The On Track organisation released data this week reporting on the progress of students who left school in 2012. 79% of our students who had left were contacted. We have been able to contact directly or indirectly almost all our students who completed year 12, revealing the following differences in data:

- The On Track data has 44% of our students attending university compared to 34% for like schools. Our data indicates that 52% of our students were going to university or had deferred until 2014.
- On Track had 30% of students doing a TAFE course while our data has it at 20% increasing to 26% when students doing a pre-apprenticeship course were included.
- Over 50% of the our male students completing year 12 last year are now at university while On Track reported less than 40%, due to inability to contact some of those students. We have spoken to most of these students and it is fair to say the majority are enjoying their course.
- Another 17% of students are either undertaking an apprenticeship or are in employment now.
- On Track also identified a small number of students who were seeking employment. For our students, some of the unemployment is related to students who completed pre-apprenticeship courses over the summer but were still trying to find an apprenticeship in a slowing economy. We are in regular contact with these students and most are now gainfully employed although not necessarily in their preferred area. We again stress that all pathways have equal value. We are proud of all our students whether they are working, undertaking an apprenticeship or a TAFE course or attending university.

We remind the class of 2012 that a reunion will be held on September 4th. We expect a big turn out and look forward to their stories.

David Smith,
MIPS Coordinator
From The Assistant Principal

Updating Contact/Emergency Phone Numbers
Parents/Guardians are urged to notify the school of any changes to phone numbers/emergency contacts. It is imperative that the school be able to reach parents/guardians in the case of an emergency.

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. Those that are named are returned to the student but unfortunately most are not named. Sometimes we find that, by mistake, students have picked up other jumpers, etc that are named but not theirs. So I ask that parents do two things:
1. Name all articles of your child’s uniform, books etc.
2. Check your child’s uniform for other student’s names and return back to their coordinator.

Meredith Stephenson, Assistant Principal

From The Senior School Office

We welcome back all our students and wish to thank the parents who attended the Senior School Parent Teacher Interviews last week. It was great to see so many parents take the opportunity to meet with the teachers and hope the feedback provided during the interviews will help students plan their studies for this semester.

Senior School Formal
As you read this newsletter, many of our Senior Students will be busy planning for the long awaited Senior School Formal – this Friday 26th July 2013 at the very glamorous ‘Lincoln of Toorak’, 445 Toorak Road, Toorak. Year 12s who have appointments with hairdressers or simply need a little more time to glam-up can leave at the end of period two provided they return the signed consent form. We look forward to an enjoyable evening and no doubt will have photos of the night in our next update.

VTAC Information Night
We look forward to seeing all Year 12 students with their parents on Thursday August 1st for the VTAC Information Night. Letters were posted home last week and we ask for the completed reply slips to be returned to the Senior School Coordinators’ office by July 31st.

Year 10 Students and Parents
“Year 10 to 11 Transition Night”
A reminder for our Year 10 Parents as we approach that time of year, where we meet our current Year 10 students who are moving into Year 11. On the evening of August 6th, we will meet with all Year 10 students and their parents to discuss Year 11. This is a compulsory evening for all students who wish to study at THS in 2014. The evening will provide parents and students the opportunity to discuss subjects and programs with staff, receive Subject Selection Forms and understand the promotion process. Invitations have been posted home and need to be returned to the Year 10 Form teachers/Coordinators’ office by July 31st.

Year 11 Pastoral Care Camp 2013
And finally, as many of you already know, it was a slow start with Mother Nature making things just a little difficult for us all. Melbourne Tullamarine Airport was covered with thick fog for most of the morning, so instead of arriving at Tullabudgera Camping ground at noon, the last group finally reached their destination after 11.00pm. Needless to say the waiting game grew tiresome after several hours, however, our students should be praised for their excellent behaviour and ability to find numerous activities to entertain themselves with, in between moving from one gate to another and enduring numerous security checks.

Once there though, there was no stopping the fun, with visits to the theme parks, walks along the local coastline and coffee at Burleigh Heads. Not even the constant rain of Thursday during our visit to Dreamworld could dampen our spirits! Many thanks to the parents and students who supported this year’s Pastoral Care Camp to the Gold Coast and of course to the staff who gave up their time during what is a very busy time of year. A special thank you to Meredith Gill, David Hysen, Rick Manning and Scott Cameron who volunteered and hence, made it possible for the camp to go ahead.

Senior Subschool
Year 9 and 10 students:
Are you thinking about Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses in 2014? If you are currently in year 9 or 10, you can get a feel for studying a VET course by participating in a VET taster. This is your opportunity to have a go at ‘hands on’ activities and find out more about a VET course and whether it’s for you.

Thornbury High School currently runs 4 VET programs including: Certificate II in Sport and Recreation and Hospitality and Certificate III in Interactive Digital Media and Retail.

If you are interested in trying out any of the above courses please see Catherine in the Careers office. The Taster Day will be held on August 15th from 2pm-3.30 (classes finish at 1.40pm on this day).

Students in year 11 or 12 in 2014 also have the option of completing a VET course outside of THS.

Student experience:
This year as part of my VCE, I have been given the chance to widen my studies through the VET program. VET programs can range from hairdressing to aged care and trades. It gives students the opportunity to learn about a specific profession and build on the skills needed to be successful in that particular industry.

Although it is essential in the VCAL course, it is optional in VCE and year 10. Courses generally run on a Wednesday. This year, I have enrolled in a certificate II in Electro-technology, which is only a career start program but I have already learnt some of what first year apprentices would learn, out in the workplace. Although I am a female student, working in a male dominated trade, I feel like one of the ‘guys’. My class has only one other girl in it but this doesn’t deter me from the course because we all learn from each other and at times correct each other’s mistakes.

The VET program has allowed me to get a head start in my career as an electrician while still working towards the completion of year 12. Dayle Lewis (Year 12)

Year 10 Work Experience:
Congratulations to our year 10 students for successfully completing Work Experience. We had some exciting placements this year including: ABC and Channel 10 network, Victoria Police, football clubs, Reach Foundation, Legal practices, Customs, plus many more.

To top off all students securing placements, students also received raving reviews and some even came out with a part-time job. Well done!

Catherine McCrann, Careers Coordinator

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Seeing The Dalai Lama

On Tuesday the 18th of June, I had the opportunity to go and see the Dalai Lama speak at the (very fancy) Melbourne Convention Centre, along with Renee Postiropoulos, Hugh Heller, Vini Weerakkody and Merryn Roe. It was the first time any of us had seen him and it was an interesting experience.

I’ll have to admit, when we arrived, we were all a little excited to see monks in the traditional red and yellow dress. There were many other schools there to see him speak for his ‘Beyond Religion’ public talk, hosted by Magda Szubanski herself.

He spoke about spreading peace and putting aside the barriers between us and all faiths, as “We are all the same. Physically, mentally, emotionally, same.” This was the main theme discussed as well as also having compassion towards others. He was very lightly spoken and surprisingly, he had a great sense of humour.

Question time came round and my own question was asked, which I was pretty pleased about—okay, very pleased. My question was: If you could change one thing anywhere in the world today, what would it be and why? I didn’t really get the answer I was looking for (I was hoping for something a little more specific), but what he mainly got at was that he wanted a worldwide peace movement and he believed that it was already underway.

I am very grateful to have been involved in this experience, as are all the students who attended. Many thanks go to Ms Maharaj for organising this for us. I encourage all students to get involved with Student Voice and make the most of the opportunities which arise.

Mariam Haliem (11C)

The students who attended were chosen because of their commitment to extra-curricula activities and global issues. Mariam and Renee have been long time members of Thornbury High School’s SRC and this year they organised a ‘Schools’ Constitutional Convention’ examining Australia’s asylum seeker policy, Hugh Heller not only participated in the ‘Schools’ Constitutional Convention’ this year but also of his own volition volunteered at a University United Nations Conference. Merryn Roe is our current School Captain and has also been a member of the school’s SRC in the past. She organised the Forty Hour Famine at our school last year and, will do so again this year and hopefully, continue to break records for the fundraising.

Preeti Maharaj, Curriculum Coordinator
**Beginning Teachers At Thornbury**

With our increasing student numbers over the past few years, we have needed to employ new teachers. This year we have eleven beginning teachers joining our school. The first year of a teacher’s career is an eventful one - learning how schools operate, working closely with students, meeting challenges and sharing successes are all part of the experience. To assist beginning teachers transition into our school community and continue their development, we have a twelve month induction program. Each beginning teacher works closely with an experienced colleague discussing teaching strategies, observing each other’s classes, and reflecting on lessons. This, combined with regular meetings, will help new teachers settle into the daily life of being a teacher and become part of the teaching team here at Thornbury.

Paul Mameghan, Assistant Principal

**News From the Library**

**Book Week**

August 17th-23rd is Book Week. This year our annual dress-up day is on Wednesday, August 20. The THS theme this year is “Treasure Island”, but you can come as any book character. We also run a Cosplay event, so why not double up and come as a One Piece character.

**Premiers’ Reading Challenge**

The Premiers’ Reading Challenge is well underway, with year 7 & 8 students enrolled in the challenge. These students are busy reading and registering their books both at school, during wide reading lesson, and at home. The Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge closes on 12 September 2013.

**Woolworths Earn and Learn**

Thank you to everyone who collected stick-

ers for the Earn & Learn program this year. We have had an amazing response with thousands of points being collected. We will now be able to spend these points on much needed items around the school, including new books, stationery and various other classroom supplies.

Library Staff

**Student School For Leadership—Our Experience**

Our names are Georgia Capocchi-Hunter and Mikayla Nelson. We are two year 8 students who were lucky enough to be able to attend the Student School for Leadership (SSL) for 5 weeks in term2. We were chosen through the Koorie Academy of Excellence with full support of THS.

The Student School for Leadership is a camp dedicated to helping young teens develop their leadership skills and confidence. There are three different campuses and we went to the Snowy River Campus.

While there, we worked on a Community Learning Project – The effects of Cyberbullying which we needed to present to all those in attendance at the camp. We also participated in a range of activities like canoeing and bike riding, and classes in Sustainability and Team Skills.

We think it was a great experience. We became more confident and learnt skills to help us become better Student Leaders.

Georgia and Mikayla, Yr 8
News From The Science

Semester Two in the Science faculty is always a busy one. Science week will be upon us during August and we have students entering competitions in order to show off some of their amazing work.

We have begun new topics for junior and middle school science:

Year sevens will be focussing on forces which is a lead into VCE Physics, in particular they will understand how different forces affect varying objects.

The year eights are studying body systems, specifically how the organs function together in each of the systems to enable our bodies to operate optimally, this topic lends nicely to VCE Biology.

The year nines are practicing their skills in acid and base reactions and focusing on the structure of an atom, this topic stems into VCE Chemistry.

Finally the year tens are learning about motion with particular reference to Newton’s laws, this topic is revisited in VCE Physics.

As usual all year levels will have one CAT this term as their assessment of the above topics.

Our VCE students studying Psychology, Chemistry, Physics or Biology are heading toward the pointy end and working particularly hard in order to achieve their goals.

Victoria Triantyfyllou, Science Coordinator

SRC News

It has been a busy term of planning for the SRC, so be prepared for a wild Term 3 ahead!

We have also established a date for the annual School Social, which will be held on the 23rd of August—proceeds will be going to the Care for Africa Foundation. It is a charity we have supported the last two years. The money collected will aid Cha Cha our sponsor child attend school for a whole year, pay for his equipment and boarding school. The Care For Africa Foundation assists communities in Tanzania. It will undoubtedly be an amazing night and we hope students across all year levels will come down for a night of fun and dancing. Tickets will be available next term.

Another awesome event we have in store is the upcoming THS Film Festival (5th – 9th August), where we shall be holding a Young Filmaker’s Competition! Students across all year levels will have the opportunity to flaunt their acting/directing/filming/script writing skills to develop a 5-10 minute short film of any theme... the sky is the limit! The films will be played throughout an entire week of movie madness and the winner will really take home the gold (stay tuned!). Films will be due on Thursday the 1st of August, but more information will be available later this term... make sure you keep an ear out for details in the Student Bulletin... get yourself a director’s chair and start filming!

Lastly, we believe it is time to give back. The SRC are always looking for different Projects we can take on to make a positive change in our community and in our world, so as part of a campaign we call our Winter Warmer Campaign, we are going to run a Canned Food Drive. How does this work? Easy! Just donate a single (or multiple) items of tinned food that we can then pass onto homeless shelters, who are desperate to feed those who would otherwise go hungry during the chilly winter season. We would be so happy if every student could donate at least one item of tinned food to help those less fortunate, and the location of the Winter Warmer boxes will be available this term. Details will be in the Student Bulletin.

Thornbury High SRC
Lily Watts (writer)
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.

Queensland Camp

The Queensland Camp had finally arrived and we were excited! Fog in the air, indicated that we would be experiencing delays for our flight and, for half of the group, that meant spending eleven tedious hours waiting at Melbourne airport.

The definite highlight of the camp was the theme parks; Wet N Wild, Movie World and Dream World. Day 1 consisted of us all, enjoying the water and rides at Wet N Wild. The Aqua Loop was definitely a slide which many of us, myself personally, were thrilled to conquer.

Movie World was the most entertaining. Getting the chance to mingle with characters such as Cat Woman and Marilyn Monroe, as well as seeing the stunt driver show. Overall, it was a day to remember!

Dream World, was our destination on Day 3. Unfortunately, due to the horrid weather change, our fun was relatively short. However, that did not stop many of us from conquering the one and only, Giant Drop. The Tower of Terror II was also a major highlight and was a ride known to kill (literally). Long story short, Joshua De Fazio was struck by a bird whilst falling down at 100km/h resulting in the poor lorikeet losing its life and Josh gaining a big bruise on his neck. ‘The ride was sick as,’ he says nevertheless.

Thank you to Ms. Ioannidis, Mr. Cameron, Ms. Gill, Mr. Manning and Mr. Hysen for accompanying us. It was unquestionably the perfect way to spend our last high school camp!

Renee Fostiropoulos, Year 11

EMA

2nd Instalment—Do You Need To Apply?
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 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 of the first day of Term 3 (15th July 2013). The EMA application must be submitted to the school by 2 August 2013 for the second instalment.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who were paid the first instalment through this school, will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who have transferred children from another school after 28 February 2013 and prior to or on 2 August 2013, must reapply at this school for the second instalment.

Contact: School Office for application form and further information.

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