

IMPORTANT DATES TERM 1 2008

28 th February	Year 12 Information Night
	Swimming Sports [Competitors only]
4 th March	Staff Development [Early finish 1.40pm]
10 th March	Labour Day [No School]
12 th March	School Council Subcommittees
13 th March	School Photos
	Year 6 Information Evening 7pm
18 th March	Staff Development [Early finish 1.40pm]
	Term1 Music Concert
19 th March	Sustainability Day
	School Council 7pm

20 th March	Last day of term 1 [dismissal at 3.10pm]
7 th April	First day of term 2

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



The **Year 10 Peer Support team** have been working hard to assist Year 7 students with their transition into Secondary School. See report page 2.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

FURTHER RECOGNITION FOR THORNBURY FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Department of Education and Melbourne University are keen to interview key staff at the school to identify the strategies which the school is using to improve retention.

“Your school has been identified, through analysis of retention data and discussions with regional staff, as one that has been working successfully to improve student retention and engagement for at risk students” ... Stephen Lamb Associate Professor Melbourne University.

These strategies include, among other things:

- A strong focus on ensuring a safe and secure learning environment - including an annual bullying survey.
- A range of pathways for particular students, including high achievers at years 7 & 8 and the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning at years 11 and 12.
- An authentic and ICT rich curriculum with an emphasis on team learning and community links at year 9.
- An attendance policy that encourages parents to contact the school on the day their child is absent.
- Counselling and support for students by a range of student services including pathways planning, wellbeing coordinator and level coordinators

- A school-wide belief that all students can achieve and excel.

Being a small school with a broad knowledge of all its students is also a great benefit in keeping students at school and productively engaged in class.

Peter Egeberg Principal

Sharon Sartori recently visited Thornbury High School and donated \$500 from MECU Credit Union for the Alpine School.



FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

As a school, we have a set of very basic expectations that we require all students to adhere to. These expectations are established to help students get the best from their time at school and to feel safe in the school environment. They are very simple expectations that we would anticipate all parents support. Clearly, there are more detailed rules and consequences in the School Student Planner

- Follow teachers' instructions the first time
- Be on time to class with the correct equipment at all times
- Stay in seats or work areas unless given permission or instructed to move
- Listen with respect to others (both staff and fellow students) without interrupting

The above expectations are found published in every classroom.



NO SMOKING, NO BUTTS!

It is appropriate at the start of the year to clarify for students and the community the School rules in relation to smoking. The School is a smoke-free zone. Nobody, including students, staff, visitors and contractors working at the School, is permitted to smoke on the premises.

Consequences for students who do smoke, or who are in the company of smokers whilst at school, are severe. On the first instance a warning is given, then a detention issued and, finally, a suspension.

Smoking is a serious health hazard so could all parents please speak to their children about smoking and

support the School in ensuring that our School is kept free of this dangerous and addictive behaviour?

YEAR 10 PEER SUPPORT

The year 10 Peer Support team have been assisting year 7 students with their transition into secondary school. They have helped the year 7's familiarize themselves with high school life, for example lockers and timetables, and will continue to work closely with them in 2008. The team consists of: Tara Degraft Hayford, Martha Arkalis, Cristy Toursakis, Emily Miles, Emilia Pertama, Jacque Ryan, Rachael Mountney, Pravena Beeskov, Vireak Chhoeung, Walid Abdo, Billy Vasilopoulos, Phillipa Young, Jayden Cornish, Mathew Batich, Sam Del Mastro, Chloe Michael, Jye Colacino, Sarah Salgram, Courtney Burgess, Tom Tzallas, Bryanna Allen, Georgia Constantinidis and Leah Theodosiadis.

YEAR 7 CAMP OTWAY

Over 100 new Year 7 students attended a three day camp at Cape Otway. Here are some of the things they had to say about their time away:

"The thing I enjoyed most about the camp was the variety of people and teachers I have met and become very close to. Mountain bike riding was a great bonding activity and I enjoyed the picturesque views of the country side. It gave us a chance to laugh a lot and get to know our teachers. The friends I've made here at camp are truly beautiful people, and people I'm confident I will spend the rest of my secondary life with. Free time was one of my most favoured activities. It gave us the chance to interact with our peers and enjoy the best of our surroundings."

Ainslee 7D



“At camp my favourite activity was mountain biking. It was funny because James stacked 4 times! Alex fell off the cliff but was saved by a tree.”

“Half way through the walk we found a bore water tap. Nobody would drink it except me because I am country bush boy.” James A 7C

“The walk was absolute hell...it was horrible! It was pouring with rain!! Levi 7C

“We got to go snorkelling with fish and crabs and it was really cool. The food was alright for camp food. I liked the camp fire which was nice and warm. I really enjoyed the camp, altogether it was a good experience.” Simon 7C



“On the shipwreck tour I actually ate a limpet. It’s wormy and slimy and it looks like a snail! I ate kelp (did you know it’s great for your skin?). Also, I loved the mountain biking. I purposely went over the puddles, but I love to get muddy, cause it’s a change from my ‘other’ life. We had to wear comfy gloves and a vest so we were seen by cars. We also obviously had a helmet, should have said that first so you didn’t get worried! I also got mud in my mouth” Tuesday 7E

MUSIC NEWS

YEAR 7 PROGRAM

The Year 7s have made an enthusiastic start and have all been allocated instruments of their choosing. Lessons commenced last week and though learning is still in the very early stages students have already shown great promise. Next term year 7s will be required to attend rehearsals from 8.15am on Tuesdays, which will then flow into their instrumental and theory classes. A great deal of thought and planning has gone into fine-tuning the program of music learning for this level and we hope students enjoy the challenges before them.

Parents can support their child’s learning by encouraging them to practice their instruments at home, remind them to take appropriate equipment to

school on Tuesdays and by attending any performances they may have.

YEAR 8 PROGRAM

Year 8s will have instrumental and theory tuition on Tuesday afternoons which will be continued Wednesday morning with their rehearsal before school, commencing at 8am. Students are asked to be at school in time to set up their instruments ready to play by 8am.

JUNIOR STAGE BAND

Students in years 8 and 9 are encouraged to attend JSB which rehearses after school on Mondays. This is a fun ensemble which concentrates on music from the jazz repertoire.

SENIOR BAND

This year instead of a Senior Concert and Stage Band the music department has decided to combine students into one Senior Band. This will rehearse Tuesday nights after school. All music students from years 9-12 are required to attend. This group will be touring Sydney in June (see dates) this year, with a repertoire of exciting styles including a Stomp-like percussion ensemble.

MUSIC PARENT MEETINGS

If your child learns an instrument and is part of the music program at Thornbury you are invited to be a member of our **Music Parents Group**. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month from 7pm for an hour in the music room. We cannot run a program as extensive as ours without the invaluable assistance of the Music Parents Group. They help plan fundraising events and our Mid Year and End of Year Concerts. Our first meeting for 2008 is on **Tuesday 4th March at 7pm**. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents and be part of the wider school community.

AMEB Closing Dates

1 st Session	27 Feb
2 nd session	19 Mar
3 rd session	16 April
4 th session	4 June
5 th session	23 July

Students wishing to undertake AMEB practical or theoretical public music examinations please take note of the above closing dates. Check with your individual teachers for further information.

Staff

Yr 7 Program	Sean Nihill
Yr 8 Program	Nick Dean
Junior Stage Band	Craig Harrison /Diana Norton
Senior Band	Sean Nihill
Classroom Music	Kent Macpherson/Lance Cross

Instrument Hire Agreements, Fees and Contracts

All year levels please return your Contracts and Hire agreements as soon as possible. First term hire fees

should be paid to the office now and levies by the end of second term. If you are having any financial difficulties or any queries about the music program please call **Nick Dean on 9458 6128**

DATES

Music Parents meeting	Tue 4 March
Term 1 Concert	Tue 18 March
Sustainability Concert	Wed 19 March
Improvisation Concert	Mon 21 April
Senior Band Sydney Tour	Mon 23-Fri 27 June
Mid-Year Concert	Tue 23 July
Yr 8 Music Camp	Wed 6-Fri 8 August
Yr 7 Music Camp	Wed 22-Fri 24 Oct
End of Year Concert	Tue 28 Oct

CAREER NEWS

The **UMAT** test for year 12 students who wish to apply for medical and dental courses will be held on the 30th July 2008. Registration opens in April. See the VCE noticeboard for details.

ACCESS ALL AREAS is a program for students and parents who wish to learn about the University of Melbourne and its courses. To apply ring 8344 6543 or see VCE noticeboard for on-line application.

“**The Age**” **Careers Expo** will be held at Caulfield Racecourse 11th – 13th April. All major institutions and many employers will be represented.

The Tertiary Information Afternoon will be held on Thursday 1st May at La Trobe University. All year 12 VCE students are to attend.

CAMP COORONG

On the 12th of February most year 9 students set off for Camp Coorong in Gippsland. The first day was spent organising cabin and activity groups. After the initial settling in we got into the spirit of Camp Coorong. My group’s first activity was Taekwondo. This was fun and we learnt some pretty kick – butt moves. After the first activity we had some free-time before dinner. After a long bush walk we watched the movie ‘Juno’. It was hard to sleep because we were all so excited.



On Wednesday we set off on a cruise around the Gippsland Lakes on board the ‘Enterprise’. Our first stop was at Raymond Island just across from Paynesville. We had morning tea and checked out the Koalas. Then we headed to Sperm Whale Head for a swim and a sausage sizzle. After lunch we headed for the Ninety Mile Beach -a very beautiful beach in my opinion - for a walk. After a long fun day we set off back to camp for dinner.

On Wednesday night we had the people from ‘Wildlife Unlimited’ show us how to catch bats. After a short walk we headed for bed and a good night’s sleep.

Day three was action packed with activities. My group started with sailing and water skiing. The donuts were extreme fun. We also enjoyed the canoeing and rock climbing. After a time of relaxation we watched ‘Family Guy’, some videos of our camp and collapsed into bed for a well earned rest.



Our last breakfast of pancakes was delicious and we finished the camp by going on the GIANT SWING. Some of us went to the top and had a real adrenalin rush.

It was great to see family and friends when we returned to school. Camp was great! I loved it!

Danielle Year 9C

STUDENT WELLBEING REPORT

Welcome back to another exciting year at THS. The SWC team is busy planning lots of activities and speakers on various issues concerning student well being. It is important to read the newsletter as it will inform you of these activities for your child.

VALUES DAY

First up was the Values Education Day of Understanding at the Melbourne Convention Centre on Monday 18th February. Thornbury High School was involved in a cluster project on Values Education in 2007 involving five different schools, namely St Monica’s in Epping, Siena in Camberwell, The King David School in Armadale and The Australian International Academy. All Year 10 students attended

this event with eight Year 11 students. Areti Louzis, Lilly Tran and Shazin Shafeer were among few other students who hosted the convention. Jan Nguyen and Tailah Scott presented a drama piece and Alexandra Kynigopoulos and Suchi Gunathilake demonstrated Socratic Circles to over 500 students. Some inspirational speakers presented talks that addressed issues such as ‘tolerance and understanding’ and ‘What is an Australian citizen?’

Over the next few newsletters I will be introducing members of the Student Wellbeing Team. Today I will introduce Karen Hutchinson who is the school’s social worker.

Karen is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Social Worker and a past secondary school teacher. The role of the social worker is to provide therapeutic intervention and support for any learning, social, emotional, psychological and behavioural issues that may arise in a student’s secondary education at the school. Such issues can be an impediment to a happy and successful school experience and the school social worker is available to assist in such cases. The service is **free** and can be utilised by students, families and staff. Counselling sessions occur at school and may also involve referral to outside resources or agencies.

Till next time keep smiling. ☺

Barbara Carydis Student Wellbeing Coordinator

SUMMER SCHOOL REPORT.

In 2007 the Australian Government invited teachers to attend Summer school. There were five main areas the government wanted to address: Literacy, Numeracy, English, Maths and Australian History. I applied for the Australian History program and was a successful applicant. There were over 350 teachers from all over Australia who applied and only 124 were selected in the area of Australian History.

The Australian History program involved travelling to Canberra and attending many lectures presented by learned and esteemed educationalists at the Australian National University. One lecture was presented by Sir Anthony Mason who was the former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia and who presided in the historic Mabo case. Summer school involved visits to the National Library, Old Parliament House, The National Archives and the National Museum of Australia.

One of our requirements was to research a time in Australian history by accessing primary resources from the above institutions. I decided to investigate Immigration and uncovered in my research at the National Archives documents that pertained to my own parent’s migration to Australia from Greece. It was an exciting and indeed an emotional journey to

discover that so many of my parents generation (1950’s) arrived in Australia so young (my father 21 and my mother at 20) without any relatives or knowledge of the English language and having gone through rigorous health checks before embarking on their journey to Australia.

I will be sharing this wonderful piece of family history and example of primary resources in my teaching with the Year 9 Q&est students when studying Immigration later in the year. Summer school in Australian History was a fantastic and unforgettable professional and personal experience and I am very grateful for having the opportunity to gain a different insight into Australian history.

Barbara Carydis

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

March 8th is celebrated across the world as International Women’s Day and provides an opportunity to recognise the achievements of women and their contribution to society. The theme for activities to celebrate International Women’s Day (2008) is ‘100 years of active women in paid and unpaid work’.

On this day, women can celebrate the progress that has been made but also contemplate those areas of women’s lives where more can be done. Women’s access to education, health care and paid labour has improved, and legislation that promises equal opportunities for women and respect for their human rights has been adopted in many countries.

However, nowhere in the world can claim to have all the same rights and opportunities as men and until we all work together to secure the rights and full potential of women, lasting solutions to social, economic and political problems are unlikely to be found.

There are various events being held around Melbourne to celebrate International Women’s Day including a display of ‘Images of Women’ at the Preston Town Hall on the 6th March.

Further information can be obtained from:

The Women’s Information Centre, Queen Victoria Women’s Centre 210 Lonsdale St, Melbourne.

WIRE – Women’s Information provides free information, support and referrals to women across Victoria. www.wire.org.au

Women’s Health in the North – Information, service options and community education for all women. www.whin.org.au ph 9484 1666

Domestic Violence Victoria – www.dvvic.org.au ph 9373 0123

Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women’s Coalition – www.virwc.org.au

Geraldine Hanbrook School Nurse

HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR EMA? APPLICATIONS CLOSE TOMORROW

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; **and**
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 **or** be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner **or** be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (29 January 2008 which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (14 July 2008).

The EMA **application must be submitted** to the school **by 29 February 2008 [TOMORROW]** for the first instalment and 1 August 2008 for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of **\$215** for primary students and **\$430** for secondary students and is paid in two instalments.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2008 through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after 29 February 2008 and prior to or on 1 August 2008, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

Application forms are available from the school office.



IS YOUR TEENAGER STRESSED, NERVOUS OR WORRIED?

Researchers at Macquarie University have developed an innovative internet-based treatment program to help manage anxiety and stress. The cost of the program is \$100, which includes sessions for both teenagers and their parents. Skills covered in the program include effective parenting, relaxation, problem solving, stopping negative self-talk, and gradually facing fears. Research has shown that these skills reduce anxiety and increase self-confidence and coping. To be eligible for the project, families must have internet access at home.

For more information, please contact Professor Sue Spence and Dr Amanda Gamble by phone 02 9850 9012 or email: braveforteenagers@psy.mg.edu.au

☆ **WHJZ BANG FETE** ☆

Wales Street Primary School, cnr Wales & Speight Streets Thornbury, will hold their Whiz Bang Fete 08 on Saturday 1st March from 11am-4pm. There will be fabulous food & wine, amazing amusements great bargains; books, bric a brac, clothes. Enter your Teddy in the best dressed competition or put in a bid at the live auction. Enjoy lots more and have a fun day.

PROUD SPONSOR OF YEAR 7 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS[2008]:

Grocon

(03) 9631 8833

