



CONTACT

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February – No 1 – 2013

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IMPORTANT DATES

18 th February, 2013	Y11 OE High Ropes - Belgrave
21 st February, 2013	Y10 Information Night
26 th February, 2013	Y12 Drama – Malthouse Theatre
28 th February, 2013	Y12 OE Surf Camp
28 th February, 2013	VCE Information Night
28th March, 2013	Last day Term 1

COMPASS – Access for Parents and students

COMPASS is the college daily schedule, online attendance and communication portal which now **replaces the previous RollCall system.**

Parents

- Box Hill Senior Secondary School has introduced a community portal called 'Compass' for 2013. This will become the primary means of communication between the school and home. Parents will be able to login to Compass via the link which will be located on the updated school website (www.bhssc.vic.edu.au) or via this link <https://bhssc.vic.jdlf.com.au>.
- Please see **Yellow** letter included in the envelope with your copy of this newsletter. If you do not receive this envelope your address needs to be updated on the school database.

Students

It can be accessed via <https://bhssc.vic.jdlf.com.au> or use the links from the college intranet or website. Use your College user name (e. g. abc0001) and password (dd/mm of birth for new students) to access this site.

Principal's report

"There are only two options regarding commitment. You're either IN or you're OUT. There is no such thing as life in-between". Pat Riley (NBA Coach and player).

Welcome to all members of the Box Hill Senior Secondary College community. I welcome back all previous students and their families and extend a special welcome to those who are joining our college for the first time in 2013.

Because of the unique status of this senior secondary college, we have a much bigger turnover of students than most schools. Of the nearly 650 students in the senior college this year, nearly 250 of these enrolments are new. At the February 1 census, our enrolment figures consisted of:

- Year 10 – 181
- Year 11- 253
- Year 12 – 211

In addition we also have 55 students in the Year 6-9 MY Sports Campus which is situated next to the senior school. This year we welcome 16 new students who have joined our year 9 elite basketball program. These students are working in tandem with the year 9 tennis players to complete their academic and sporting program before moving into the senior school.

We also welcome a number of new staff joining us this year as well. I extend a warm welcome to:

- Catherine Mallis (Leading Teacher: Maths/Numeracy Coordinator)
- Andrew Tarrant (Maths/Science)
- Kathy Curlis (English), returning from leave
- Albany Baccini (English/Psychology), returning from Family Leave.
- Michelle Dooris (Maths/Science/Sport)
- Vesna Pinchen (Finance Officer)

The Assistant Principals for 2013 will again be Jim Ellison (College Operations) and Damian Dwyer (Student Performance). This year they will be joined by Fiona Erwich, who has taken on the role of Assistant Principal (Information Resources).

As Principal it is my expectation that all students at this college will strive to achieve their personal best throughout the year. One of the key features of this college is that we provide students with varied pathways for life after secondary school. Students come into the college to follow different VCE pathway options such as entry into University and TAFE, the USA college system on sporting scholarships or into key apprenticeship areas.

Whatever the pathway a student aims to undertake, they must be prepared to accept the workload and responsibility that goes with being a senior student. There is no easy shortcut for success at VCE. It is imperative that students follow the rules and advice of classroom teachers and coordinators. With the support of parents at home and staff at school, all students are capable of achieving a realistic and well planned post VCE pathway.

In a senior school context, the opening quote from Pat Riley is very pertinent for all our students. If you are passionate and committed about what you want to achieve this year and you do not allow yourself to be distracted by obstacles that might be put in your way, you can and will achieve success. If you are prepared to work as hard as you can in fulfilling your pathway, you are less likely to surrender your goals when things get a little hard or tough. Success at the VCE level is not just something that happens overnight. Commitment requires persistence, perseverance and the ability to remain goal-focussed throughout the year.

So the question I put to all our students at the beginning of the year regarding their commitment to their studies is simply this– “Are you IN or you are OUT?”.

In subsequent issues of CONTACT I will cover key educational priorities of the College for 2013. In the meantime if you have any queries about the programs we offer or in the general operation of the college please do not hesitate to contact me.

College Council Elections

As per DEECD regulations we are required to form a new college council at the end of this term. The following Council members complete their parent representation tenure in March, 2013.

- Andrew Simons
- Chris Ramsay

The following parent representatives will remain on Council until March 2014:

- Darren Hill
- Dominique Horne
- Gina D’Ettorre

Please read the information about the College council election process in the following pages and feel free to nominate for the vacant positions. I am available to discuss the requirements of being a member of College Council with any parent. Please feel free to ring the College and speak to me about this.

Steve Cook
Principal

College Charges

Invoicing of families for 2013 fees and charges is currently being finalised and statements will be sent out to families in late February or early March. However families should note that if an agreed payment plan is **not** in place then:-

- Elective fees are now due
- Instrumental music lesson fees – the first instalment was due on 18/2/13
- Sport Development Programs – the first instalment was due on 6/2/13

Many families have an agreed payment plan in place and if these plans are being managed by College staff, payments will be processed on the dates agreed. Please ensure that the information we use to process your payments is kept up to date and if there is a change in your credit card details, please advise staff in the College office of this change as soon as possible.

Payments can be made to the College by cash, cheque, credit card or BPAY (details available upon request).

If you have any queries regarding the College fees and/or are experiencing difficulties in making payments, please contact Karen Leeder (Business Manager) on 98951101 or email. kleeder@bhssc.vic.edu.au.

Payment dates to remember:

17 th April 2013	Sports Program	2 nd Instalment
26 th June 2013	Sports Program	3 rd Instalment (Final Instalment Football)
7 th August 2013	Sports Program	4 th Instalment

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to low-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card or are a foster parent you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August. In 2013, the annual EMA amount is:

- **\$150.00** for students in years 1-6
- **\$300.00** for year 7 students
- **\$250.00** for students in year 8 – until age 16.

Application forms are available from the College office and the application form must be lodged at the school by **28 February 2013**.

Late applications cannot be processed.

For more information about the EMA, visit www.education.vic.gov.au/aboutschool/financial/ema.htm

All students completing a VCE subject

Missed a SAC?

What can I do about it?

You are entitled to still sit the SAC under supervised conditions provided you can prove the following circumstances:

Reason for application	Evidence required (provide this with your application)
<input type="checkbox"/> Illness	Medical Certificate and/or letter from a registered health care professional
<input type="checkbox"/> Personal Circumstances	Supporting documentation eg report or letter from counsellor
<input type="checkbox"/> School approved sporting activity/ extra curricula activity/ excursion	Notice from appropriate coordinator or teacher

Immediately upon your return to school.

1. See the relevant classroom teacher to collect the “Make Up SAC form”
2. Take the completed form to Student Services, together with a Medical Certificate or documentation from a registered health care professional, for approval.
3. When approval has been granted take the form to Peter Taylor in the Library and a time will be set to undertake the SAC. (sessions are held on Tuesday at 9am and Friday at 2:30pm)
4. All SACs must be completed within 2 weeks of the original date, unless Special Provision has been granted.

VCAA - Special Examination Arrangements

Any student studying a **Year 12** scored VET or a VCE subject this year who has a physical/learning disability, hearing/vision impairment or health impairment (eg Anxiety, Asthma and Epilepsy) that may impact their GAT or end of year examinations, should see Fiona Erwich in Student Services ASAP for an application. Students may apply to VCAA for permission to take medication into the examination room, or permission for rest breaks and/or additional reading/writing time as appropriate.

Please contact Fiona Erwich if you have any queries about this application. **Applications close in early March** for both the GAT and end of year examinations.

Fiona Erwich
Assistant Principal

School Council Elections 2013 /14

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 Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. As Principal of Box Hill Senior Secondary College I am automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category. These members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all council members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for an annual school council election.

The retiring parent members from 2012/13 are Andrew Simons (Council President) and Chris Ramsay. Current parent members Darren Hill, Gina D'Ettorre and Dominique Horne will continue until March 2014.

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 to the school.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 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 this 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?

As Principal of Box Hill Senior Secondary College I am formally calling for nominations for two parent members to serve on the school council until March 2015. If there are more than the two required nominations a council election will be completed before the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can simply nominate yourself in the Parent category. A Self Nomination form is contained in this newsletter.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the Box Hill Senior Secondary School Council.

The timeline for the election process is as follows:

Nominations Close - Friday 1st. March.

If no election required

Tuesday March 26 - new Council and AGM

If election required

Friday March 8 - distribute ballots

Friday March 15 - ballot closes

Monday March 18 - declare poll

Tuesday March 26 - new Council meets / AGM

Once your Self Nomination form is completed, please return it to me within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Remember

- Please contact me for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Be sure to vote in the election if required.

I look forward to working with the elected parent representatives during 2013.

Nomination forms for Parent Representatives are available in this newsletter or from the General Office.

Past Student news

Gena Rose Bruce on Road to Discovery

Congratulations to Gena Bruce, winner of the performer section of the Road to Discovery competition at the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Gena graduated from Box Hill SSC in 2011 after making an enormous contribution to the music department.

She will receive a 12-month mentoring package, including a recording session in Australia and a return-trip to Nashville.



2013 Road To Discovery winners at the Tamworth Country Music Festival. Songwriter Melody Pool from Kurri Kurri (left) and Victorian singer Gena Rose Bruce.

Former students in Sport

- Greg Page, former student 2009-2011, has been appointed Captain of the Victorian U20 Men's Basketball team to compete in the Australian Championships in Launceston starting 17/02/2013. Congratulations Greg.

- Julie Hunter currently is playing cricket for Australia in the Women's Cricket World Cup in India. The Australian team is in the final.



- Damian Cupido recently scored the fastest 100 goals (13 games) in the Northern Territory AFL and currently has kicked the most goals in a season (130 from 17 games)



International Students

WELCOME

This term the college has 8 international students from China, Hong Kong, Korea and Denmark. We would especially like to welcome our new international students to the college – Andy WANG and Haoran WANG.

WHAT IS CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chinese New Year also known as the Spring Festival marks the beginning of a new year according to the Lunar calendar. It is considered to be one of the most important holidays for Chinese families. As the lunar calendar is based on the phases of the moon, Chinese New Year is never on the same day each year. The first day of 2013 Chinese New Year falls on 10 February and celebrations usually last for up to a month.



Some of the traditions associated with Chinese New Year are:

- Give out red packets also known as “hong bao” to children and unmarried members of the family. The red packets are filled with money symbolising wealth and prosperity. It is a sign of respect to receive red packets with both hands and a bow. Red packets are not opened until the recipient has left the home of the giver.
- Make lanterns which are hung on walls around the house or carried on poles in lantern parades.
- Visit friends and relatives.
- Bake cakes and cookies such as pineapple tarts, peanut biscuits and love letters.
- Every Chinese New Year is associated with one of the 12 animals of the Chinese Zodiac, with each animal being represented once every 12 years. They are the Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. These animals are often represented in decorations during this festival. The animal sign associated with this year’s Chinese New Year is the snake so it is referred to as the Year of the Snake.
- Watch performances, floats, fireworks and parades that feature Dragon or Lion dances that are believed to chase away bad luck.

The College would like to wish our international students from Korea, China and Hong Kong “Xin Nian Kuai Le” (Happy New Year), “Gong Xi Fa Cai” (Prosperity) and “Shen Ti Jian Kang” (Good health).

2012 Travel news:

India Trip 2012

Early in the morning of November 28, 2012, 3 teachers and 11 students left from Tullamarine Airport to visit the Neerja Modi School, Jaipur, India for an experience of a life time.

In 2011, our principal Steve Cook, accepted the invitation of the Neerja Modi School to visit in order to establish cultural and educational links with a school thousands of kilometres away. Impressed by his journey, Steve invited staff and students to participate in a visit at the end of 2012. Teachers, Fern Brisbane (Director of Curriculum), Andrea Wood (Director of Student Management) and Matt Lynch (Accelerus Coordinator) accompanied students Taylor Brown, Leah Milburn Clark, Jordan Steiner, Sari Lawrence, Karlee Painter, Ruby Hawker, Lucas Mitchell, Patrick Curry, Luci Raisbeck, Jayden Birrell and Fiona Gillespie Cook on a fantastic adventure.

The Neerja Modi School is an independent school with a student population of over three and half thousand day students and over 700 boarders. The school caters for wealthy Indian families that can afford the fees and accommodation expenses. The school offers the Indian curriculum as well as the International Baccalaureate and boasts an Olympic size swimming pool, polo ground and first class cricket facilities that has hosted the Indian cricket team and others from around the globe. While the curriculum is by Victorian standards, very traditional, students are very well looked after with boarders as young as 5.

The Modi School also supports the Nischay Girls School, a charitable venture sponsored by Chairman, Mr Modi, that clothes, feeds and educates some of Jaipur’s most underprivileged girls. Meeting these girls was a highlight of the tour. Their love of learning, their perseverance and their grace was truly inspirational. We took over curriculum resources, including scrabble games, hand made by our Librarian, Peter Taylor as well as funds to buy bicycles for girls who relied on these for transport and made getting to school possible. As a College we would like to continue our support for the Nischay Girls School in 2013 as well as offering more BHSSC students the opportunity to visit India at the end of the year.

Our glimpse of India provided us with truly magnificent sights and sounds from the immense beauty of the Taj Mahal, the Amber Fort and Pushkar to the horrors of poverty and degradation. It is a land of brilliant colour and contrasts and we are all enriched human beings from the experience.

Fern Brisbane



World Challenge Borneo, November - December 2012

Congratulations to the following students for their dedication to the two year World Challenge Program, resulting in a very successful month-long expedition to Borneo at the end of last year. Each of our students maintained professionalism and integrity, and presented as fantastic ambassadors for our College and as International travelers. Students were involved in working with children from a rural community, intense mountain climbing of Mt Kinabalu, assisting a local community in environmental development for composting and recycling, and engaging with a nomadic Kelabit Tribe while trekking through the depths of the jungle.



Thank you and Congratulations goes to: Johnny Benson, Emma George, Brayden Hunt, Maddie Hoegel, Jacinta Walton, Max Waters, Grant Filsell, Ben Galante, Sophie Ozard, Alex Rolland, Bridget Pledge, Kim Marshall. Pete Davis, Allie Herft, Rory Lehman, Cassidy Hunt.



Basketball - USA trip 2012.

Late November 2012 saw 42 students (four teams) and eight staff off to the USA for basketball, basketball and more basketball. Our first stop was New York. This was after a flight from Melbourne to New York, via L.A. which took almost 24 hours.

For many of the touring party this was the first time in the 'Big Apple' and it did not disappoint. Masses of people were around, many of whom were starting to do their Xmas shopping.

Highlights included an NBA game at Madison Square Garden, St John's College, Times Square, Central Park, Statue of Liberty etc.

From New York the tour went to San Diego for all teams to play in 3-4 day tournament. Students were billeted out here and everyone seemed to have a good time.

The students were very interested in visiting San Diego State and University of San Diego. The facilities in these colleges are absolutely outstanding.

Most of the teams were successful in the San Diego tournaments and from there the tour headed to LA. The obligatory visit to Disneyland was a great way of winding down from a hectic tournament and the tour in general. Off to Hawaii (Waikiki) which was fantastic and then home to Melbourne.

As a member of the staff I would like to thank and acknowledge the students and staff for their exemplary behaviour on the tour. They were just sensational. People often commented on how well behaved. They were a pleasure to have on this tour A special thanks to Darren Hill his assistance.

Results:

Varsity boys won 6 and lost 4 games

Junior Varsity boys won 7 and lost 2 games

Varsity girls won 6 and lost 1 game

Junior Varsity girls won 5 and lost 1

Myles Ashton
Manager of Sport



for

Science News

Errol Hassall and Tom Clifton attended The Science Experience, courtesy of the Box Hill Rotary club.

During January this year, I was privileged to attend Melbourne University's "The Science Experience". It was an opportunity across 3 days, in which students from many schools across Victoria and myself were welcomed onto Melbourne University's campuses and were given a taste of what science at a higher educational level has to offer.

Some of the activities included: A physiology lecture, where afterwards we were hooked up to instruments to record our own Electrocardiograms (pretty much a fancy way of measuring our heartbeats), a tour of the University, Herbology museum that is not generally open to the public and a session on engineering that was run by current engineering students. Lastly I'd like to mention that I am so thankful of BHSSC and the Box Hill Rotary Club for providing me with this opportunity.

Tom Clifton



Tom Clifton in an engineering activity at The Science Experience,

The science experience was an action packed 3 days of science, maths and most importantly fun. The way that Monash ran the program was excellent and was highly enjoyable, with each station/area that we went to not taking up more time than any other area that we visited which gave my group and I a large variety of different areas in science and a small bit of maths. This allowed for a wide range of experiences and fun, with nearly every science included across the 3 days at Monash with geology to astrophysics there was science for everyone. The most exciting bit about the whole experience was when we looked at the Sun and its sun spots which was really cool

because of the fact that the telescope was pointed directly at the sun and even though it is extremely far away you could see the Sun spots which appeared as small spots but ultimately the size of the earth each. The Young Scientists of the Year staff assistants that took us were highly enthusiastic and provided great advice like the young guy that took my group was looking at doing exactly what I was going to do at Uni, he told me how he got there and what to expect as well as any advice that he could give me he did. The maths class that we attended where we had to prove Pythagoras's theorem, which required a lot of thinking and no group but my group (pictured above) were the first ones to prove it using a square and 4 triangles. The most interesting part of the experience is was the anatomy museum with hundreds of different body parts all preserved, some of them even interactive, they even had half of a human preserved in a cabinet which was amazing and required hundreds of hours of work to preserve in amazing detail. It was a fantastic experience and I thank you for sponsoring me.



Errol Hassall (pictured right)

Sport News

This year David Fulton takes over as Director of Sport and Myles Ashton is the Manager of Sport. Steve Kennedy remains as SSV coordinator.

There are some changes in the coaching team. With Tash Main in China for a year the college can announce that **Cheryl Chambers** has accepted the position of **Senior Girls coach** here at BHSSC.

Cheryl played 261 games for the Womens National Basketball League (playing for the Nunawading, Coburg, Bulleen Boomers and Melbourne teams) and is a Life Member of the WNBL. She has coached the Bulleen Boomers from 2002 to 2009 and has been named WNBL Coach of the Year in 2004/05 and 2008/09. Cheryl was also recently re-appointed the Head Coach of the Australian Gems (U19 National women's team).



This year will be her second year as Head Coach of Knox SEABL women.

We are very fortunate to have Cheryl at the college her 400+ games in the WNBL as a player and coach combined with the international experience gained from her various roles with junior and senior national teams will ensure the continued development of our Girls program. Cheryl's professionalism and ability to teach the game are amongst the best in the country and we look forward to her starting in the job

Of course Kevin Goorjian is the boys coach and Dave Fulton will train the year 9/10 girls. In football, Ian Aitken returns to coach again. Elizabeth Peers heads up the tennis squad.

We wish all coaches and players of course success this year.

February 13, 2013

Dear Parent /Guardian

INFORMATION EVENING –YEAR 10 PROGRAM

Welcome to Box Hill Senior Secondary College. We hope your son/daughter has had a smooth start to the year.

The College is hosting a Year 10 Information evening on **Thursday 21st February** and we cordially invite you to attend.

The evening will commence at **6.00 pm** in the **College Hall**. The format of the evening is –

- An overview of the Year 10 program
- College expectations and policies

Please complete the attached reply slip indicating whether you will be able to attend. We look forward to meeting with you and working together in 2013.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Wood
Director of Student Management

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INFORMATION EVENING – YEAR 10 PROGRAM – February 21st 2013
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Student's Name: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name: _____

Attending No. attending: _____

Unable to attend

Please return completed reply slip to Year 10 Co-ordinators in Student Services by Tuesday, February 19th.

VCE INFORMATION EVENING

The College is hosting a VCE Information evening on **Thursday 28th February** and we invite you to attend. Students are very welcome to attend the session.

The evening will commence at **6.00 pm** in the **College Hall**. The format of the evening is –

- How the VCE works
- How to cope with the VCE
- ATAR Scores
- Special Provision
- Post school pathways
- Questions

Please complete the attached reply slip indicating whether you will be able to attend. We look forward to meeting with you and working together in 2013.

Fiona Erwich

AP Information Resources / VCE Coordinator

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<p>VCE INFORMATION EVENING Thursday 28th February 2013</p>

Student's Name: _____

Year Level: _____

Parent's/Guardian's Name: _____

Attending No. attending: _____

Unable to attend

Please return completed reply slip to Student Services by Tuesday 26th February.

Box Hill Senior Secondary College Council Elections Self-Nomination Form for Parent Member Category

(The closing date for nominations is Friday March 1, 2013.)

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the Box Hill Senior Secondary College Council. I hereby declare that I am not an undischarged bankrupt and that I am not currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence.

Name

Residential address
.....

Home phone: **Business phone:**

Email:

I am the parent/guardian of, who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

I am an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development: **Yes / No** (please circle)

Signature of Candidate:

Date:

You will be notified by mail when your nomination has been received.

Steve Cook
Principal