Principal's Report

Welcome back to Term 2 – what a busy few weeks!

Term 2 has got off to an excellent start! Students are working really well in their classes and they are also participating in the many exciting clubs and after school activities that take place at our school. Already this term we have organised a very successful Parent/Teacher Interviews night and an outstanding Open Night 2012. The second Parent/Teacher night for parents whose surname is N-Z will be held at school next Tuesday 1st May. In terms of other activities, our Business Studies classes are running some very interesting business ventures and rehearsals for our school production, The Taming of the Shrew, are progressing really well.

We have outstanding teachers!

It is interesting to note that over the Easter holidays the Australian newspaper had a very interesting article comparing the performance of schools in all sectors, Government, Independent and Catholic. I was delighted to observe that our school was ranked in the Nation’s top 100 schools and that we were ranked Number One in Victoria in terms of State Government Secondary schools with a cohort of students in Years 7 – 12! These outstanding results are a testament to the outstanding teaching that occurs at Box Hill High School!

Melbourne Zoo’s Mali the Elephant

I am delighted to announce that our school was successful in acquiring a model of Mali the Elephant from Melbourne Zoo. Our task now is to decorate Mali in a highly creative, inventive, conservation themed and weatherproof design. To this end, we are running a design competition for our students. The winning designer, together with two friends will join the team to construct the art work. Concurrent with the design competition, we are also running a further competition to design a format for a school-wide fundraising day aimed at raising awareness and money to support the plight of the endangered Asian elephants.

During Term 3 “Box Hill Mali” will be displayed in our local community and then at the Zoo before she returns to us in Term 4. She will be placed in our conservation garden, “Mali’s Garden” which will be a specially designed garden in the space between the two modular buildings. We sincerely hope that many students will take part in these competitions.

Student feedback

This term I will continue to meet with small groups of students from every year level. This has been a wonderful opportunity for me to listen to our students, to discover what they like about the school and also to find out what we can do to improve things for them at the school.
Something to think about:

I don't think about losing, I don't think about winning, I just think about what I have to do.

Cathy Freeman

Kate Mitchell, Principal

FOPA – Friends of Performing Arts –
an opportunity to support BHHS Musical and Drama

Our school offers and engaging and progressive performing arts programme for our students and this year promises exciting opportunities for development through productions, camps, excursions and adding to the schools resources.

FoPA convenes as a parents, friends, current and former students and teachers network and provides support to our school community in a number of ways. Practical assistance in the production of our various performances, networks into the music and dramatic arts community, promotional and advertising expertise and raising funds for additional purchases and resources are the main activities of FoPA this year coming.

FoPA invites parents and friends with any interest, skills or connections relevant to performing arts to express interest to Mark Coffey – FoPA Convener. coffeyshop@ozemail.com.au Please also keep an eye out for upcoming fund-raising events and of course the various school productions through the year. Even if you don’t contribute directly, it is likely you can help our very talented and enthusiastic future performing artists.

Mr Mark Coffey – Convener BHHS FoPA

The Water Camp – Year 8 goes bush!

At the end of term 1 Year 8’s had a bush experience, attending the Water Camp at Toolangi, near Healesville. With such a large year level, the students were divided into two groups, with the first group attending from Monday to Wednesday, and the second from Wednesday to Friday. This ensured that each group had the full range of activities and enjoyed a personalized experience at the camp. The buses headed to Healesville Sanctuary on the first day, for the chance to explore this unique zoo and it’s inhabitants, to listen to a ranger’s talk about endangered species, including the orange-bellied parrot, and then to watch the magnificent Spirits of the Sky spectacular with Australian parrots and birds of prey.

Later in the afternoon, students were driven to the camp at Toolangi to settle into their cabins, for the next full two day program. After dinner, a Trivia Quiz and movie kept everyone amused, before an early start next day attempting water based experiments and outdoor ed. activities at the camp’s fantastic facilities. Students were encouraged to try all the activities, including a giant possum swing, a thrilling high ropes course and a long flying fox. Cooperation and teamwork were fostered as small groups of students worked together to solve problems and motivate each other. Staff were continuously surprised and pleased by the exemplary behavior shown by the students, who helped set up meals and clear away afterwards. Volunteers from the Forest Education Centre also talked to students about bushfire regeneration in the surrounding forest, and about the water cycle and the importance of the clean catchment areas. Students enjoyed a long hike into the forest on their last
day, and one group was able to take advantage of clear night skies to enjoy an astronomy lesson with Mr Reynolds.

The students were then encouraged to use these experiences and their imaginations to think about entering the Science competition with a poster or game which reflected their knowledge of the environment.
Details about their assignments may be found at the school blog http://thewaterblog.global2.vic.edu.au/
Mrs Dee McQueen

Open Night Success

For the fifth consecutive year, Box Hill High School has some vocal soloists in this year's State School Spectacular. Congratulations to Masha Roitman and Claire Ferguson on this fine achievement.
Congratulations again to Masha Roitman who placed 3rd on the Secondary School Section of the National Liederfest.
Thank you to all students who assisted so wonderfully at Open Night on the 24th of April. The weather wasn't kind to us but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of band of Tour Guides and volunteers. Thank you very much!
Mrs Elizabeth Cohen

Debating Report

Last Thursday night, Box Hill High School competed in the second round of the Schools Debating Competition run by the Debaters Association of Victoria (DAV) at Ivanhoe Girls’ Grammar and our students performed brilliantly.

I am in constant awe of the high degree of commitment, camaraderie and enthusiasm that our debaters have shown and their efforts are starting to pay off. Difficult topics such as “That the Government has failed Indigenous Australians”, “That police should only break up violent protests” and “That we should ban all forms of gambling” were debated on the night.

I witnessed a polished performance by our A Graders against St John’s Greek Orthodox College. Our students put in an exemplary performance and won by two points. It was refreshing to see how they have honed their skills as debaters over the years. Unfortunately, our C Graders lost by one point to Northcote High School in a hotly contested debate. Three of our D Grade teams won, with the other team, losing by one point only. Our D Graders were up against Ivanhoe Girls’ Grammar, Ivanhoe Grammar, Northcote High School and East Doncaster Secondary College.

Congratulations to Sarah Wiles, Peter Drew and new-comers, Vasish Vasan and Ruchita Pandey, who were awarded “Best Speaker” for their respective debates.
The teams on the night were-:

A Grade               Grady Barrett, Sarah Wiles and Amanda Guruge
C Grade               Elodie Ng, Shubhi Pandey and Evangeline Yong
D Grade 1            Sophie Roberts, Vasish Vasan and Pamoda Guruge
D Grade 2            Georgia Wiles, Nina Tan and Gregor Campbell
D Grade 3            Ruchita Pandey, Caleb Fielding and Spencer Harvey
D Grade 4            Stewart Munro, Winstina D’Souza and Peter Drew

Ms Wendy Grant (Debating Co-ordinator)
Movie Night Fundraiser

You are invited to a Movie Night in the Box Hill High School Hall, organised by the Year 11 Business Management Classes. All profits will be donated to "Relay for Life".
Yr10+ night: Thursday 10th May 7.30pm - INCEPTION
Yr 7+ night: Friday 11th May 7.30 pm – TINTIN

[Image]

Bookings available now.

**Refreshments, popcorn and snacks will be available on the night**

Ticket prices:
Child (<12) - $5.00, Student (13-18) - $6.50, Adult - $8.00, Family package – (2 adults + 2 children) - $22
High class (SINGLE) - $17.50, High class (FAMILY) - $50.00
****High class gives you the best possible movie experience-Seated in exclusive sofas, food and beverage included****
So bring your friends and family for a great night of entertainment!
[Download Flyer here](#) pdf

Taming of the Shrew

Rehearsals for this year's production 'The Taming of the Shrew' commenced last Tuesday and will continue every Tuesday and Thursday night from 3-5pm for all of term two and the start of term three. The cast includes students from years 7-12 and all cast members have been having a great time working with Mr Wilkins to increase their understanding of the themes and ideas behind the performance before they begin tackling Shakespeare's language.

Box Hill at the State Swimming Finals at MSAC

On Thursday 29th March Box Hill High competed at the State Secondary Swimming Finals. Our students did us proud with our 13 year old freestyle relay boys coming in second. Well done Rami Jarrar, Elliot Rogerson, Nicholas McFarlane and Gabrial Malvestuto. Elliot also finished 4th in the individual 50m Butterfly and 4th in the 50m Backstroke. Our 14 year old girls competed in the 4x50m Medley relay and the 4x50m Freestyle relay. Congratulations Althea Huf, Vivienne Au, Megan Woodford, Shaniah Lewis and Phoebe Owl. Well done!
*Mark Whitehead - Sports Coordinator*

Good Friday Appeal

Congratulations and thank you to the twenty Box Hill High School students that gave up their day and volunteered to collect money for the Royal Childrens Hospital Appeal.
The Pied Pipers are a local charity that helps organize people to collect on the day, and I have been informed by them that our students efforts contributed $3,291.20 towards the
appeal. They also wished to pass on their congratulations and are very appreciative that young people are enthusiastic and able to contribute in this way.

Mr Neil Hamley

Red Couch Knitters

Red Couch Knitters meet every Wednesday lunchtime in room 107. All welcome! We can supply needles and wool and teach you to cast on! Check out our beautiful blog on the Intranet, where Ms Green has been blogging happily from Italy & Germany: http://redcouchknitters.global2.vic.edu.au/

Ms Dee McQueen

National Year of Reading-2012

Last week, the library welcomed a mystery guest reader to read aloud to the students. Our Principal, Ms Kate Mitchell regaled us with an excerpt from Tales of the Atori, Book 1, Across the Nightingale Floor. This masterfully written story, by Lian Hearn is a fantasy set in feudal China, about the murderous warlord in his fortress who, wary of assassins, has constructed a nightingale floor, which will announce the tread of any human foot, and is joined in destiny with young Takeo, a peaceful villager who has supernatural powers. It is a tale of treachery, revenge, honour and love, and as a fantasy series has been very popular. This is also a novel on the Year 9 reading list. We hope to have some more guest readers throughout the year.

Ms Dee McQueen