



The University High School SCHOOL NEWS

Number 6 October 2003

MELBOURNE -

THROUGH THE EYES OF STUDENTS IN THE MIDDLE YEARS

Clare Ryan, Ann Donoghue, John Haylock
The Middle Years Team, Melbourne Cluster 1

Take some classes of year 9 students, involve them in a project which challenges them to reflect on what it's like to be a young person in the city of Melbourne in 2003, add a digital camera to the scenario and tell the students to go for it. That was the challenge that Judy Rendell and Sue Anne McCarthy set their Art classes.

The photos and words that followed provide a real insight into the issues and culture of young people as they journey through adolescence in the context of a busy, contemporary city

Now add to the mix another six inner Melbourne schools - Nth Melbourne PS, Ascot Vale Special School, Carlton Gardens and Carlton Primary Schools, Flemington PS and Moonee Ponds Central School all doing the same project - with teachers and students working together to pool their work and you have the diverse, fascinating and revealing exhibition that is

*In the Middle... In Melbourne...
In 2003*

The exhibition will be on display at the Block Arcade from September 16 - September 28, 2003.

The exhibition is a montage of images and words that reflect through the eyes of students aged from 10 - 15 in years 5 - 9 the breadth of the adolescent perspective and the layers of life in Melbourne. The seven schools are as diverse as the exhibition itself. Students have explored city life and the adolescent perspective from many angles. Life in the laneways of Melbourne, the high-rise flats, the streetscape, the skyscrapers the transport system... each shot conveying a different emotion.

The impetus from the project came from an innovative partnership between Melbourne City Council and a Melbourne Cluster of DOE Schools, which includes University High, who are working together as part of the Department of Education's Middle Years Project. This project is encouraging schools to link in with the community and build partnerships to ensure the middle years experience is a relevant, challenging and engaging one for students.

The City of Melbourne has backed the exhibition and sees it as an important opportunity to support a group of young people who use the city but are often overlooked in terms of a voice and viewpoint. The Mayor of the City of Melbourne, John So, himself an old boy of Uni High, will open the exhibition

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Some of our year 9 students paused from their photo shoot long enough to give the project the thumbs up. As one student commented,

"This activity is a good thing because it allows us to go out and become familiar with the city we live in and what else is inside us. It stimulates our curiosity and gives us something interesting to do. It reveals to us new viewpoints and how interesting the city is."

Parents and the wider community are invited to take their families into the exhibition and experience the inner city through the eyes of the young people who are such an important part of it.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS



*Spring is sprung, the grass is ris,
I wonder where the birdies is?*

September

Monday 8: Year 7 Sports Day.
Mon 8 - Sat 13: Year 11 Theatre Studies - 'Billy Club Puppets'
Tuesday 16: Year 8 Sports Day.
Friday 19: Last day of term three - 2:30pm dismissal.
Closing date for Photographic Competition.

October

Monday 6: Term four commences.
Mon 13 - Fri 17: Year 9 Camps.
Wednesday 22: "Rethinking Drinking" - an evening for all years 7 and 8 students and their parents. See page 5 for more details. Starts 7:00pm.
Sunday 26: Musical Breakfast.
Wednesday 29: Year 11 Valedictory Evening, 7:30pm.

November

Mon 17 - Sun 23: UHS Art Show.
Mon 24 - Fri 28: Year 8 Adventure Camp.
Wednesday 26: "Creating Conversations" - an evening for all years 9 and 10 students and their parents. See page 5 for more details. Starts 7:00pm.

SCHOOL NEWS PUBLICATION DATES

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

Term Four: October 24 November 21

The deadline for contributions for the next edition is: Wednesday October 15

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 September 8

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 September 17
 Wednesday October 15

THE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms Bronwyn Valente

Congratulations to the students, staff and parents who mounted the production of the 'Hot Mikado' – "Best ever", "Wonderful", "Outstanding" were a few of the accolades heard from the appreciative audience during the three nights.

Equally successful was this year's snow trip, thanks to excellent snow and students and staff who worked together to get the best from the experience.

Planning for 2004 is well under way with students commencing subject selection and considering options. The planned changes to the year 10 elective structure are proceeding and a range of new electives is being developed to complement the current selections. Year 9 students and their parents of are encouraged to seek advice from their sub-school or Ms Angela Moylan if they require additional information after reading the handbook which will be available early next term.

The Council continues to work on a range of issues. The Finance Committee is currently discussing financial plans for 2004-2006, particularly in relation to continuing to provide up-to-date computer resources for students. A review of the requested voluntary contribution and other school charges is under way.

The discussion has centred around the need to continue to provide the best possible resources for students, what is a reasonable request and the absolute of ensuring all students have equal access to core programs.

The Building and Grounds Committee, after completing the Hall upgrade, is organising the air conditioning of the third floor of the North wing. It is planned for this work to be completed during the September vacation.

Education and Planning has discussed the Year 10 proposals for 2004, and the Department of Education "Blueprint for Education statements". A smaller group is working on a vision statement for the school.

The newly formed parent participation working party is now meeting regularly and is developing policy.

I encourage parents to visit the Block Arcade to view the exhibition of student work called "In the Middle...In Melbourne...In 2003" from 16th – 28th September, 2003.



Year 11 Theatre Studies presents

The Billy Club Puppets

By Gabriel Garcia Lorca



Garcia Lorca was Spanish a poet and a dramatist writing in the early years of the twentieth century. He was a great folklorist and celebrated Andalusian culture in his work, but he also had a great interest in the European art movements of this period such as surrealism and Dadaism. These interests are all reflected in the bizarre tale that unfolds in *The Billy Club Puppets*.

The play was originally written as a puppet entertainment for children for the occasion of The Twelfth Night celebration. In Spain this was traditionally a time of fun, puppet shows, and presents to children, like Christmas, celebrating the arrival of the Magi at the crib of Christ.

However, the Twelfth Night had its roots in a much earlier pagan celebration (Saturnalia) when a fool king (the lord of Misrule, the Bean King) was elected and then symbolically sacrificed in a ritual re-establishment of order from chaos. The character of Christobita is very similar to the English puppet character Mr Punch of Punch and Judy fame.

Our emphasis in this production is on the play as a comedy and an entertainment, rather like a cartoon, with live actors playing all the puppet characters. However, the play has elements of poetry and ritual as well when the performance becomes more mysterious and surreal.

Performances

September 8 – 13, 7.30 pm
Backstage Theatre
at University High School

UHS Students \$6.00
Non UHS Student \$7.00
Adult \$11.00
Family \$27.00

Tickets at the UHS General Office

HOT MIKADO – ‘WE DO NOT WANT TO LET YOU GO, BUT WE HAVE FINISHED WITH OUR SHOW!’..

Duncan Campbell and Sarah Zeleznikow, Year 11

Over three nights early in August, The University High School community was treated to a lively and exciting production of ‘Hot Mikado’. After a small but very warm reception on Wednesday night, the word got around and spread like an infectious disease - tickets to the show were hot items. As a result, the cast were privileged enough to have two nights of full houses. This said, you may be wondering what it is that attracted so much attention. This was a production full of energy, talent and razz-a-ma-jazz. ‘Hot Mikado’ was a two and a half hour extravaganza of blues, gospel, jazz and tap (with some reversion to the original operetta when arias or quartets could not have been done justice by a jazz interpretation). A swinging, tight jazz ensemble featuring brass, woodwind and rhythm sections accompanied the numerous solos, duets, trios, quartets and chorus numbers.

Friends, families and community were entranced by the simple story of a little maid from school who falls in love with a wandering minstrel, complicated by several misunderstandings, misgivings and language barriers (‘It’s in JAPANESE! Oh, we ARE Japanese!!!’). The comic talents of the cast brought to life a whole new interpretation of the musical - Pantomime style. The on-stage talent was aided by the refurbishment of the stage area, which made the performance significantly easier, safer and smoother to run. At front-of-house, the new curtains added a certain ‘je ne sais quoi’ to our production.

It must be said though that the true credit for this exciting show must go to the enormous effort put in by the talented cast, very gifted and surprisingly good-natured crew, and utterly dedicated Miracle Productions team. Thank you to Mr and Mrs Coles, Ms Verberne, Mr Dorn, Mrs Svalbe, The University High School Music Faculty (as well as many music-sympathising teachers) and the wider school community who gave so much to make this production what it was.

These are the events memories are made of.

“HOT MIKADO” LAUNCHES BACKSTAGE IMPROVEMENTS

Mr Graham Coles (For the cast)

The “Hot Mikado” finished its season on the 8th August to universal acclaim. Over 165 students applied to take part but stage space restrictions meant that only about half could be invited to participate. The cast, from peerless principals to consummate chorus, showed a very high degree of commitment and energy, achieving outstanding appreciation for their work.

However, the professionalism of the production was significantly enhanced by the greatly improved production and staging opportunities given by the recently completed Sharman Hall backstage upgrade. Two new counterweighted lines were introduced in addition to the existing one. This meant that

scene changes could be swift and silent, without an accompaniment of the torturous squeaking of winches. This also did away with the “truck” system, where a mini-set was built on a platform on casters and wheeled on and off as needed.

With the new lighting purchased, this gave tremendous opportunity to vary the look of the stage, proving especially effective where we needed to maintain a mood though scene changes. (Such as in the opening of Act Two. Quick removal also made the arrival of the Mikado much more effective and impressive.)

As a “baptism of fire” I believe the upgrade demonstrated beyond doubt the need for the changes and the great flexibility they offer.

School Council allowed this to happen with its generous focus upon re-development of the Hall using Sale of Koroit Camp monies.

On behalf of the production crew, I would like to express our deep and sincere appreciation for the part played by the Assistant Principal, Ms. Rosalind Betson who steered the project from the initial committee stage to final realisation. She worked tirelessly, organising submissions and quotes, following up a range of suppliers and tradespeople and maintaining an excellent handle on the million details such a project generates. When the curtain went up all worked exactly as expected. Our warmest thanks.

END OF YEAR ACTIVITIES, 2003

Dr Amanda Watson
(UHS, Monday and Wednesday)

The End of Year Activities for all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will take place between Monday 15th and Thursday 18th December 2003. Students will have a choice of full day and half-day activities.

Selection forms will be distributed in early September and students must return their completed selection and permission forms to the box in their sub-school office by Friday 12th September.

No payment is required on this day. An invoice will be prepared for each student, listing the selected activities and total cost and will be posted home in October. Payment will need to take place between Monday 27th October and Friday 14th November at the General Office.

Please remember that as all activities will have been pre-booked and costed, no refunds will be given.



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DRUG EDUCATION @ UHS.

Ms P Cheary

During term 4, there will be 2 evenings held for students and their parents. The first night, "Rethinking Drinking" on Wednesday, 22nd October, from 7 pm, will be for families of years 7 and 8 students. The programme will include a number of the activities used in health education. Parents of years 7 and 8 students will receive an invitation and further information in the mail.

MATHEMATICS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES:

Melbourne University Maths Competition

UHS students were very successful in this challenging competition. Mark Norrish won 2nd Prize in the Junior section and Kevin Tan achieved an Outstanding Award in the Intermediate section. The following students achieved Merit Awards: Kathy Jia, Anna Hodgins & Jennifer Wheatcroft (Junior), Victor Yang & Jasmine Zhu (Intermediate) and Ting Chen & Ray Komatsu (Senior).

Mathematics Challenge Program

High Distinctions were awarded to: Simeon Press (Year 9), Chris Loo, Saya Press, Henry Lin & Simon Wu (Year 8) and Henry Jennens (Year 7). Congratulations to all students who were able to successfully complete the three-week project.

Student Maths Olympics at Discovery Day at Melbourne University

Ray Komatsu, Ting Chen, Wang Chun Wei, Tian Xu, Jasmine Zhu came equal 2nd on points but were relegated to third place on a countback.

Year 10 Maths Games Day at MLC

The two UHS teams performed extremely well with another "Top Ten" finish for one team against the 90 teams competing.

Year 9 Maths Games Day at Blackburn High School

The UHS Year 9 team of David Jennens, Leon di Stefano, Jasmine Zhu and Aida Humidi-Ravari were the winning team on the day with the 2nd UHS team also finishing in the "Top Ten" of over 50 teams.

Year 8 Maths Games Day at Penleigh & Essendon Grammar

UHS sent two teams to compete against 130 state-wide teams in a team problem solving competition. Both teams competed very creditably with one team achieving a "Top 10" result.



The second night, "Creating Conversations" on Wednesday, 26th November, from 7 pm, will be for the families of years 9 and 10 students. This programme, which uses an interactive format, aims to improve communication about many issues between young people and their parents. There will be a guest speaker who will speak on drug-related issues. Further information about this

programme will be included in the next edition of this newsletter

In previous years, both evenings have proven to be most successful and, with your participation, will be again.

Please contact Mrs Patricia Cheary during school hours for further information.

GTAC MASTERCLASS

Julian Maingard, Year 11

"We wish to suggest a structure for the salt of deoxyribose nucleic acid (D.N.A). This structure has novel features which are of considerable biological interest". It was with this famous statement, James Watson and Francis Crick announced their discovery of the structure of DNA on the 25th April 1953. It was with this model that biologists could finally explain how genetic material could be copied and passed on to future generations.

During the school holidays I was given the opportunity to attend the GTAC 'masterclass' program which was run as part of the recent Genetic Conference held here in Melbourne. Along with 30 other VCE students from across Victoria, I embarked on an unforgettable learning experience which involved many hands-on experiments. During the course of the 3-day GTAC 'masterclass' program I became immersed in the wonderful world of genetics. The program focused mainly on gene manipulation and its effects on an organism. We were able to further investigate this by performing a number of experiments which involved genetically modifying E.coli to confer resistance to the antibiotic Chloramphenicol. Not for the fainthearted!

Not only was I given the opportunity to be involved in such an outstanding event, but what was even more significant was the fact that I met with world-renowned scientists some of whom were Nobel Laureates. Originally it had been planned for the participating students to meet Professor James Watson, the co-discoverer of the structure of DNA.

Unfortunately due to a family crisis back in the UK he was unable to attend. Despite this it was still a most enjoyable experience. Thankyou to Brian Stevenson and to all the staff at GTAC.

THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ACTION REPORT 2003

Tim Bushell & Simon Coles, Year 11

The SRC has been very active so far this year and been involved in two major developments for students at University High. In February a coffee machine was installed in the canteen and since then many students have used its services. From the 5th to the 13th of April the SRC organized a program of movies and games for junior students as part of the school's Youth Week program.

Six matters have been discussed in the SRC and are in abeyance, these are; soft drink prices in the canteen, the type and supply of sanitary products for female students, removal of the piano in the library, the school's instrumental music program not offering Guitar as a subject, the election of year 9 and 10 Brookes representatives into the Council, and the installation of football goals on the oval.

There are nine matters yet to be resolved in the SRC. These are: the female sanitary products, a letter to the Minister for Education regarding the school's class sizes, the construction of an outdoors area requested by the canteen, replacing the desks in some of the school's classrooms, increasing the variety of food the canteen offers for lunch, introducing the use of 'book bags' (which students could use to carry their books from class to class during the school day), installing football goals on the oval, putting up a job board for students looking for part-time employment, and the Council's membership in the Children and Young Person's Commission.

PRE-DRIVER EDUCATION

Ms Kim Patterson.

Twenty VCE students are currently undertaking a Pre-Driver Education Course with Camelot Driving School. Each Wednesday afternoon students spend one session doing theory on safe driving practices. They then get into Learner cars (dual control) with qualified instructors and one or two peer learners. Reports back from both the students and the instructors have been very positive.

Pre-driver Education classes will be available for year 10 students in November (week beginning 24th to the 28th). This is the same week as the year 8 Adventure Camp so as to minimise disruptions to others classes. Students with their Learner's Permit will drive on the streets. Students who do not have their Learner's Permit do their driving component at Moonee Valley Race Course.

Year 10 students who would like to know more should pick up an information sheet from Ms Patterson in Room 138. Expression of Interest Forms must be in by the end of this term and the payment of \$60 will be due early Term 4.



HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Ms K Klopsteins
Health & PE Coordinator

Year 7 - 9 Sport Education

The sports that students have been participating in during Sport Education time are field hockey, basketball, soft lacrosse, table tennis and indoor soccer. The interschool sports days will be coming up soon, which will give all students an opportunity to represent Uni High in their chosen sports. Best of luck to all players!

Students and parents alike may have noticed all the construction going on at school with the development of the GTAC building. This has left us without the use of one of our outdoor basketball courts for most of the year. However, we have been fortunate enough to be able to use the facilities at the State Netball Centre and Melbourne University to compensate for the loss of space. These facilities have been a luxury on cold, wet days.

Looking Ahead

In Term 4, year 7 and 8 students will be undertaking a 4-week Health unit. Year 7 students will be looking at issues such as puberty, smoking, nutrition and building positive relationships. Year 8 students will be undertaking the "Rethinking Drinking" course. This course looks at alcohol and its effects on us as individuals and how it is used within our society. (See article on "Rethinking Drinking Parents Evening".)

For the other half of the term students will participate in a variety of games and activities such as orienteering, touch rugby, Frisbee games and European handball.

Many of the year 9 students will be completing their term of Health Education in Term 4. Those that have completed the Health course earlier this year will participate in sporting activities that they have selected. A reminder to all students that they may swap sport classes, but must do so before the end of Term 3.

Year 10 Health and Physical Education

This term, year 10 students are completing a Motor Skills Unit where they are required to coach the rest of their class in a particular sporting activity. It takes a lot of preparation and confidence to do this well, and we have seen many interesting and well-presented sessions. Students have taken small sessions on table tennis, soccer, basketball, dance, martial arts and more.

In Term 4, year 10 students will be participating in a unit called "Leisure" where they will have the opportunity to participate in activities such as indoor rock climbing and ten-pin bowling. This is their last unit of compulsory physical activity. It emphasises the importance of physical activity for fun, for health and for life!

On the 15th of August, Zeal Theatre came to Uni High to perform a theatre piece called "Fixin' Bart and Maggie". The theme of the play looked at illicit drug use in our society and was closely related to the material being covered in Health classes this term. Stefo, Tom and Peta gave an excellent performance that was enjoyed by all.

VCE Health Education - Baby Think It Over

This term the year 11 students (and their families) have been participating in the "Baby Think It Over" program. This involves the baby-sitting of computerised infants. The babies provide a simulated idea of what it would be like to have to care for an infant. Students have reported back some interesting comments from the public. They have been given suggestions from well-meaning tram goers on whether the infant needs to be fed, or whether they should be wearing a beanie. Naturally people are pretty surprised to find that the baby is a fake!

Ms Patterson would like to thank all parents and teachers who have been very patient with the babies who cry throughout the night and sometimes during classes. There will be a full report on the success of the program when all students have had their turn at playing parent.

Other reminders...

The PE lost property pile is growing. Many good quality jumpers, shorts, tracky pants and even shoes are left behind each week after PE classes. Please remember to put your name and class and even a phone number on the label so that we know who belongs to these items of clothing.

***IN THE MIDDLE...
IN MELBOURNE...
IN 2003***

An Exhibition of Photos and Words

On display at the Block Arcade from September 16 - September 28, 2003.

The Block Arcade is off Collins St, in between Swanston St and Elizabeth St. The exhibition begins Monday 16th September and will run through the first week of the school holidays, concluding on Sunday 28th September. Open during trading hours.

SPORTS DATES

Ms Suzie Hafey

Don't forget the sports days coming up this term – The Year 8 day is Monday 8th September and the Year 7 day is Tuesday 16th September. Students will be given permission forms very soon for these events, please ensure they are signed and returned ASAP to the Sports Office. Please also help us by ensuring that your child is wearing his or her Uni High Sports Uniform on the day. Some teams have already been training very hard, so we are hoping for some great victories!

SPORTS STARS

Congratulations to Will Walker of Year 12 who has recently left for Italy to attend pre-Worlds cycling competitions, and then he's on to Canada to represent Australia in the World Road Cycling Championships.

This is a fantastic achievement and we wish him well.

Whilst Georgia Moore of Year 11 was playing Ice Hockey in the Nationals several weeks ago, the National selectors were out and about. They were so impressed with Georgia's performance they decided to pick her in the Australian Team. Well done Georgia!

Well done to Year 8 Boys David Threlfall, Patrick Hayes, Robert Campbell and Jack Faine, who have all been training hard with the Victorian U14 Field Hockey Squad. David, Patrick and Robert went on to be picked in the final team. Good luck with the competition boys! This should make a for a very strong Uni High team in our district competition this term.

Congratulations to Liam Culbertson and Steven Healy of Year 8 on their recent performance in the Victorian Flatwater Kayaking Championships. Liam won the U14 K1 Singles event and Steven was triumphant in the TK1 Singles. Great effort guys!

If you have been performing well in your chosen sport, don't forget to let your PE teacher know.

SPORTS PROFILE

We have many great sports men and women at Uni High. At year 8 level, there are 4 boys who are competing at a high level of hockey. Patrick Hayes is one of them....

Name: Patrick Hayes
Age: 14, Class: 8C2
Main Sport: Hockey
Other Sports: Football, Cricket
Hobbies: Sport
Position: Midfield
Club: Under 15 A, Essendon
Team Colours: Red and Black
Past Achievements: Under 12, 13 and 14 State Hockey Teams
How was your success achieved? Being coached by good coaches
Greatest Role Model: Jimmy Stynes
Greatest Disappointment: Losing my hockey grand final on penalty strokes
Favourite Food: Spaghetti Carbonara
Most Unfavourite Food: Cooked mushrooms
Favourite Movie: 'Lord of the Rings'
Worst Movie: Don't know
Future Goals (Sporting): Make more state teams
Future Goals (Other): Be a chef

Concerned about being overweight? The prevalence of overweight adolescents has increased dramatically in recent years. 20 to 25% of Australian children and adolescents are already overweight or obese. It is predicted that 50% of young Australians will be overweight or obese by 2020. Unfortunately these overweight adolescents are likely to become overweight adults. Overweight and obese individuals have increased risk of cardiovascular problems, diabetes, high blood pressure and other medical problems. In addition to these health problems overweight and obese individuals commonly experience social stigma and negative psychological consequences.

Want to do something about it? RMIT University researchers are offering free treatment programs to assist adolescents experiencing weight problems. The 'Choose Health' program is designed to assist adolescents to improve their eating and activity habits. The programs will teach adolescents and their parents a range of useful strategies to improve nutrition and increase daily activity. Adolescents will also be assisted to develop and maintain their motivation to change eating and exercise habits. These programs are being run free of charge at RMIT University City and Bundoora campuses. All overweight adolescents experiencing difficulty maintaining a healthy body weight are eligible to participate.

Want more information? For more information about the project please contact RMIT University on (03) 9925 7376 or Leah Brennan on choosehealth@rmit.edu.au.

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www.unihigh.vic.edu.au

Telephone (03) 9347 2022 Facsimile (03) 9347 2658

Editor: G Viney

E-mail: schoolnews@unihigh.vic.edu.au