Principal's Report

Term 3 is certainly providing a lot of exciting opportunities for our students as we enjoy our themed approach to student welfare. "Move" week was an incredible success with many great activities being offered to our students. These included a 'footy' day, staff/student matches, Zumba and many other exciting initiatives. Last week we enjoyed English week. The students had the opportunity to participate in a great variety of activities that covered reading and sharing books, writing and competing in spelling bee competitions. Thank you to the English staff for organising an excellent week!

This week we are enjoying “Sleep” week. There is a lot of information around the school about the importance of sleep and helping our students to develop good relaxation techniques. The Satern facility has been turned into a quiet relaxing area for the students at lunchtime with herbal teas, relaxing music and silent reading areas available. Our senior students had the opportunity to take a Yoga class which they found to be extremely beneficial. Parents, it is really important that screens are turned off at least an hour before bed time and caffeine drinks are limited so that your children can have a restful night’s sleep.

Students are also busy exploring the options for next year as they participate in the course advising process. All students from Years 9 – 11 were supported in this process and had one-on-one interviews with the course advising team of teachers. It is really important that our parents help our students to explore the various tertiary options and visit the tertiary institutions as the various “Open Days” occur.

Congratulations to our students who participated in the Science competition. This year we had 287 students participate. They were awarded 34 High Distinctions, 117 Distinctions, 99 Credits and 37 participation certificates. These are outstanding results by any measure!

Finally we said farewell to Ms Chow who is taking maternity leave. We will miss her but wish her all the best. Welcome to Mr Clarke who will be taking her classes for the rest of this year.

Mrs Kate Mitchell, Principal

BHHS AEU Sub-Branch

As you are probably aware, the Teacher’s Union is currently attempting to negotiate a new workplace agreement for us with the State Government. This process occurs every few years when the previous Agreement expires. There is no automatic increase in salaries to reflect inflation or a review of the reasonableness of existing work conditions. Work conditions have continued to deteriorate over time for teachers (and therefore for students). This time we are being offered 2½% salary increase and we will be expected to teach an hour more a week – this is an hour less we will have available to provide the full range of academic and extra curricula activities that we believe are an essential part of a young person’s education. The Government is also planning to introduce performance pay, guaranteed to produce a competitive environment, when we pride ourselves on the collegiate support we provide one another. After nearly a year of consultation, the Government has been totally unprepared to negotiate on any of these points. Our Union has therefore implemented a series of bans which began with a stop work late last term.

One such ban proposed by the Union is for staff to not take extra classes. These occur due to teachers being away due to illness, excursions or professional development. This Union proposal encourages us to highlight the work we do in addition to teaching our own classes.

The Union members at Box Hill High School, however, have decided not to implement this ban. Whilst we support the idea of highlighting the extra work that we do, the cost of implementation will be born by the school in hiring extra staff. In addition to the non-Union members who would have been impacted by this action, members would have been discouraged from taking sick leave or family leave due to the disruption it would cause. We do not wish to cause any disruptions to the students’ education or inconvenience to their family and the school unless it is absolutely necessary to secure the conditions which ensure your children are encouraged, supported and developed to the best of our ability.
We look forward to your continued support as we fight to retain the conditions which allow for the optimum outcomes for your children.

The BHHS AEU Sub-branch

Parent Teacher Interviews

The next round of Parent Teacher Interviews will be open to make bookings from 9:00am on Thursday 23rd August. You will be able to make appointments with your child’s teachers by logging in to Compass.

Eat Sleep Move

This week’s theme is “Sleep”. We are doing some interesting activities around the theme of sleep this week. For more details refer to the pdf documents attached to this newsletter.

SEAL Parents Support Meeting

Unfortunately, the next scheduled meeting of the SEAL Parents Support Group has had to be cancelled. The final meeting for the year will be on 30 October as scheduled.

If you have any urgent issues, I am more than happy to attend to any questions you have via phone, email or to set up a meeting in person. If you have issues concerning the specific needs of your child in particular, please remember that the year level coordinators are always on hand.

Mr Martin Jellinek - Coordinator of Gifted Education
jellinek.martin.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

VCE English Lectures

The first of three VCE English lectures was held at lunchtime on Wednesday 22nd August. The lecture was presented by Ms Gleeson and covered a range of characters, themes and issues from the Year 12 text “Year of Wonders”. It was impressive to see such a great turnout of Year 12 students eager to revise before their upcoming SAC. The next English lecture will be presented by Ms Starbuck at lunchtime on Wednesday 12th September, exploring the Australian play “Cosi” by Louis Nowra. This will be followed by an Exam Revision lecture from Ms Reynolds on Wednesday 10th October in preparation for the English exam on Thursday 1st November. We look forward to seeing many more Year 12 English students at these upcoming events!

Ms Reynolds, Ms Starbuck and Ms Gleeson

The Reading Hour

The Children's Book Council of Australia has designated August 20-24th as Book Week, and the Library has set up special displays of the books which were shortlisted this year for prizes. Book of the Year: Older Readers was won by Scot Gardner for his novel, The Dead I Know. Two novels were made Honour Books in this category, A Straight Line to My Heart by Bill Condon, and Robert Newton’s When We Were Two.

Book Week culminates in The Reading Hour, this Saturday, August 25, with events at all public libraries and many bookshops. Parents are being encouraged to ensure that they spend just 10 minutes a day, an hour a week reading with their children. As I said at a recent SEAL evening, we realise at this school, that we are ‘preaching to the converted’ when we encourage more reading amongst your children!

Students are invited to fill out the Book Week crossword (ask at our Library desk) or to bring along a book from home that they no longer need and swap it for someone else's book (for a gold coin) at our Great Book Swap. We are raising money for the Indigenous Literacy Program. This is a great way to find something new to read and you can clean out your shelves at the same time! All donations will be kindly accepted. Happy Reading!

Ms Dee McQueen - Teacher Librarian
Past Parents Association Reunion

Sixteen of our talented musicians presented a wonderful concert today (Wed 22 August) at St. Aidan’s Anglican Church in Box Hill South. Our program featured some soloists - VCE Music Performance students Tim Hughes, David Chandler, Anne Mather, Catriona Laing, Rohan Nest and Katherine Sienkiewicz, and Tiffany Choong S3 and Jordan Stacey S1. We also performed some group items involving the VCE Choir, School Choir and whole group items. The students acquitted themselves extremely well and were fabulous representatives of Box Hill High School.

Thanks to all of our performers.

Ms Elizabeth Cohen (VCE Music teacher and Voice Teacher)

China Study Tour

Congratulations going on a two-week Study Tour in China in September, sponsored by the Office of the Chinese Council International (HANBAN)! We wish them all the best and hope they have the greatest experience there!

“When Miss Lee told us about this amazing opportunity, I knew I would be interested in this. I applied for the China Study Tour because I knew it would be a great experience. As I nervously waited for 1 month, hoping that I would get in, I received the letter and was blown away and so pumped. When I read that I was chosen, I pictured myself living in China for two weeks, and living the life of a Chinese school boy. I cannot wait for this!”

Chang Xu

Night of Notables

This year’s Night of Notables for all Year 7 students will be held on Tuesday 4th December. For further information, please refer to pdf documents attached or refer to the events calendar on our school website.

Mali the Elephant Design

Progress on Mali is going well, thank you to all the students who have contributed to date, especially Natalie of year 10, our designer and artistic director.

Mrs Nevard and Ms Lambrianidis

Host Families Needed For New Exchange Students

Girls and boys aged 15-18 from Italy, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Japan, Brazil, Sweden and Austria are hoping to come here to study for 5 or 10 months from July this year but need a willing volunteer family to host and welcome them. If you feel you could do this for them for the length of their stay or even some of it, please contact Klaus Schumann (WEP Community Coordinator) on (03)97584279 and let me know of your interest.

Sell previous years unwanted Second-hand Textbooks?

$1.00/book to advertise - Now is the time to advertise all those unwanted textbooks via the Sustainable School Shop’s Second-hand Textbook Trading System. List your books for sale now, and they will be the first to sell at the busy end of year trading (Ads last 12 months). Simply register at www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au and follow the prompts. Calculators, Sporting items, Musical items and many more items can all be advertised and traded. Excellent Helplines are provided by the Sustainable School Shop, please call 1300 683 337.