New Report Format

This semester’s written report will look a little different to those from previous years and the following changes have been made:

- Course outlines describing what each student has been studying are now included.
- A new ‘work habits’ section which will inform on each student’s:
  - Class behaviour
  - Equipment
  - Homework
  - Use of class time
  - Workbook
- An overall ‘satisfactory’ or ‘not satisfactory’ grade for the subject for the semester. If the report contains a single ‘not satisfactory’ in any of the five work habits or any CAT, the student will receive a ‘not satisfactory’ for the subject.
- The written ‘what has been achieved’ section has been removed.

The sections informing on CAT achievement and the written ‘areas for improvement/future learning’ have been kept.

**Why have we changed the report?**

The main reason for change is to raise the standards that students achieve in the classroom. We believe that almost every student inherently wants to avoid a ‘not satisfactory’ grade on their report; we know this from our successful CAT system. Extending this system to include the five work habits will give students added encouragement to do better in their studies. With emphasis in these areas over Years 7 to 10, students should find themselves better prepared for the Senior School.

We intend to use the work habits in a pro-active way, discussing them in lessons and guiding students in how to use them to their benefit. We will also be arranging an assembly for each year group to launch the new-style report.

The written ‘what has been achieved’ section has been removed as its content has been replaced by the ‘course outline’ and the ‘work habits’ grades.

Please note the reports for Years 11 and 12 are unchanged.

The new format will be discussed at the next School Council meeting and parents are welcome to express their views via the parent Council representatives.

Simon Townley, Assistant Principal

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**HERE.US.NOW!**

Girls ONLY Circus Program at Thornbury High School

Want to know what the girls have been up to?

Well then come to the **Show and tell event!**

**When:**  Wednesday 22nd May

**Where:** Thornbury High School in the Kaye Coghlan

**Time:** Starting at 6-7pm, Doors will open at 5.50pm
In Matisi it is safer if you park on the school side of the road and refrain from "u" turns.

NAPLAN for Year 7 and 9
In the week commencing the 13th May, Year 7 and 9 students will undertake NAPLAN testing. Any parents who have any concerns re this testing are asked to contact Mark Gillies, Year 7 on 94586123 or Ann Vassos, Year 9 on 94586112. This is conducted by the Department and results will be forwarded to parents later in the year.

Student response to school and Bullying Survey
Prior to the next newsletter all students will have undertaken the bullying and student survey. The bullying survey is conducted by the school and a report of the findings will be presented to students, staff and School Council. Peter will also inform parents via the school newsletter.

Winter Uniform
Terms 2 and 3 are when we ask the students to wear their winter uniform.
This means:
• No summer dresses
• Winter skirts – no more than 5cms above the knee . Year 7 skirts MUST touch the knee
• Long pants
• White socks/ black tights
• School Jumpers/Jackets
• All students can still wear shorts – must have white socks

We have been noticing that some students are not wearing the correct white business shirt. The style can be seen at the uniform shop on Wednesday.

Carpark
A reminder that the carpark is still closed to parents when picking up or dropping off their child/ren – even if it is raining. Again, many thanks to all those who have supported us with this project.

We still find that Jones and Matisi Streets are the best pick up spots.

Purchase your new 2013 | 2014 Entertainment™ Book...
Choose what you want to do and when you want to do it with hundreds of valuable offers. Entertainment™ Books are filled with 2-for-1 offers and up to 50% off, valid now until 1st June 2014!

Purchase a Book and at the same time, you will also be helping community fund-raising!

From The Assistant Principal
2nd Hand Uniform Shop

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

Turn outgrown/unwanted uniform items into THS account credit

A Bargain Rack has been set up.

There’s a good range of stock available, so drop in for great prices.

To sell uniform items that you no longer need, complete the attached form and drop it along with your uniform items into the front office. (The form can also be found on the THS website).

Remember to make sure that the items are in saleable condition, i.e. good, very good or excellent condition. You get 50% of the selling price – but only for items in good to excellent condition.

As soon as all of your items are sold, you’ll receive credit to your THS account. (Please refer to the conditions on the form for further information).

Thanks and see you in the shop.

Donna & Deb,
Parent volunteers

The Australian Mens & Mixed Netball Association 2013 Championships was held the first week of the school holidays - Alastair. P 10C played Goal Keeper and Goal Defence for the Victoria Cyclones U17's team and they were on fire. They played two games each day until the Semi's and Grand Final. The Victorian Cyclones U17’s won their first game 84 to 14, then 44 to 32 which set the tone for the week. They won 11 games and lost 1 to the Victorian U19’s. The Victoria Cyclones U17’s won the Grand Final 74 to 40 against NSW U17’s. All were good sports. Both teams agreed before play that in the last 2 minutes the injured Goal Shooters from both teams could play without being knocked. So nice to see. At the presentation night the umpire was so impressed that she felt she had to make mention of this to the audience.

Also at the Presentation Night selection for the Australian teams were announced. Alastair, along with some of his teammates, has been selected to play for Australia in Malaysia later in the year. Alastair’s coach, Geoff Taylor, using his more than competent quiet directing style, was selected as Australian Coach for the U17’s. Alastair would like to thank his coach Geoff and manager, Leanne Arkell for their excellent work and membership.

Chris Punshon, Parent

“The Australian Mens & Mixed Netball Association 2013 Championships was held the first week of the school holidays - Alastair. P 10C played Goal Keeper and Goal Defence for the Victoria Cyclones U17’s team.”
Student Voice

SRC
The SRC is back in 2013 and are ready for a big year. Made up of Year 10 and 11 students, the council is devoted to improving the school and providing new and exciting opportunities for students. With teams of students devoted to each year level the SRC is set to implement more ideas than ever before!

The SRC recently had its first meeting in which the year's objectives were set out and duties were assigned to specific students, sharing the workload. Exciting SRC run events coming up this year include the ever improving Thornbury's Got Talent and the fun school social. SRC members are also branching out into the community, attending various youth and leadership conferences, representing the school.

Our current proposals include the continuation of the support of Cha Cha, Thornbury High’s sponsored child, and fundraisers will be a definite priority this year to reach out as a school community. The lovely SRC members will, of course, keep you up to date with school-based charity fundraising events to assist in accomplishing these goals.

This year, as ever, the SRC continues to welcome feedback and ideas from students and we are willing to follow through on any good ideas students have for the school. After all, we are the STUDENT representative council. We hope that the SRC, together with the students, can make this year another great year for the school.

Lily Watts and Hayden Smith, Year 10
Northern Interfaith InterCultural Network Student Leadership Conference

Myself and Asiya had the opportunity to participate in the Northern Interfaith InterCultural Network Student Leadership Conference - an annual harmony day celebration held at St Monica’s College. The main purpose of the event is to encourage cultural acceptance and gain thorough understandings of who we are as people in this world and the qualities that define us. The day consisted of symbolic activities that tapped into our feelings toward cultures and religions that were foreign to us. We shared objects that have significant meaning to us as individuals, and came together as we linked each other’s stories to form a single piece of empowering artwork.

We also listened to a guest speaker who shared his story of constant racial discrimination, urging us to reconsider how we treat and judge people. We learned that whilst our culture, heritage and nationalities are a part of who we are, they are not the dominant traits that define us. My group members were of various backgrounds but at least three of them were "One Directioners" (okay I wasn’t) and all of us had just as many questions about religion as there were answers. Overall through this experience I made friends, produced an inspirational painting promoting harmony and diversity alongside my team members, and broadened my understanding of the religions/cultures/nations within our society. Working in groups with strangers isn’t so difficult if you keep your mind open and have a smile ready, within the first 20 minutes I had a group of friends and by lunch nearly everyone knew my name… I guess that’s the true power of humanity!

Lily Watts, 10F
Happy Harmony Week! 15-21 March

HAVE YOU PAID FEES?
Financial statements have been sent out to all families this week with the expectation that payments will be made promptly for compulsory charges. Whilst most staffing and basic items are provided for through government funding, we need parent support through the payment of realistic charges that School Council has set. Those families who have notified the school that they will pay on a term by term basis are reminded that their next instalment is due 26th April. Please contact the General Office on 9480 4066 if you have any queries regarding your statement or would like to discuss payment methods.

Would You Like To Be Added To Our Newsletter Emailing List
If you would like the THS newsletter emailed to you in PDF format, please contact the office by phone or email the school at reavell.martens.shannon.s@eduemail.vic.gov.au with your students full name and year level.

Meredith Stephenson, Assistant Principal
Klezmer Ensemble Plays In Term One

In March the Thornbury High Klezmer Ensemble performed to an enthusiastic audience at the Fairfield Primary Twilight Fair as well as entertaining passersby on a separate occasion at the Station St. shopping strip in Fairfield.

The ensemble, which consists of Dean on clarinet, Jake on tenor saxophone, Eva on guitar, Declan on piano accordion and Hugh on double bass, plays a lively mix of Eastern European Jewish, Balkan and Greek music.

Jane Farnan, Music Teacher

Australian Mathematics Competition 2013

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 1st 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 to their classroom teacher by Friday 3rd May.

We encourage all of our students to take part.

Marina Avramopoulos, Maths Coordinator

Senior School News

Queensland Camp: We are currently organising the Year 11 Camp to Queensland. We plan to travel between June 24th – June 28th, 2013. A non-refundable deposit of $350 is due by Friday May 3rd to secure a place. Further instalments are required as specified on paper work. Information/ Forms can be collected from the Senior School Office. Specific details will be provided in coming weeks.

Senior School Formal (Year 11 and 12): The Senior School Formal will be held on Friday 26th July at Lincoln of Toorak from 7.30pm to 12.00am. The cost is $85.00 with a $35.00 deposit required by May 17th. Final payment is due June 21st. Deposits are non-refundable. Only Year 12 students are permitted to bring a guest. (Details about guest registration will be given shortly.) Deposits for guests do not need to be paid at this stage.

Latrobe Tertiary Information Session: May 22nd – 1.30pm -3.00pm TIS is a cooperative venture between Victorian universities and TAFEs, aimed at providing Year 12 students with a comprehensive annual program on tertiary study options. Students will have the opportunity to listen to advice from Tertiary Students, Selection Officers and Representatives from a wide range of institutions.

We will depart at lunch and students will be dismissed from the venue. Detailed information, including permission forms will be sent home soon.

Maria Ioannidis, Senior School Manager
Harmony Day

Thornbury High School finished off Term 1 on a high with a belated celebration of Harmony Day (usually 21 March). Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect and celebration of diversity, from our Dreamtime roots to the multicultural society we are today. It also coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

A number of students and staff proudly wore traditional garments or came in a country’s national colours. Each of the languages offered in Thornbury High School had set up a stall.

The Indonesian stall offered ‘soda gembira’ (drink of joy), a sweet drink that is popular on the island of Java in Indonesia, probably because the milky sweetness would take away the burning sensation of too many chillies in your nasi goreng. The simplified rendition of the drink contained a frothy mixture of sweetened condensed milk, raspberry soft drink and tanpa es (no ice). Many thanks to Lily, Zac and Daniel from 7F that helped to make up Soda Gembiras for about 140 students! Students also had the chance to try a game where a pen is dangled from a string attached to their waist, and their aim is to place the pen into a bottle. This requires skill and balance – a little like twister but done solo. A video was projected of a DEECD/Deakin teacher program, that Bapak Hysen was part of, in Indonesia during January this year showing a number of the cultural activities and famous sites in and around the city of Malang.

With Zorba and other Greek dance tunes playing, the Greek stand was a washed with blue and white. Decorations, which included images of Greece and the flag, produced and arranged by the Year 8 Greek class reflected Thornbury High School’s affiliation with the Greek culture and community. Greek pastries such as the Spanakopita (Spinach and cheese pastries) and Tiropita (cheese pastries) were sold out in no time. A big thank you goes to the Lambrinos family for donating lovely Greek shortbread ‘Kourabiethes’ and the McGill family for their delicious beetroot dip.

In the Mandarin corner, halal beef, chicken and vegan Chinese boiled dumplings (水饺 shùjiǎo) were proudly homemade, carefully wrapped and sold by one of the Year 9 Mandarin classes. It proved to be popular selling out in less than 15 minutes. Over to the right of the dumplings, over seen by the Year 8 Mandarin class, was a demonstration of Chinese dining etiquette. 礼仪豆 liyì dòu (literally translated as ‘etiquette beans’) requires players to pick up as many red beans as they can in one minute. After a number of dropped points, cramped fingers and intense staring competitions with tiny red beans, Jayden Clemmet 9H and Alastair Punchon 10C emerged victorious in equal first positions, each picking up 21 red beans in 1 minute.

The Italian stand was a window of Italian culture with a focus on Italian masks related to the CARNEVALE. Representing the Koori community at the school, lemon myrtle sausages with a native relish were also prepared by Lee Read and students from the Greek and Mandarin Class. We also saw a beautiful demonstration of Irish dancing from our very own Lisa Dunne, Kyle Schutz, Bridgette Copsey 9H and Patrick Sinapi 09C.

Harmony Day is a community that is very diverse and we value that diversity and celebrate it. Big thanks to all involved, including the Language faculty and the wellbeing team. Next year’s event will be even bigger and better. We hope to not only have the support of the Languages faculty, but also involve students from other cultures in planning and organising games, food and activities.

Simone Laiu, Language co-ordinator