Principal's Report

Term 3 has taken off with an excellent start. Today we launched our Whole School Wellbeing Initiative – “Eat, Sleep, Move”. As a school we wish to promote healthy living and lifestyles amongst our staff and students. The emphasis of this initiative is on being proactive and helping students to develop good habits and good preventative strategies, rather than reacting to issues once they arise. Students were told about this new approach to wellbeing at assembly and then were given the opportunity to have a delicious apple or orange for their morning tea this morning.

We are taking a themed approach and this term we will focus on “healthy eating”, “exercise” and “how to develop good sleeping habits”. Each theme will be featured for one week during the term. We will have many school based activities, which will be fun and also educational and we will also have lots of information in the newsletter for parents – so stay tuned!

The school production, “Taming of the Shrew” commences Wednesday 1st August and continues until Saturday 4th August. Over 70 students are part of the production and they have been rehearsing hard for months! This morning we enjoyed an excerpt from the play. It was fabulous and is certainly not a production to be missed! Please make sure that you and your family support our school production. You can purchase tickets either through the office or on-line via our website.

During the final week of Term 2 we had three important events:

On Wednesday 27 June 2012 the VCE Coordinator Deborah Touvoli and Further Mathematics teacher Diana Willshire were invited to attend the 2012 Premier’s VCE Awards Ceremony. This event celebrated the top students in all year 12 subjects. Not only did Box Hill High School student Siddharth Jain achieve a 50 in 2011, he was one of the 13 Further Mathematics students out of 30,732 students who undertook this study, to achieve recognition as a top student.

We would like to congratulate Siddharth on his hard work and achievement and encourage all current and future year 12 students to aim for excellence.

I was also delighted to attend the Winter Concert. It was a wonderful evening and I would like to congratulate all the staff who teach music to our very talented students.

Finally I attended the finals of the Talent Quest! What an incredibly talented group of students we have at our school! Congratulations to the Prefects for organising all the heats, the final and acting as wonderful comperes for each show!

This is a very busy and important term, with our Year 12 students working hard to prepare for their exams. It is also the time when our Year 12 students visit Open Days at Universities and TAFEs as they explore the options that interest them.

All other students will be making selections for the electives and courses that they wish to take next year at school. All students in Years 9 - 11 will be given the opportunity to plan their subjects, get input from existing teachers, explore prerequisites for University and TAFE course. They will be supported in this process, by a one-on–one session with their course advisors. We ask you as parents to explore options with your children, discuss course selections and sign off on the final choices that have been agreed to. It is important that the children pick subjects that they need, that they enjoy and that they are good at. But parents please remember the future career choice is ultimately up to the child, we can advise and suggest but as Therese Rein said in a recent article in the Age newspaper, we need to allow children to find their “field of fascination” “the thing that turns their lights on”. Or as Sir Ken Robinson articulates, we need to help children discover the “Element”, the “sweet spot” where the things we love to do and are good at come together.

I would like to welcome Samantha Leahy to our staff. She is replacing Ms Reynolds whilst she is on Long Service Leave this term.

Kate Mitchell, Principal
Early Finish on Thursday
Please note that there will be an early finish on Thursday 26 July at 2:30pm due to the VCE Expo.

VCE Expo - 26 July from 5pm to 7pm
Individual Course Advising will be commencing shortly. It is extremely important that students are aware of the wide variety of subjects on offer and can make careful, informed decisions about their subject selection for 2013. Therefore, it is vital that students attend with their parents.

You can find out all the answers to questions such as:

- What is the VCE?
- What are the subject's pre-requisites?
- How much work will be involved?
- How difficult is the study?

Students are parents can talk to teachers about specific course content, assessment, pre-requisites etc.

Parents of students in 9A, B, C, D, E need to book into a session with Ms. Charles explaining your options in Year 10 at either 5pm or 6:15pm in SATERN.

Parents of students in S3X, S3Y, S3Z or in Year 10 need to book into a session with Ms. Touvoli, where she will explain the VCE, at either 5pm or 6.15pm in the VCE common room. Bookings available on our website.

There are some new S4 subjects on offer for 2013. Full descriptions are available on our website.

Taming of the Shrew - School Production
Production week is upon us! The students have been working incredibly hard to harness their inner Shakespeare and the results are fantastic! Set in 1950s outback Australia but keeping Shakespeare’s original text, The Taming of the Shrew is funny, clever and shows off the talented performers we have at Box Hill. Over Term 2 and the holidays students have been rehearsing and this week they are in the Hall from 10am – 6pm each day in the final lead up to performance. It is an immense effort from our cast, crew and teachers which will be available for you to view over four nights next week from Wednesday 1st August through to Saturday 4th August. Shows start at 7:30pm in the hall and tickets are available through the office for cash or online via credit card via our website.

Tickets are $15 for an adult, $10 for a concession / child, $40 for a family of two adults and two children. Book your seats now and show your support for our terrific cast!

Sports News

Athletics Day
The Annual Interhouse Athletics Sports Day is to be held on Monday 6 August. This is a compulsory event for all students. Full details of the schedule and requirements for the day are available on the calendar on our website.

Box Hill High After School Basketball Training
There is an elite basketball program for Box Hill High students being run on Mondays after school until 4pm for basketball players wanting to be more serious about their basketball. It is also encouraged for players wanting to represent our school at the Intermediate (Years 9&10) and Years 7 & 8 interschool competitions later this term to attend. Trainings are taken by an ex professional player and coach. Program is open for boys and girls. For More information contact Mark Whitehead at the school or via email whitehead.mark.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Congratulations to our Cross Country Stars!!!!!
The regional cross country was held at the end of last term and 28 of our students qualified through the District competition. Our students did us proud and with four of our students qualifying for the state finals and our 14 year old boys team finished runners up!!! Congratulations to Kia James, Noah McCartin-Collins, Alexander Ritchie and Tom Roddis from the 14 Boys team.

Congratulations to our State Finalists!!
Rami Jarrar who finished 46th, Victoria Cann 41st, Alexander Ritchie 26th, and Brigette Wohluter 20th in the State.
Melbourne author Tony Birch: Year 12 and Craft of Writing Guest Speaker

On Thursday 19th July, Year 12 English students and S4 Craft of Writing students attended a lecture from Melbourne author Tony Birch. Birch has recently been nominated for the prestigious Miles Franklin Award for his novel Blood. Both Blood and his earlier work Shadowboxing deal with ideas of personal redemption and masculinity as well as evoking a strong sense of ‘place’ as he writes about inner-city Melbourne.

Birch’s ability to evoke Australian landscapes brought him to Box Hill High School to give a lecture and workshop on how our students can draw on their observations of their own landscape and use them in their own writing. This is particularly relevant to our Year 12 English students as they explore the Context The Imaginative Landscape and prepare for their exam in September.

Birch delighted students with excerpts from both his novels as well as stories from his own childhood and teenage years, including his close connection with the Yarra River and fond memories of skipping school to lie in the mud on the banks of the Yarra (although this was certainly not encouraged!).

Our students were certainly very lucky to have Birch give insights into his writing process and show them ideas for establishing their own creative practices. Birch also made a point of acknowledging how attentive and polite all of the attendees were and encouraged them to pursue their writing in the future. A big thanks is due to Ms Imogen Melgaard for organising the event and for the rest of the English faculty and staff for their support.

Ms Erin Gleeson

The Reading Hour

Many of you will know that 2012 is the National Year of Reading and our school library has been featuring different book displays to entice the students to read more widely, and encouraging students to enter competitions like the Reading Superheroes, run by Scholastic (See scholastic.com.au/minisites/readingsuperhero). August 25th has been set aside as a National day of Reading, with events and activities to encourage families to spend time together reading, so you might notice the advertising in local libraries.

Reading together for just ten minutes a day, most days, gives our children the best chance of becoming a good reader, with the attendant educational and social benefits this provides. Hopefully you started reading and sharing books, and rhymes with your children as soon as they were born, but its never too late to spend time together reading a favourite from your own childhood, or sharing a more adult story, like The Lord of the Rings which you can read aloud. Most children love to hear serialised stories which they can follow each night and it’s a great way to spend some ‘down’ time together.

On August 25th, and leading up to this day, there will be many events scheduled at local libraries, and at Dymocks bookstores so look out for these. The actual Reading Hour is from 6.00 - 7.00 pm, but reading anytime, including novels, newspapers, the Footy Record or a favourite magazine is encouraged, especially if you make it a family affair! Our school library will be celebrating Book Week at the end of August and also beginning The Great Book Swap, to raise money for the Indigenous Literacy Project. Students are encouraged to bring along a book (in good condition) which they no longer need and to swap it for someone else's book. This costs a gold coin donation. It's a great way to find something new to read and a good cause that we have been supporting at Box Hill High School for the past few years. If anyone has a book at home they would like to donate we are always appreciative, particularly if you would like us to add it to the school collection.

Ms Dee McQueen, Teacher Librarian

SEAL Program Parent Support Group Meeting

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 7 August at 7:30pm in the SATERN Building. This meeting we will be having 2 very interesting speakers. Dee McQueen will speak briefly on ways to support students’ reading and then there will be a guest speaker from Monash University, Susan Wade, currently completing a PhD on Giftedness and the Aspergers/Autism spectrum.

Mr Martin Jellinek, Gifted Education Coordinator

ACE

A.C.E. has been a great experience for the Year 10s so far in 2012! The students participated in challenging activities in Term 2, including Rock Climbing and Roller Skating, and took part in seminars relating to Career Planning, Budgeting and Financial Savings, as well as preparation for exams and VCE.
This term the Year 10s are currently participating in a Driver’s Education and Road Safety course, and in the next few weeks will be venturing out to experience some of Melbourne's historic locations, including the Old Melbourne Gaol, Urban Seed and IMAX Theatre. The students are also looking forward to starting their 'A.C.E. Project' later this term, where they will get together in small groups and develop a video reflecting on their personal experiences during A.C.E. this year.

It has been a great year so far where the students are learning new things each week and have been challenged in ways they may not have experienced before! Looking forward to the rest of the year - it's going to be ACE!!

Mr Drew Howlett, ACE Coordinator

EMA - Education Maintenance Allowance

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013 and added to the EMA. As a result, parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, schools will no longer receive EMA payments on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, 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 be a temporary foster parent. * i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

The EMA application form must be submitted to the school by 28 February 2013.

Payment Amounts - 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 - 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instalment One</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable.

Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

You can receive the EMA by direct deposit into your nominated bank account or by individual cheque which will be posted to the school for collection. Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application.

Parent Opinion Survey

These surveys will be sent out to a random selection of parents over the next couple of days. If you are one of the lucky ones to receive a survey, we would appreciate it if you could complete the survey and return it to the General Office asap.