Bullying Survey 2013

The table below indicates the percentage of students who have not been bullied since the last survey. Given the significant increase in enrollments over the past 6 years (600 students to 1030 students) these results are excellent and represent the result of a whole school approach to this issue. However, we still realise that we must be vigilant and proactive in this area.

The main type of bullying is teasing, name calling, being ignored and left out; while the main area where a small number of students feel unsafe is the canteen. Given the huge amount of traffic in this area at recess and lunchtime, this is not a surprising result.

So what have we done to address this issue?

- Extra staff both serving and on duty
- Year 7s let out 5 minutes early to be served first for both recess and lunch.
- Queues sorted for boys/girls and year levels
- Outside queue for those that do not like crowds.

There were five main bullies identified by some students (one child at year 7 and one at year 8 and three children at year 10. Year level coordinators will make contact with parents in the next week.

The school community will continue to work together in managing and combating bullying.

Survey results will be available on the school’s web site and students will be given detailed results at year level assemblies early Term 3.

Peter Egeberg, Principal

Sarah King To Play for School Sport Victoria Netball Team VIC

Sarah will join with teammates to play in a series of practice matches and training sessions before competing in the School Sport Australia Championship to be held in Launceston, Tasmania. So here’s hoping that Sarah and her Victorian teammates can win the Australian title and that Sarah may be breaking into Australian ranks over the next few years.
From The Assistant Principal

Uniform change for 2014
Students electing to wear the business shirt rather than the polo MUST wear the business shirt with the school logo on the pocket. These shirts can be purchased from the uniform shop.

Polo shirts are still available for all year levels.

Out of Uniform Days
We have increased the price of out of uniform days to $2. So, where is the money going this year:
- State School Relief
- Wild about Wildlife organisation

- Our sponsored child from Tanzania named Cha Cha
- Senior formal
- Thornbury Got Talent
- Student Voice
- Subsidize materials for student’s art work for the Year 8 corridor

Dysons 567 to Fairfield in the PM
We are currently in negotiations with Dyson's re the school bus that leaves from Dundas Street. It has come to our attention that the bus is leaving too quickly. We are trying to extend the time of departure to 3:20. Please encourage your child to use this bus rather than the public one.

Car park closures
As you were notified in the letter sent home last week, the car parks will be completely closed between 2:30 and 3:30 each school day. Please arrange to pick up your child from either Mathisi or Jones Street. The bottom end of Collins is far too congested so please avoid this area.

Meredith Stephenson, Assistant Principal

Congratulations to New Assistant Principals (and student representatives)
With the departure of Simon Townley the school has appointed two new Assistant Principals to share the role for 18 months as of Term 3. The successful candidates are Paul Mameghan and Christine Bartsh.

Both are very experienced Leading Teachers in the area of curriculum and student management.

The selection panel included two student representatives Hugh Heller and Renee Fostiropoulos who provided a unique student perspective to the final decision.

Peter Egeberg, Principal

From The Assistant Principal

This is my last opportunity to write in the newsletter before I depart for the US at the end of this term.

In the last few weeks I have reflected on my 4 and a half years here at Thornbury High and I thought I might share some of them with you.

When I started as a Maths teacher in 2009 as part of the first wave of significantly larger year group intakes, the school had 550 students and around 50 staff. We now stand at well over 1000 students and over 100 staff in just 4 years, an incredible expansion rate.

However the school feels the same; it has retained the same friendly atmosphere, the same hard-working classroom culture as before.

The highlight of the school without a doubt is the students. They rarely fail to be polite, good-humoured and willing to work. They are proud of the school, respectful of the staff and (in almost all cases!) happy to be here. It is certainly the best student population I have worked in.

I’m pleased to say I have learnt a lot here. Every year I’ve taught Year 12 classes and watching them prepare for VCE, particularly the most successful ones, has shown me the secrets of success. I’ve turned them into 5 rules which I will leave you with.

Rule 1: Anyone can be successful at VCE, as long as you follow rules 2 to 5. You’re not born smart, you develop smartness, but this takes time.

Rule 2: Work hard – the best students are not the smartest ones, they’re the hardest-working ones. They simply do hours upon hours of work.

Rule 3: Find a motivation – if you’re going to follow rule 2 you need a really strong reason. Find a uni course or a job to aim for, develop an ambition or simply do it for your mum. This will provide the drive to get you through those hours of work.

Rule 4: Healthy diet – drink lots of water and eat well. Fast food is no good for your brain – fact. Neither is starving yourself as the brain needs certain fats to perform well.

Rule 5: Sleep – a good night’s sleep embeds everything learnt during the day. Poor sleep will mean you will not be able to recall things well.

Farewell Thornbury High, I’ve had a blast!

Simon Townley, Assistant Principal
A Bright Future In Pre Teacher Education

If your child has arrived home recently and told you they have a student teacher, feel well assured they are being taught by a competent and very well prepared young teacher.

Thornbury High School is involved in a unique partnership with the University of Melbourne’s Graduate School of Education which has just been ranked as third best teacher education provider in the world! (QS University Rankings by Subject 2013)

One aspect of the course that is not widely recognised is the fact that all students admitted to the Master of Teaching, have already completed a bachelor’s degree in their chosen field of expertise and in some cases, worked in these areas, before commencing teacher-training. We have had lawyers, engineers, practicing artists, journalists to mention just a few, amongst our recent cohort.

Thornbury High School is one of only twenty two schools, state wide, to play a significant role in this innovative program. As the ‘base school’, Thornbury hosts around twenty four ‘Teacher Candidates’ each year under the watchful eye of an experienced Mentor Teacher in their specialist Learning Area and a Teaching Fellow who is also a practicing member of the school’s teaching community. The Teaching Fellow works closely with a Clinical Specialist from the MGSE academic team and together, they work with the Teacher Candidates from the local schools, including Northcote High, Fitzroy High and Collingwood College. Teacher Candidates from all these schools meet together at Thornbury once a fortnight to share their experiences and build on their understanding of the professional standards expected of all practicing teachers, in a unique seminar program.

The demanding selection criteria and rigorous requirements of this course are in stark contrast with what is often a much uninformed media debate about teacher training standards in Australia. The Teacher Candidates, undertaking the Master of Teaching, are studying cutting edge ideas and techniques about teaching and learning. They are applying teaching methodology which brings together theory and practice in a way that will give powerful insights into children and young people, and how they learn.

The Master of Teaching is the only teaching degree in Australia to use the ‘clinical practice’ formula (a little like how medical professionals diagnose with their patients) and the Teacher Candidates are working extremely hard putting together stimulating and challenging lessons for their classes while analysing student performance, and constantly reflecting on their teaching practice. Along with the stimulating and challenging lessons they prepare, they are also completing rigorous assignments for Uni that link directly to their experiences in the school.

So parents can feel reassured knowing that University of Melbourne Teacher Candidates that are selected to complete a teaching practicum at Thornbury High School are in the very top bracket of student teachers in Australia, and will maintain the high standards expected of teachers throughout the school. Lets hope that our present and future governments can match this world leading teacher training by providing the appropriate level of funding needed to take our Aussie kids into a brighter educational future.

Lyndal Roper,
Teacher Thornbury H.S,
Teaching Fellow, Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne

It should be widely acknowledged that the teaching staff and administration at Thornbury High School have openly embraced the extra load of supporting and mentoring pre service teachers. Their commitment and willingness in developing quality teachers of the future is quite outstanding and well appreciated by all.
**Why You Should Learn Another Language**

**Brain Gym, Communication, A Door To Opportunities**

Did you know that the brains of people who are bilingual age more slowly than people who speak only one language? As well as opening up a whole host of work and travel experiences by speaking another language there are also a lot of benefits to be had by multiple language learners even when they are just staying at home and speaking English.

All the problem solving and memory work required to learn another language keeps the brain extremely fit making it easier to solve other problems and remember other facts from fixing car engines to putting together a convincing argument.

Learning another language improves your communication skills and helps keep you adaptable and open minded: all qualities that are highly sought after in the modern world of employment.

**How can learning another language do all that?**

Language is more than a list of vocab and some grammar rules, each language comes with its own internal logic and rules of conduct, these help to shape a person’s world view on what’s important, what’s polite, even what’s funny. Did you know that there is a language in South America that uses affixes (like “ing” or “un”) not to denote tense but to let the listener know if the speaker was an eye witness to the story she is telling, heard the story from an eyewitness, or heard the story as hearsay...imagine trying to play Chinese whispers!

The internal logic of a language also includes the differences in how direct languages are. English uses a very linear logic while another language may tend to zigzag their way to a conclusion or take a circular approach to an argument. For example in Indonesian it is possible to explain something with perfectly correct grammar and vocab but still have a native speaker struggle to understand because the way you have spoken is too direct, the more normal style is to tell a story (or two or three) that lead to the point...a bit like speaking in parables! This way of gently getting to the point is common to many languages. Of course some languages are even more so to the point than English. A friend who is fluent in both English and Macedonian experimented with using some of the extra language used in English to try and make her Macedonian fit with the rules of politeness used in English, instead of being impressed with how polite she sounded her Macedonian friends just looked at her with “what are you trying to say???” faces.

Even an awareness of these possible difference in codes of conduct can help make someone a better communicator overall as it helps people judge less quickly and be more cautious in interpreting some of these features of communication. Becoming truly fluent in two or more languages, especially languages that are structurally and culturally very differently from each other, can only make it even easier to interpret other people’s modes of communication. Some people are lucky enough to grow up speaking more than one language and get all the benefits of being bilingual...but it’s never too late to learn...just pick a language and jump in!

**Kasenya Grant, Indonesian and Science teacher THS**

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**Year 7 Indonesian**

**Learning About the Diversity of Indonesian Culture**

7G tried on many types of traditional and modern Indonesian clothes and discovered that the thousands of Islands that make up Indonesia contain hundreds of different cultures, each with their own unique language, dance and fashions! We also learnt that these many culturals have had strong influences from countries outside Indonesia such as batik cloth from southern China and ikat cloth from India.

**Kasenya Grant, Indonesian teacher**

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**Updating Student Contact Details/Emergency Phone Numbers**

Parents/Guardians are urged to notify the school of any changes to email addresses/phone numbers/ emergency contacts as this will ensure that we be able to send out important information and reach parents/guardians in the case of an emergency. Please advise the school via email thornbury.hs@edumail.vic.gov.au or phone 9480 4066, option 6.
Year 12 Physics Excursion

Year 12 Physics Excursion was to the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Latrobe University. The class attended a workshop at the Faculty of Engineering. The workshop covered the electronics of amplification systems. The main areas covered were, basic transistors, integrated circuits and various measuring instruments. Other related areas included: the gain $\beta$ of the amplifier, cut off, saturation and amplifier distortion. During the measuring component, the class got to use the latest digital oscilloscopes, where students analysed complex waveforms composed of harmonic frequencies. The students were also treated to a lecture about the benefits of becoming an Engineer.

The senior Presenter pointed out that the majority of all major Engineering disciplines such as Aerospace, Electrical / Electronic, Mechanical, Civil, Computer and Environmental all use the laws of physics to design and solve complex problems in technology.

Michael Foster,
Science Teacher

From The Wellbeing Office

Here.Us.Now!
The Girls Only Circus Program at Thornbury High has sadly come to an end! It was a fantastic program that was made possible thanks to funding from School Focused Youth Services and was facilitated and run by staff from the Women’s Circus (Franca Stadler), Darebin Community Health (Cath Bateman) and Thornbury High (Amy Jess and Harriet Robin).

Thanks to all those involved in supporting the program along the way!!

The program finished with a small show and tell event, where the girls were able to show their teachers, family and friends the skills they had learnt and have some fun along the way.

“Hey, well we did the Circus Program. It was super cool. Here.Us.Now! Girls Only Circus was a great experience. We met so many great girls from other year levels and also it was great to meet Franca and Cath the circus ladies. They taught us so many things including balances, stretches and awesome games! The Program was great fun!!!”

Alex, Chloe and Bia 7C.

Have you met the Placement students the wellbeing team have taken on? Below they introduce themselves

Hi there!

My name is Jenna Weatherall. I am a student from the Australian College of Applied Psychology, currently studying a Bachelor of Applied Social Science (Counselling) doing my first placement here at Thornbury High School until the end of November. I am very interested in psychotherapy with youth and would love to specialise in crisis and trauma psychotherapy. While I am here, I will be helping out in the wellbeing area alongside Jo and Amy and helping out with various wellbeing projects. I look forward to having a positive impact within the Thornbury High community.

I am really excited to get to know the students and staff at Thornbury High. If you see me around, be sure to say hello! The student welfare team would greatly appreciate any donations of porridge, cereal, juice, bread and butter to use for breakfast club. Please contact the student wellbeing office on 94586174 if you have anything you would like to contribute. Thank you!

Jenna Weatherall

Hi Guys,

My name is David Chappel and I am a Master of Counselling and Post Grad of Psychology student at Vic Uni, doing my placement here at Thornbury High. I will be here over the next few months helping out the Student Welfare Team, so come and say "Hi".

I am also a full time comedian and actor, so hopefully I will be able to get the chance to help out with some fun activities for the students. While my main learning goal is more counselling experience, I also enjoy organising workshops and I am really looking forward to meeting and working with everyone.

Doug Chappel

Hi,

My name is David Arthur. I’m currently working with the student well-being services team at Thornbury High School every Monday. I joined the team in Feb 2013 as part of my post grad studies in counselling at VU. My relationship with Thornbury High goes back a few years as a student from 1998 to 2001. I still have fond memories of the school as a student and it felt good coming back to the school for placement. When I am not working with the student well-being team, I spend the rest of my week working as an assistant manager for Match works, where I assist jobseekers from centrelink with their employment needs.

Working with the student well-being team in the last 4 months, I have had the opportunity to interact with students by organising various lunchtime activities (basketball, theatre and hip-hop).

I hope to learn more about working with students and develop my rapport-building skills.

David Arthur
Wellbeing Team
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

<table>
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<th>Payment Amounts 2013</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
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<td>$75</td>
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<td>Annual Total</td>
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Senior School News

VTAC Applications
Two weeks ago, Year 12 students attended the La Trobe Tertiary Information Session (TIS) day. After a short lecture on the VTAC process, our students had the opportunity to speak with representatives from different Institutions who were all too happy to provide us with career information, pathway booklet and of course pens, rulers and note pads. Parents and students should start reading the information collected, in order to help prepare for their VTAC Application. The senior school will hold a VTAC Information Night in August to explain the VTAC Application Process and Post-Secondary Options.

Year 11 Exams
All students have received their exam timetables. We wish all students the best of luck and hope the experience is a positive one. Students have also received specific guidelines/rules for the exams. We ask parents to peruse the documentation, be aware of their child’s exam timetable and school expectations during exams.

A reminder that Year 11 students will not be required to attend Year 11 classes during the exam period.

GAT Exam – Wednesday June 12th 2013
All students enrolled in a Unit 3 subject must sit the General Achievement Test on Wednesday June 12th. The 3 hour exam begins at ten, but students are required to be at school by 9.15am. They must report to the Common Room before they enter the exam.

Semester Two Changeover
Unit 2 and 4 will commence on Monday 17th June, following the completion of Unit 1 exams. Year 11 students who have requested a change in their program for Unit 2 (Semester 2) will receive their new timetable during exam week.

Year 11 Queensland Camp
A reminder that we are all meeting at the airport early in the morning – time to be confirmed. Final payment of $185 is due on June 14th, 2013. A reminder that school fees must be paid prior to departure date.

Yr 11/12 Parent Teacher Interviews
On the evening of Thursday July 18th the Senior School will hold Parent Teacher Interviews. Parents will receive information and appointment sheets in the next two weeks.

And finally a reminder that students are expected to report to the Senior Office if they arrive late to school.

Maria Ioannidis, Senior School Manager