**Principal’s Report**

This term, I have been especially pleased to be Acting Principal while our Principal Kate Mitchell has been on leave these past few weeks. I am extremely proud of the manner in which our group of Year 12 students finished off their classes, celebrated and sat three days of extensive practice exams, in preparation for their final exams which will commence next week.

Last week, the Year 12 students celebrated the end of their school year with themed costume days, a sleep-over in the Gym and a pancake breakfast on their final day. They also had a wonderful final assembly, where they showcased many of their talents. Our students displayed exemplary behaviour throughout and we are very proud to say that they have proved, once again, that it is possible to enjoy their final weeks at school and have a lot of fun together, without any disruptive or damaging behaviour whatsoever. All the staff celebrated with the Year 12 students and reminisced fondly of the six years they have worked with the class of 2012, since they began their journey here at Box Hill High School. Well done to you all, and we wish you all the best.

*Mr Neil Davis – Acting Principal*

**Chess Club’s State Final Success**

On Monday 15th October, Box Hill High School Chess Club proved that we are up there with the best in Victoria when we placed 5th out of more than 20 schools in the State Chess Championships. After 3 regional tournaments during the year it was great to reach the next level of competition. A team of 7 played against students from top performing schools, including an ex-world champion and several ex-national champions.

The boys impressed both the judges and their peers with their professional attitudes and competitive spirit. Kyle Gibson scored a sensational 6 wins out of 7 games, and Rockson Chan scored a fantastic 5 wins out of 7 games, putting their strategies to the test to stay ahead of their opponents. The rest of Team Honey Badger rose to the challenge and scored admirably, with Andy Lau, Ian Cormick, Kevin Yu, Tim Bunnage and Adrian Lam proudly representing our school.

Well done to all the players and thanks also to Miss Longden for providing support and encouragement!

*Mr Nick Carr – Chess Club Coach*

**SEAL Program Support Group Meeting**

The time has come to have our final meeting for the year, which will be a fairly informal occasion. I want to start the proceedings by showing the results of our annual survey, followed by plenty of time for parents and staff to mingle and share their experiences from the year so far. Refreshments will be provided.

If you have not yet contributed your opinion to the annual survey, I strongly urge you to do so asap. It will only take 3 minutes or so, and will greatly assist us in making the meetings, and in fact the entire program, better suited to your needs. To do so, please click on the following link, or paste it in to your browser.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?fromEmail=true&formkey=dGlnbFJsd0lORXotNTZpcFF3UzNmakE6MQ

Your final task will be to send me an RSVP for the meeting. The meeting will commence at 7:30pm on Tuesday 30th October. As per usual, it will be in the Satern building. For catering purposes, I would appreciate if you would be able to RSVP by Monday 29th October, and to advise the number of people in your party. I look forward to seeing you all there.

*Mr Martin Jellinek - Co-Ordinator of Gifted Education*
Music News

BHHS Vocal Concert

Singing students of Box Hill High School will be presenting an interesting afternoon Concert on Wednesday 21st November from 5-6pm in P09. The guest accompanist will be Mrs Angela Chander. Members of the school community are welcome to attend.

Surrey Hills Probus Club Christmas Lunch

The singing students of Box Hill High School have been asked to present a Christmas Concert at the Christmas Luncheon of the Surrey Hills Probus Club. The luncheon will be held at the Eastern Golf Club in Doncaster on Monday 26th November at 1.30pm. Good luck to all those involved!

Mrs Elizabeth Cohen- Singing Teacher

Junior Music Night

The Year 7 Band, Concert Band, Guitar Ensemble and Small Groups and Soloists will be performing at a Junior Music Night on Tuesday 20th November. The night will commence at 7:30pm and will take place in the Old Gym (Room 307). Looking forward to seeing our junior students perform!

Mr Troy Rogers- Instrumental Music Co-Ordinator

Australian Mathematics Competition

The Australian Mathematics Competition took place in August this year. 40% of the 282 students received Prizes - Distinctions and High Distinctions. The top three students in each 1000 received prizes. We had 6 students who received prizes and they were Patrick Leung-Chee-Hang, Kiefer Lim, Keith Pang, Samantha Chin, Arun Sivayoganathan and Luca Kennedy. Samantha Chin also won the Prudence award which is given to the student who has the most consecutive correct answers. These are outstanding results. Congratulations to all students who took part in the competition.

Mr Max Flavell- Maths Co-Ordinator

Upcoming Wellbeing Programs for Year 7, 8 and 9 students

Next week we have three wellbeing activities planned for our students. The Year 7's have been covering the topic of Body Image in their Health classes this term, so we have arranged for a guest speaker to talk to individual classes about her experiences growing up with an eating disorder. Madeleine Munn is a speaker dedicated to talking to young people about the issue of body image and is determined to pass on her important message. A focus will be on challenging unhealthy and unhelpful attitudes about body size and eating habits.

In the afternoon of Tuesday 30th October, the Year 8's are being treated to a performance from the performing arts company 'Cultural Infusion'. Again, the focus topic is body image and making positive lifestyle choices. We should thank the City of Whitehorse for this opportunity which we are receiving at no cost to the school and normally would cost $750.00. The play looks at current media techniques and the effect negative body image has on physical and mental health.

We have organized for 40 of our Year 9 students to attend a Wellbeing Forum at Box Hill Town Hall aimed at learning more about their own mental wellbeing, how to support others when they experience difficulties and where to access further support. Once again, the City of Whitehorse has been proactive in organising opportunities for local students to increase their knowledge about issues that affect all young people. Guest speakers include AFL player and author Heath Black and Headspace ambassador Nick Bracks. We have representatives from each year 9 class group going to the forum and will be responsible for reporting back to their classes about the information learned.

Mrs Kellie Ind and Mr Neil Hamley- Student Wellbeing Coordinators
Model Solar Car

Last weekend, 20-21 October, 24 teams comprising of 82 students from Box Hill High School competed in the Victorian Model Solar Vehicle Challenge at Scienceworks. All teams did well and are to be congratulated on their efforts at the event.

Two teams have been successful in the competition with First place going to Oscar (Oscar Kwan, Spencer Harvey, Shanuk Paranahewa, Dhruv Piers and Arun Sivayoganathan) and third place going to Honeycomb (Jessica Booth, Isobel Christie, Chelsea Liang, Yvonne Lim and Ahila Krishnamurthi). Both teams have been invited to compete in the Australian International Model Solar Vehicle Challenge at Scienceworks on the weekend of 24-25 November.

Mr Steven Perry- Faculty of Engineering

The proliferation of sexting amongst young people.

DEECD is receiving a high volume of reports regarding incidents of “sexting” by students from both primary and secondary schools.

‘Sexting’ means sending sexually explicit photos or videos electronically by mobile phone, app, chat, social networking or email. With modern technology this can be done instantly, but it can have serious and lasting consequences.

It is important that you regularly talk to your child about their experiences with communications technology. Make sure that you continually reinforce that your child should come to you if they have any problems, if they see something that they know is wrong or anything that upsets them.

For people under 18, sexting is illegal. It is a criminal offence to take, possess, or transmit a naked image of a person under the age of 18 years. It doesn't matter if your child took his/her own photo and willingly sent or published it. You cannot ‘give someone permission’ to break the law. Penalties for these offences are very serious and can result in your child being placed on the sex offender’s register.

Young people are naturally curious and interested in exploring sexuality. They are also exposed to a wide range of sexual imagery, in songs, video clips, movies, advertising and online. This can promote the idea that sexual behaviour has no repercussions. Unfortunately the reality is more complicated and young people often only become aware of this after the event.

Once digital images are sent, there is no way to get them back. They are not private, and they are permanent. They can resurface again when least expected, such as during a job application. They can be published and found by anyone, including friends, family members, complete strangers, and sexual predators. Images can be used to bully and harass.

Ensure that you regularly talk with your children about their experiences with communications technology. Ask them what they have seen or done, and if they have had any problems.

Make sure that you continually reinforce to your children that nothing is so bad that they can’t talk to you about it. Let them know that they should come and tell you when they have any problems, if they see something that they know is wrong, or anything that upsets them.

Children often fear telling a parent an issue as they think this will result in blocking access. Don’t threaten to disconnect your child – this will only cause them to keep problems hidden from you.

Be aware that in some instances, police may need to be involved and schools have certain obligations in relation to the reporting of incidents. Please don’t withhold information from the school because you are concerned about police involvement. Police are very well placed to deal with these issues and have tools to minimise the impact. They have the ability to retrieve data and trace electronic communication. The important thing is to act as soon as you are aware.

If you believe that the ‘sexting’ is a result of your child being the victim of an online sexual predator rather than adolescent naivety, please notify the police immediately.

Parents or students with issues or concerns are encouraged to seek advice and support from the appropriate Year Level Co-ordinator, our Student Welfare Coordinators, Mr Hamley or Ms Ind, or the Learning Technologies Co-ordinator, Mrs Tehan.