Principal’s Report

The school year has got off to an excellent start. Each week I take tours of prospective students and their parents around the school and I am always delighted by the calm atmosphere and the great things that I see going on in the classrooms.

We have had an election for School Captain and School Vice Captain. I would like to sincerely congratulate Alex Anderson, our School Captain, and Emily Wilton, our School Vice-Captain. I am absolutely delighted to have the opportunity to work with them this year!

February and March are certainly busy months at Box Hill High School. We have had school photos, study skills seminars, Shrewd Brass performing to our Year 7 students, and the Junior school and all our staff learned a lot from an excellent session on cyber safety. Our Year 10s, as part of our ACE program had a fabulous day down at the beach working with Lifesaving Victoria.

A very successful Year 7 camp has also been held. The students had a wonderful time at camp and I would like to sincerely thank Ms Eastwood, our Year 7 Coordinator, and all the staff who gave up their free time to support and supervise our children. This activity was exempt from industrial action as a large deposit had already been paid to the camp which would have been forfeited had we not attended. It is incredibly disappointing that no other camps will run this year until an agreement is reached with the government. We sincerely hope that a resolution is quickly achieved so that things can return to normal at our school!

Swimming Sports Day.

Last week we had our school swimming sports. We had a marvellous day – it is a whole school event and it was great to see the whole school getting involved and so many students participating.

We have some fabulous swimmers and we were delighted to see them compete.

Congratulations to those students who won their way to the Whitehorse District competition. Sadly the industrial action by our teachers impacted on this event but it was great to see so many parents get involved and support their children. Congratulations to the zone winners.
Ms Green wins Scholarship to Germany

Hearty congratulations are also extended to a member of our staff, Ms Ros Green. Ms Green has won a scholarship to study **CLIL-course development in Germany**. CLIL stands for Content Language Integrated Learning – in other words, teaching a subject in a foreign language, so that students learn both the content and the language simultaneously, a form of mental multi-tasking. This is the kind of course that Ms Kühn has introduced this year at BHHS and we look forward to having Ms Green add her skills and talents to this area as well.

We sadly farewelled Ms Anita Choo, our language assistant, who has retired after 19 years of supporting students at our school. We thank her for the excellent way she has helped our International students over many years and we wish her great happiness in her retirement.

Finally it is also with great sadness that we say farewell to Ms Cat Lerego. Cat has decided to return to England with her husband, after several years here in Australia. We will really miss Cat and her positive “can do” approach to her job at school. She has provided wonderful educational support for our staff and students. She also initiated, with Ms Charles, the Duke of Edinburgh Award for our students. She teaches Quicksmart Maths and has helped our children and staff in countless ways! We will miss you Cat, but we wish you great happiness back in the UK!

Some comments from the School Council regarding Industrial Action

The 2013 school year may be a very challenging year for students, parents and educators. The State Government has not resolved the industrial issues with our teachers and support staff.

As you may be aware, the teachers at Box Hill High School wish to provide the best educational opportunities for your children and it is a strong union school. Therefore, as industrial relations have broken down and an agreement has not been able to be reached after more than two years of negotiations, the school council has been informed that the teachers and support staff at Box Hill High School will be implementing work bans from the start of 2013. As a School Council we believe that it is important that parents are aware of the implications this will have for our children.

We have been advised that teachers will try to work to the normal hours of a 38 hour week as per the Victorian Government Schools Agreement of 2008, but most will be working above this just to keep up with their preparation, marking and organisation for their students. This means however that all extra non-teaching activities that are offered at Box Hill High School may not be able to be accommodated during this time. These include:- inter-school sport, debating, excursions and camps; the school production, model solar car and robotics; SEAL Parent Information evenings, the Year 12 Formal, the Deb Ball, Information Evenings, and Year Level parent picnics.

We believe that this dispute needs to be resolved quickly and that schools play a key role in society and our teachers are working to create our future.

As a School Council who works closely with the staff, we ask our wider school community to be aware of the issues facing our school. We ask that the teachers are shown the respect from our entire school community in a very difficult time. Furthermore, we trust that the Government can work in good faith with them to resolve the issues in a timely manner so our great school can return to running normally and provide the best education possible for our children.

The school is doing everything possible to minimise the disruption to our students and the School Council will endeavour to keep you informed of any future developments.

*From the Box Hill High School Council*
School Council Elections

We are pleased to announce the results of the ballot for the parent category for our School Council. Congratulations to Ms Monique Easton, Dr Kioumars Ghamkhar and Mr Mark Karklins, who have been elected to our School Council for a two year period.

The number of nominations for the DEECD member category equalled the number of vacancies, and we are pleased to announce that Ms Theresa Iacopino has been appointed to the School Council for another term, and Mrs Kate Mitchell is included in the DEECD employee electorate as the principal of the school.

ICAS Science Competition (UNSW)

This year’s Science Competition will be held on Wednesday 5 June. All Year 7-9 High Achievers and SEAL students will participate and do not need to apply or pay an entry fee, as their entry fee has been included in their school contributions. Mainstream students in Year 7-10 are also encouraged to enter. Students who would like to participate need to collect a permission slip from me or their Science teachers. These students need to pay an entry fee of $8.00 and return it with their permission slip to the General Office by Friday 19 April 2013.

Students can familiarise themselves with the test format by going to http://www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/hints-and-tips

Ms Erica Sporri – Science Co-Ordinator

Open Day

This year’s Open Day will be held on Tuesday 23 April from 2.30pm until 4.30pm. Student Tour Guides are needed to take small groups of interested parents and students on a tour of the school. Training will be provided. Interested students need to add their name to the list in the General Office. Tour guides generally work in groups of two. Students will also be needed to assist in some of the activities set up by each of the faculties.

Mrs Elizabeth Cohen

Music News

Congratulations to all Year 7 students who have signed up to instrumental music lessons. Sixty Year 7 students are now currently involved in the program and will also become a member of at least one school-based ensemble. Voice students will become members of the Choir which rehearses Monday lunchtime in P09, guitar students will become a part of the Guitar Ensemble in P08 and all other students will make up the Year 7 Concert Band. The Choir and Guitar Ensemble have already begun with the Year 7 Concert Band beginning on Wednesday 17 April at lunchtime. I am looking forward to seeing all students progress as the year unfolds. Good luck!

Lachlan blows his own trumpet at the Victorian State Schools Spectacular

Congratulations to Lachlan from S3Z who has successfully auditioned for the Victorian State Schools Spectacular and will play the trumpet in the Orchestra. The Victorian State Schools Spectacular is one of the largest recurring performances in Australia. Students will experience performing in front of more than 10,000 people at Melbourne Park in June. Students from over 3000 government schools are involved and will collaborate to produce a 2 1/2 hour show involving choir, dance, vocal, drama and orchestra. The show aims to offer an invaluable performing arts opportunity to Victoria’s government school students and to showcase the talent that exists in our wonderful government schools. Leading up to the performance in June, Lachlan will be involved in many hours of rehearsals with the band rehearsing every fortnight on Sundays for seven hours per session. It will be an amazing experience for all of the young musicians taking part and one which Lachlan will never forget.

Mr Troy Rogers – Music Co-Ordinator
Have you received the Schoolkids Bonus?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefited from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting www.australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

Community Announcements

Looking for Volunteer Host Families

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting you to experience another culture in your own home by becoming a volunteer host family to an international student arriving in July 2013. Our students from Italy, Belgium, Finland, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands and South America are looking forward to experiencing life in Australia, making new friends and becoming a member of an Australian family soon. Find out more! Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved. Take the next step and contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family.

Sylvia Kelly, Manager – Inbound Exchange Programs Phone: 1300 884 733 Email: info@wep.org.au Online: http://www.wep.org.au

Drama for Everyday Life Program

We all need a little help from our friends from time to time. Friendship enriches our lives, helps us get through the tough times, celebrate the good times. It’s well established that people who have even just one friend throughout their school years will handle transitions and stress better and are less susceptible to bullying. Our Drama for Everyday Life Program helps individuals learn how to make friends, keep them and handle teasing and bullying.

You are invited to attend a complimentary Information evening;

Confidence in the Social World: Handling Teasing and Bullying 7.30 pm Thursday, 14 March 2013
Voice and Movement - 34A Hamilton St, Mont Albert

City of Whitehorse – Parent Information Session

Rod Dungan – Founder of Thriving Youth, Director and Trainer for Thriving Youth Australia presents Living Harmoniously with your Teenager on Wednesday 17th April 2013 from 7.30 to 9.30pm in the Waratah Room, The Whitehorse Centre, 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading. $2 gold coin donation. Booking required. Enquiries: 9262 6332

Are you interested in Event Management?

Live Music, Events, Film Festivals, Cultural Events.

Whitehorse Youth Services is calling for interest in our 2013 FReeZA Event Management Team. As a team member you will meet fortnightly to organize events for young people in the City of Whitehorse. You will gain film and music industry experience and learn about planning, developing and managing events.

If you are 12-24 years old and this is for you, contact Amy McDonald on 9898 9340 or email amy.mcdonald@whitehorse.vic.gov.au