As another busy year draws to a close it is good to reflect on the events and wonderful achievements that have occurred at Box Hill High School during 2012.

We commenced the year thinking about “creativity”. Richard Florida suggests that “Human creativity is the ultimate human resource.” As a school, we continue to develop and offer opportunities for our students to be creative at school both inside and outside their classrooms and this report will highlight many examples.

In the area of Performing Arts, it was a privilege to see the excellent VCE Drama performances that were held during Term 1. Students wrote and acted in short plays that they created around Dr Seuss’ book, “The Lorax”. Then in Term 2, an outstanding school production, Shakespeare’s “The Taming of the Shrew” was staged. What a wonderful production it was! The acting and staging were absolutely superb. We had full houses almost every night and audiences were impressed and delighted by the quality of the production. Congratulations to all the students who participated in the production. Thanks also to Mr Wilkins, Mrs Davidson and Ms Longden for their work as directors and producers.

The outstanding talent of our students was further showcased through the school’s annual “Talent Quest” competition. We also enjoyed the musical talents of our students in concerts and individual performances throughout the year. This year Masha Roitman, Claire Ferguson and Jeremy Hargreaves represented the school with leading roles in the State Schools Spectacular. The quality of their performances was extraordinary. And, in a very exciting initiative, students under the direction of Masha Roitman and Samantha Guest (Year 12), wrote, created, staged and performed their own musical entitled “Six Feet Underground”. Phoebe Lam was the outstanding musical director who also wrote four original songs for the production. Richard Farr was stage manager and led a crew of 10 students who ensured that the performances ran like clockwork. I was so impressed by the quality of the performance, the excellent staging, the great singing, the superb dancing, the wonderful costumes and incredible band! For me, what made this production even more extraordinary was the fact that it was totally run by our students. Our students are truly inspirational!

Creativity also shone during English week, where competitions, creative writing and many other opportunities for student skills and talents were showcased. In the German film-making competition the BHHS film, “Alle Wege führen nach Rom” won first place. This is the third year in a row that a Box Hill High School film has won this award! Students have also developed incredibly creative projects for the Year 7 Night of Notables, the Year 9 Australia Project, Year 10 ACE films and also the Science Project. I was so impressed by the standards of research and the quality and variety of the finished products. The best Science projects were submitted as part of the Science Talent Search competition. Here again, BHHS students were incredibly successful with one student winning a major bursary and 7 students winning minor bursaries.

In the area of the Visual Arts, our students continue to shine and showcase their creative talents. Ms Lambrianidis and Mrs Nevard organised a design competition to decorate “Mali” the elephant. The winner of this competition was Natalie Wu who together with an amazing team of talented young artists, then decorated Mali. It was great to see the design process in action and the finished product is absolutely beautiful. We also held the Archibox Exhibition in December this year. This exhibition is another extraordinary event that showcases the talent of our amazing art students. Thanks to the Art Faculty for mentoring our students and continuing to develop their artistic talents!

Creativity continues to be clearly evident through the activities of the Faculty of Engineering. Lead by Mr Perry, and supported by many past students and parents, 82 students developed and created 24 unique cars. In the Victorian event, BHHS cars were placed 1st and 3rd. This is an outstanding achievement. In the area of Robocup – 12 robots were built by 12 teams. 24 students competed in the Soccer, Rescue and Dance Theatre competitions. BHHS students were placed second in the Dance Theatre competition. Congratulations and sincere thanks to all in the Faculty of Engineering Technology!
This year has also seen many great school-wide initiatives, including the introduction of Compass Community Portal for parents, students and staff, Thinkpads for all Year 10 students, and iPads for all Year 9 students in 2013. We also introduced an outstanding variety of S4 subjects which will engage and extend our S4 and Year 10 students in 2013.

Further opportunities to engage and challenge our students were offered through the numerous clubs. Teachers supported 45 clubs this year giving students the opportunities to explore many different options including learning the ukulele, playing chess, being part of the knitting club or the Dr Who Appreciation Society.

The student welfare team launched a whole school approach to welfare with an emphasis on prevention and developing resilience. Through our initiative of “Eat, Sleep, Move” students were engaged through a variety of creative ways with fun ideas and strategies to try.

We were delighted to welcome a new Careers Advisor to our staff. Ms Riding organised Trade Tasters for all our Year 8 and 9 students, developed a team to ensure that all our students from Years 10 onwards were provided with opportunities for course advise and future planning for careers. We also ran an incredibly successful VCE Expo evening in July.

During this year, Ms Evans Hayes left us to take up a position at another school and several of our staff are retiring from the teaching service - Mrs Vanessa Reynolds, Mrs Gail Reynolds, Mr Alan Reynolds, Mr Doug Smidt, and Mrs Elizabeth Cohen. Ms Stephanie Davidson and Ms Sam Leahy are also leaving us to take up positions at other schools. We will greatly miss all these teachers skills and talents but we wish them great health and much happiness for the future.

On behalf of the school community, I would like to acknowledge and thank the work our School Councillors, led by Mr Marcus Balon, our wonderful School Council President; the parents who volunteer and work in the school canteen; and the parents who support the Faculty of Engineering Technology and our school productions.

I would also like to thank all the students who took on leadership responsibilities this year, whether as Prefects, House Captains, Music and Drama Captains, Form Captains, Debating Captains, Environment Captains or members of the SRC. You have been excellent role models and leaders. I would especially like to acknowledge the work of our outstanding School Captain Silkra Harvey and our School Vice-Captain Liam Hartley.

Thank you to our wonderful Assistant Principals, Mr Davis and Mrs Iacopino; our superb Business Manager, Mrs Cooper; our amazing educational support staff; and the teachers who in addition to their teaching have taken on important leadership roles within the school – we could not run a successful school without you! Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of our teaching staff who have worked tirelessly to encourage, teach and engage all our students. Teaching is not an easy job and it is frequently thankless; but good teachers are crucial in today’s society as they shape and create the talents of the future generation. We are extremely fortunate at BHHS to have an incredible group of talented, creative, dedicated and extremely hardworking teachers!

I wish you all a very merry Christmas and safe and happy holidays and we are really looking forward to a fabulous 2013!

Mrs Kate Mitchell –Principal

Congratulations Gemma McMahon

Congratulations to former student Gemma McMahon for successfully gaining a place at the prestigious Vice-Chancellor’s Ancora Imparo Student Leadership Program in 2013 at Monash University. We wish her all the best in the highly regarded program. The Ancora Imparo Program is named in honor of Monash University’s motto (Ancora Imparo – I am still learning).

Booklists for 2013

Booklists for 2013 have been distributed to students recently. If you prefer to order on-line, you can access on-line ordering through Campion - you will find the link on our website under the Parents/Information for Parents tab, or click here http://www.campion.com.au/

Sustainable School Shop offers a service for buying and selling second-hand books and uniforms. You can access their website through the same link or click here http://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au/ to place ads for both buying and selling your books.
Model Solar Car News

It’s been a big week for our model solar car students; pursuit events, international visitors & an Australian international Model Solar Challenge, and all this just two weeks after the Victorian Model Solar Vehicle Challenge.

To start it all off on Monday 19th November, 16 of our 24 teams competed in the second annual Box Hill High School Pursuit event. Most of these teams spent many of their afternoons and lunchtimes repairing and improving their cars from the Victorian event to make them more competitive for our internal challenge.

We ran the pursuit event on our oval blue track. Starting teams at the same time on opposite sides of the track, a car needed to catch the other car to win. We had many close races with some cars taking more than ten laps to catch each other, including our final between “Gypsy Caravan” and “Stay Calm” which after running well into period five was deemed a draw as neither car was gaining on the other. The first four places were rounded out with “Photon” in third place and “Contagious” forth. Unfortunately several cars came off the track resulting in some spectacular crashes.

On Thursday 22nd we had international competitors for the Australian International Model Solar Challenge (AIMSC) from Taiwan visit Box Hill to finish and test their cars for the event. They met with Mrs Mitchell for lunch before proceeding to room 219 to talk to Mr Perry and prepare their cars for the event that weekend.

After working madly all week (including the previous Saturday) to prepare their cars, the BHHS students from teams “Oscar”, “Honeycomb” and “Super Luxurious Omnidirectional Whatchamajigger” were up bright and early at Scienceworks along with our Taiwanese visitors and teams from all over Australia competing in the Australian International Model Solar Car Challenge. On the Saturday teams competed in round robin races and went to interviews in which they discussed how their cars were designed, built and how they work. The Sunday racing was fierce as cars knocked each other out to get to the finals; all the Box Hill teams performed admirably but were knocked out in rounds 3 and 4.

We would like to thank the students who represented our school at the national event for their excellent behaviour as well as students and parents who supported our teams and in some cases assisted the national committee with running the event.

Mr Steven Perry – Faculty of Engineering
The Annual Archibox Exhibition

(Left) Laura (Deakin Intern), Donna Nevard, Professional Artist Anna Minardo and Olga Lambrianidis.

(Left) Judges Choice artwork.

Mrs Donna Nevard & Ms Olga Lambrianidis – Art Co-Ordinators

2012 Night of the Notables

The annual Night of the Notables presentation to the Year 7 parents was held on Tuesday December 4th. Students had spent the previous term researching and becoming an expert on their chosen notable person. Each student dressed in costume and presented a quote or action for which their notable was famous, in the school hall, class by class. Then parents joined their children in the classrooms around the quadrangle, and the Library and Gallery space, to see the spectacular displays and to meet the notables.

This year we had some fantastic displays with unusual choices like Dr Suess, Archimedes, Judy Garland, Helen Keller, Adriano Zumbo, artist, Berthe Morisot and Steve Jobs. The students enjoyed the chance to display their new knowledge and to talk about why they found their person so noteworthy. Parents, teachers and other students enjoyed the interactivity of displays and particularly the delicious food that was often a feature.

Thanks to all the SOSE teachers and library staff involved beforehand and on the night, and Ms Touvoli who presented the students to their parents and to everyone who helped make this night a wonderful success.
Music, Music, Music…

It has been a busy yet uplifting end to the year for our Junior Musicians. Students have participated in a band workshop, played at the Transition Evenings, performed at the local Probus club and performed for parents at a “Voice” night and Junior Music Night.

A big thank you to Elizabeth Cohen for organising the Choir to perform at the Surrey Hills Probus Club. Students sang at their Christmas function helping provide a festive atmosphere and it gave our students another performance opportunity. Voice students also sang solo for parents and friends. A nerve-racking experience for some but a valuable experience all the same. Elizabeth Cohen has been an amazing presence at Box Hill High School since arriving in 1997 and the Music Department will not be the same without her. We wish her well in her retirement. Elizabeth will be seen around the school from time to time as she continues her role as Transition Support.

The Year 7 Concert Band is a 32 piece band and has been rehearsing every Wednesday lunchtime throughout the year. Thank you to all the Year 7 students for giving up their lunchtimes to improve their ensemble skills. The ensemble had two performances to end the year. The first was an all day workshop with Warrandyte High School and Mullauna College students. The workshop took place in SATUREN and proved to be the perfect venue for the 70 piece band that was created. Students rehearsed three pieces for the day before recording their efforts at the conclusion of the day. An excellent day was had by all and we are looking forward to doing it all again next year. Thanks to Gianni Marinucci (brass teacher) and Vivienne Tate (flute teacher) for helping make the day a huge success.

The Junior Music Night was held in the hall on Wednesday 28th November and offered one last chance for the Year 7 Band, Concert Band and Guitar Ensemble to perform for family and friends. The night was very warm but students coped very well with the conditions. Our young musicians performed to a high standard on the night and are to be congratulated for their professional attitude. I am looking forward to seeing the obvious talent flourish over the coming years. Thanks to Gianni Marinucci, Adam Watson and Travis Easton for their support on the night.

Two small ensembles were created for the Transition Evenings and Archibox Exhibition this year. On the first Transition Evening, an alto saxophone quartet performed “Eye of the Tiger”. Ting Ting Y, Jake T, Oscar K and Jason K made up the group and performed admirably. The second evening saw a flute quartet perform “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”. Thanks to Bob D, Emma J, Ango Z and Pamoda G for a lovely performance. The opening for the Archibox (Art) Exhibition held on Friday 7th December was accompanied by a flute trio which helped enhance the atmosphere, Thank you Emma W, Ango and Pamoda for your efforts.

It has been a very busy term of music making which included a Primary School visit by the Wind Symphony and a performance by the Stage Band at Dizzy’s Jazz Club in Richmond. We look forward to hearing the Wind Symphony, Choir and some smaller ensembles play at this year’s Presentation Night. Thanks again to all students, staff and parents for their support this year and we look forward to an exciting year in 2013.

*Troy Rogers - Instrumental Music Co-ordinator*
Australia Day 2013...
Yes we are open!

We know that the back-to-school rush can be a busy time of the year, so PSW Kew East will be open the 2013 Australia Day Weekend to provide you with more convenient shopping hours!

AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND TRADING TIMES:
Saturday 26 January  8:30am to 5:00pm
Sunday 27 January  10:00am to 6:00pm
Monday 28 January  8:30am to 5:00pm

PSW Kew East
12 Strathalbyn Street
Kew East, VIC, 3102
Phone: 03 9899 7800

REGULAR TRADING HOURS:
Monday to Friday: 8:30am to 5:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am to 5:00pm

Please note our store will be closed from Friday 21 December and will reopen Thursday 3 January 2013.

Thank you for your patience during this time, we look forward to serving you when we re-open.

Wishing you a fantastic Australia Day.