Principal’s Report

Welcome back to Term 2!

This is an incredibly busy term for everyone and we have some great activities planned for all our students. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that should you have any concerns about your child’s schooling at Box Hill High, please don’t hesitate to contact the school directly with your concerns. It is important that we work together to try to resolve any issues that you may have. You may contact the classroom teacher via Compass, or the appropriate Year Level Coordinator or welfare coordinators, or Mr Davis for Junior School or Ms Iacopino for Senior School, or myself via email.

The term started with a whole school activity – the school cross country competition. It was a great afternoon, thanks to Mr Whitehead, the PE staff and all the other staff who helped make the competition such a success.

We also had our first Parent/Teacher Interviews afternoon. It was great to see so many parents attending! I hope that you had very fruitful discussions with your children’s teachers.

The Open Day was a great success. Many people worked so hard to make it a great afternoon. I would like to sincerely thank:
- Mrs Cohen for her superb organisation of the afternoon
- the band for their fabulous performances under the wonderful guidance of Mr Corcoran
- all the student helpers – you were outstanding ambassadors for our school
- our wonderful comperes, our School Captains and Year 7 students who gave excellent speeches about their school experiences.
- our wonderful office staff for organising the brochures and the handouts
- Mr Jellinek for his many presentations
- Ms Bottrell and Mr Bond for their speeches and support, and
- our wonderful teachers who prepared rooms and carried out some great activities for the children to try.

Many other exciting activities have been planned for this term including:

- Course and careers advice for senior students
- An exciting welfare initiative – The theme for this term is “Friends and fellow life travellers.” Our focus is on helping our students to develop good friendships and healthy relationships with others and help them to deal with difference. More details will become available as the term progresses.

The State Government has kindly given our school an additional $43,516 for maintenance which is greatly appreciated and will be well spent.

Open Day 2013

This year’s Open Day was held during the afternoon of Tuesday April 23rd. Whilst most of the school was dismissed at the start of lunchtime to enable teachers to set up rooms displaying each subject and faculty, many students remained at school to assist in what was an extremely successful Open Day.

It never ceases to amaze me that our students are proud to show off their school. I was inundated with volunteers to be Tour Guides! Some of the Tour Guides became sport demonstrators. We were able to use our gymnasium for sporting activities during this daytime event, as after school sports begin after 4.30pm!

Ms Kate Mitchell, Principal
Student speakers for the sessions in the Hall were Luca Buono, Jessica Campbell, Angelo Christakakis, Hayley Eom and Chan Young Pak from Year 7 and our School Captain, Alex Anderson and the Deputy School Captain, Emily Wilton. Ananya Sundar and Aaron Williams from S1 compered the afternoon.

I would like to thank the staff for arranging wonderful displays and activities for our visitors and all the students who were so helpful before and during the afternoon.

Elizabeth Cohen, Transition Support

NAPLAN 2013

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2013 for Years 7, S1, 9 and S3 students will be held on Tuesday 14 May, Wednesday 15 May and Thursday 16 May 2013. NAPLAN tests assess student knowledge and skills in Writing, Reading, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

The results of the tests provide information for students, parents, teachers and principals which can be used to improve student achievement.

All students are expected to participate in the NAPLAN tests. During test week, catch-up tests will be available for individual students who are absent on test days. These students may undertake catch-up tests on the days in the test week after the scheduled test, up to and including Friday 17 May 2013.

Exemptions may be granted to students with significant intellectual disabilities and to students who have been learning English for less than one year.

If your child is eligible for an exemption, you should discuss this with Mr Davis prior to the tests. Parental consent is required before an exemption is granted.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents and carers in consultation with the principal. If, after consultation, you decide to withdraw your child, you must sign a Student Withdrawal form. These forms are available from the school.

Later in the year you will receive your child’s personal NAPLAN report. The report will describe your child’s particular skills in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy. The report will also show how your child performed in relation to national minimum standards. These describe the minimum acceptable standards for students across Australia.

I am confident that the information you receive as a result of your child’s participation in the NAPLAN tests will be valuable in helping you to assess your child’s progress in literacy and numeracy.

For more information about the tests, please visit the VCAA website at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au or the NAP website at www.nap.edu.au

Mr Neil Davis, Assistant Principal

Art Show Award

Congratulations to Emma (Yr11) on winning another award for her Archibox People’s Choice Award winning painting entitled “Effy”. This painting was recently entered into the Amaroo Neighbourhood Centre Annual Art Show, and once again was awarded the People’s Choice Award in this exhibition. Well done Emma.
Would you like to Win an iPad? – complete a short survey to go into the draw

The Ministerial Advisory Council on Public Libraries is conducting a landmark review of Victoria’s public libraries and wants your feedback on the ‘Victorian Library’ concept. What do you think of having one library card to use at any public library in Victoria, or access to all public library books across the State?

As access to new technologies and social media increases, what can we do to meet the needs of future generations?

Parents, teachers and friends can complete a 5-minute online survey and go into the draw to win a 32GB iPad valued at $649. Comments close 16 May 2013.


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 benefitted 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

Experience Life as an Overseas Teenager with WEP!

WEP’s not-for-profit student exchange programs give secondary students the opportunity to choose from over 20 countries to live and study for a summer, semester or year. Have the time of your life! Our volunteer host families look forward to inviting you into their community, sharing their culture with you and learning about yours. WEP is also offering scholarships towards semester and year-long student exchange programs to Argentina and China commencing in 2014.

Upcoming Information Sessions in Melbourne
Sat, 11 May (12 noon - 4pm)  OPEN DAY!      Wed, 22  May (7:30-9pm)

Find Out More!
If you would like to go overseas or invite an exchange student into your family, simply request a FREE information pack, including our brochure, fee sheet and FREE application form:
- visit www.wep.org.au      - email info@wep.org.au      - call 1300 884 733
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

Anyone who dreams about been on radio - this is the perfect opportunity to do it now!!

Smash FM are a very popular social media radio station based in Boronia in Melbourne’s Outer East. Smash FM prides itself on broadcasting local content and promoting local sporting clubs each and every week no matter what the sport is. That’s why we are Melbourne’s home of local sport and we will continue to pride ourselves in connecting the local sports to the world.

HOW TO BE INVOLVED AT SMASH FM:-

Ever thought of becoming broadcaster and hosting your own show? Ever thought of becoming the next Bruce McAvaney or becoming the next super star commentator?

Smash FM gives volunteers an opportunity to experience different areas of the media and gives them hands on experience, which is advantageous for those hoping to forge a career in this area.

We need to fill the following roles:- Secretary, Treasurer, Sponsorship Manager, Radio Presenters, Sports Commentators

If you are interested in being part of one of the best local community social network radio station, whether you are a former radio presenter, budding media student or just love becoming a radio presenter or part of a team in other ways, contact Smash FM’s owner Will Taylor via email, providing your resume / background information to smashfmmelb@gmail.com or call him on 0405 284 442 for more information

Learn about yourself!

As Marcel Proust, a late 19th century novelist wrote: “the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes”. Volunteer to host an international high school student in July 2013 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique and rewarding opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for one term, one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Spain. They will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at our website www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.

Youth Bands Program

Calling all young musicians:

We invite all young brass, woodwind and percussion players to play with us in:

The John Mallinson Youth Band (= AMEB 4-6)
The Wilf Dyason Wind Ensemble (= AMEB 2-3)

Scholarships available

Time: every Saturday afternoon
Email: melaniebennetts@optusnet.com.au