Principal's Report

A reflection in very challenging times for state education.

As an incredibly busy semester draws to a close I think it is timely to reflect on the activities our staff have organised and facilitated for students at Box Hill High School so far this year.

We have run outstanding camps for all our Year 7, Year 8 and music students as well as several overnight Geography camps. Many excursions and sporting events have also taken place including interschool sport, school swimming sports, school athletics and the school cross country. Students have also competed at Zone and even State Level in many instances.

We have had wonderfully successful VCE Music and Drama performance evenings, and music evenings such as the Winter Concert. Rehearsals for the school production, “The Taming of the Shrew” are proceeding really well, despite the huge difficulties of not being able to rehearse in the Hall, due to exams.

The students organised an incredibly successful Talent Show recently, with the final to be held this Thursday evening in the School Hall. Auditions for the Student-lead production, “Six Feet Underground” are also underway. Our Year 12 students together with the prefects also organised the annual Year 12 Formal. It was an absolutely delightful evening, all the students dressed beautifully and their behaviour was impeccable.

Every week students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of clubs that are run by our outstanding staff for our students’ enjoyment. Just using one of our 50 clubs as an example, did you know that more than 82 students are involved with our Model Solar Car program, and Steve Perry and Doug Smidt mentor and support our students on the weekends and also during the holidays.

We have also run two very successful parent/teacher interview nights, various information evenings, Year 7 and Year 8 picnic evenings and several incredibly successful SEAL parent support group meetings. Formal testing of students has involved 400 students with NAPLAN, all Year 10-12 students sat for exams, and we have had two SEAL testing days for Year 7 2013.

Course and careers advice have a high profile at this time of the year. Therefore, to this end, all our Year 12 students attended the TIS (Tertiary Information Sessions) at Monash University. Every Year 10 and 11 student has participated in a Career Planning session and very early next term we will run course advising sessions for every child from S3 to Year 11+, where each student has the opportunity to meet on-on- one with a staff member. This is a huge undertaking as approximately 600 students are involved in the process. It is really important that you understand that it is up to your child to research and explore all the various career opportunities that they are interested in, as we can only get them started and guide them through the process. Next term, you will see many University and TAFE Open Days advertised and it is really important that together with your child, you attend as many as you can. The VTAC website offers excellent advice for students in terms of ATAR scores and various course prerequisites. Families are advised to research together all the opportunities available as, at the start of next term, we will need our students to choose the subjects they wish or need to take at school over the next few years.
It is important to remember that all of the above are examples of the many activities undertaken by our staff in an effort to enhance life and opportunities for the students who attend our school. At Box Hill High School you are indeed fortunate to have excellent teachers who not only voluntarily provide exciting extra-curricular opportunities for our students but they also perform the tasks of a teacher to a very high level. These tasks include the ability to think, research, prepare, teach classes, reflect, review, write curriculum and assess our students. My staff also need to be flexible, open-minded, enthusiastic and passionate!

Little wonder that more than 560 students have applied to come to our school next year for Year 7! This is apart from the daily inquiries we get from parents requesting a place for their child at our school. It is very sad that due to the constraints of our site we will be obviously be unable to meet all these requests for a place at our wonderful school!

Yet our school, and indeed all state government secondary schools, are now facing very challenging times. Putting aside the Performance Pay issues for the moment, in my mind it is very sad that the government, as part of the wage negotiations is requesting that Secondary Teachers teach an additional hour a week. (It is also important to remember that Secondary teachers teach between 75 and 150 students depending on time fractions) To be quite honest, I do not know where my staff will find the time. They already spend most weekends and term breaks marking and preparing their lessons. Sadly something will have to give. It may be many of the voluntary activities that I have just mentioned above – yet these are the very things that help to make this school such a unique, special and wonderful environment for our students!

I invite you to think about my comments and of course respond if you wish.

Kate Mitchell, Principal

Year 9 Camp – September 2012

As has been done over the past few years, all year nine students will be completing a mandatory inquiry-based learning project centred around the topic of Australia. Students have already been given some basic information on this task that will culminate in an Expo Evening on Wednesday 7th November. Linking with this is a camp where students can gather additional information, undertake some first hand research and enjoy a shared learning experience.

As we were unable to find a suitable venue in Canberra to accommodate the whole year level, we have changed the camp destination to Melbourne for this year, where the students will still be able to visit comparative sites.

Confirmed dates are as follows:
9A, 9C, 9E & S3Y will visit from Monday 17th to Wednesday 19th September.
9B, 9D, S3X & S3Z will visit from Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st September.

The educational venues we will be visiting in Melbourne are as follows:

- Eureka Skydeck
- Immigration Museum
- Parliament House
- Shrine of Remembrance
- Queen Vic Market
- Scienceworks including the Planetarium
- Alfred Brash Soundhouse
- Aboriginal Heritage Walk in the Botanic Gardens.

In addition to these we will:
• take a lantern ghost tour
• go on a river cruise
• go ice-skating, and
• have dinner at a restaurant.

Whilst undertaking supervised travel between these venues students will either be walking or catching public transport. **Therefore, all students will be required to have a Myki card with sufficient credit for the three days.**

At a later date, students will be provided with a full list of requirements for the camp. All bedding and towels will be provided by the venue so **the luggage the students will be required to take should be quite small.** Any electronic equipment such as an ipod that the students choose to bring will be brought at their own risk. The school and the accommodation will not be held responsible for anything lost or stolen.

Our accommodation for the three days will be at Melbourne Discovery located at 167 Franklin Street, Melbourne. On the appropriate dates **students are expected to make their own way to and from the venue.** If you or your child are hesitant about this, organising a group to go together would be a good solution. They are expected to arrive by 8.45am and will be dismissed at approximately 2.30pm.

The cost of this camp will be $240.00 per student. A payment/parent permission form and coloured medical form have been mailed home. **Both of these must be returned to the school’s General Office by Friday 24 August or the student will be unable to attend.** If you are currently experiencing financial difficulties and believe you may have difficulty making the payment on time, please send an email to this effect to box.hill.hs@edumail.vic.gov.au and we will contact you to discuss an alternative payment plan or another suitable arrangement.

Should you have any queries regarding this camp or the project, please do not hesitate to contact me on 9875 9114. Alternatively you may email me at: glynn.saige.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Thank you in advance for the support of your student while they complete this exciting project in 2012.

*Saige Glynn, Year 9 Coordinator*

**Talent Show Final**

You are invited for an evening of the best talent Box Hill High School has to offer on Thursday 28th June in the School Hall starting at 7pm. The evening is sure to impress with a variety of acts from dance, vocals and bands! Cost is $5 per person or $10 for a family. Drinks and snacks will be available for purchase on the night. We hope to see you there!

**School Production - Tickets available now**

Students have been working incredibly hard all term on Box Hill High's production of *The Taming of the Shrew* and the performance is just around the corner!!! The production will run from 1st-4th August 2012 and **tickets are now available** for purchase via the school website for on-line ticketing or by cash at the General Office.
Climate Reality Project

Box Hill High School played host to a presentation about climate change this week, attended by Year 8s, some Year 9s and a Year 12 Politics class. Guy Abrahams, the presenter, is a climate change ambassador, trained by Al Gore, former Vice President of the United States. A former lawyer and art gallery director, Guy recently gained a Masters in Environmental Studies from Melbourne University. He now spends much of his time visiting schools and other workplaces telling people about the latest scientific evidence documenting climate change and talking with them about how we can make changes in our lives to prevent some of these effects.

Many of you would have seen the film 'An Inconvenient Truth', on which this presentation is based. The Climate Reality Project engages ordinary citizens in conversation about the climate crisis and how we can solve it. The powerpoint Guy presented was pitched perfectly for our students, with graphic photos and animation to highlight various points, and statistics. If you are interested in knowing more, go to this site on the web http://www.acfonline.org.au/be-informed/climate-change/climate-reality-project

Students were attentive and had time for questions at the end of the presentation. Thanks especially to the Year 9 teachers who gave up their lesson time so that students could attend, and to Ms Jess Sheppard and Ms Vanessa Reynolds for their support.

Ms Dee McQueen

VCE Expo - 26 July - 5-7pm

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. Session booking is essential as space is limited. Please refer to this week’s newsletter on our website to book, or you can visit www.sobs.com.au and choose Parent/Teacher Interview Bookings/Parent access.

Attendance is compulsory for all Year 9 &10 students. Year 11 students are welcome.
SEAL Parents’ Support Group Meeting

Due to it clashing with another couple of events, I have had to alter the date of the next meeting. I hope this does not cause too much of an inconvenience to you. The revised date of our next meeting shall now be Tuesday 7th of August. All other details will remain the same, it shall begin at 7.30pm and run until approximately 9.30pm, and will be located in the SATERN building.

This date change will not affect the other plans, we will still be joined by Susan Wade, who is promising a fascinating presentation on Giftedness and the Aspergers/Autism Spectrum. In addition to this, we will also have another brief presentation from (Teacher-Librarian) Dee McQueen on how to best support your child’s reading. There will also be plenty of time at the end (whilst enjoying the refreshments) to approach Susan, Dee, myself, or any of the other staff in attendance, with any questions that you may have.

I wish you the best for the school holidays and look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

Martin Jellinek, Gifted Education Coordinator

Red Couch Knitters

S-Press, the national teenage magazine which is distributed free to secondary schools each month, has a short article in their July issue about the BHHS Red Couch Knitters. They rang us to find out more about the club, and to talk to some of the students involved. They spoke to Ms Dee McQueen (joint convenor with Ms Ros Green) and to Emma in Year 11 and used some recent photos of our students to complement the article. Free copies of this magazine are always available in the school Library, and in the Gallery space on level 2. The Red Couch Knitters meet every Wednesday lunchtime in Room 107 and all students are welcome. We can supply wool and needles to get you started!

Uniform Shop Changes

The Trading hours and location of the PSW Uniform Shop will change from Term 3 2012. Uniforms will no longer be available for purchasing on campus, or at PSW Ringwood. Uniforms will only be available from the PSW Kew East or from PSW on-line at the following address


PSW Kew East, 12 Strathalbyn Street, Kew East
(Ph: 9819 7809)    Email: eastkew@psw.com.au

Off Peak Trading Period - Term 3 only
Commencing 1 July until 21 September 2012 (end Term 3)
Monday - Closed
Tuesday-Friday - 9.00am-5.00pm
Saturday - 9.00am-1.00pm

Peak Trading Period
Commencing 22 September 2012
(includes September school holidays)
Monday - Friday - 9.00am-5.00pm
Saturday - 9.00am-5.00pm
In addition, PSW will continue to trade throughout the school holidays and look to reallocate additional resources to improve their service standards during busy trading periods.

PSW will continue to offer their online solution for those customers wishing to shop online at www.psw.com.au Here you can purchase the school's full uniform and have it delivered directly to your home.

'Coles Sports for Schools' voucher collection. Every time you shop at Coles you will receive vouchers with your docket. If students bring their vouchers along to school and deposit them in the collection box, we are aiming to get some great sports equipment from all of the vouchers we collect as a school this year.

Woolworths Earn and Learn. We are participating in this program once again this year, and hoping to collect enough stickers to receive some great learning resources. If you shop at Woolworths, please collect your stickers and deposit them in the collection box provided at school.