



SCHOOL NEWS

The University High School Newsletter

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Principal's Report

Welcome

A very warm welcome to all students and families of The University High School for 2009. A particular acknowledgement to the new families starting with us in year 7 and other levels. Also we are lucky to have nine exchange students from Germany with us this term.

Staffing

I would also like to welcome the following new staff:-

Robyn Bailey	Mathematics
Mollie Bobeff	Galileo
Michael Bourke	Galileo
David Browning	Humanities
Stacey Burnett	Physical Education
Nell Day	LOTE/ESL
Michael Foster	LOTE/Humanities
Lyn Gray	Careers/MIPS
Peter Kearney	Chemistry/Maths
Tony Mazziotta	Double Bass
Chris McCaw	Science/Maths
Haydn Moyle	Teachers Assistant
	Attendance
Karen Romari	GTAC Education
	Officer
Vivian Sipsas	Head of Health and
	Physical Education
Clare Watson	English/Drama
Hannah Wilson	Teachers' Assistant
	Sport

2009

This year brings some exciting new changes to our curriculum. Apart from some new VCE study designs and the addition of new VET options, we will commence our Year 9 Galileo term of study. This program will immerse students in special units of work with authentic and engaging opportunities to participate in real life learning through interdisciplinary rich tasks and community based projects. If your child is involved we look forward to your feedback.

Over the holidays we have upgraded four toilet blocks and five staff rooms. Brookes Sub-School office has been relocated to the 200's adjacent to Chapman and Sharman.

School Council

We have a number of vacancies on our school council and parents interested in nominating are welcome to contact me to answer any questions they may have regarding our council and your commitments.

I look forward to your support during 2009 and trust it is a great year for your child/children.

Rob Newton Principal

School Council Elections

Nomination Forms are available from the school General Office for the 2009 School Council Elections. Nominations close 4.00 p.m. Monday 23rd February, 2009.

Anaphylaxis

Ministerial Order 90 - Anaphylaxis Management in Schools requires schools to provide training for school staff in recognising and responding appropriately to an anaphylactic reaction, including competently administering an EpiPen®.

- Therefore all UHS staff will be attending an Anaphylaxis Training Course on Wednesday March 25, 1.30pm - 4.30pm.
- Students will be dismissed from school at 12.30pm on Wednesday March 25.

Information about anaphylaxis policy and procedures, including Ministerial Order 90, is available from: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/health/anaphylaxis.htm>

Calendar of Coming Events

Wednesday, 18th February

School Council Meeting, GTAC

Thursday, 19th February

Year 12 Study Skills, "Ace your Exams!", Session 4

Thursday, 19th February

Welcome Function for Parents of all New Students, 7:00pm to 9:30pm

Tuesday, 24th February

Swimming Carnival for Year 7 and Competitors at MSAC

Wednesday, 25th February

VCE Parent and Student Information Evening, 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Thursday, 26th of February

Year 11 Study Skills, Session 4

Tuesday, 3rd March

Immunisations Round 1

Years 7 and 10

Wednesday, 25th March

Anaphylaxis Training for all School Staff

School dismissed 12:30pm

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS

The UHS School Council meets in the GTAC conference centre at 7:30 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 18th Feb.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The UHS Parents' Association meets in the school staff room at 7:30 pm.

All parents are welcome.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, 10th Feb

SCHOOL NEWS PUBLICATION DATES

Your next copy of School News should arrive in your letter box in late March.

Instrumental Music

Welcome back to all music students. All instrumental lessons are already up and running. Timetables are on the noticeboard in the music wing and on the IntraWeb. Ensembles will start rehearsing from February the 9th, with students to go to the ensemble they were in last year until told otherwise by their teacher. If there are any questions about lessons or ensembles please contact the Music department.

The following are the main dates for music performances this year. Please put them into your diary:

24th February - Year 7 Recruitment evening (Junior Strings and Intermediate Concert Band to perform)

28th May - Mid Year Concert (Elisabeth Murdoch Recital Hall)

5th, 6th and 7th August - Musical

25th October - Musical Breakfast

Year 7 Music Recruitment Night

All Year 7 students and their families are invited to attend the Music Recruitment evening on Tuesday 24th February at 7pm. There will be performances by the Junior Strings and the Intermediate Concert Band, as well as demonstrations of different instruments by some of our students. Classroom Music staff are working with all classes at the moment to introduce the instruments on offer for tuition at the school. They have undertaken Selmer testing as a guide to each student's strengths. Students will be asked to indicate which instrument they would be interested in learning at the school. Please note that students accepted into Piano must also learn a second instrument. After collation of the material and expressions of interest from the students, we will make them an offer. The Recruitment evening is for families to accept the offer of a place in the program or to request a change of preference. It is also an opportunity to meet the Music staff and some of the instrumental teachers and discuss selections. We hope to give all interested students a place in the program and look forward to meeting you there.

Geoff Campbell
Instrumental Music Coordinator

European Tour, 2009

During the first term holidays this year, twenty music students will join with a similar sized group from Strathmore Secondary College for a 17 day tour of France and Belgium. Whilst away, the students will undertake eight performances associated with memorial services for the First World War, culminating in three performances on Anzac Day at Villers-Bretonneux under the direction of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. There will also be opportunities to give concerts to local French communities along the way.

Shortly after arrival in Paris, we will accompany the 'Flamme' Ceremony at the Arc de Triomphe. A few days later we will hold an hour long concert in the Madeleine Cathedral featuring orchestral and choral works with a special set of songs to celebrate the incomparable Edith Piaf. In Belgium, we will perform at the Menin Gate in Ypres and then move to the Somme. During our time there, the group will perform two concerts in the local towns of Peronne and Dernancourt.

The highlight of the tour will certainly be the Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux on Anzac Day, held for the first time last year. This service commemorates the Australians who fought and died in the 1918 battles in defence of Amiens. The local communities of Villers-Bretonneux and Bullecourt hold the Australian soldiers in the highest esteem for their successful efforts to recapture and defend the French villages against the German forces.

Our students will return with a profound understanding of the struggle and determination that the Australian soldiers displayed at a significant time in our nation's history.

Before we leave we will invite our two school communities to hear the concert program that we will perform in Paris. We hope you will attend and support our effort. I anticipate this will be towards the end of term, but will keep you informed through this newsletter.

Johanna Verberne
Performing Arts Co-ordinator

The University High School Swimming Carnival

The University High School Swimming Carnival for 2009 will be taking place on the 24th of February at MSAC, Aughty Drive, Albert Park.

All year 7 students and competitors from Yr's 8-12 will be attending.

Sessions 1 and 2 will remain as they are for all students and competitors will depart at the beginning of session 3.

Normal classes will run for those not competing for sessions 3-6.

Parents are encouraged to come along as spectators.

School Injuries, Personal Property and Insurance

Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold accident insurance for school students.

The Department is aware of three insurers, JUA Underwriting Agency Pty Ltd, Willis Australia Ltd and Anon Risk Services that provide accident insurance policies for students. These policies provide specific benefits for students who are injured in accidents for a reasonably low cost. Other insurers may also do so.

JUA Underwriting Agency Pty Ltd

Phone: 03-9909 7480

Willis Australia Ltd

Phone: 03-8681 9874

Anon Risk Services

Phone: 03-9211 3347

Personal Property

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, iPods, calculators, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

Please note the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay any loss or damage.

UHS Student Wins National Essay Competition

Congratulations to Peter Giannopoulos (Year12) who won the essay award (Adaptation in 2008) for The Australian Rationalist magazine. Peter received \$750 and our school also received \$750. The judges were obviously impressed and remarked particularly on the liveliness of Peter's writing. Well done, Peter!

Maureen Cooper

German Exchange Students

We welcome to our school, nine students from our sister-schools, Graf-Münster-Gymnasium (GMG) in Bayreuth and Gymnasium Grootmoor in Hamburg, Germany. They are in Australia until April. The German students are Isabell Eberhardt, Konstantin von Essen, Julia Glauber, Jasmin Grote, Tanya Herrlich, Thomas Hertel, Nina Kufner, Juliana Mainka and Thorsten Michalski. They are hosted by the families of their exchange partners Simon Meehan, Maja Dunstan, Nyssa Watson, Helen Hodgins, Yolanda Krockenberger, Jasper Johnson, Michael Haylock, Adriana Cannizzaro and Miranda Cross. These UHS students will leave for Germany in April and spend three months in Germany.

Thinking back to the end of 2008 and the Year 12 LOTE results, many students were more than happy with their ENTER scores as LOTE is marked up considerably due to the scaling process and the special LOTE bonus. For example, a student who received a raw score of 30 could expect to receive 41 in French, 40 in German and 47 in Latin as the scaled score (the score that contributes towards the ENTER). The top subject score of 50 can be exceeded depending on the raw score.

Fred Sandt

Head of LOTE

World Vision Sponsorship

Student Leadership and the SRC are proud to announce the full sponsorship of a child in Guatemala (Central America). We will be sponsoring this young boy for the next decade. Our initial sponsorship has allowed this boy to attend school on a regular basis. Ms Khoo and Ms Chetty and students in their classes will assist with research on Guatemala including culture, land use and the challenges of life for many of the people (especially the indigenous Mayan Indians). They will also be involved in the fundraising for 2009. We look forward to your support to continue our sponsorship in 2009 and beyond.

Glenn Marchant

Student Leadership Co-ordinator

Education Maintenance Allowance

The closing date for
Semester 1 Education Maintenance Allowance Application Forms
is 27th February, 2009.

Late applications cannot be processed.

Mathematics Extension Program 2009

In 2009, there will be a program of extra-curricular activities in mathematics. Parents may wish to note the following details.

1. Australian Mathematics Competition

- A multiple choice paper at three levels of difficulty (Junior, Intermediate and Senior).
- The final Entry Date is by Friday 08 May.
- The cost is \$5 per student.
- The date of the Competition is Wednesday 06 August.

The Australian Mathematics Competition for the Westpac Awards (AMC) is for students of all abilities. Students are asked to solve twenty five multiple-choice problems and five questions requiring a number answer in 75 minutes. Unlike formal mathematics testing, many of the problems are set in situations to which students can relate, showing the relevance of mathematics to everyday life. Above all, the competition is designed to be a fun event removed from the pressures of formal assessment with problems designed to be of sufficient interest to stimulate discussion with friends, parents or in the classroom. All students receive a certificate showing their level of achievement and a detailed report showing how they went on each problem with comparative statistics.

2. Maths Challenge

- For students in Years 7 to 10
- A paper in which complete solutions have to be written for approximately six problems at Junior (Years 7-8) and Intermediate (Years 9-10) levels over a three-week period during Term 2.
- The final Entry date is Friday 20 February.
- The cost is \$20 per student.

The Australian Mathematics Trust conducts Maths Challenge in a three week period during Term 2. Each student receives a Problem Booklet at the start of Maths Challenge. Students are required to solve up to six problems and clearly explain in their solutions the process they used to solve the problems. Support for students is given by the Head of Maths during regularly scheduled lunchtime classes.

3. Maths Enrichment

- For very able mathematics students in Years 7 to 10.
- Students are required to write out solutions to problems, which are based on the supplied notes. There are four levels of difficulty with students allocated to the most suitable level based on age and previous mathematical experience.
- The final Entry date is Friday 20 February.
- The cost is \$35.00 per student
- The solutions are worked on during April to September.

Maths Enrichment goes for sixteen weeks during Terms 2 and 3. Students are supplied with Student Notes and a Problem Booklet and are required to solve up to twelve problems. Support for students is given by the Head of Maths during regularly scheduled lunchtime classes.

4. The University of Melbourne Mathematics Competition

- For very able mathematics students in Years 7 to 12
- The competition has three divisions, Junior (7 & 8), Intermediate (9 & 10) and Senior (11 & 12). The Junior paper is 2 hours while the Intermediate and Senior papers are 3 hours.
- It is advisable to visit the University of Melbourne Mathematics Competition website and download a selection of past papers before entering the competition.
- The final Entry Date is to Friday 03 April.
- The cost is \$3.00 per student
- The date of the Competition is Wednesday 06 May.

Further information on Activities 1, 2 and 3 is to be found the Australian Mathematics Trust site, www.amt.canberra.edu.au and further information on Activity 4 is available www.mathscomp.ms.unimelb.edu.au.

Please note that the entry fee for each of these activities is to be paid at the General Office and be accompanied with Mathematics Competition Form for 2009. If you have any queries regarding any of the above activities please contact me on 9347 2022.

Stephen Paatsch
Head of Mathematics