take place in the 11/12 Centre

The amount paid for used books is based on edition, condition and demand. Academic & General Bookshops will offer:

(a) up to 33% of the 2011 student price for books that will be listed on the Thornbury High School booklist for 2012. Parents and students will be issued with a Credit Voucher towards the purchase of their new books.

(b) Year 12 students will be issued cash.

(c) We do not purchase old editions and books in poor condition.

(d) Second hand books will be resold at up to 66% of the 2012 student price at the sale held at the School.

Collection of pre-packed orders of textbooks.

Parents collect pre-packed orders of textbooks from the Gym located at Thornbury High School on Tuesday, January 31, 2012, between 9am and 2pm. All unpaid uncollected parcels will return to the Ascot Vale warehouse for a period of 2 weeks only.

Parents who receive an Education Maintenance Allowance are able to use the allowance to help pay for pre-packed text books. The necessary voucher forms need to be collected from the School office before collecting your pre-packed orders.

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If you have any questions about the booklist arrangements, please contact the school office.

Once booklists have been distributed to students, parents are able to place textbook orders by returning the booklist to the college by the specified date, or by accessing the Academic and General website (www.academicbooks.com.au) or go to the college website and follow the links.

Parents who receive an Education Maintenance Allowance are able to use the allowance to help pay for pre-packed text books. The necessary voucher forms need to be collected from the School office before collecting your pre-packed orders.

Location of Academic and General (Ascot Vale): 363 Mt Alexander Road, Ascot Vale

cnr of Mt Alexander Road & Moonee Street [Melways Ref: 28 K-9]
Ph: 9372 8044

Meredith Stephenson,
Assistant Principal

Get Mad Forum

The Get MAD forum took place on Wednesday 24th August and was an interesting and informative evening. The main speaker, John Roberts, proved to be a most engaging speaker and based much of his presentation on statistics about current teenage behaviour and trends. There was not a single person there who was not shocked by some of the information, particularly regarding increasing drug and alcohol consumption in young teenagers.

As always with these forums, the highlight was listening to our student panel respond to audience questions, this time a panel of Year 11 students. They handled some delicate issues with maturity and humour and reassured many parents that these issues are not so prevalent at Thornbury High. They also came up with some very clear advice for parents about how to deal with normal teenage behaviour. “Stop asking me how my day was as soon as I get home” was a comment every parent understood!

Thanks to the many parents, students and staff that attended. Next up is Lifestyles of Learning.

Simon Townley,
Assistant Principal
Year 7 and 8 Music Camp
A few weeks ago, all of our Year 7 and 8 instrumental music students attended a music camp at Phillip Island. Everyone enjoyed a variety of activities as well as putting in a great deal of time and effort to rehearse and improve performance skills. Wednesday was our biggest day by far with a performance at the front of the penguin parade as hundreds of tourists filed past. Most of the tourists stopped to listen for at least a few minutes, with lots of photos and videos taken of our students. Unfortunately, the weather was not in our favour and our sheet music was flying all over the place. Luckily, Mr. Egeberg bought us 200 pegs, which slowed the sheet music flying around everywhere. By the end of the week all students went home, tired, but much more accomplished musicians having worked together as a team really well.

Thank you to all the staff who helped out with the camp. The enormous number of extra hours you all put in are greatly appreciated by me and the students.

“On music camp we enjoyed several activities like the giant swing, flying fox and performing at the Penguins Parade, but the highlight for me would have had to be learning how to surf in the ice-cold water.”

Billy Janssen 8D
End of Year Concert
A reminder the end of year concert is on Tuesday October 25. Please ensure this is in diaries as it is the most important event in the music calendar.

Music Uniform
The full music uniforms have arrived and most people have purchased them. If you have not, they are available from the uniform shop at school (Wednesdays 1-2pm) and at the Thomastown store. They will be listed on the normal uniform list from now on. For anyone who purchased the shirt and tie before the camp and need a receipt for tax purposes, you can obtain one from Shannon at the front office. Shirts and ties will be required at the End of Year Concert and at all other music performances.

Chamber Concert
Our next chamber concert will be held on Wednesday, September 21 from 7:00 in the Kaye Coghlan. Come along and help support our wonderful musical performers.

Music Parents
Our final music parents meeting will be held on Tuesday November 8 from 7:00 in the music room. Thank you to all the dedicated members who turn up and contribute every month. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

Donations for Silent Auction
Donations for our End of Year Concert Silent Auction can now be dropped off at the Music Office. Please let us know who donated the items so they can be thanked in the newsletter and in the program.

A huge thank you
Thank you to Sam’s Meatworks at Northlands who donated 100 sausages and to Bivianos Fruit and Vegetables, Fairfield, for donating lots of onions and other vegies for our mid-year concert. These businesses have not asked for anything in return. Please support them as they have supported us.

Melbourne Bands Festival
Our Year 8 Concert Band performed on Saturday 20 August at the Melbourne Bands Festival, Monash University Clayton in the Novice section. They played extremely well and the adjudicator comments were excellent. The most obvious comment being the “future potential” of this band.

Our Senior Concert Band (consisting of Year 7-10 and one Year 12 student) competed on Friday 26 in the evening in the highly contested Intermediate section. The band played tremendously and solidly earned a Bronze Shield. Considering the age and experience of our band, it was a brilliant result, but more importantly, we can see how much improvement has happened this year and all members are looking forward to next year.

Thank you to Nick Dean, Nick Taylor and Craig Harrison for your dedication throughout the year and conducting the bands so well, and to the students who made me very proud (everyone who played).

Kyle Schutz,
Music Coordinator
Book Week 2011

Another spectacular success this year, with Art displays (Year 7 & 8 Artist Books), Class TV videos and Manga Madness, lunchtime quizzes hosted by Tim Polwarth, and visiting authors (Lauren Kate, the “Fallen” series, and George Ivanoff, “Gamer’s Quest”). Our dress-up theme was Harry Potter, and our Cosplay contingent was well represented, with judging by AP, Simon Townley and Lee Read. Thanks to the new staff who dressed up, and the many publishers who donated prizes – Madman, Penguin, Random House, Hatchett, Allen & Unwin, Macmillan, and Simon & Schuster.

Glenn Bason, Library

Footy day

Earlier this month we had our annual “Footy Day” at Thornbury High School. The day was a huge success with all students and staff dressing up in their favourite “footy” attire and colours. Rugby and AFL competitions were held at lunchtime as well as Soccer clinics, which were conducted by Melbourne Victory’s Jimmy Jeggo and Luke O’Dea who were special guests on the day.

Saleem Nasser, Sports Assistant

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parents/guardians are reminded that the semester Parent/Teacher interviews are on Thursday 22nd September. These interviews provide an excellent opportunity for you and your child to discuss his/her progress and to build communication between parents and the School. Interview time blocks are as follows: 10am—1pm, 3pm—5pm and 6pm—8pm. These are short interviews 5 – 10 MINUTES ONLY. If a parent would like a longer interview, please ring your student’s subject teacher to arrange it. All students will be issued with a Parent/Teacher booking sheet on Tuesday 13th September. Parents are encouraged to make interview times with their child’s teachers. There are no scheduled classes on this day, but students are expected to accompany their parents to interviews. The mid-year report will be mailed home prior to report evening. If you have any concerns, please ring the school on 94804066.

Christine Bartsh, Curriculum Committee
Year 12 Students

Parents *** please make sure that your son or daughter has visited the careers offered to discuss future pathways ***

Students interested in further education after year 12 should have registered and submitted their preferences on the VTAC website by now. It is important for students to pay their application fee online or by invoice. Student’s application will not be passed on to the institutions of their choice until payment has been processed.

Students wanting to access the VTAC website, university/ TAFE pages and jobsites are welcome to use the careers computers, during study blocks, recess, lunch and after school. Students can come see myself or Mr Smith with any questions.

Seas Application

If students wish to apply for Special Entry Access Scheme (SEAS) which takes into account difficult circumstances etc, and SNAP (RMIT) or SALT (La Trobe Universities) applications, they will need to see myself or Miss Farmakis ASAP.

The University of Melbourne

is hosting a series of parent information sessions in Northern and Western Melbourne. Not just for parents of students in years 11 & 12, these sessions are aimed at parents of high school students of all ages who are interested in learning more about university as a post school option for their child.

**Information Sessions**

Melton: Tuesday 20th September – Melton Community Hall
Werribee: Thursday 22nd September- Wyndham City Civic Centre
South Morang: Tuesday 27th September- Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre
Broadmeadows: Wednesday 28th September- Hume Global Learning Centre

**Time (all sessions) 7:00 – 830pm**

You can register now calling 1800 801 662 (free call) or online www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/parents-info-sessions

**Talk and Tour: La Trobe up close and personal**

With heaps of information about uni life and courses, along with entertainment and giveaways, it’s not too late to come along to La Trobe universities upcoming Talk and Tour.

This event is a great opportunity for future students and their parents to spend the day getting to know La Trobe and all it has to offer.

You can chat with staff and students, find out about courses and applying to La Trobe, and visit some of our fantastic facilities. You can also stay for lunch and explore more of the campus at your leisure.

Bendigo Campus: Tuesday 27th September- 9:30am to 12 noon
Melbourne Campus: Wednesday 28th September- 9:30am to 12 noon

Registration is now available:


**The Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT)**

For students who have just sat the UMAT it will be an anxious wait for the release of results during September, for most a stressful and busy final leg of Yr12, and then the possibility of an interview for Medicine or Dentistry. Through this period, and considering that around 90% of the 21,000 will fail UMAT (as in not score highly enough to be offered an interview), it is critical that the students have support and guidance from parents and guardians. There are numerous opportunities and strategies for those who do not make the cut and, if required, UMAT and Thornbury High School careers office are happy to offer your students any advice we can.

**Catherine McCrann, Careers Advisor**
Senior School News

Year 10 into 11 Course Counselling
We thank all parents and students who attended the Year 10 into 11 Information Night on Tuesday August 16th. Since then, the Counselling Team has met with most Year 10 students to discuss career pathways and plan suitable, challenging and rewarding programs for 2012. We remind students that promotion into Year 11 is not automatic and we encourage all students to remain focused on their studies and continue to do their best. If there are any further questions regarding programs for 2012 please contact Ms. Maria Ioannidis in the Senior School.

End of Term
As we approach the end of term, we encourage all Year 11 and 12 students to finalise Outcomes for each subject. Year 12 students should use the term break to start revising work. Past exam papers can be found on line on www.vcaa.vic.edu.au. We encourage you to make good use of your study time and the school resources.

Maria Ioannidis,
Senior School Manager

Are you ex Navy, Army or Air Force?

Then Carry On (Victoria) may be able to help you with education costs if you meet our eligibility criteria. Carry On (Victoria) assists Secondary School Students in Years 7-12 with grants for expenses such as fees, books, uniforms, excursions etc. For those students going on to Tertiary Education a grant may also be available. Children whose Parent/s or Legal Guardian/s have a need for financial assistance and comply with our eligibility criteria may apply. All grants are income tested and the closing date for applications is 25 October 2011.

If you have served in the Australian Defence Forces or Allied Forces and you wish to apply for a Secondary Education Grant for 2011, please telephone Carry On on (03) 9629 2648 to establish eligibility and request an application form.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Second instalment EMA cheques are now at the General Office. Please contact Vicki [9480 4066] regarding the allocation or reimbursement of your EMA balance so that it can be finalised for the year. Students may collect cheques on their parent’s behalf if they provide a signed note. Also, a reminder to all eligible parents/guardians that they will need to reapply for EMA for 2012.
Spensley Street Primary School invites you to attend the Grand Opening Event, a social night (and school fund-raiser) for former and current families and staff. We have a beautiful new building, and we would love you to come back and see us. Join us in a Spensley Street celebration on Friday September 16th 7.30pm in our new room at Spensley Street Primary School, 193 Spensley Street, Clifton Hill.

Tickets $18 ($15 for students) are on sale now – finger food, light supper included. Drinks will be available at the bar. Book online at [http://www.trybooking.com/TXE](http://www.trybooking.com/TXE). All ex-students, parents & carers welcome (12+ only, please) Bring your classmates! Reunite your Year! Spread the word!

For further information email spensley.street.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au or call the school on 9481 4666.

Our new building was designed by SSPS parent Mark Meaden and built by ex SSPS-related company CA Property Group as part of the Federal Government BER plan.

Darebin Immunisation Service has attended all Secondary schools to offer scheduled immunisation to year 7 and 10 students. Year 7 students were offered Gardasil (girls only) Chickenpox and Hepatitis B vaccine. Year 10 students are recommended to have the Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough (brand name Boostrix) booster. The final visit to secondary schools is scheduled for September/October this year.

Please note that the Cervical cancer vaccine is only funded by the government for girls in Year 7, 2011. The 3 dose course of this vaccine will cost $405 if not commenced in 2011. It is important that your daughter receives her first dose of the vaccine this year to be eligible to complete any doses in 2012.

If you have any queries about your child’s immunisation please contact Darebin Immunisation Service on 8470 8562.

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.

Footy Day 2011