Citizenship Award 2012

This is the sixth year that this award has been given and it is chosen by the Principal and carries a reward of $1500. Students who are nominated must demonstrate the following:

- Showing concern for the success and safety of others.
- Doing the right thing, especially when it is difficult.
- Taking responsibility for their actions and reflecting on how their actions affect the welfare of others.

The winner of the 2012 citizenship award is Merryn Roe. Merryn has been the driving force behind the most success fundraising activity ever organised at Thornbury High School.

As a result of this success she received the World Vision High Achievement Award which acknowledges young people who, through hard work and dedication raise significant amounts of money to fight poverty and hunger.

One of Merryn’s outstanding qualities is her ability to inspire other students to participate. This year her goal was to raise $3000 but instead managed to raise over $7000.

The funds raised this year will go to projects which fight hunger in Nepal, Cambodia, Laos Tanzania and Kenya.

Merryn clearly demonstrates the qualities we encourage and nurture at Thornbury HS.

Congratulations Merryn on your outstanding achievements, you are truly a worthy winner of the this year’s citizenship award.

Peter Egeberg, Principal

From The Assistant Principal

Welcome back to another great year at Thornbury High. From my perspective it seems to have been a fairly smooth start with all students now well and truly into their studies.

I have listed below some points to remember:

Car park: Closed to parents that are dropping off or picking up their children. We have around 1038 students and 140 staff in the school and for safety reasons we have decided to keep this area clear.

We ask that you pick up your child in either Matisi or Jones Street. Collins Street is too small to undertake 3 point turns and we have many students that leave by this entrance on bikes.

Thank you for your support with this.

Uniform: What a great start to the year by the majority of our students. Many thanks to the parents for your support with this.

A couple of reminders:
1. Year 7 girls dresses and skirts need to touch the knee. This has been introduced this year and will filter up the school. A remind that the girls in 8-12 must have their dresses/skirts no shorter than 5 cms above the knee.
2. Thornbury High School bags are compulsory for all students in 7,8 and 9.

Bus people to ease the congestion on Albert Street.

School photos

Due to the upcoming strike on the 14th February, we have changed out photo date until the 15th February. Students may return their envelopes prior to the day or on the day.

Immunisation:

These will affect students in Year 7- both boys and girls, boys in Year 9 and boys and girls in Year 10.

For information relating to the HPV vaccine please visit www.hpvvaccine.org.au and for any other questions please contact Darebin Council Immunization on 94708888.

I hope everybody has a good year.

Meredith Stephenson , Assistant Principal
Union Bans and Strike Action

To the Thornbury High School Community:

As you are no doubt aware, Thornbury High School teaching and support staff are currently involved in a long and bitter dispute with the State Government for better conditions and higher pay. With 98% of our teaching staff united as Australian Education Union members, we continue, resolute, as the dispute reaches two years in length.

We are seeking a similar deal reached by Victoria Police under the same government. The counter offer of the government would have us receiving an increase below the average CPI for the past 4 years and almost half of what police and nurses have recently received.

Victorian Premier Ted Baillieu promised to make Victorian teachers, “the best paid teachers in Australia”. This broken promise has left Victorian teachers among the lowest paid in Australia, Victoria is already losing quality teachers to other States, with others leaving the profession altogether. In the last two years, Ted Baillieu has slashed $555 million from education and a further $290 million from TAFE. This includes cuts to VCAL and VET and the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

I recently caught up with four friends I studied with at University. In 2000, all of these teachers proved to be excellent young graduates in the State Education System. In 2013, none of these quality teachers will be working in state schools. Two have taken positions with better support, conditions and pay at private schools, one has become a Police Officer and the other has joined the Defence Force.

One third of new teachers recently surveyed see themselves remaining in the profession for only a short period of time.

State School teachers are passionate about the teaching profession and we are dedicated to state education. We need to be able to continue to attract and retain the best people for our state schools.

How will the Union actions affect our community?

- It is not uncommon for teachers and in particular, Year Level Coordinators to work 10 hour days, before then taking work home. Many of the staff at Thornbury High School work 50-60 hours per week, yet are paid for a 38 hour week. In an attempt to highlight these overtime hours, the Union has placed a ban on working beyond our paid 38 hours per week. Please understand that over the coming weeks, teachers and Coordinators will be working to these conditions.

- Thornbury High School staff will unfortunately be forced to take further industrial action, thus losing yet another day’s pay, with a stop work and rally on Thursday, February 14th.

How can you help?

If you would like to add your name to the growing list of disgruntled parents and educators, please sign up or write to the Baillieu Government via www.keepthepromise.com.au.

The staff would like to thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions regarding the Australian Education Union’s actions, please contact me.

Mark Gillies,
AEU Sub Branch President
gillies.mark.m@edumail.vic.gov.au
9458 6123

News From The Library

Most students were good last year in returning their library books, but there are still some outstanding loans. These books will need to be returned before students can borrow in 2013. If students have lost a library book they will have to see library staff and organise payment or replacement.

Library opening times 2013
Before School: Monday - Friday 8am to 8:30am
Lunch: Monday - Thursday 1:30pm to 1:58pm
After School: Monday - Thursday 3:10pm to 4:00pm

The library is not open for computer games before or after school.

Year 7 Library and Network Orientation

Over the next two weeks, all year 7 students will be attending a library and computer network orientation. The program will run over 2 sessions and will be during their English or Maths classes.

Your friendly library staff.
Welcome to THS in 2013.

We wish all our Year 11 and 12s the best of luck as they embark on their VCE/VCAL studies or prepare to complete their final year. We welcome our new enrolments to Year 11 and hope their studies at THS are both memorable and rewarding.

Ms. Christine Farmakis continues to coordinate the Year 12 cohort, while Mr. Ryan Millar has joined us for the first time to coordinate the Year 11s. We also welcome Alex Cooke to the team who will work as Absence Officer and general assistant.

We are currently planning the Year 12 VCE Parent Information Night and look forward to seeing all VCE students with their parent/guardians on Thursday February 28th. A letter will be sent home this week. We would appreciate if all parents could complete and return the reply slip at their earliest convenience.

Text Books and Materials. We encourage parents to ensure that their child has the necessary books and other materials to ensure a smooth start to their child’s education programme. Booklists were issued last year and the expectation is that all students in VCE and VCAL purchase the set books. If you have any problems, please ensure you contact the sub-school team.

Uniform. Uniform is compulsory and needs to be correctly worn at all times. We encourage parents to support us in ensuring students are in full school uniform when they leave home. Uniform guidelines can be found in the Student Planner. The boys’ shoes must be black leather lace ups. Girls are reminded that the length of their skirt/dress must be at the knee. The summer uniform must be worn during term one.

Subject Changes. All VCE students participated in a 3 to 5 day Transition Programme at the end of 2013. For this reason we do not expect many changes in student programmes, however any request to change subjects must be finalised by Monday February 11th.

Study Blocks and Teacher Absences. Both Year 11 and 12 students will have a number of study blocks during the week. Students are expected to use this time in a productive manner, revising work, completing set tasks and extending their knowledge of the subjects with extra research. Students can use the Senior Common Room and the Library if their study blocks are during the day and they can choose to study at home if their study blocks are on the last period.

In cases of staff absences students will be expected to complete private studies in the Common Room. Senior classes at this stage are not covered. If students have a ‘spare’ at the end of the day, they can go home. Where students are informed that their period one teacher will be absent, they can come in for their next scheduled class. Parents and students will soon be able to see staff absences on Compass – more about this will be said soon.

Any queries relating to the Senior School can be directed to:
Ryan Millar, Year 11 Coordinator: 9458 6138
Christine Farmakis, Year 12 Coordinator: 9458 6141
Maria Ioannidis, Senior School Manager: 9458 6145
Alex Cooke, Absences: 9458 6135
Senior School Team.

Welcome Year 7 Students!

It is a very exciting time of the year when we see 200 new Year 7 students walk through the school gates in their new, over sized uniforms, with brand spanking new stationary!

Our first few days at high school have mostly been smooth sailing. Lockers have been allocated and PE Bags (in house colours!), planners and timetables given out. Students are this week starting to get their heads around the initially tricky coded locks for their lockers, the location of far away Science Labs and Art rooms, and the best places to hang out at recess and lunch times.

We encourage students and parents to make contact with the Year 7 Team, particularly if there are any difficulties during this transition period.

A reminder that our camp is going ahead on March 6th to 8th and that full payment is due this month.

Mark Gillies, Helen Herouvim, Grant Wason
Year 7 Team
Middle School News

We welcome all students into the Middle School and extend a special welcome to all our new students and families. We hope you all have a safe, memorable and academically productive year.

A special thank you to all our Year 10 Peer Support students who came to school a day early and assisted our new Year 7 students with their transition into secondary school. The day was full of fun activities and their assistance and leadership was appreciated. Our goal in the Middle school in 2013 is to improve our student’s work ethic and pride in their school and ensure that all our students can achieve their personal best in a safe and happy environment.

A reminder to all parents students need to at school by 8.45am in full school uniform. If your child is absent please ensure you contact the school on the ABSENCE LINE 94586125 by 9.00am. (Messages taken 24hours) Late arrivals can also be notified via the absence line. Please leave student name, form and reason for absence and if late, time of estimated arrival.

The year started with Year Level assemblies where all students met their coordinator and were reminded of the school rules and promotion policy. All information students require for the year are clearer written in their planners. Parents need to note that your child’s coordinator is first point of contact if you have concerns throughout the year.

Year 10A, 10B, 10C, 10D Coordinator, Alan Williams 94586176
Year 10E, 10F, 10G, 10H Coordinator, Caroline McLachlan 94586173
Year 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D Coordinator, Lisa Dunne 94586167
Year 9E, 9F, 9G, 9H Coordinator, Barbara Carydis 94586113

9/10 Sub School Manager, Anne Vassos 94586112

All students have been issued a planner and can parents please assist us by ensuring they check planners weekly and use it as a communication tool with teacher when necessary.

Year 10 2013
Every Wednesday we have a Late Start/Late Finish due to VET Electives. All students except Vet Hospitality and VET Retail need to be at school at Period 2 10am start and their day will finish 4.22pm end of Period 5. Vet Hospitality and VET Retail students will start at 11am and finish at 5pm.

We encourage all our Year 10 students to start finalising their WORK EXPERIENCE placements for 2013 by the end of term. Work experience dates are Monday 17th June until Friday 22nd June 2013. Parents are invited to assist their children in finding a suitable placement. Forms that need to be signed by employers will be given to students in the next few weeks.

Year 9 2013
All Year 9 students are off to Camp:
9E, 9F, 9G and 9H Camp 1 26th Feb until 1st March 2013
9A, 9B, 9C and 9D Camp 2 5th March until 8th March 2013

Students have been given their “What to bring list” and Medical Forms and they need to be returned as soon as possible. Please note all payments need to be finalised before the 15th February. Please contact Ann Vassos 94586112 for more information or any concerns.

Middle School Team

Lost Property
It is amazing how many articles of clothing, text books, stationary items and electronic equipment, such as mobile phones, are misplaced or lost by our students. We ask that all students’ property be clearly labelled to ensure that if lost it can be returned.

Updating Contact/Emergency Phone Numbers
Parents/Guardians are urged to notify the school of any changes to phone numbers/emergency contacts as it is imperative that the school be able to reach parents/guardians in the case of an emergency.
Well-Being Team At THS 2013

The school has a team of people to support students at school. This includes two full-time staff, Student Wellbeing Coordinator - Jo Apostolopoulos and Social Worker - Amy Jess; as well as two part time staff, counsellor - Catherine McCrann (one day/week) and Adolescent School Nurse - Harriet Robin (Mons and Thurs).

All Wellbeing team staff can be referred individuals, or students may self-refer for issues such as:
- Friendships/relationships
- Sexual health/sexuality
- Centrelink/finances/Housing
- Feeling unhappy or stressed/other mental health concerns
- Getting in touch with the right services
- Personal and family issues
- School project Information

Smoking, alcohol or drug use
Trauma, grief and loss
Health concerns
Jo, Amy and Harriet are also involved in running programs within the school. To speak to any of the Wellbeing team, students may present to the Wellbeing Team, preferably at recess or lunchtime and parents may contact the school.

Wellbeing Team

Supporting Your Child With Their Homework

Here at Thornbury High, we believe that parents play a vital role in each child’s education. Recent research has shown that children do better at school when their parents are more involved in their schoolwork. How can you, as parents, do this?

• Provide a good environment
Children love routines and structure. Agree with your child when homework is to be done each night and keep to this routine. Straight-away when coming in the door? After eating? Exactly when does that work? It doesn’t really matter, but the routine does. Agree on a reasonable time that suits the child. Also you might want to ensure that they have a quiet place to work, away from televisions, mobiles and computers (good luck with that one!).

• Talk to your child about their work
This is really important but is hard to achieve. We all know that it is normal for teenagers to not want to talk to parents about school, apart from grunting a greeting as they walk in. One way is to ask them what they are studying at the moment and to get a conversation about this going – yes, I know this is hard but keep trying! What is their English novel about? What are they learning about in science? Try to ask about what they are learning rather than how everything is because as parents we know everything is always fine.

• Look at your child’s planner
Each child has a planner (diary) and we see this as an important way of communicating to parents. All home-work should be recorded with due dates (see the homework timetable attached to this newsletter – stick this on the fridge). Please look at this regularly, maybe even each evening, and talk about the work they need to do. Support their work, but try and not do it for them! Sign the planner each week to let us know you’re doing this.

• Get in touch with the school
If you have any concerns with your child’s schoolwork or homework, please get in touch with your child’s subject teachers. You can email them via the ‘Contact Our Staff’ page of the school’s website www.thornburyhs.vic.edu.au or phone them via the general office. For all other concerns, please contact the relevant coordinator.

Simon Townley
Assistant Principal

From The Careers Office

Year 10 Work Experience: Work Experience week is fast approaching (June 17th-21st). All year 10 students have been provided with information about Work Experience for this year. It is important students begin organising their placements as demand is high at mid-year. Placements must be secured by March 12th.

Students are welcome to visit the careers office (located in the VCE centre) with any questions.

Year 12 Students: The Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) is a 2 hour and 45 minute multiple-choice test developed and used specifically to assist with the selection of students into medicine, dentistry and health science degree programs at undergraduate level.

Candidates must be in at least their final year of secondary schooling, or above, to be eligible to sit UMAT i.e. they must be completing, or already have completed, year 12 in 2013. Year 11 students or students completing year 12 over 2 years are NOT permitted to sit UMAT.

UMAT practice Test 1 and 2 are currently available on the UMAT website.

Catherine McCrann,
Careers Officer
2nd Hand Uniform

Open: Mondays (during term), 3.00 – 4.00pm  
Location: First Aid Room 1 (near Reception)  
Turn outgrown/unwanted uniform items into THS account credit  

Over the past 3 years, the Second-hand Uniform Shop has been able to help out hundreds of THS families with a low cost alternative to new uniforms. All funds raised have gone back into student activities so that all students have benefited.

The incoming Year 7s for 2013 will soon be attending the school’s information night and orientation day. These are two of the shop’s busiest days of the year.

As we are currently low on stock, we would appreciate you going through your wardrobes and drawers and bringing in any uniform items that you no longer need so that we can get prepared for the upcoming busy season.

Please be careful 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. We need all items of uniform.

Year 12s: We would love your jumpers, skirts, dresses and polo shirts.

Year 10s: Your jumpers and polo shirts are highly sought after items.

Please complete the attached form to sell second-hand uniforms and drop it along with your uniform items into the front office. As soon as your items are sold, you’ll receive credit to your THS account. Please refer to the conditions on the form for further information.

Thank you in advance,
Donna & Deb,
Parent volunteers

Education Maintenance Allowance 2013

The EMA is designed to help families on lower incomes by giving financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses for their child up until the age of sixteen.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA. In 2013, families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, parents of children in Year 7 will receive an additional $50 in their EMA payments [$300]. Please note that from 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents.

New EMA payment option
From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;
• Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or
• Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or
• Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:
To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, 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 temporary foster parent. *i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

Contact: Download EMA application & allocations forms or pick up from the School Office. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 28 February 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment Amounts 2013</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instalment One</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ever Wanted To Run Away To The Circus?

Juggle!
Stretch!
Try the trapeze!
Build a human pyramid!
The wellbeing team invite female students in years 7-10 of all ages, sizes and levels of fitness to run away to the circus.
Learn to work in a group, claim the space, build trust, grow in physical confidence and strength, explore responsible risk-taking and meet new friends from years 7-10.

Free Circus program
Must be able to participate in the whole program in term 1 and term 2.
Held after school most Monday afternoons, 3-5pm, with two whole day excursions to the Women’s Circus space in Footscray.
Program will finish in term 2, with a Show and Tell event.
Limited places available.

Program starts 11/02/13
For more information come and see Amy or Harriet in the Student Wellbeing Services portable ASAP.
Parents / Guardians feel free to ring with any questions 9458-6174
Amy & Harriet, Student Welfare Office

ASPA

HIP HOP/DANCE CLASSES
Tots, Beginners, Intermediate, Adults
SINGING AND DANCING CLASSES
Beginners and Intermediate
DRAMA CLASSES

PIANO LESSONS • SINGING LESSONS • GUITAR LESSONS • BASS LESSONS

Call Angela Beards on 0408 505 735  www.au-aspa.com

BABBUCI
Jacqueline Clancy
Mobile 0415 163 107
Salon 03 9470 2230
75 Wilcox Street Preston

www.babbucci.net.au
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Shaping the Confidence of Your Look
WAXING
MAKEUP
SPRAY TANNING
FASHION STYLING
BLOW DRY'S / GHDS

Year 7 Students On Their First Day
Please also refer to student planner page (III) Homework.

Teachers need to be made aware that some homework is not done (e.g. 7 day in planner, please ensure Quni0072 homework on these nights and that is written in the planner).

• Homework for other subjects will be set when required.

The subject teacher is to decide when homework is due.

• Teachers are required to set homework on the day the subject appears on the homework timetable (except where marked "when it will be set the day before).