



The University High School SCHOOL NEWS

Number 1 February 2004

OUTSTANDING VCE RESULTS

The results for the 2003 students were excellent. All 202 students who were eligible to complete were successful in gaining their VCE. Three students achieved the ENTER score of 99.90.

Congratulations to Stephanie Ayres, Ting Chen, and Mathew Durie on their outstanding results.

University High school achieved the highest results of any non-selective State High School. In 2003, 7.9 % of the year level gained ENTER scores over 99. Also 46.5 % of the students obtained an ENTER score greater than 90.00 while 63.8.7% of students obtained an ENTER score greater than 80.00. All students are to be congratulated on their efforts during the year as are the staff who taught them. These are excellent results and reflect the tremendous commitment of the students to their studies and the considerable expertise and dedication of all staff who taught them over their whole secondary education.

CONFUSED

The first day of high school was confusing. People said to go this way. Then they changed their minds and headed the other way. Then up some stairs. Then they stopped. Then turned around. They went to the end of a hall. Turned right, then left. Down the stairs. Around a corner. And back to where we started. At least I thought it was the same place. Then out the door and in another one. Round a few corners, up some stairs, around another wall and up more stairs. Then we figured we were probably in the wrong building anyway! Or was it the right one? You needed a map and compass to find your way around here. The east way

Another indication of the high quality of results was shown by the fact that 22 % of all of the subject scores that students obtained were 40 or above. This places a student in the top 8% of any subject. We also had many students who achieved the maximum grade of 50 for their subject. These included:

Eliza Harris (Biology)
Ting Chen (Chemistry,
Specialist Mathematics)
Narelle Mundy (VET Community Services)
Stephanie Ayres (English)
Chi Zhu (VET Information Technology)
Meng Meng He (Chinese (First Language))
Mathew Durie (Mathematical Methods, Physics).

These students are to be congratulated as only a very small number of students in the state achieve this highest possible grade in any particular subject.

didn't appear to be east at all. Down more corridors and hallways. Down more steps and stairs. How many hallways does this school have?! Out of the building and into another. It was mind-boggling, to think we had been here just before. It was unbelievable that we had only been to a FEW buildings of the school. It had seemed as though I had walked everywhere, but really along a few halls and only up and down a few stairwells. I had thought by then I'd know every room in the school but I still had no idea where I was. I wasn't lost, just - confused.

By Stephanie Williams

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NEW WEBSITE NOW ONLINE

The new Uni High Internet site is now up and running. Though much of the content remains the same, the format has changed and all the various pages and downloadable documents are progressively being updated as the latest versions become available.

The most significant change is the addition of the "Latest News" and "Coming Events" pages that will be regularly updated to keep visitors to the site informed about all the latest goings-on around the school. The calendar will also expand as dates for various events and meetings throughout the year are finalised. The "Curriculum" pages are currently being re-developed and will soon contain a much more comprehensive focus on the enormous range of extra-curricular programs and competitions happening in the school. Watch out for that in the near future.

Please take the time to check out the site at www.unihigh.vic.edu.au and if you have any constructive comments or suggestions email them to webmaster@unihigh.vic.edu.au.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

February

Wednesday 18: Swimming Carnival.

Check the school website for the latest update on the full year calendar: www.unihigh.vic.edu.au

March

Tuesday 2 - Friday 5: Year 10 surf camp at Anglesea.
Tuesday 4: Welcome Evening for parents of Bryce students, 7:00pm.
Monday 8: Labour Day holiday.
Thursday 11: Welcome Evening for parents of new students, 7:00pm.
Meeting of parents of year 7 Acceleration Program students.
Wednesday 17: VCE parent/teacher interviews, 3:30-5:30pm, 6:30-8:30pm.
Thursday 18: Late (session 3) start for whole school.
Tuesday 23: Intermediate sports day.
Wednesday 24: Year 8 sports day.
Monday 29: Year 7 sports day.

April

Thursday 1: Immunizations - year 7 Hep B, year 10 & 9B3 Diphtheria, Tetanus.
Friday 2: Last day of Term One, 2:30pm dismissal.
Monday 19: Term Two commences.

May

Friday 7: School photographs - VCE.
Friday 14: School photographs - years 7 - 10.

June

Friday 25: Last day of Term Two, 2:30pm dismissal.

SCHOOL NEWS PUBLICATION DATES

Your copy of School News should arrive in your letter box on or around the following dates:

| | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|
| Term One: | March 29 | |
| Term Two: | May 17 | June 21 |
| Term Three: | August 9 | September 13 |
| Term Four: | November 1 | December 6 |

The deadline for contributions for the next edition is: Tuesday March 16

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The UHS Parents' Association meets in the school staff common room at 7:30 pm. All parents are welcome.

Next Meeting: Monday March 15 - this is the Annual General Meeting

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS

The UHS School Council meets in the school staff common room on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

Next Meetings: Wednesday February 18
Wednesday March 24

THE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms Bronwyn Valente

Welcome back to the 2004 year, particularly to students and parents who have joined our school community this year. The school welcomes parents discussing any issues of concern and the first point of contact is the sub-school co-ordinator. The Heads of sub-school for 2004 are Mr Kevin Campbell – Bryce, Mr Peter Nero – Brookes, Mr Graham Coles – Chapman, and Ms Christine Bozyk – Sharman.

This year there a number of new staff to welcome which brings additional diversity and talent to the teaching staff.

VCE RESULTS

Congratulations to the 2003 V.C.E. students. The results were outstanding, with a median study score of 34, University High School was the highest on this measure of a non-selective State high school. These results are a team effort from students, their teachers and co-ordinators over a number of years and the support provided by parents and guardians.

STUDENT WELFARE CO-ORDINATOR FOR 2004

This year a new full-time position of Student Welfare Co-ordinator (SWC) has been established and Ms Maureen Cooper has been appointed to this role. This represents an enhancement to the present sub-school structure, with a teacher who is able to establish closer links with community agencies.

Ms Cooper is a highly experienced teacher with a background and qualification in social welfare and a commitment to the well-being of students. Student welfare will continue to be overseen by the sub-school structure and Ms Cooper will provide additional support and expertise in working with students.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

At the December meeting, Council endorsed a statement of values to be circulated to the school community for comment. It is timely, given recent public debate, that a small working party of Council had commenced this work. This statement and details of response mechanisms is on page 9. I encourage you to respond.

ELECTIONS

The time line for the School Council elections for the 2004/2006 period is listed. In this newsletter is also an article outlining the role of the Council. If any parent would like further information about the Council please contact me. University High School is fortunate in that Council elections are frequently held and many who are eligible vote for their representatives.

Nomination forms and notice of elections will be posted to all families.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Time Line: Call for nominations | 12/02/04 |
| Close of nominations | 20/02/04 |
| Ballot papers distributed | 27/02/04 |
| Ballot closes | 10/03/03 |
| Poll declared | 11/03/03 |

Retiring Members:

Parent: Gaye Champion, George Hatzis, Suzie Orzech

DE&T: Ric Benson, Kevin Campbell

Co-opted: Paul Tay, Viv Topp, Iain Finlayson (1 year casual vacancy)

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Thank you to the Parents Association and Ms Pam Hughes for the organisation of the annual book sale. It was a great effort.

Thanks also to the Parents' Association who provided coffee and croissants for new parents on the first day of the school year.

GTAC

The building is nearing completion and it is anticipated programs will commence in Term 2. This will also give University High School students an additional classroom for VCE students. An official opening is anticipated in Term 3.

Information regarding GTAC programs may be found on the web on www.wehi.edu.au/education/gtac or contact Mr Brian Stevenson, Program Manager, at the school.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The UHS Parents' Association AGM will be held on Monday March 15th, commencing at 7:30pm in the staff common room, ground floor, North building.

Reports, discussion with the Principal and election of office bearers will be the main agenda items. Drinks and snacks will follow.

All parents are invited and welcome to attend.

STATEMENT OF VALUES

The following profile and statement of values was worked on by the Council of the University High School during most of 2003, well before the current debate about values in government schools occurred. Council endorsed this profile and statement of values in November and requested that it be circulated to the school community for comment. All staff and students will be asked for their opinion this term and we would also like your opinion as parent(s) and guardian(s). Please take the time to read and reflect on the seven key dot points and inform us of any comments or opinions you may have. All comments and opinions will be filed and passed on to Council for consideration this term.

Contact: by email: bensonr@unihigh.vic.edu.au
 by mail: The Curriculum Co-ordinator,
 University High School,
 77 Story Street,
 Parkville 3052

THE UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL IS:

A school which was established in Carlton in 1910. Since 1930 it has occupied a site in Story Street, Parkville, adjacent to the Royal Melbourne Hospital and in close proximity to the University of Melbourne and the Central Business District. The School caters for approximately 1,180 students, most of whom reside in the local area. A proportion of the School's enrolment comes from further afield, either to participate in special programs like Music and the Acceleration Program or as a result of sibling claims. The population has a broad socio-economic, cultural and ethnic diversity.

The formal education program offered to students at the school covers the eight Key Learning Areas (KLAs) and is premised upon the Curriculum and Standards Framework (CSF); it is sequential and comprehensive in nature, culminating in some 44 studies being offered in years 11 and 12 for the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE).

Earlier additions to the School's basic facilities include a hall, a gymnasium, a canteen and a music wing. More recently the School has undergone a significant upgrade and development of resources at the cost of some seven million dollars. There has been an augmentation of classrooms and science and computer laboratories. Recreational areas and the oval have been refurbished. A Performance Centre and a fully equipped technology wing have been created. These resources enable the School to continue to provide a rich educational experience, and this will continue to be the case with a six million dollar grant to create a Gene Technology Access Centre (GTAC) at the University High School. This is a joint project between the School, DE&T, The Department of Micro-Biology and Immunology (University of Melbourne) and the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute.

THE UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL VALUES:

- a culture of excellence in learning and teaching
 - the diversity brought to the school by students, teachers and parents
 - programs which cater to a range of learning styles and which foster independent thought, critical thinking and collaborative learning
 - development of social responsibility and personal qualities such as integrity, resilience, respect for oneself and others
 - students who have gained a wide range of skills and the self confidence to participate effectively in society and meet future challenges in the world
 - policies and practices which promote enrichment and extension in both the formal curriculum and co-curricular activities
- active partnerships between students, staff, parents and the wider community to enrich educational opportunities and outcomes

A BIT OF AN APOLOGY...

As a result of a somewhat uncharacteristic glitch in our normally seamless organisation for the start of a new year, the 2004 *School News* is still lacking an official editor, and this edition has been thrown together unexpectedly, and with even more haste than usual, by David Early and me, and may contain even more typos than usual. Please be understanding. Of more significance, however, is the fact that as a result of the enthusiasm of new teacher Lisa Shukroon, who did a lot of the (much appreciated) legwork extracting submissions from all and sundry, we have found ourselves with an embarrassing surfeit of material and some of it has had to be held over for future editions. Sorry!

GV.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2004

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DE&T) employees can be parent members at their child's school.
- **A mandated elected DE&T employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional community member category.** Its members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DE&T employees are not eligible to be community members.

The term of office for members is two years. Half the members must retire each year and this creates vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

BRYCE VCE SUB-SCHOOL NEWS

Parents will have already received a separate VCE Newsletter. These will be published about once a term and if you do not receive one please contact the VCE Office.

The school year has started very positively with all classes in their permanent rooms, with their permanent teacher on the third period of the first day.

We encourage parents/guardians to contact us with any concerns that they have with their students progress as soon as possible as we can often help if a problem is addressed at an early stage.

Forthcoming Dates:

Tuesday 2nd March: VCE Information Evening, 7:15 pm, year 12 students/parents.

Thursday 11th March: Welcome function all new parents, 7:00pm.

Wednesday 17th March: VCE Parent/Teacher, 3:30 – 5:30, 6:30 – 8:30pm, all year 11 and 12 parents and students.

Thursday 18th March: Talk by Michael Carr Gregg, 2:30 – 3:30pm, all year 12 students.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in February or March each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

A notice calling for nominations has been posted to every family.

If you decide to stand for election, you will need to arrange for someone to nominate and second you as a candidate in either the parent category or DE&T employee category. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed. Ballot papers will be posted to all parents

Remember

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.
- Consider standing for election to council this year.
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

AUSTRALASIAN SCHOOLS COMPUTER SKILLS COMPETITION

The school is once again offering students the opportunity to participate in the Computer Skills Competition.

The competition is a national event and runs for students at 4 levels:

Primary (5 & 6) (Not available at UHS)
Junior (7 & 8)
Intermediate (9 & 10)
Senior (11 & 12)

Those students interested in entering this competition should pay their entry fee to the school general office. Further details and practice papers can be obtained from Ms Sterling in Room 306.

Date: Wednesday 31st March 2004
Cost: \$6
Closing Date for Entries: Friday 7th March 2004

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS SCIENCE COMPETITION

The Australian Schools Science Competition will be held on Tuesday 4th May 2004. Last year nearly 200 University High School students entered and achieved some outstanding results. We encourage all science students to enter, as the experience will prove invaluable to your future science studies.

The cost is \$6.00 per person and is payable at the General Office. The entry fee must be paid by Friday 26th March at the latest.

If you need more information please see Mrs Sturma in Room 138.

ACCELERATION PROGRAMME TESTING FOR 2005 INTAKE

Testing for the 2005 Acceleration Programme 2005 intake will take place at the school on **Saturday April 24th 2004**. Students who are currently in grade 6 are eligible to apply. Application forms can be obtained either by phoning the school and requesting an application package or by logging on to the school's web page and following the prompts ('! enrolment ! Acceleration Programme). Manual applications **close on Thursday April 1st**. On-line applications **close on Friday April 16th**. Late applications can be made on-line but will incur an additional late fee. If you have any questions, please contact Ms Jenny Tarr on 9 347 2022 during school hours.

STUDENT WELFARE COORDINATOR

I am delighted to have been appointed as the first Student Welfare Coordinator (SWC) at The University High School. I have worked in this capacity to some extent in the Bryce sub-school and as a coordinator in the Brookes sub-school and found the contact with students immensely rewarding. Primarily, however, I have been a teacher at The University High School for a number of years, particularly as an English and Literature teacher, so at the grass roots level I have viewed the stresses on students and the difficulties that they can encounter.



Because of my interest in students' well being, I completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Student Welfare at The University of Melbourne and attended a variety of professional development programmes. I am anticipating that this new role can only strengthen the strong sub-school welfare structure that has been in place for many years, together with all the work that our staff do in and out of the classroom.

Basically, my role is best described as being able to provide extra support to students so that they are able to participate effectively and take advantage of the educational opportunities offered by our school. To this end I plan to extend our already effective networks and act as a link to external welfare agencies.

The SWC structure will centre on working as part of a team that will include the educational psychologists, the sub-schools and other relevant members of staff to monitor students' progress, as well as to develop programs that will address and anticipate the various challenges that may arise for students across all year levels. Students may be referred by the Principal class, the sub-schools, teachers, parents or simply self-refer.

Given that this is a new role I am very keen to hear from students or parents who may have ideas or suggestions about ways to help the welfare of students at our school. To contact me, simply ring the school.

To find me in the school, I am on the first floor of the Technology wing in Room 905, which is on the left just before the double doors to the balcony.

In many ways I believe that it is a privilege to have this new position where I can spend what I hope will be valuable time, particularly with students, but also with our staff, parents and the wider community.

It will be stimulating and challenging role, which I hope will further enhance students' well-being at The University High School.

Ms Maureen Cooper

MATHEMATICS EXTENSION PROGRAM

A. Donoghue, Mathematics Coordinator (Term 1)

In 2004, 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 Thursday April 1st
- The cost is \$4 per student
- The date of the Competition is Thursday July 29th

The Australian Mathematics Competition for the Westpac Awards (AMC) is for all standards. Students are asked to solve thirty multiple-choice problems 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 Years 7 to 10 only
- 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 May.
- The final Entry date is February 27th
- The cost is \$15.00 per student

The Australian Mathematics Trust conducts Maths Challenge in a three week period between April and May each year. 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.

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
- The final Entry Date is February 27th
- The cost is \$25.00 per student
- The solutions are worked on during April to September

Maths Enrichment goes for sixteen weeks between April and September. Students are supplied with Student Notes and a Problem Booklet containing twelve problems. Students are required to solve up to twelve problems. Teachers will be available to help students during this time.

The aim of Maths Challenge and Maths Enrichment is to motivate, stimulate, encourage and develop mathematically interested and talented students.

Please note that if any student wishes to participate in any of these activities they need to pay at the General Office.

If you have any queries re any of the above activities please contact me on 9347 2002.

SCIENCE NEWS

Science Olympiads

Students sat the national qualifying examinations for this program in September and October last year with High Distinctions and Distinctions achieved in each of the disciplines. Three students, Alisa Sedgifar, Eliza Harris and Tim Bromley, were amongst 24 students nationally who were invited to the Biology Scholar Training School in Canberra in January. Alisa was also invited to attend the Chemistry School and had a difficult choice to make. Tim was not able to attend the Biology School as he was already committed to the National Youth Science Forum but both Alisa and Eliza did and both had a fantastic time. They will sit another exam in March from which the group to represent Australia internationally will be chosen. Students achieving High Distinctions were for Biology Alisa Sedgifar, Eliza Harris, Tim Bromley, Julian Maingard, Tian Xu, Hannah Bourne, Elisse Buchlak and Ray Komatsu achieved a Distinction. In Chemistry Alisa Sedgifar and Wang Chun Wei were awarded High Distinctions and Ray Komatsu, Jia Yan Feng and Tian Xu achieved Distinctions. For Physics Tian Xu achieved a High Distinction and Wang Chun Wei and Han Liang Gan were awarded Distinctions.

Congratulations to all students who entered this extremely challenging competition.

Australasian Schools Science Competition

The Australasian Schools Science Competition will be held on Tuesday 4th May 2004. Last year nearly 200 University High School students entered and achieved some outstanding results. The cost is \$6 per person and is payable at the General Office. The entry fee must be paid by Friday 26th March at the latest. Students from all year levels are encouraged to participate. In particular the science faculty is keen for year 7 students to enter. The competition results are very informative for staff, students and parents. In class we will be using previous year's papers to develop scientific literacy and analysis skills. If you need more information please see Mrs Sturma in Room 138.

Ms Justine Hamilton

There's a bit more Science stuff on page 9. Ed.

YEAR 7 CHAPMAN CAMP

The three year 7 camps have just concluded and all reports indicate that they were a great success. Here are some comments from some of the Chapman camp participants.

On the last day of camp we went to Healesville Sanctuary and all the animals attacked me. When we were having a lesson, the keeper was getting out a frog and it jumped onto my leg. Later when we were eating lunch a bird jumped into my lap and it bit the sandwich I was eating!

I jumped and screamed; it got a fright and jumped off.

After lunch we were looking at the fish and the dragonflies were everywhere. Then I looked down and there was one on my leg. It was a very eventful day!

By Aislinn

One of the best activities I did at camp was the sensory trail. The thing I liked most about the sensory trail was when my partner put on the blindfold and I led him around the trail. It was funny watching my partner crash into trees and trip over tyres. It was not so funny however when I was doing the same thing.

By Duncan Burry

We had all packed our bathers expecting that we could have a fun, relaxing swim at Camp Gundiwindi, but without even thinking we all jumped in the pool and froze. It was so cold, but I was so keen on swimming that I stayed in longer than most people did. But I'd never been so relieved to have a boiling hot shower.

By Isabel Anderson

Gundiwindi Lodge Camp...

The funniest thing that happened to the group at camp was when the whole camp played tiggy at night with their torch lights. The best thing was the flying fox. That was so awesome. The most stupid thing was saying a joke in front of all my friends and none of them found it funny. The most horrible thing was stepping in donkey pooh. The most fun thing was playing asteroids during free time.

By William Hicks

PARENTS AS GUEST SPEAKERS

One aspect of the Careers/Work Education program is to give students the opportunity to attend guest speaker sessions. It is not difficult to find people who can talk about tertiary course information, but I am keen to expand the register of speakers willing to talk about their own job. Within the University High School community I am sure that people work in many varied occupations. If you, or someone else at your workplace, is willing to give up an hour or so to participate in a program which directly assists students with their future planning, please contact Angela Moylan.

THE UNIVERSITY HIGH BOOK SALE 2004

The 2003 Secondhand Book-sale was a great success. Thank you to all parents who helped to run the sale on the day and to the year 9 students who helped to collate and barcode all the books.

Lists of unsold books have been displayed outside the library. Students should have collected any unsold books that they wish to retrieve from the bookstore at lunchtime on the 10,11th,12th February. There will be no further opportunity to collect unsold books after these dates.

Cheques for books sold will be posted out in the next two weeks.
Pam Hughes. (Book-sale co-ordinator.)

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

It is the responsibility of everyone in the school community to make our environment a safe place to work. Students are reminded that they need to wear strong footwear to school on all occasions; thongs and open sandals are not acceptable because of the dangers on stairs and in practical classes. We would like to remind students that the temptation to throw water bombs in hot weather is unacceptable and dangerous. What may seem like innocent fun can turn into tragedy and students are reminded that the use of missiles is banned at all times. Students are urged to read the Code of Conduct which sets out their rights and responsibilities. We want to ensure a safe environment for all students free from bullying and harassment. Everyone has the right to learn in a safe environment.

Mr G Marchant

BROOKES SUBCHOOOL

Welcome back to all students and a very special welcome to the new students and parents in the Brookes sub-school.

The Brookes sub-school team and the respective responsibilities are:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Sub-school Head | Peter Nero | Year 7B1 7B2 |
| Assistant Head | Mary Papp | Year 10B1 10B2 |
| Co-ordinators | Pam Fragiacom | Year 9B1 9B2 9B3 |
| | Stephen Paatsch | Year 8B1 8B2 |

In Brookes we work collaboratively to provide a supportive learning environment for your child. We do this by monitoring your child's attendance, punctuality, academic progress and general wellbeing. Effective communication between home and school is an integral part of this supportive environment. The School Diary is an important means of communication. The diary contains information regarding the school and there is space for your child to record school events and homework to be completed. It is a school expectation that your child brings the diary to all classes and that the diary is used effectively. It is also a way for you to communicate with your child's teacher by writing or attaching a message in the diary.

Punctuality and regular attendance are integral factors for learning. If your child is absent please provide us with a written note to the respective co-ordinator on your child's return to school. For extended absences, for example an overseas trip, we will endeavour to provide school work if we have early notification.

From Wednesday 4th to Friday 6th of February, year 7 Brookes students attended the Orientation Camp at Camp Gundiwindi in Wandin. Students participated in a variety of enjoyable and challenging activities that encouraged teamwork, planning and cooperation. The students were fantastic in all aspects; they participated enthusiastically in activities and they performed their duties promptly and without reminders. The staff at Camp Gundiwindi were impressed and commented often on the politeness and the resourcefulness of the children. My personal highlight was the bush dance. Photographs are on display near the Brookes Office. Student articles will be published in the following editions.

We welcome your inquires; please contact us to discuss any issues or about any aspect of school life at UHS.

Peter Nero

THE CSIRO STUDENT RESEARCH SCHEME

Ms Justine Hamilton

The CSIRO Student Research Scheme is available again in 2004. We had a number of students participating last year. *[A report from Wang Chun Wei has been held over for the next newsletter due to lack of space. Sorry. Ed.]*

The schemes goals are to provide able and motivated students with quality research experiences in scientific laboratories, to encourage more students to explore career options in science and to raise awareness and emphasise the importance of Australian scientific research to the wider community.

The program allows VCE students to participate in short term projects- a minimum of 20 hours- under the supervision of practicing scientists. Students are selected on the basis of scientific ability and enthusiasm. They indicate areas of interest and projects are allocated. Projects are often completed in the July school holidays.

Information is on display on the VCE notice board and is available from science teachers.

Applications close February 27.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Mr G Marchant

Congratulations to Simon Coles, Stephanie Cheligoy and Alexia Skok who have been selected to attend the 2004 National Schools Constitutional Convention in Canberra from March 24-26. Over 120 students from across the nation will participate in the program. Students will meet Members of Parliament, as well as many other civic personalities. There will also be a reception at Government House. The Convention will allow students to discuss contemporary social and political issues related to the Constitution. This is a great honour for the students, their families and UHS. We hope the students have an enjoyable and productive time in Canberra.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CANDLE DAY FUNDRAISER

As part of the annual Amnesty International Candle Day students at UHS sold badges to help raise funds and awareness of Human Rights around the world. This year the tins were delivered to the office in Richmond and we're pleased to announce that students raised \$94.75 to help spread the good news about freedom to the people of the world. Thanks to everyone who assisted in late October, 2003.

THE MIDDLE YEARS ACTION PLAN

The focus on the Middle Years in Victorian schools is all about working in cooperation with other primary and secondary schools in a cluster while, at the same time, looking at what is taught and how it is taught in order to make it more engaging. In 2002 we began to implement a Middle Years Action Plan at UHS by gathering data related to course design, absence rates, retention rates and programs at other schools. In 2002 we also developed new policies and programs related to transition, outdoor education, literacy, numeracy and gender issues. In 2003 we went further and focused on revitalizing aspects of programs and pedagogy in all faculty areas, years 7 to 10. At the end of the year the Curriculum Coordinator spoke to the coordinators of each faculty to try and build a picture of just what has been achieved to date and it seems that very solid foundations have already been established to continue building. What is most striking when one looks at the information provided below is that there is a great similarity of aims and methods employed by faculties and individuals who are, in fact, very different; hopefully, this means that we all have a sense of what makes students tick and how to go about ensuring that they continue to evolve and enjoy their learning at the same time.

Drama/Media

- Has introduced Media to year 10, which will mean introducing a new component to year 9 in 2004
- Has already reviewed year 9 curriculum with a view to modifying it, for example semester 2 will be more performance oriented
- Interested in developing a year 10 program with the Immigration Museum and Drama Victoria in order to apply drama skills to real life situations

Music

- Has introduced VET at years 9 and 10 to involve students in music industry: song writing and radio production
- Currently developing multi-level units as a means of improving pedagogy

Art

- Has reviewed years 9 and 10 and reshaped courses as a means of improving pedagogy
- Participated in Melbourne in the Middle exhibition with other cluster schools
- Year 9 students have mentored grade 6 students in Photoshop
- Theory component of year 9 Art has been reorganized to make it more relevant to the world of year 9 students
- More emphasis on 3D studies to interest boys
- More emphasis on digital photography

English

- Artist in residence working with junior students in 2004
- Cross age tutoring program with Ascot Vale Primary currently operating

- Literacy journey currently operating for students at risk and transition students
- Currently reviewing courses as a means of improving pedagogy

Health and Physical Education

- New structure developed for year 7 to allow the same teacher to integrate elements of sport, physical education and transition
- Has reviewed courses at years 8 and 9 and 10 to incorporate elements like Rethinking Drinking in order to make them more relevant to the world of the students

Languages other than English

- Offered a new year 10 unit in World Cinema and Literature to tap into student interests and culture from an international perspective
- UHS students working with primary students in the cluster to assist with transition and make foreign language learning more practical and relevant
- Has developed units of work which cross faculties as a means of improving pedagogy, for example painting poetry in French, ceremonies and weddings in Indonesian, craft work in Latin

Mathematics

- Has reviewed years 7-9 curriculum with an eye to the Thinking Curriculum and the Middle Years, for example more focus on technology, more focus on rich tasks, open-ended tasks
- Active participation in Mathematics activities with cluster primary schools

Science

- Increased focus on experiments and practical activities at years 9 and 10
- Increased use of technology to engage students
- Peer tutoring with some year 9 students working with cluster primary schools
- More of a focus on the environment to engage students at year 9 level, for example frogs, worms and coastal environment

Studies of society and environment

- Has incorporated aspects of literacy programs into years 7 and 8 courses
- Increased emphasis on self-directed research in some disciplines
- Increased emphasis on activity-based learning in some disciplines

Information technology

- Offered a new year 10 unit in Multimedia
- Investigating introduction of multimedia in year 9

Technology studies

- Has reviewed the curriculum in years 8 and 9 with an eye to applying Knowledge rather than just learning content

HEALTH, SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Katherine Klopsteins, Health, Physical and Sport Education Coordinator

The PE and Health faculty welcome Mr Ben Starkey to the team in 2004. We have farewelled Ms Michele Baxter who has left Uni High to make her sea change down at Geelong High School. Ms Baxter has been at Uni High for 13 years and has always had a positive impact on the PE and Sport Program and Camps Program among other things. We already miss her smiley face very much!!!

The PE team are:

Ms K Klopsteins (Me!!) – Health, Physical and Sport Education Coordinator (anything that happens within the school)

Ms S Hafey – Inter-School Sport Coordinator (anything outside of the school!)

Ms K Patterson – Transition Coordinator

Mr P Batters – Assistant Head Sharman Sub-school

Mr A Lee

Mr B Starkey

YEAR 7 PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All year 7 students have made a great start at high school and are learning the meaning of permission forms, PE uniform and swimming gear! Several year 7 classes have commenced their Swimming unit at Brunswick Baths, whilst other classes are undertaking the Fitness unit at school. All year 7 classes have a "PE" class for 2 sessions during the week.

Year 7s then have another 2 sessions on a Friday that is "Sport Education". During Term 1 they will participate in a variety of "Summer Sports" such as cricket, softball, baseball, tennis and volleyball. Then on Monday 29th March all of the year 7 students will participate in an Interschool Sport Day, playing their chosen sport against other schools.

SNOW CAMP 2004

The snow camp will take place at Mt Hotham during the week of August 15 to 20. The lodge ("Bembooka" - same as the past four years) has been booked and planning is well underway. The cost will be about the same as last year (\$675 for skiers, \$730 for snow boarders) but will be confirmed later.

Interested students in years 9, 10 and 11 can obtain application forms from Mr. Batters. We usually receive more applications than the available 40 places so, unfortunately, some applicants may miss out. Students who miss out on an initial offer, and any late applicants, will be placed on a waiting list, and may receive a late offer at any time right up until the time of the camp.

*Note: Because of the hazardous nature of the alpine environment, only students who have demonstrated that they are cooperative, reliable and trustworthy can be considered, and the organising staff and Sub-school Heads reserve the right to withdraw any place offers at any stage.

Paul Batters

YEAR 8 SPORT EDUCATION

All year 8 students participate in Sport Education classes on Tuesday afternoons. All students have chosen a sport for the term and will hone their playing, officiating and scoring skills in that particular sport for the whole term. They will then participate in the Year 8 Interschool Sport Day on Wednesday 24th March.

(If parents are interested in helping out on any of the Interschool Sport Days, please contact Suzie Hafey at school - it would be great to have extra coaches, scorers and helpers!!)

YEAR 9 SPORT EDUCATION

All year 9 students participate in their Sport Ed classes on Thursday afternoons. The students have chosen activities that incorporate several different sports and activities. Students are encouraged to develop a higher level of leadership and physical skills and fitness in these classes. Year 9 students who wish to participate in any of the interschool sport competitions need to sign up and try out for a team. The Intermediate Sport Day is on Tuesday 23rd March.

PE WORKBOOKS

Students in years 7-10 who did not purchase their PE workbooks on the booklist can buy them from the general office for \$5.00. All students will need these to use in PE and Health classes.

PE UNIFORM

The University High School PE uniform consists of the green Uni High sports shirt and black shorts or track pants. Shirts are available from the General Office. The PE uniform is compulsory for all PE and Sport classes and interschool sports days.

WORK EXPERIENCE

The work experience program for year 10 students will be **June 21-25**.

Preliminary information was posted to all families in November. Students spent time in their English class during Term 4 preparing for work experience, ie identifying suitable jobs, writing letters of application and sending letters to potential employers.

As a result of recent changes to the legislation covering work experience, students are now required to undertake an occupational health and safety program prior to commencing work experience. An online program is being developed by the Department of Education and Training.

A second package of information will be mailed by the end of February. In the meantime, please encourage and assist your son/daughter to secure a suitable placement as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns regarding work experience please feel free to contact me.

Ms Angela Moylan

UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT EXHIBITIONS

Ms Bronwyn White

ART IN THE LIBRARY

A selection of VCE work from 2003 is on exhibition in the Baillieu Library at The University of Melbourne from early February until the end of March. Year 11 and year 12 Studio Arts students are featured as part of the *Art in the Library* program, in what has become an annual event.

In previous years the exhibition program has been a collaborative venture with year 12 students from Princess Hill High School, however all 2004 exhibitors are University High School students. This exhibition breaks with tradition by showcasing some high quality work from a selection of year 11 students.

Family and friends are encouraged to visit the Baillieu Library to see this great student work in this local community setting. The information desk just inside the main entrance can give you some directions as to the locations of the work, but it is also a chance to have a browse through this special facility that is so close to our school, to discover the art works.

Art In The Library runs from the 6th February to the end of March 2004.

TOP ARTS

Year 12 student Alexia Skok has had a selection of work chosen for exhibition in *Top Arts*, an annual survey of outstanding VCE Studio Art achievement. Ms Skok's works are from a series of mixed media panels entitled *You killed the children*, 2003.

You killed the children offers a social comment by reflecting on contemporary society in relation to Nazism, and highlights the artist's concern with the destruction of innocence in modern culture. The larger panels from the series can be seen until the end of March in the *Art in the Library* exhibition at Baillieu Library, University of Melbourne.

Ms Skok has gained further recognition for her artistic practices through the The City of Melbourne Business Partner Cities Network collaborative photographic project. The project entitled *My city at work: A young person's view* encouraged young photographers to capture their vision of business and different workplaces within Melbourne.

The images captured by Ms Skok, along with the projects of other participants, will be exhibited in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in October 2004. The photographic exhibition will run in conjunction with the next meeting of the Business Partner Cities Network.

Top Arts is on show from March 6th to May 18th at The Ian Potter Centre, National Gallery of Victoria at Federation Square.



Two of the panels from *You Killed the Children* by Alexia Skok

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