Principal Contract Renewal

On the 9th of October my second 5 year contract as the school’s Principal will expire. This is my tenth year as the Principal and it also happens to coincide with my sixtieth birthday. On top of this I have recently been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. Some may consider these to be powerful reasons to ride off into the sunset.

But I am not ready to retire and still believe I have a lot more to offer the school community. I will therefore seek another 5 year contract as Principal of Thornbury High.

Thank you all very much for the past 10 years – together we have created a great school and I look forward to us all making the most of our many opportunities over the next 5 years.

Peter Egeberg, Principal

Student Survey

Some observations about the student survey

The student survey results are excellent and maybe close to our best results ever! Connectedness to peers and school, student motivation and morale all have percentiles in the top 5%. In plain words students are happy at this school and are keen to do well. They feel they belong and get along well with other students.

The other main change is the difference in results between boys and girls is marginal at year 7-10. Maybe all the ‘girl’ initiatives are finally bearing fruit.

Peter Egeberg, Principal
Blair Claims Victory

2013 has been exciting and action packed in the sports department, culminating in the tallying of House Points. Last year’s winner, Onus suffered a humiliating fall from grace….finishing in 4th place. This opened the door for last year’s runner up, Blair to record a dominant victory – taking out both the swimming and athletics carnivals. Blair students channelled their Olympic spirit by living up to the motto FASTER, HIGHER, STRONGER, and prevailing in all athletic disciplines. Nicholls and Saunders battled valiantly finishing second and third respectively however in the face of such outstanding competition they had to concede to the better house, Blair in 2013. Saunders can take away a positive from this year, managing to drag themselves up onto the podium, purely on the back of Ali Al-Saeedi and his win in the Best Dressed for Athletics Day. All houses showed a great sporting attitude and the sports department is already busily planning to make next year’s carnivals BIGGER and BETTER than ever.

Carla Ruhe, Sports Coordinator

Senior School Formal

From The Welfare Office

Year 7 Boy’s Club
Last week the year 7 Boy’s Club met for the first time to begin their 7 week journey into important youth issues like self esteem, relationships and communication. This pilot program aims to foster friendships and build our young men’s capacity to cope with issues that affect them. Each week our 12 participants will explore issues including self esteem, managing aggression and making healthy decisions. Workshops are facilitated by our Victoria University placement students, Dave and Doug with support from the Student Wellbeing Services staff. Each workshop is designed to be interactive, fun and informative. And if week one was any indication, the year 7 Boy’s Club has many more weeks of fun ahead! Here are some comments from the participants:

“I enjoyed Boys Club last week, we had a fun session with lots of enjoyable activities about identity, self-esteem and stuff. We took pictures of us mucking around doing different poses to show what identity meant to us, and Doug and Dave the guys doing the Boys Club were funny.” – Aaron

“It was good that the Boys Club wasn’t all serious, like we learned about stuff but it was also fun… Plus two of my friends are also in it. I also liked taking the pictures and the Youtube clip on self-esteem was funny.” – Steven

“I liked the group discussions and getting to know other people in the group better. The activities help you make sense of the stuff the guys are talking about. I’m looking forward to when the Boys Club goes to laser tag.” – Nathan

THS Hip Hop Showcase

Congratulations to the students who participated in the Hip Hop Showcase on July 22nd. This impromptu talent show uncovered some awesome skills; Nathan got the party started with his old school break dancing moves, whilst Ronald and Robel showed us they are jokers who know how to rap! Theo of year 10 once again thrilled crowds with his amazing beat boxing skills and even had some stiff competition from year 7 student Ahmed, another beat boxing prodigy.

Big thank you to Brendan from local street wear label Burn Clothing, who generously donated stickers, posters and t-shirts used as prizes on the day.

Wellbeing Team

MUSIC NEWS - CAR BOOT SALE

The Music Department are proud to announce a car-boot sale and sausage sizzle, run by our fantastic Music Parents Committee, for the long awaited federal election on 7 September. If anyone is interested in booking a car-boot spot, the cost will be $25 and must be organised through our wonderful secretary Renee Meadows on 9458 6128.

From The Welfare Office
The ‘Concept’ Program At Thornbury High School

(Replacing our current high achiever program for Year 7 2014)

The ‘Concept’ program runs from Year 7 to Year 9 and is designed to cater for students who have a love of learning. The program is designed to extend and challenge these students whilst engaging with the mainstream curriculum. Students develop their skills and knowledge by exploring content at a conceptual level, emphasising depth of understanding. Students are expected to make links between the key learning areas through the areas of interdisciplinary learning; Relationships, Health, Sustainability, Community and Information Communication Technology.

By taking part in ‘Concept’ students learn to take responsibility for their own learning and develop life-long learning strategies.

How is Concept structured?

Learner characteristics – At the center of the program is ‘The Learner’. Drawing from the work of Art Costa and his ‘Habits of mind’ we have a set of learner characteristics that we believe will create lifelong learners. These are:

- mindfulness
- persistence
- flexible, deliberate thinking
- empathy
- inquiry and curiosity
- independence
- interdependence
- humor

Throughout the program, students will engage in learning that explicitly refers to and develops these learner characteristics.

Interdisciplinary learning – There are six areas of interdisciplinary learning. These areas combined with the learner characteristics provide Concept with its core focus. Teaching subjects through these areas allows learning to focus on attitudes, values and skills.

Learning to learn – develops understanding of the available strategies and when to use them. Students are enabled to take responsibility for their own learning.

Community – considers how students interact with their immediate family, classmates, local and global communities.

Health – considers physical, social and emotional health and key aspects of human development.

Relationships – students initiate, maintain and manage positive social relationships with a range of people in a range of contexts. Through relationships individuals become linked to society, develop a sense of belonging and learn to live and work with others.

Sustainability – develops the knowledge, skills, values and world views necessary for people to act in ways that contribute to more sustainable patterns of living.

ICT – focuses on providing students with the tools needed to transform and enrich their learning environment.

Subjects - The program has a strong subject focus with students studying English, Mathematics, Science, and Humanities. Technology, The Arts, languages and Physical Education will be delivered through our mainstream program, but students will remain in their Concept class group.

Paul Mameghan, Assistant Principal

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News From the LOTE Office

MUSICA! (Music) is the topic that the Years 9s did in Italian this term. The topic was introduced presenting a variety of different Italian singers like Pavarotti, Zucchero and Artico 31. Students were soon engaged with the song Vieni con me (Come with me) by Chiara Galliazzo, a new Italian singer who became famous thanks to the last Italian edition of the talent show ‘X Factor’. The song is very popular in Italy at the moment and has even made it to our shores as reported by a student: “I heard it on the radio”. Also, students’ curiosity was stimulated by the anecdote that the song Will you be there (1992) by Michael Jackson was presumably a copy of the song I cigni di Balaka (1987) of the Italian artist Albano.

Students have learnt the musical instruments in Italian and listened to different types of Italian music to grab their interests. Thanks to the hook of music, students created and performed a personalized dialogue in which they not only mastered the new vocabulary, but also structures to express their preferences and reasons in Italian.

Simone Laiu,
LOTE Coordinator
Senior School Formal

As a member of the Formal Committee, you must be willing to give up your lunchtimes and sacrifice a few study periods here and there. Above all else, you need to be able to work as a team in order to get the job done and what a team this group of students proved to be!

I’d like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of these students because, without their hard work, this night would not be possible. They showed great maturity in the way they carried out their individual responsibilities and it was an absolute pleasure working with you!

Formal committee:
Simon Huska, Sam De Zoete, Lily Watson, Hannah Garganis, Merryn Roe, Courtney Kane, Jacqueline Kourinis, Maymuna Ali, and Fatimasahra Mohamed.

Christine Farmakis, Year 12 Coordinator

Student Perspective
With the beginning of the third term of the school year, there was only a mere 2 weeks before the long anticipated Senior School Formal, and right from the get-go it was all us senior students could talk about. Had everyone got their dresses? What suits were the boys wearing? How were we getting there – should we take a limousine? Makeup? Hair? We all discussed and discussed again, but as the evening finally came upon us, and we all waited in the foyer before entering the dining room, we were all overcome with a flood of excitement, all worries evaporated. It was finally here. The night commenced with entrees and dancing, and continued with the main meal and the many photos being taken, all of us enjoying the feeling of being completely dressed up. As dessert came around it suddenly became clear that the night was at its close, though, of course, not before we watched the infamous formal video that featured all our much loved teachers discussing the current year 12 cohort. Many laughs ensued, all of us smiling at the fond memories from this year, and from all previous years at Thornbury. The night ended with a final dance, and we all left with smiles on our faces (as well as very sore feet). Though sad the night had ended, it will surely remain with me, and my fellow students, for many years after graduation.

By Lily Watson 12 D

Science Talent Search 2013
STS is an Australia-wide annual event. This year, students from the 7 and 8 High Achiever’s classes produced posters on the theme of “A hundred years of Australian Science.” Judging was last Saturday, and results and awards will be available early next term. Ms Farmakis and Mr. Bason were judges for the P-12 video entries.

Glenn Bason, Science Teacher

Important Notice
Thornbury High School is introducing a new way for parents to access information. This semester all of our interim reports and Parent - Teacher conference bookings will be available through the Compass Community Portal on the school website. You will be receiving your login details and instructions in the mail in mid September.
Australian Representative

Year 11 student Fereti has been selected in the Australian Schoolboys Rugby Union team to play a New Zealand school in Sydney on 1st of October. Fereti, who captained the Victorian team at the national championships was selected after an outstanding performance during a week of competition in the school holidays. Victoria competed strongly against traditional powerhouses QLD & NSW and gave the ACT team a 31 to 5 thrashing. This is a significant achievement and the school is very proud of Fereti. Given 70% of the current Wallabies played for the Australian Schools Team, Fereti has entered the pathway for which all junior rugby players aspire. The school wishes Fereti the very best of luck against New Zealand school’s. The match will be televised live on Fox Sports.

Carla Ruhe, Sport Coordinator

Compass—A New Way

Late last year, the school introduced the Compass School Management tool to all staff and started marking our rolls in a brand new way. Compass is an integrated roll marking and communication tool which allows our staff, students and parents to have greater access to information and improved communication. For staff, Compass allows us to mark our rolls, book rooms and resources, organise excursions, keep records of student behaviour and communicate with each other and parents. For parents and guardians, Compass will allow you to login and check on attendance, approve absences, get interim and semester reports, book parent-teacher interviews and, in the future, allow you to sign permission forms and make payments for excursions and school fees. Students are able to login to Compass and check their timetable and attendance data.

We are very excited about the extra capabilities that Compass is providing us as a school and hope that when parents come online at the end of this term you will find it useful too.

Keep an eye out for more information in the newsletter over the coming months.

Adam Cribbes, & Christine Bartsh

News From Careers

Year 12

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

Students interested in furthering their education after year 12 should be registering and submitting an application on the VTAC website. Applications will not be passed on to institutions until payment has been processed so please remember to pay before September 27th.

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. Your application needs to be in by mid-September.

SEAS Applications

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) application, they will need to speak to myself or Miss Farmakis ASAP.

Class of 2012 Reunion

The class of 2012 reunion will be held in the VCE study hall on September 4th at 6pm.

Exploring Careers in Occupational Therapy

Thursday 12th September, 5:00pm registration, 5:30 until 8:00pm.

Austin Health is holding an information and demonstration evening for teachers, parents and student to hear from Occupational Therapists experienced in:

- Spinal Rehabilitation
- Hand therapy
- Mental Health
- Neurology and more!

Location: Education Precinct, Level 4, Austin Tower, Austin Hospital, Studley Road, Heidelberg. Parking: Available at Austin and off street parking also available.

Catherine McCrann, Careers Advisor
2nd Hand Uniform Shop

WE HAVE MOVED!
The shop is now located in
Room 47
Open: Mondays (during
term), 3.00 – 4.00pm
Turn outgrown/unwanted
uniform items into THS
account credit

A good range of stock is
available, so drop in for great
prices.

To sell uniform items that
you no longer need, download
and complete the required
form located on the school’s
website, and drop it along with
your uniform items into the
front office.

Remember to:
- Make sure your items are in
  saleable condition, i.e. good,
  very good or excellent condi-
tion. You get 50% of the
selling price – but only for
items in good to excellent
condition.

We cannot accept and sell non
school supplier items.

As 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