



The University High School

SCHOOL NEWS

Number 8 December 2002

THE PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms Bronwyn Valente

Planning for 2003 is well under way with classes determined for next year and staff selections progressing.

The enrolment application for all year levels has been at an usually high level and there is an increasing trend towards a larger number of local residency claims from higher year levels.

The Valedictory Assembly was a very successful event attended by all Year 12 students and their parents. The guest speaker, Ms Sigrid Thornton, gave an excellent address reflecting on her own experiences, both on leaving school and in contributing to the community in this part of her life.

The Musical Breakfast was well attended and as usual, all students showed a very high performance standard. A particularly significant performance was the music written by Mr Eric Austin Phillips for the senior orchestra.

Mr Phillips' formal farewell is on Sunday the 1st of December, 2002 at 2 pm. Tickets are available from the office.

The annual Art Show was well attended with an impressive display of student work. A new feature this year was the inclusion of senior student work from the materials and technology area.

The student-free day on November 4th, 2002 was very successful. The focus was on the middle years and teaching strategies to engage students. A number of classes were conducted for teachers by volunteer staff in a variety of faculty areas.

The school has been selected as part of a cluster to be in the first phase of the Middle Years program. This will bring a grant of some \$255 000 to the school to be used by the cluster of UHS and other local schools

including Errol St PS, Carlton Gardens PS, Neil St Carlton PS, Flemington PS, Moonee Ponds Central School and Ascot Vale Special School. Firm plans for initiatives for the coming three years will be developed in the coming months for implementation from Term 2 next year.

The GTAC project has been put out to tender and a number of suitable builders have expressed interest. A commencement date cannot be confirmed until tenders are evaluated and the result of the election is known.

A number of suggestions have been received by the Council for consideration of expenditure of the fund realized by the sale of Koroit. Council will consider these in the next 3 months.

At the last Council meeting there was extensive discussion regarding the possible ways of parents contributing to the school. At the November meeting, Council will consider the budget submissions from all areas for 2003. The budget sub-committee met to consider a number of submissions from a range of programs.

I ask you to note the important dates published for the commencement of term next year and other important dates.

As this is the final *School News* for the year, I would like to thank all parents and members of the community who have supported the school during the year, and congratulate all students who have had a successful year.

I hope all families enjoy the holiday season, and look forward to a new school year.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

Friday 29: 2003 years 8, 10 & 12 confirmation of enrolment.
Year 12 Book Sale (see page 7).

December

Monday 2: Student-free day - correction and report writing.

Tuesday 3: Orientation Week for 2003 year 11 students.

Friday 6: 2003 years 9 & 11 confirmation of enrolment.
Last day for year 10 students.
Year 11 Book Sale (see page 7).

Tuesday 10: Orientation Day for 2003 year 7 students.

Saturday 14: Year 7 to 10 Book Sale (see page 7).

Monday 16: End of year Activities Program for years 7 to 9 begins

Friday 20: Last day of term. Students attend by appointment only.

January

Tuesday 28: Term One begins (for staff only).

Wednesday 29: First day of classes for years 7 to 11.

Thursday 30: Year 12 classes commence.

February

Wednesday 19: Swimming Carnival.

SCHOOL NEWS DISTRIBUTION DATES

For contribution deadlines, count back
9 days from distribution dates.

The first edition for 2003 should be in your letter box about the middle of February.
Approximate distribution dates for subsequent issues will be listed in that edition.

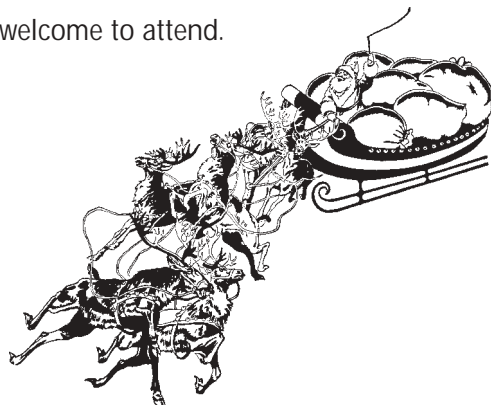
PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The PA meets in the staff common room. All parents are welcome to attend.
The next meeting is:

Monday 9 December, 7:00pm.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday 11 December, 7:30pm,



A SHORT PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ARTICLE

Richard Evans, President

The P.A. was pleased to participate at the recent Valedictory evening for departing year 12 students, presenting Thomas Rogers with the annual Drama Award. It was a highly pleasant evening, and the P.A. congratulates students and their families for their successes so far, and wishes them all the best for their future studies and other pursuits.

Our recent P.A meeting was productive, with several new faces being welcomed and appreciated for their contributions. Both the Constitution update and the Association's Finance/Donations policy have been progressed towards their conclusion, and a number of other matters raised by those in attendance will be followed-up through relevant sub-committees and Council.

One upcoming matter discussed was the Book Sale; details appear elsewhere in this Newsletter. All parents are urged to support this major P.A. fundraiser. (Canteen furniture was purchased this year with the assistance of P.A.-raised funds.) Attending as a buyer and/or an assistant on the day contributes to the students' well being in many ways. If you can assist either contact the P.A. directly or follow the directions on the Book Sale 2002 promotion in this Newsletter.

Our last meeting for this year will be on Monday December 9th., in the staff common room, commencing at 7pm. It will be a relatively short meeting, with end-of-year drinks and snacks organised for its conclusion.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the Christmas break.

MODEL SOLAR BOAT CHALLENGE

Laura Carbone, Ruth Hambling, Eleanor Pilioussis, and Miranda Weir from year 7, participated in the model, solar boat competition sponsored by Monash University at Science Works in October. The team came second and has been invited to Sydney on the 23rd of November to represent the School in the National competition.

Members of the team met every Sunday for 9 weeks to design, build and test their boat, "Light 'n' Power V". The girls would like to thank University High School for its support in sending the team to Sydney.

RE-THINKING DRINKING

Thank you to those parents and students who attended the Year 7 and 8 Re-Thinking Drinking Evening held recently. It was terrific to see such a good number of parents in attendance. It was an enjoyable evening of activities, organized by Ms Cheary and facilitated by a group of enthusiastic year 10 students. These evenings provide a great opportunity for open and frank discussions between parents and the young people who attend University High. It allows parents to get an insight into some of the issues young people face when involved in some social situations. It is hoped that this type of forum will continue to grow and develop so that teachers, parents and students can work together to promote safer practices in our lives.

COMPUTERS FOR SALE

University High School is offering a range of computers for sale. The selection begins with 15 P100 computers with 3 ½in floppy drives 500 MB HD and 16 MB RAM selling for \$50 each.

Approximately 8 computers with the same configuration as above but with a CD ROM drive selling for \$75 each and about 10 -15 P200 systems with 2GB HD and 32MB RAM selling for \$100 each.

All units come with keyboard, mouse, monitor and an operating system only. All in working order.

The computer systems are to be purchased with the understanding that are to be provided on an "as is" basis and without warranties of any kind either express or implied.

The systems can be purchased from December 11th to 18th. You need to pay at the office and then proceed to the IT office to collect the computer system.

CELEBRATING SAFELY

With the end of the school year and the festive season approaching, celebrations can be on the mind of parents and school leavers. It is important to remember that we do live in a drug-taking society and celebrations are an important part of our society. Celebrations mark important events. Adults can help young people to be informed so they can make safe choices when celebrating.

As role models, the influences of a parent's own drinking patterns on his or her children should never be underestimated. According to the National Alcohol Campaign it is important that children see that it is possible to have fun without the inclusion of alcohol. It recommends that parents try not to make alcohol an automatic inclusion *every* time you get together with family and friends.

The following tips can assist parents in making celebrations safer for their children:

- Encourage your child to go with trusted friends and leave the party together - whether it is in a public venue or a private home.
- Discuss with your child what places they intend to visit and with whom.
- Ensure they have a safe and quick way to leave the party at any time.
- Make arrangements to pick them up.
- Talk about staying safe and how to avoid violent and threatening situations.
- Ask to be contacted if plans change whilst they are out.
- Register a party - check with your local police if they can register your party. This will enable an efficient policing response if required and to ensure a safer and more enjoyable night for everyone.
- As the host of a party you have the right to ask people to leave if acceptable behavior is not adhered to or maintained.

Did you know...

- It is a criminal offence to refuse to provide proof of age when entering a licensed premise or when buying or attempting to

buy alcohol on a licensed premise. (ID may be a driver's license, passport or proof of age card.)

- It is an offence to receive alcohol, drink alcohol or have alcohol in your possession in a public place if you are under 18.
- You can drink alcohol in your own home or in someone else's home, even if you're under 18.
- Alcohol is a factor in one in three road deaths.
- Alcohol makes you less aware of danger and not only impairs your driving skills, but also your pedestrian skills.
- Alcohol is also a factor in 50% of all drownings.
- Males seem to take more risks in the water under the influence of alcohol.

If you are concerned your child has been involved in possible drug use of any kind...

- Don't panic.
- Listen and talk to them to get the facts.
- Open communication is vital and being honest about your concerns is important.
- Gain support early.

Keep in mind, celebrations are a part of society and many young people make very sensible decisions regarding their involvement in these celebrations.

Compiled by Kim Patterson (Health Teacher) using information from

Parent Information Newsletter - DEET Western Region.

Victoria Police.

The Australian Transport and Safety Bureau.

National Alcohol Campaign.

Drug Education Newsletter -WA.

Useful Websites:-

www.drinkingchoices.com

www.nationalalcoholcampaign.health.gov.au

www.lawstuff.org.au

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Ms B Valente, Principal

I am writing to inform parents of the system which The University High School uses for distribution of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

If you are eligible for EMA, you should contact Mrs Lorraine Lane in the General Office to collect a 2003 EMA application form in late January. (All applicants must lodge a new claim each year and submit a copy of their current Health Care or Pension card semester 1 and 2). The closing date for lodging applications is Friday, 21st February 2003 and Friday, 8th August 2003. You will need to present your current Pension or Health Care card, which has the name/s of the child/children for whom you are claiming on the card, and has a valid date at 28th January 2003, to Mrs Lane to be photocopied when you return the application form.

If your EMA for 2003 is approved you may use the School's allocation of the Education Maintenance Allowance (\$88.90 Sem. 1 & \$38.10 Sem. 2) for the following expenses:

- Voluntary School charges
- Physical Education / Sport charges
- Music charge
- Excursions
- Camps
- Second hand book sale

This may be arranged by the parent or student signing an EMA deduction form available at the General Office.

EMA can be used for the purchase of second hand books at the book sale to be held on Saturday 14th December 2002 (10:00am. - 1:00pm.).

Students who wish to purchase second hand books must see Mrs Lane to check the balance of their account and to collect an EMA second hand book voucher on the 12th & 13th December.

The School will keep an individual record for each family, and you are asked to liaise with Ms. C. Kelly regarding any immediate problems.

If you wish to discuss the policy please contact me.

STUDENT INJURY AND PERSONAL ACCIDENT PROTECTION PLAN

The School's insurers, Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd, offer a Student Injury Personal Accident Protection Plan for students.

The scheme covers secondary students 24 hours a day / 7 days a week anywhere in Australia and Overseas on authorised school activities. The cost is \$20.00 per student per year.

The School encourages parents to consider this plan and advises any interested parent to contact Ms Megan Eaves or Ms Rowena Cardwell on (03) 9613 1415 to obtain full details and application forms.

ESSENCE DISTRIBUTION

Parents and students are advised that the School's annual magazine, *Essence*, will be distributed to students beginning on November 29.

Students in years 7, 9 and 11 will receive their copies as they re-enrol on that day. Where possible, copies will be distributed to year 10 classes that same day, and to year 8 classes on the following Tuesday.

Year 12 students will have to collect their copies either from the VCE office or from Mr Viney in room 306 any time from November 29 onwards.

CAMPS IN 2003

The camps program for 2003 was presented to School Council at its most recent meeting, and approved. At the time of going to press, I don't have all the details, but hope to be able to provide a full run-down in the first edition of this newsletter next year.

Parents (and students) will need to be vigilant in the first week or two next year for details regarding the year 7 orientation camps that will be held very soon after the start of the school year, and the year 10 surf camp that will be soon after. Students should watch the daily bulletin for notices of meetings, and parents keep an eye out for notices sent home.

I can, however give you some preliminary details regarding the Snow Camp. See next page.

SCIENCE NEWS

Ms J Hamilton

Frances Navarro and Ting Chen sat the 2002 RTASO Physics National Qualifying Examination. They are both to be congratulated for their nomination and participation. Frances achieved a Credit and Ting a High Distinction. A High Distinction is awarded to students whose results are in the top 10% in Australia. State results are currently being compiled. Those students who have attained a result that makes them eligible for invitation as an RTASO scholar will be contacted shortly. Chemistry and Biology results are not yet available.

A reminder to students enrolled in year 12 Chemistry in 2003. The text used at UHS has been changed to Chemical Connections 2. All other science texts on the booklist are unchanged.

The UHS library subscribes to a number of science magazines including New Scientist, ChemMatters, Australian Geographic and Nature Australia. For junior students there is Sciencemax and next year the Double Helix. There is also a wide range of other science magazines from Australia and overseas which are available online in the World Magazine bank which can be accessed through the library intranet page. These can be useful for students' research projects and for general interest reading.

THE COASTAL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Coastal Ambassador Program at Phillip Island will be running again in 2003 during the week of February 10-14. UHS students who will be in Year 9 next year are invited to nominate by **Wednesday December 4**. In your nomination, responding to the information about the program below, explain why you should be one of the two lucky students chosen to represent UHS in the program. Nominations are to be handed in to the general office. No late applications will be considered.

Year 9 students will undertake a challenging environmental science program designed to foster an understanding of our impact on the ocean and coasts through hands-on applied science activities. Working with Phillip Island Nature Park rangers and researchers, students will have the opportunity to explore careers in science by being involved in field studies of the Little Penguin and the Australian Fur Seal. The selected students would be expected to be ambassadors for their school and community, demonstrating high-level social skills and excellent academic performance in science subjects. The program includes a number of physical activities including snorkeling, sea kayaking, surfing and rock pooling, and students are expected to participate in all activities. Students are expected to continue their investigations on their return to school through a local project. Our students who participated this year have developed a program to raise public awareness of the introduced species, the Northern Pacific Sea Star. Students will be accommodated at a local school camp and will be supervised by teachers and the staff from the Nature Park. The school will fully fund two students' participation in this program.

An overview of the 2002 program can be viewed on <http://users.bigpond.com/vk3jka> and <http://www.penguins.org.au>.

SNOW CAMP

The Snow Camp will take place at Mt Hotham during the week of August 17 to 22. The lodge ("Bembooka" - same as the past two years) has been booked and planning is well underway. The cost will be about the same as this year (\$650 for skiers, \$700 for snowboarders) but will be confirmed later.

Notices will be placed in the daily bulletin inviting applications and deposits from interested students in years 9, 10 and 11 early next year. We usually receive more applications than the available 40 places so, unfortunately, some applicants may miss out. Places will be allocated based on a ballot of approved* applicants. Students who miss out on an initial place offer, and any late applicants, will be placed on a waiting list, and may receive a late offer at any time right up till 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.

THE UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL BOOK SALE 2002

The annual **SECONDHAND BOOK SALE** run by the U.H.S. Parents Association is fast approaching.

This year V.C.E. books will be sold to students on their Confirmation of Enrolment Days, **November 29th for Year 12** and **December 6th for Year 11**. We are **offering an ordering service for V.C.E. students ONLY**. Book order forms have been distributed with the second hand booklist. V.C.E. students must submit their order by **November 27th** and will be able to collect their successful orders from **Rm. 613 on their Confirmation of Enrolment Days**. Although there is no guarantee that all orders can be filled, this system will help to eliminate the long queues experienced in previous years. Any surplus stock will be available for sale at the enrolment days for year 11 and 12.

*The JUNIOR BOOK SALE for years 7 to 10 will be on
Saturday December 14th
between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm*

Please note that the selling day is a **Saturday** and that **you cannot order books in advance**. It is therefore essential that if you or your child cannot personally come to buy the books you will need a friend or relative to come instead. Cash or cheques are acceptable. **(No facilities for credit cards will be available)**

- **Year 11 and Year 12 students** wishing to sell books have the opportunity to deposit their books in the **library** any day during school hours between **November 1st and December 1st**.
- **Year 10 students** will be able to deposit books at **Room 613**, at **lunchtime** during V.C.E. Orientation Week, **December 2nd to 6th**.
- The intake of books for sale from **year 7,8 and 9 students** will occur during school hours on **Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th December**. Students need to make a note of this date, and ensure all their books are at school on that day.

A list of unsold 7 to 10 books will be advertised in the daily bulletin, and the first school newsletter published after the sale. Unsold books can be reclaimed from **Rm 613** during the last week of term 4 or the first week of the 2003 school year.

Each family will be paid by cheque for their sold books. However these cheques must go through the school system and for that reason we cannot post them until the beginning of the 2003 school year.

The profits from the book sale will be used as in the past to support UHS educational and extra-curricular programs. We hope that with your support we can continue to make the secondhand book-sale a profitable and worthwhile event.

.....
We have already received some offers of help from parents, but we would still appreciate more helpers. Assistance with collection and ticketing of books is required for DEC 11TH & 12TH DURING SCHOOL HOURS. Also some extra help with completion of book orders for Year 12 & 11 on NOVEMBER 28TH DURING SCHOOL HOURS would be appreciated. If you can assist at these times OR on the day of the sale DECEMBER 14th between 9.30 a.m. and 1.00p.m. please fill in the slip below and return to school or contact Pam Hughes on 9347 2022

Name.....Tel.....

Times available.....



School News is a publication of The University High School, Story St., Parkville, 3052

www.unihigh.vic.edu.au

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

Editor: G Viney

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