



# The University High School SCHOOL NEWS

Number 3 May 2003

## TALK BACK CLASSROOM

Alexia Skok, Year 11

A few weeks ago, I was selected to be part of a national youth program called Talk Back Classroom, in which the ultimate aim is to get 12 students from across Australia, split them into panels of 3 and interview 4 different Federal politicians. I had to apply with questions, have a few brief phone interview and get flown up to Canberra in a matter of just days. So I, along with 4 other Melbournians and 7 interstate students, found myself on the steps of the National Museum of Australia, with not a clue why we were there because it was made clear to us that we would not be interviewing our politicians until at least the end of April. For three days we ran around the NMA like crazed lunatics, having

our photos taken, researching, talking, debating, yelling and having a blast. We spent one day at Parliament House, where we were all alert but not alarmed whilst talking to politicians, advisors, media personnel and staff (who thought \$1.1 billion of tax payers money to build a new Parliament House when there was nothing wrong with the old one was worth it). We got involved in role plays, watching question time (the one where the 'Hon.' John Howard just walked out), attending rallies and getting threatened by paranoid security guards, not to mention getting to know the 11 other students, all while we were being followed round by a documentary cameraman named Dave. After all that it

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became clear that we were there to be pumped with information before we had to return home. So after 4 and a half days of non-stop politics we were thrust back into the regular world and were told to follow the actions of our politicians, write up a bio for the Fly TV web page and do research for our interviews.

I'll be flying up to Canberra again and will be interviewing Robert Hill, Minister for Defense, on the 30th of April. It should be broadcast on Fly TV, which is on the ABC. So watch it and be enlightened.

*Athletics Carnival...*  
*Details and more pics on page 6*

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

### May

Thursday 22: Year 7 Hepatitis B immunizations.  
Friday 23: School photographs - years 7 to 10.

### June

Thursday 5: **Mid-Year Music Concert, 7:00pm.**  
Monday 9: Queen's Birthday Holiday.  
Tuesday 10: VCE Units 1 and 3 examinations begin.  
Thursday 12: Year 12 GAT.  
Student-free day - Staff professional development.  
Friday 20: Student-free day - Report writing.  
Monday 23: Work Experience begins for all year 10 and 9S3 students.  
Friday 27: Last day of Term Two, 2:30pm dismissal.



### July

Monday 14: Term Three begins.

### August

Wednesday 6 - Saturday 9:  
School musical production.  
Sunday 17 - Friday 22:  
Snow Camp - whahoo!



## SCHOOL NEWS PUBLICATION DATES

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

Term Two:	June 13	
Term Three:	August 1	August 29
Term Four:	October 24	November 21

The deadline for contributions for the next edition is: Wednesday June 4

## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

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

Next Meetings: Monday June 2  
Monday July 7

## 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 May 21  
Wednesday June 18

# THE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms Bronwyn Valente

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

At the first meeting of the recently elected Council, the following office bearers were elected:

Mr Lester Townsend – President  
Dr Russell Grigg – Vice President  
Ms Christine Bozyk – Treasurer  
Mr Kevin Campbell – Secretary

If any parent wishes to raise issues with members of the Council, please contact Council members directly or telephone the School and they will return your call.

## PARENT PARTICIPATION

This Council has formed a new sub-committee to encourage greater parent participation in the school.

The terms of reference are:

- to gather information about existing parental involvement at University High School
- to examine current Government policy in relation to parental involvement
- to identify parent involvement model used by other secondary schools
- to explore areas for future enhancement of parental involvement based on reported views of parents but taking into account the views of teachers and students.

The Council is keen to involve parents on the group from a wide cross section of the school community.

Parents who are interested in joining this Council Sub-committee or assisting, please contact the School.

*The GTAC construction site is a hive of activity as work begins on laying the footings and erecting scaffolding.*



## GTAC BUILDING PROGRAM

The building program is currently proceeding according to schedule and it is expected work will be completed by the commencement of the 2004 school year.

The building will be dedicated by Professor James Watson on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Professor Watson is the co-discoverer of the structure of DNA and is visiting Melbourne for the World Congress celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of DNA.

## STAFFING CHANGES FOR TERM 2

Welcome back to Ms Anne Miles and Ms Angela Moylan from Term 1 leave. Ms Clare Watson is teaching English this term while Ms Pam Hughes is on leave.

## SCHOOL EVENTS

The recent Parent/Teacher evenings were well attended. Parent support for student learning is an important part of the students' engagement in their learning.

The mid-year Music Concert of 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2003 promises to be an outstanding event of the school calendar. I hope you are able to attend.

The recent Athletics Carnival was a terrific day and we have a record-sized team participating in the inter-school athletics events.

## WORKING PARTY REPORTS

This month...

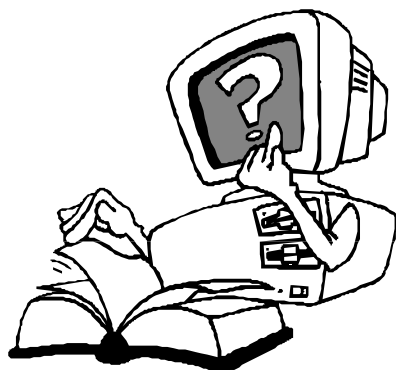
### THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

Ms L Fedeli

The Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) working party's main purpose in 2003 is to oversee the development and implementation of the School's three-year ICT Plan for 2002 - 2004.

The main focus for this year is the staged introduction of the construction of a maximum of 10 computer pods - small computer rooms consisting of between 6 and 12 computers. A majority of these are already in existence in various positions around the school. These pods are designated Key Learning Area specific pods, and the areas in which the pods have been established or are under construction are Art, Science, Graphics, Library, Technology and SOSE.

Also under consideration are the leasing of two computer classroom rooms, the revision and development of school computer policies concerning the use of the Internet, e-mail guidelines and procedures for the use of computer facilities and pods, the general processes for the students and teachers in terms of archiving/deletion and capping of student folders on the network, and the planning of Professional Development in ICT for staff for the year.



### BALANCE BETWEEN CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Mr D Early

A group of teachers held a number of meetings in the latter part of 2002 to look at the balance between the formal curriculum of the school and co-curricular activities. This working party was formed due to the concerns of staff that some students miss too many classes because of out-of-class activities, impacting on their learning and progress.

The working party recognised the concerns of staff, but agreed that all co-curricular activities were worthwhile on class curriculum grounds or for the student's positive social experience and growth in self-esteem. Activities such as sport, dramatic productions, musicals, competitions, work experience and Student Representative Council are educationally valid and confirming for individual students.

The working party unanimously agreed that any policy on co-curricular activities should not be prescriptive, but that the following procedures be adopted to address concerns.

1. Sub schools have the right to refuse students attending out of class activities.
2. Major events are to be spaced throughout the year by co-coordinating forward planning.
3. All staff are to work together to promote the message that students are expected to catch up on work missed.
4. The procedure for approval for excursions and incursions will be tightened, and the activity recorded on the co-curriculum database with the Assistant Principal. This will allow an overview of the number of activities, thus avoiding bottlenecks.

Information Night

### EATING DISORDERS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The Eating Disorders Foundation of Victoria and Orygen Youth Health are running an Information Night for people with an eating disorder, families and friends and other interested people

When: Tuesday 6th May 2003 7.30 — 9.00 pm

Where: Orygen Youth Health  
(Formerly MHSky)

Building A, Statewide Training Room  
35 Poplar Road, Parkville  
Meiways ref IOCA S7  
Free Parking on Site

For more information, or to book your place, please phone the EDFV on (03) 9885 0318.

Bookings essential.

Entry by gold coin contribution

## SCIENCE NEWS

Ms J Hamilton

Congratulations to Melinda Norton 7S1, Ursula Webb 7B2, Susan Nheu 7C1, Caitlin Koller 7B1, Phoebe Naughton 7S2, Vaughan Quinn 7C3 and William Nie 7C2 who were class winners in the annual Year 7 Safety Poster Competition. The overall year level winner was Susan Nheu. She won a voucher for use at Readings bookshop in Carlton. The posters were creative, informative and an excellent way for students to investigate safety issues in the science classroom.

The School and Science Department thank Mr. Rob Kneale for his organization and running of the Australasian Schools Science Competition. 150 students participated from years 7 to 12. We await the results with interest.

Two year 11 students are to be congratulated for being successful in their applications to the CSIRO Student Research Scheme. The CSIRO is one of the most respected worldwide science organizations. Alisa Sedghifar and Elisse Buchlak will be working with scientists as part of a current research venture. They were selected from 170 applicants statewide. Through the scheme these talented students will explore career options and the importance of Australian scientific research will be emphasized to the wider community.

## MATHEMATICS NEWS

Ms A Donoghue

### MATHS ENRICHMENT

Students in Years 7 to 10 from University High School who are participating in Maths Enrichment for 2003 have started work solving the required problems. They are working on their Maths Enrichment at home and attending lunchtime classes on

Information on this year's Coastal Ambassador Scheme for year 9 students has been received by the school. We have been fortunate to have year 9 students participating in the past two years. Participants attend workshops by world leaders in marine ecology and enjoy the environment that is home to the seals and penguins. The program, which runs for 5 days at Phillip Island, will, very generously, be funded by the school. Information is available at [www.penguins.org.au](http://www.penguins.org.au). Follow the links to Education/Coastal Ambassadors. Year 9 science teachers will describe the program to their classes and make available application forms and a closing date for applications to interested students. The school will then select those students who are to represent us in this program.

I had the pleasure of representing the school at the Faculty of Science Deans Award Ceremony at Melbourne University on May 6. Andrew Kwok and James Zhao were each awarded a Deans Prize on their entry to a combined Bachelor of Commerce and Science degree course at the university. This award is determined by academic merit and is awarded to the highest achieving students entering the faculty as first year students. Both students have had an impressive academic record to date and I am sure will continue to impress in the future.

Thursdays. Maths Enrichment takes place from April to September each year.

### MATHS CHALLENGE

Maths Challenge commenced on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of May. This goes for a three-week period. Students from Year 7 to 10 have begun to work on their

## THE FORUM

Amy Firth 11

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> of March at 12:45 in room 615 a student forum was held inspired by the outbreak of war. Approximately 90 students attended to listen to speakers and ask questions referring to the war on Iraq, the effect on Iraqi civilians, the USA and Australia's involvement. There were a series of speakers, beginning with Tyson Lange who spoke about the war, referring to UN resolutions and the legal perspective. He was followed by Mr O'Neill who spoke about US military equipment and tactics. Lachlan Doughney spoke about ideological changes as a result of the war, and Rashid Roumai gave us an insight into the impact of war on Muslims and Arabs. Claire Watson gave a thought-provoking speech on terrorism and Australia's involvement in this war. Madeleine de Garis then gave a pro-America speech – very brave in a room full of predominantly anti-war students. Unfortunately we ran out of lunchtime and only a few quick words could be given by Rebecca Hyde and Rini Krousos referring to the impact of war on Australia's youth.

All speakers were well received and never has there been a room full of 90 students so silent when listening to information that may be defined as learning. The purpose of the forum was to inform and stimulate thought – it was not intended to be a debate.

Overall it was a success. Thank you to all speakers, chairpersons and bouncers for their contributions, the students for their attendance and co-operation, and to Mr Marchant for his vision and organisation.

*Mid-Year Music Concert*

*Don't miss it  
Thursday 5th of June*

Challenge questions at home. Good luck to all participants in Maths Challenge for 2003.

# SPORT REPORT

Ms Suzie Hafey

## TERM 2 SPORTS DATES

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May:

1<sup>st</sup> Senior Sport Day

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June:

2<sup>nd</sup> Senior Sport Day

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June:

Intermediate Sport Day

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June:

Year 7 Sport Day

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June:

Year 8 Sport Day

\*Please note that this term the intermediate sport day clashes with a UHS pupil free day. Students who still wish to participate in competitions on this day can still do so. Please see me if you have any concerns.

## SWIMMING

Congratulations to the team of swimmers who competed in the Victorian Schools State Swimming Championships, which were held at MSAC on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

Our under 14 boys relay team consisting of Hayato Komatsu, Daniel Grimshaw, Felix Johnson, Antony Harbor and Sam Forbes put in a fantastic effort to come 5<sup>th</sup> in the medley relay and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the freestyle relay. Well done guys! Marcus McGirr also swam brilliantly to achieve 2<sup>nd</sup> in both the under 16 breaststroke and freestyle. Great effort Marcus! Last, but certainly not least, Sam Forbes put in a couple of personal bests to place 3<sup>rd</sup> in the under 14 freestyle, 2<sup>nd</sup> in backstroke and 1<sup>st</sup> in butterfly. Fantastic effort Sam! Sam also gained a place in the Victorian Swim Team that travelled to Brisbane in week one of term 2 for the National Swimming Championships. Sam competed in 100m butterfly, 200m butterfly and 100m backstroke. Sam made the final of the 100m butterfly and placed 9<sup>th</sup>. In two of his races he was the fastest placed Victorian. Keep it up Sam!

## INTERSCHOOL SPORT

In term 1 we had many teams compete in interschool competitions. Many of these teams performed very well and several went on to Northern Zone Finals. Unfortunately we had no winners in term 1, but we still have a chance with the year 7 girls tennis, year 8 boys tennis and year 7 boys baseball teams who were washed out and will play their matches in term 4. Good luck!

## ATHLETICS

Thanks to all students and staff who participated and helped out at the recent UHS Athletics Carnival. The day ran very smoothly and we were quite lucky to avoid some ugly weather.

There were some fantastic performances on the day. A team of approximately 90 students have qualified for the Section C Athletics Championships. Congratulations and good luck to these students; I'm sure that many will go on to the Metro Final in the following week.

# HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND MORE SPORT

Ms K Klopsteins

Farewell and thank you to Ms Mia Busby who contributed greatly to the PE and Health Faculty in term one. Ms Busby took classes to cover Ms Patterson and Ms Baxter who were working in other areas for the duration of the term. Ms Patterson and Ms Baxter are back in full swing in the PE department.

## SPORT EDUCATION

This term we see the first section of the Winter Sports played. The sports that students are participating in this term are Australian Rules football, netball, soccer, badminton and indoor hockey. For year 8 and 9 students, football and soccer will be played at Royal Park, whilst netball will be split venues between the State Netball Centre, Melbourne University and Uni High. All other sports will be at school.

Students have been advised that these are Winter sports and will sometimes be played in wet and cold conditions and outdoors. All participants need to be prepared for this by bringing warm clothes to wear before and after they play their games. On wet days they are advised to bring a change of clothes and shoes as they may get muddy during the activity.

## MOUTHGUARDS

In the past mouthguards have been recommended for contact sports and high risk activities such as Australian Rules football, rugby and field hockey. However the Dental Association of Victoria recommends mouthguards in all activities.

*"Mouthguards should be worn during any sport where there is the chance of a knock to the face. Not just the traditional contact sports such as football, rugby, martial arts and boxing; but also basketball, netball, baseball, softball, squash, soccer, BMX bike riding, skateboarding, in-line skating, trampolining, cricket (wicket keeping), water skiing and snow ski racing.*

*"Mouthguards should be worn during all competitions as well as during training sessions, as this is when many injuries occur. This should be stressed to children in junior teams."*

Unfortunately accidents do happen. If you have concerns about such accidents happening, your son or daughter should wear a mouthguard in P.E. and Sport Ed. sessions. It is the student's responsibility to bring their mouthguard to class and wear it during the game. For more information the Dental Association website is [www.adavb.com.au](http://www.adavb.com.au) . Please see a pharmacy or your dentist for advice about the correct mouthguard for your child.

## TRIATHLON

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March (last term) the Year 11 PE students, together with many other budding triathletes, devoted parents and teachers from Uni High braved the wee hours of Sunday morning to compete in the Just Tri It triathlon. The Uni High team looked particularly striking in their bright orange swim caps as they took off for the swim just as the sun was rising. All competitors raced well and had a great time. Congratulations to all of those who participated in the event. It was a fantastic effort.

The next triathlon that the school will be competing in is on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of June and will be held at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre and Albert Park. (210m/8km/2km) Please see Mr Murray or Ms Klopsteins for details as entries will be closing very soon.

# *The University High School - Essence Photographic Competition*

*now in its fourth year*

*and again proudly sponsored by*

*McManus Architects & Consultants*

*Open to all students in the School with separate  
Junior and Senior sections*

*Cash prizes galore!*



*New this year - Photographs taken with digital cameras will also be  
accepted and there have been some changes to the categories and the  
prize structure.*

*Full details are provided on the competition Rules and Entry Form  
available from Room 306 or as a download from the School IntraWeb.*

*Entries close on the last day of Term Three - September 19th.*



[www.mcmanusarchitects.com.au](http://www.mcmanusarchitects.com.au)

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