

## IMPORTANT DATES TERM 2 2008

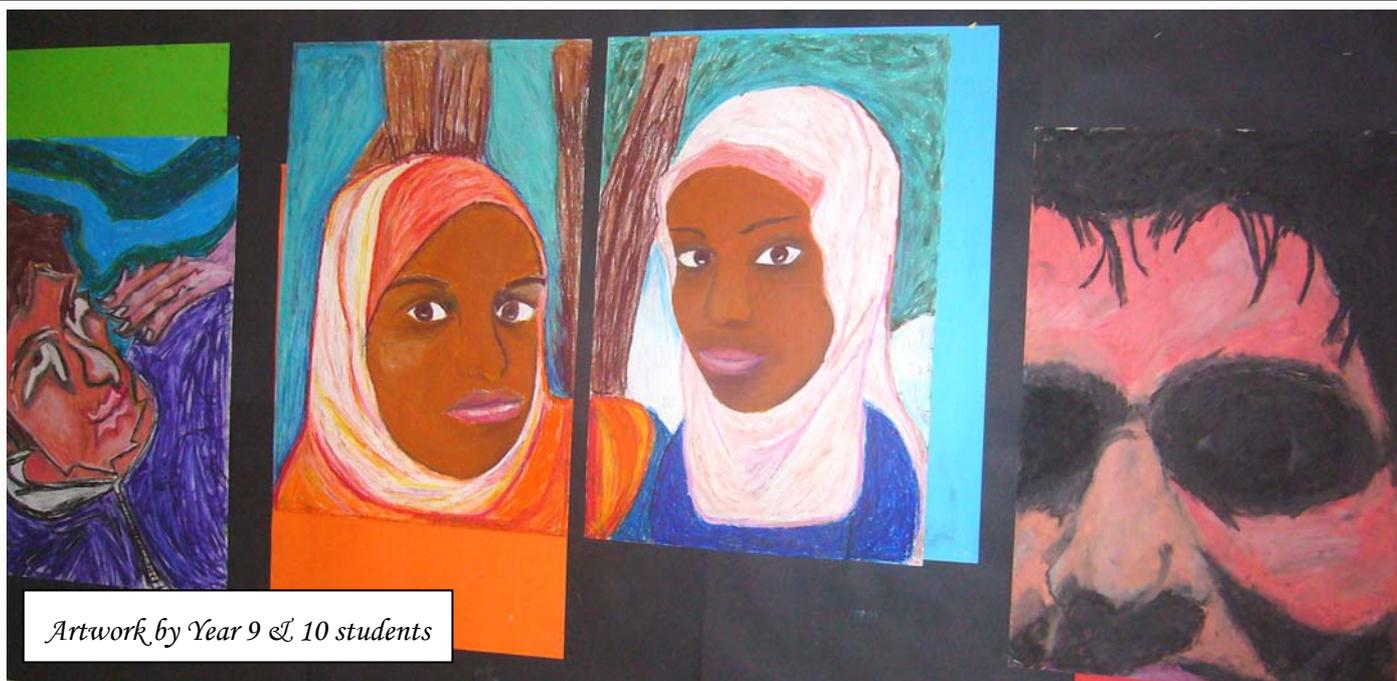
23 <sup>rd</sup> April	½ day strike [Parents to be notified] School Council
25 <sup>th</sup> April	Anzac Day [No school]
28 <sup>th</sup> April	Athletics Sports Knotts Reserve Collingwood
30 <sup>th</sup> April	Staff Development [1.40pm dismissal]
13-15 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 7 & 9 AIMS Tests
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Staff Development [1.40pm dismissal] School Council SubCommittees
19 <sup>th</sup> May	Immunization year 7,9,10 girls
21 <sup>st</sup> May	School Council
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Staff Development [1.40pm dismissal]
5-6 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 10 Exams
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Queen's Birthday [No School]
10-12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 11 Exams
10-13 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 9 City School
10-13 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 10 Work Experience
11 <sup>th</sup> June	School Council SubCommittees

11-12 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 12 Exams
13 <sup>th</sup> June	GAT
16 <sup>th</sup> June	Correction Day [No School]
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Full School Assembly School Council
23-27 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 9-12 Sydney Music Tour
27 <sup>th</sup> June	End of Term 2 [1.09pm 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	Lyndal Roper	9458 6113
Year 9	Caroline McLachlan	9458 6167
Year 8	Robert Basso	9458 6170
Year 7	Anne Herschell	9458 6168



*Artwork by Year 9 & 10 students*

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

*"On virtually every measure Thornbury is an effective school" – school reviewer*

Every year the school needs to publish an Annual report which summarises the achievements and challenges from the previous year. This report will be presented to School Council for approval and is also available on the school's web site. The following are highlights from the Community Report for 2007.

*The 2008 enrolment is 525 with a predicted enrolment in 2009 of close to 600 students. Our year 7 enrolment for 2008 is 130 – the largest for 10 years.*

In 2007 the overall parent satisfaction score remained the same as the previous year. This follows three years of significant improvements.

*The school, its leadership, its teachers and its students are to be congratulated on the achievements during the 2004 to 2007 period .- school reviewer.*

Year 7 mathematics shows a significant improvement from the previous year.

*Our VCE median study score has averaged 29 for the past three years. This is a significant improvement from the previous scores of 24 and 25.*

The 2006 Attitudes to School Survey data is outstanding, and the highest seen by the school reviewer.

*In 2008/9 the school has set an ambitious target of 12 days absent per student currently at 14 which is already below the state average.*

In the strategic plan, targets are set for literacy, Numeracy, Assessment-for-learning, Girls' education and VCE results.

**Other highlights include:**

- Masters of teaching partnership begun with Melbourne University
- Thornbury is one of ten secondary schools identified (by the Department) with significant improvement in student achievement
- Outstanding Secondary Teacher of the Year Award for a Thornbury teacher
- Further awards in media, music and sport
- Third year in a row with excellent VCE results
- Excellent engagement and retention rates recognised by the Department

**Peter Egeberg Principal**



Sustainability Play

**MUSIC NEWS**

**YEAR 7 BAND**

Year 7 students are learning some theory along with their instrumental lessons. Here are some things they have learnt so far:

Metronome: a city-dwelling dwarf

Relative major: an uncle in the Army

Conductor: a musician who is adept at following many people at the same time

Cadence: when everyone hopes you are going to stop, but you don't

Allegro: leg fertilizer

**AMEB**

Please note closing dates for last three sessions:

16 April            4 June            23 July

**LAST NOTE**

How can you tell which kid on the playground is the son of a trombonist?

*He doesn't know how to use the slide and he can't swing.*

**DATES**

Senior Band Sydney Tour	Mon 23-Fri 27 June
Mid-Year Concert	Tues 23 July
Yr 8 Music Camp	Wed 6-Fri 8 Aug
Yr 7 Music Camp	Wed 22-Fri 24 Oct
End of Year Concert	Tues 28 Oct

**CLASSTV NEWS**

ClassTV is short listed once again for an Antenna Award - "The Community Television Logies!!!!". There are 7 Community Stations across Australian and we have been short listed for best Youth Program.

So far this year we have covered some interesting youth events. We both filmed and participated in 'Class Clowns', the National Comedy competition for schools. The Students on stage were James Todorov, Brad Canning and Gloria Glennon with a witty performance called "Got Anzac's"

Stella Foster interviewed the Education Minister Bronwyn Bishop during our coverage of International Student Week. She also had words with the Principal of Summer Heights High! Dylan Elliot interviewed our Victorian Governor Mr De Krester.

Stephanie Coulston interviewed author Kate McCaffrey on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> re the release of her latest novel Ecstasy, a look the youth drug culture. This coincided with the Official Penguin launch of the new book.

Aleksy Liquorish, Miles Elliot and James Murray filmed and vox popped the closing ceremony for youth celebrations held by the Hume Council on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April. This is just part of a number of films we have produced in conjunction with youth groups and local councils. We have participated in 7 other programs producing positive stories about Youth in the North. This has included working with Kildonan Youth Services, City Mission, Jets Banyule and a host of others. These stories will feature on ClassTV and [www.classnet.com.au](http://www.classnet.com.au).

[www.classnet.com.au](http://www.classnet.com.au) is our website and we have recently received \$25,000 for an upgrade to include a new icon for youth groups to upload content.

**Paul Van Eeden**

**EMA CHEQUES ARE NOW AVAILABLE TO BE PICKED UP FROM THE GENERAL OFFICE.** If you have any queries about EMA please call Vicki on 9480 4066.

## **GOOD PRACTICE SCHOOLS MELBOURNE INTERFAITH CLUSTER CASE STUDY**

Thornbury High School viewed our involvement in the Melbourne Interfaith Cluster as a natural extension of “values education” at the school. The Year 10 students who attended the gatherings, including those who have formed the student executive, have taken away some wonderful experiences that reinforce what this project is all about. The values that this cluster project focused on were: freedom, respect, responsibility, understanding, tolerance and inclusion. At each gathering, students learned about the importance of freedom, of respecting people’s opinions and of understanding people’s backgrounds and faiths. In doing so they showed responsibility in the many tasks they carried out.

Thornbury High School has values education already embedded in the school ethos. The very same values as listed above [and others] are demonstrated daily by the students, teachers and staff. The involvement in this Cluster Project further reinforced what Thornbury High School, a government public school, already does.

Students are reminded of respect, inclusion and tolerance, among other values, in a variety of forums. Appropriate behaviour is modelled by all staff at all times. The annual Bullying Survey further reiterates that Thornbury High wants to value everyone and that it endeavours to ensure that all students have a safe, happy and productive time at Thornbury High. Results from this anonymous survey are collated and presented in each year level assembly. The Student Representative Council have input into any changes and improvements and how they will be implemented.

The culmination of the Values Cluster Project came in the form of the Day of Understanding, where over 500 students from different schools attended. Students listened to guest speakers and musical performances. They also saw students from the Cluster Project demonstrate Socratic Circles and these same students also took on the responsibility of demonstrating this in smaller groups with students from the different schools. While addressing the 600 students in the main auditorium the Cluster student executive also talked about what they have learnt from this project. Areti Louzis from Thornbury High was the first to speak to this large group of students. She concluded by beautifully explaining what this project has achieved. “From my experience in this project, listening to the ideas and opinions of others I can safely say that our values are the same. We are all more similar than we think. By understanding you can embrace and by embracing you are creating a more connected society.”

**Barbara Carydis**

The most exciting thing about this cluster project is that it included a range of schools from across the educational spectrum. Clearly if certain values are to be meaningful to us then they need to be embraced by people from a range of backgrounds. At Thornbury High, fostering positive relationships is the cornerstone of all policies, programs and initiatives at the school. In talking to the students involved in this project, they clearly felt that their ideas had been considered and had found the experience very relevant and helpful to their situation.

**Peter Egeberg**



**Year 10's at Work**

## **DEBATING**

The nights before our debate were spent staying back at school until the sun went down, reading article after article about our topic and eating pizza. We had prepared and were ready, for whatever our opponents threw at us.

Our topic was ‘Solariums should be banned’ but because we were on the negative team, we were against that idea. Mary McCloskey, Anthony Murphy, and I, Nu Tran, faced the debate head on and with our well written speeches and striking arguments. We won the debate against Ivanhoe Grammar Girls’ School. It really shows that it doesn’t matter whether time is on your side or not, but how much determination you have. The adjudicator commented on how well we argued and how we added personality to our speeches.

I think it was a good experience to be able to have an opportunity to do something like this because it really did show how well we were able to cope under pressure and how it doesn’t matter what the topic is, we can still make it work. But if it wasn’t for Jo [youth worker], I don’t think we could have been nearly as well prepared as we were. All thanks go to her, for helping us and for believing that we could do this debate in the first place.

**Nu Tran 9D**

To begin my summary, I will just say that Jo Apostolopolous, Pravena Beeskow, Martha Arkalis and I displayed amazing and powerful debating skills at Ivanhoe Girls Grammar last Thursday evening.

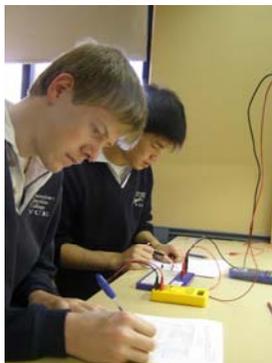
Our champion year 10 debating team had been studying after school all week until the sun went down but the outcome was something we can all be proud of and the experience really proved to our team how hard we could work towards a goal. Our great efforts were all worth it when the adjudicators announced our first win for the year.

Thankyou very much to the whole team for doing such a brilliant job.

**Gloria Glennon 10A**

## SCIENCE NEWS

### EXCURSION TO LATROBE UNIVERSITY.



The year 12 Physics class attended a cathode ray oscilloscope / transistor amplifier workshop. The main focus was a series of activities relating the some basic characteristics of a single stage NPN transistor amplifier. Some of the activities included:

an investigation into amplifier biasing, measuring current/voltage gain, and observing the de-coupling properties of a capacitor.

**M. Foster, J. Parry**

## SENIOR SCHOOL NEWS

### SENIOR SCHOOL FORMAL

This year's Senior Formal will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> July at 'Nine Darling Street' South Yarra. All year 11 and 12 students are invited. The cost is \$75. To secure your place, please pay a \$20 deposit to the front office by the end of term 2.

### STUDENT REPORT ON "PARTY SAFE"

On Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, I attended a Safety Festival ran and organised by the Victorian Police Force, the City of Darebin Youth Services and youth from local schools.

The day was organised into workshops based on safety towards yourself and the community, the workshops included:

- Party Safe
- SPASE –students and police achieving safer environment
- Anti bullying strategies

Then we participated in some fun workshops including:

- Self Defence

- Rap writing

The day was very enjoyable and eventful with the group "Brothahood" performing during morning tea as entertainment. Overall I think that everyone had a great time and we all learnt something new about party safe, the police and how to keep ourselves safe.

**Cynthia Dempster 12V**

## GPI UNIFORM SHOP

The GPI Uniform shop will not be open on the Wednesday afternoons when we have an early finish. [30<sup>th</sup> April, 14<sup>th</sup> May & 28<sup>th</sup> May]. Instead, the uniform shop will be open Thursday lunchtimes [31<sup>st</sup> April, 15<sup>th</sup> May and 29<sup>th</sup> May].

## YEAR 12 FREE SEMINARS - MASTERING THE EXAMS -

These **unique** lectures are designed to provide students with the **best opportunities** to **maximise** examination **scores**. During the course of this program, students will learn **vital skills** that will help **optimise performance** in the examinations, as well as strategies that will **maximise learning** and **cut down on study time!**

### SEMESTER ONE 2008 DATES:

**Sunday 4 May 2008 (10am —1 pm), , Saturday 10 May 2008 (10am —1 pm) and Saturday 31 May 2008 (10am - 1pm).** Call 96633311 or register online

[www.tsfx.com.au](http://www.tsfx.com.au)

The School for Excellence @ level 3, 140 Bourke St, Melbourne

## FREE RANGE SHORT FILM FESTIVAL - TAKE 2

Have you ever wanted to make television? Is there less time in your day than ever before? Maybe you should tell someone.

Free Range Short Film Festival is back and this time it's shorter than ever! Entries are now open, so get crackin' Your 30-second film needs to capture the things that are buzzing in your mind, your house, your community or your city.

Enter the Free Range Short Film Festival and you could have your film shown on Noise TV (Channel 31). Get your friends to vote for your film online and you could both win a prize in the People's Choice Award.

A selection of entries will be shown on the big screen at Noise Bar, Brunswick on Tuesday 13 June. Hurry!!

**Entries close Friday 9 May.**

For full entry details go to [www.freerange.nat.org.au](http://www.freerange.nat.org.au)

## PROUD SPONSOR OF YEAR 7 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS[2008]:

**Grocon** (03) 9631 8833

# HOMEWORK TIMETABLE FOR YEARS 7-9

## Semester 1, Term 2 2008

YEAR LEVEL	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7A	Mathematics	English	Science	SOSE	LOTE
7B	English	SOSE	Mathematics	Science	LOTE
7C	SOSE	English	Science	Mathematics	LOTE
7D	English	Science	SOSE	Mathematics	LOTE
7E	SOSE	Mathematics	Science	English	LOTE
7F	SOSE	Mathematics	English	Science	LOTE
8A	LOTE	English	Mathematics	Science	SOSE
8B	LOTE	Gold Science	Gold Mathematics	SOSE	English
		Blue Mathematics	Blue Science		
8C	LOTE	Mathematics	Science	English	SOSE
8D	LOTE	Science	Mathematics	English	SOSE
9A	QUEST	LOTE	Mathematics	QUEST	Science
9B	QUEST	LOTE	Mathematics	QUEST	Science
9C	QUEST	LOTE	Mathematics	QUEST	Science
9D	QUEST	LOTE	Mathematics	QUEST	Science

- Teachers are required to set homework on the day the subject appears on the Homework Timetable.
- The subject teacher is to decide when that homework is due.
- Homework for Art, Technology, Music, PE will be set when required.
- Teachers should ensure all students have homework on these nights and that it is written in the planner.
- Teachers should avoid giving homework on other nights unless students are not using their class time effectively or have a test or assignment due. Teachers need to decide on a consequence if homework is not done (eg. A note in planner and a teacher detention for a repeat offence).



**span**  
community house  
*is Moving*

Many thanks to Darebin Council for rehoming us!  
SPAN Community House - 228 Victoria Rd Thornbury 3071  
info@spanhouse.org - www.spanhouse.org - 9480 1364

***We move at the end of 2008***  
Just 1 block down, to -  
**70 Clyde St**, alongside the Kindergarten.

Darebin University of the Third Age & the Northcote Rental Co-op are thinking of joining us there.

We'd love **YOUR ideas** about creating a Community Hub at Clyde St & helping us to plan our new space.

**We're holding 3 Public Consultations at Clyde St:**

- Tues April 22, 7pm - 8.30
- Tues April 29, 2pm - 3.30
- Sunday May 4, 2pm - 3.30pm

RSVP to SPAN 9480 1364 / info@spanhouse.org

Famed local comedian, **Trent McCarthy**, will mc the meetings. PTO

# Helping adolescents combat peer pressure

**Young people generally want to fit in to their various social groups** so peer approval is a significant driver for their behaviour. For a young person resisting peer influence can mean isolation or instant ostracism so it takes great strength of will to refuse to follow the crowd.

It is important for parents to understand the value of peer groups for young people and also remember that peers can be positive influences.

While the increased influence of peers is a normal part of a young person's development they sometimes need help to resist the pressure to conform that is placed on them.

The following ideas may assist you to help young people resist unwanted peer pressure:

1. Talk about peer influence with young people. Be open and frank about the subject. Let them know that while much of the influence of their friends is positive, some is not in their best interests.
2. Help young people say no - and save face and status among their friends. Allow them to blame you for not letting them do something they don't feel comfortable with.

3. Encourage them to think through the consequences of their decisions. When young people are put on the spot they should think about the risk factors involved. Encourage them to think, "Is this behaviour smart? Is it in my best interests?"
4. Avoid making your young person reliant on the approval of others, including you, as the basis of their self-esteem. Allow them to feel comfortable holding opinions and views that are different to yours.
5. Avoid criticising your teenager's friends, as he or she may take it personally. Talk about behaviours rather than personalities when you discuss their choice of friends.



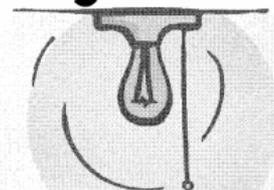
## Talking Point

**An issue for parents to ponder and discuss:**

We all experience peer pressure. A reporter asked a lady celebrating her 104th birthday the best part about being 104. She replied, "That's easy. No peer pressure."

Talk to your young person about how peer pressure affects you and how you cope with it.

## Bright idea



### Give them a line of resistance

Encourage your young person to gain some thinking time when placed under pressure to conform or behave in unsafe ways. If they feel uncomfortable with a peer's insistent request but find it difficult to refuse then encourage them to gain some thinking time. They can say something like, 'No, not now. I'll do it later.'

## Did You Know?

**One way young people learn** how to mix is by observing how significant adults in their lives mix with each other.

**Do the young people in your life see you...**

- Mixing with others outside your home?
- Speak to adults you don't know well?
- Make decisions about how you spend your time?



**Boys in Year 12 (17 year-18 year olds) are at least five times more likely to be happy with their body than girls of the same age. True or False**

**Solution: True.**

10 per cent of girls at this age are happy with their body compared to 61 per cent of boys.

*'The imagination of a child is healthy and the mature imagination of an adult is healthy, but there is a space of life between, when the soul is in ferment, the character undecided, the way of life uncertain and the ambition thick-sighted.'* Keats