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Please note: Future editions of this newsletter will be advised through COMPASS and the College website.

IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Name
18 Feb, 2014	College Council
19 Feb, 2014	VCE Information Night
26 Feb, 2014	USA Basketball tour meeting – Hall 6.30pm
4 Mar, 2014	Y12 Outdoor Ed – Surf Camp
11 Mar, 2014	Y5,6 & 7 Camp – Phillip Island
20 Mar, 2014	Y11 & 12 Fashion Week excursion
24 Mar, 2014	Y11 Legal Studies – Court visit #1
27 Mar, 2014	Y12 Chemistry – VSSEC excursion
27 Mar, 2014	Y11 Legal Studies – Prison visit
31 Mar, 2014	Y11 Legal Studies – Court visit #2
1 Apr, 2014	College Council
4 Apr, 2014	Last Day Term 1

Principal's report

"At this school it's not IF you are bright – It's HOW you are bright!"

Greetings, 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 2014.

Because of the unique nature of this senior secondary college we have a much larger turnover of students than most schools. Of the nearly 650 students across years 10, 11 and 12 nearly 250 of these students are new in 2014. Based on our first day enrolments figures our numbers at each year level were:

- 162 at Year 10
- 230 at Year 11
- 241 at Year 12

In addition, we have 61 students in the year 5 – 9 Middle Years Sports Campus (MYSC) and 16 students in our International program.

I am delighted to welcome a number of new staff into the College this year:

- Andrew Delfinis (Maths/PE)
- Ann Le (Maths)
- Natalie Murray (Food Tech/Psychology)
- Michael Collins (Electrical)
- Jenny Look (MYSC reception)
- Natasha Kulyk (Visual Arts) – returning from Diamond Valley SC
- Kevin O'Leary (Science)

As Principal, it is my expectation that all students 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 post-secondary 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 sustainable post-VCE pathway.

In a senior school context the above quote is very pertinent for all our students. Remember success at VCE is NOT just measured by an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) score. Everyday students at this College show me their aptitude and skills in a variety of ways. I am constantly amazed by the level of talent, innovation and creativity displayed by Box Hill Senior students as they prepare for a chosen pathway after completion of their studies.

Any student who is passionate about what they want to achieve this year and who will not allow themselves to be distracted by any obstacle put in their way, can and will achieve success. Students who are prepared to work as hard as they can to achieve their personal best and fulfil their pathway are less likely to surrender their goals when things get a little hard or tough. To not give total commitment to your studies this year is not acceptable.

One of the wellbeing / pastoral care programs that we are committed to again this year which aims to support students achieve personal success is the ADVOCACY program. Please read the information provided by Amy Pascoe, Director of Wellbeing and Advocacy) and who is coordinating the program. Feel free to ring Amy if you would like any further information about ADVOCACY.

India trip

In November 2011, I accepted an invitation from the Neerja Modi School in Jaipur, Northern India to visit their school and take part in a cultural awareness program. The purpose of my visit was to set up an educational partnership that would allow students and staff from both schools to travel to either India or Australia as part of an educational and cultural exchange program.

From my initial visit our College has set up a very successful partnership with the Neerja Modi School. In 2012 and again in 2013, staff and students have taken advantage of the opportunity to be part of the Box Hill Senior tours of India in late November / early December.

For both tours students travelled with members of staff and were provided with an unique opportunity to work alongside their student counterparts at the Neerja Modi School, support the disadvantaged girls of Nischay (which is a special campus of Neerja Modi) and then spend time travelling to a number of places of cultural significance such as the Taj Mahal, the Red Fort, the town of Pushkar take part in camel riding in the Pushkar sand dunes and visit the Tiger National park in Ranthambore.

Accommodation and meals while at the Neerja Modi School was provided at their halls of residence. Travel around India was by private bus and students stayed in excellent hotels while touring places of cultural significance.

In 2014, I am again seeking expressions of interest from any student who would like to be part of this approximate 10 day cultural exchange program to India after the end of year exams have been completed. It is envisaged that we will leave in late November and be back in the second week of December. At this stage I am hoping to keep the cost of the tour to around \$3300 - \$3500. This cost will be split between:

- Airfares – about \$2000
- Meals, accommodation, bus travel – about \$1000 –\$1300

If any student / family is interested in being part of the tour then I would ask that you send me an Expression of Interest via my email address.

For the India tour or any other matter pertaining to the education of your child at this College I can be contacted at the following email address: scook@bhssc.vic.edu.au

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, 2014:

- Darren Hill
- Francois Steyn
- Dominique Horne
- Gina D'Ettorre

Parent members, Paul Hassall and David Kelly, will serve another year.

Please read the information about the college council elections process in the following pages of this newsletter. I look forward to having four new parent representatives to work with on Council during 2014 and 2015.

College Council Elections 2014/15

What is a college council and what does it do?

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

Who is on the 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 college as long as they are not employed at the college.

▣ **A mandated elected DEECD employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of 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. About half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for an annual college council election.

The retiring parent members from 2013/14 are Darren Hill, François Steyn, Dominique Horne and Gina D'Ettorre. Current parent members Paul Hassall and David Kelly will continue until March 2015.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on college councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the college. Those parents who become active on council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging to the college.

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 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 college and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the college'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 college 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 closing date for nominations is Monday March 10, 2014.

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

Remember

- Please contact me for help if you would like to stand for election but 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 over the next two years.

Box Hill Senior Secondary College 2014 College Council Elections

The timeline for the election process is as follows:

Monday March 10 - Nominations Close

If no election required

Tuesday April 1 - new Council /AGM

If election required

Wednesday March 12 - distribute ballots

Friday March 21 - ballot closes

Tuesday March 25 - declare poll results

Tuesday April 1 - new Council meets / AGM

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

Congratulations to all our Year 12s for their success in 2014.

Study scores of 40 and above, placing students in the top 8% in the State, were achieved across all learning areas. **The College is pleased to report a 98% VCE completion rate.**

Jack Fleming - Dux



Congratulations to Jack Fleming, the Dux of Box Hill Senior Secondary College.

Jack joined the College in Year 10 as a member of the Basketball Program. He has combined his sporting and academic goals with great success, receiving recognition for outstanding achievement in every year of his education at Box Hill Senior Secondary College.

Jack excelled in Physical Education, Biology, Further Mathematics, Maths Methods, English and Legal Studies.

Jack, the College is proud of your hard work and success and we wish you all the best for the future.

Jaimee Barreiro – Principal's Award

Every year at the annual Awards Night one student gains the Principal's Award for their outstanding contribution to the College over the time of their enrolment. In 2013 this award was presented to Jaimee Barreiro. Jaimee made an outstanding contribution to the College in a number of areas as well as achieving outstanding academic results. A copy of the Principal's Award is below.



Principal's Award Jaimee Barreiro

Jaimee Barreiro is a very popular recipient of this award. Her nomination has been heartily endorsed by the teaching and coaching staff of the college, demonstrating that she is a student who is universally admired by all members of the College community.

Jaimee came to this College in 2011 and immediately made an impact with her intuitive leadership skills and her desire to make a difference around the College.

Over her time at Box Hill Senior Secondary College, we have seen Jaimee mature and develop into a responsible young adult who has an outstanding social conscience. She has highly developed interpersonal skills and relates very well to both teachers and her fellow students.

As Principal a number of personal qualities have really impressed me about Jaimee. Her politeness and approachability is a real credit to both herself and her family. She shows genuine compassion in her dealings with others and displays enormous respect and empathy for those she interacts with.

Jaimee communicates extremely well with all involved around her and is able to confidently express her point of view while valuing the input of others.

Throughout her VCE years, Jaimee has shown enthusiasm for learning and developing ideas with others. Her opinions and actions always come across as being thoughtful, mature and considered.

Jaimee's academic record is outstanding. She has received the Kwong Lee Dow award for Young Scholars at Melbourne University and has been a winner of numerous academic awards at the College. Her VCE ATAR score of 90.55 puts her in the top 8% of students in the State and well on the way to achieving her ambition of University studies next year.

Jamiee's insatiable desire to be involved in college activities has seen her take a leading role in the Student Leadership program. She has been involved in a wide range of areas including Open Days, the year 12 formal, the Lunch Club, Anzac Day commemorations, the year 12 Celebration Day, the Year 12 DVD and the Blood Donation program. She was also a member of the girls' soccer team. Outside of the College she has many interests such as working in the hospitality industry as a café barista.

In conclusion, it is not hard to see why Jamiee is a worthy winner of this award. Throughout her time at this college she has displayed all the hallmarks of an exemplary student leader- she listens, she thinks, she responds and she leads.

Jamiee, on behalf of your fellow students and teachers it has been a real privilege to have you as a member of this college community over the last three years.

Look out world – here comes Jamiee Barreiro!

Steve Cook
Principal

Letter to the Principal

Dear Mr Cook,

I am writing to inform you of an outstanding achievement by one of your students; Mr Dylan Donnelly. Dylan is 1 of the 10 Local Sporting Champions Grant recipients in his electorate of La Trobe. This grant, funded by the Australian Federal Government is awarded to young sporting champions for their outstanding performance in their chosen sport and for Dylan this is basketball.

Dylan was presented with this grant at an afternoon tea at the office of his local Federal Member for La Trobe Mr Jason Wood MP on the 28 January 2014. Please find attached photos of Dylan being presented with this award, as we believe you may want to publish the great achievement in your school newsletter or website. If you do decided to publish this news can you please inform the office with a copy of the newsletter/article for our records.



If you have any other further enquiries do not hesitate to contact the office on 03 9768 9164 during business hours and ask for myself or Janet Halsall who will be able to assist you.

Kind regards,

Suzannah Kalweit

Electorate Officer

Office of Jason Wood MP | Federal Member for Latrobe

3/16 Langmore Lane, Berwick VIC 3806

Ph 9768 9164 | Fax 9768 9883

Email Suzannah.Kalweit@aph.gov.au | Web www.jasonwood.com.au



JASON WOOD MP
Federal Member for La Trobe

Office 3/16 Langmore Lane (PO Box 539) Berwick VIC 3806
Ph. 9768 9164 Fax 9768 9883 Email Jason.Wood.MP@aph.gov.au
Web www.jasonwood.com.au [f/JasonWoodUpdates](https://www.facebook.com/JasonWoodUpdates)

BHSSC Hours of Operation for supervision of students.

Parents and Guardians should be aware that staff are allocated to supervise the College grounds as indicated below –

Monday	8.45am to 3.45pm
Tuesday	8.45am to 4.15pm
Wednesday	8.45am to 3.45pm
Thursday	8.45am to 3.45pm
Friday	8.45am to 2.45pm

The College library is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm each day.

The Middle Years Sports Campus provides supervision from 8.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday for students in Years 5 to 9.

2014 Session Times

MYSC & Senior School Mon- Thurs.		MYSC & Senior School Friday	
Period	Start Time	Period	Start Time
B1	8.00 - 8.30	B1	8.00 - 8.30
B2	8.30 - 9.00	B2	8.30 - 9.00
1	9.00 - 9.30	1	9.00 - 9.30
2	9.30 - 10.00	2	9.30 - 10.00
3	10.00 - 10.30	3	10.00 - 10.30
Recess	10.30 - 10.50	Recess	10.30 - 10.50
4	10.50 - 11.20	4	10.50 - 11.20
5	11.20 - 11.50	5	11.20 - 11.50
6	11.50 - 12.20	6	11.50 - 12.20
7	12.20 - 12.50	Lunch	12.20 - 1.00
Lunch	12.50 - 1.30	7	1.00 - 1.30
8	1.30 - 2.00	8	1.30 - 2.00
9	2.00 - 2.30	9	2.00 - 2.30
10	2.30 - 3.00	10	2.30 - 3.00
11	3.00 - 3.30	11	3.00 - 3.30
12	3.30 - 4.00	12	3.30 - 4.00

College Charges

Thank you to the many families who have made payments to the College for subject fees and voluntary contributions. To ensure the continued provision of a wide range of high quality programs and services, it is vital that parents continue to support the College with payments for the various charges.

Invoicing of families for 2014 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 7/2/14 (class lists have recently been finalised)
- Sport Development Programs – the first instalment was due on 5/2/14

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) or through the COMPASS online Course Confirmation Portal.

Many families have used the COMPASS online Course Confirmation and Payment portal for the payment of fees. This is the first time that the College has used this module and it is important to note that this module is not the financial system used by the College. It will not provide a record of the payments made to the College and it is not possible to make additional payments through this module, if an item has been part paid. Please contact staff in the general office if you would like a current statement and/or details of the transactions made on your account.

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:

30 th April 2014	Sports Program 2 nd Instalment
25 th June 2014	Sports Program 3 rd Instalment (Final Instalment Football)
7 th August 2014	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. The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as; uniforms, excursions, textbooks and stationery.

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 2014**.

Late applications cannot be processed.

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

COMPASS

Box Hill Senior Secondary School introduced a community portal called 'Compass' from the commencement of 2013. This has become an important means of communication between the college and home. Parents are able to login to Compass via Quick links which is located on the updated college website (www.bhssc.vic.edu.au).

Each family listed in the school administration database has a unique login for Compass – this was forwarded with your enrolment information.

Compass provides the school community with a range of facilities which streamlines communication and provides enhanced access to information. It has also improved many of the school's administration processes.

Parent role:

Parents play an important role in this initiative. It is essential that parents log in via the link on the college website at least once a fortnight to access the news feed. (More often if you get an email alerting you to information that is relevant to you). It is also essential that parents monitor their son/daughter's attendance and approve absences to ensure that the college and new State Government attendance requirements are met. Please ensure that students **DO NOT** have your access code and password. (They have been provided with their own).

Parent Information nights

Compass is intended to be self-explanatory and easy to use. The Compass portal will be demonstrated at the Parent Information nights to be held in early 2014. Once these evenings have been held please contact the school, if you require further assistance.

There are a number of parent modules available in Compass to make communication and payments easier for you.

1. **Email address and mobile phone number** - update your details through the portal. The details listed will be used to send emails and SMS alerts if a student is marked absent prior to midday.
2. **Teacher email** – parents can email their son or daughter's teachers directly.
3. **News Feed** – the school will post news to parents to remind you about events and activities at the school. Your news feed will be customised, showing only the information relevant to you and your student.
4. **Newsletter** – the newsletter will be published on Compass and parents will be able to login to view it each month.
5. **Attendance** - view your son or daughter's attendance online, approve absences, and indicate future absence.
6. **Reports** – commencing with the first GPA in Term 1, view your son or daughter's progress reports online. This also includes end of semester reports.
7. **Parent/Student/Teacher interviews** - make appointments with teachers.
8. **Excursions** – approve your son or daughter's participation in excursions and other special events. You will also be able to pay for these online.
9. **Course Confirmation** – confirm your son or daughter's subjects, and make school fee payment, for the following year.

Fiona Erwich
Assistant Principal (Information Resources)

Student Management News

The Student Management team is looking forward to working with your student in 2014. Year 10 Coordinators are Michelle Clark and Steve Sarafian. Susan Connell and Matt Lynch will be looking after the Year 11 cohort and the Year 12 Coordinators are Teagan Steen and Joel Octigan. Teagan and Joel will be

working alongside the VCE Director, Fiona Erwich. Andrea Wood will once again be working with the Coordinators in the role of Director of Student Management.

Students travelling on public transport

Public Transport Victoria has been in contact with the College and asked that the following information be passed on to students.

In 2014 Public Transport Victoria will be deploying more Public Transport Authorised Officers working across trains, trams and buses than ever before, and they will be stepping up enforcement to ensure fare evaders are caught and penalised. Particular emphasis will be given to CBD travel, our bus network and metropolitan areas where there is significant school student traffic.

Students are legally required to “touch on/off” with their myki cards every time they travel, even if they have a valid student pass.

Students who have a student pass, or who are over 16 years old, must also carry their concession card at all times when travelling. Without their concession card their student pass is not valid whether they have touched on or not.

Year 10 Immunisations

The City of Whitehorse nurses will be coming to the College in the near future to carry out the Year 10 recommended vaccinations of Adolescent diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough.

Immunisation cards were distributed at the end of last year as part of the enrolment package. All cards need to be returned to the College by next Wednesday, February 12 for collection by the City of Whitehorse. The cards **must** be returned whether you decide your student will be immunised or not. If a student does not have a card, you can find a PDF version on Compass.

CAREERS AND PATHWAYS INFORMATION

Year 10 Work Experience

Work experience is not compulsory but it is highly recommended that students have the opportunity to work in an area they are interested in for a week or two.

There are no set school dates to undertake work experience. If a student wishes to do one week at a time, we will fit in when it suits the employer, provided it is not during exam times.

IMPORTANT - A Work Experience Arrangement Form must be completed at least one week prior to the student starting work.

The form must be filled in by all parties then forwarded to the Principal for his signature.

If this process is not completed your son or daughter will not be covered for Workcover or any public liability insurance whilst on the job.

If a student requires a work experience form or requires any further information please see Frank De Melis in the library or ring 9895 1155.

Students looking for work experience placements

An organisation called Inner Melbourne VET Cluster (IMVC) are providing a free service to students that assists in finding a suitable placement for work experience. Their primary function is for VET students seeking a work placement but they will also consider other students wishing to do work experience.

The application is done online through their website www.imvc.com.au. Select 'Workplace Vacancies' which will show you what vacancies are available and then fill in the application form.

If you require any further information please contact Frank De Melis on 9895 1155.

Tax File Numbers

The Australian Taxation Office offers students an easier option when applying for a Tax File Number. There is a simplified application form that uses school information to verify the student's personal particulars. If your son or daughter would like to apply for a tax file number, please see Frank De Melis in the library.

The Age – VCE and Careers Expo 2014

When : Thursday 8th to Sunday 11th of May

Where : Caulfield Racecourse

Exhibitors include providers of VCE resources, universities, TAFE and training colleges plus 156 seminars on VCE subjects, tertiary courses, career, gap year and study advice. For more information visit vceandcareers.com.au

Frank De Melis

Careers Adviser and Pathways Coordinator

BHSSC Student Leadership Program 2014

Expressions of Interest now open!

The BHSSC Student Leadership Program encourages students to be involved in their College Community, to initiate events and activities of interest to them, and to the benefit of the College. Supported by the Student Leadership Coordinator, the Student Management Team, the Principal Class and all other BHSSC Staff, these students have a solid network of support within the BHSSC Community. Student Leaders not only represent themselves in a variety of school and community forums, they represent the entire school body. They are expected to emulate school rules, lead by example and initiate activities with passion and energy that will inspire fellow students and the College Community. The duties of student leaders includes speaking at assemblies, preparing BHSSC CONTACT Newsletter items, actively participating in School events and engaging in community volunteering. Student leaders must be able to manage their studies and extra-curricular activities as well as their responsibility as a leader. A range of leadership positions are available at BHSSC in 2014. Some new roles have been developed through consultation with BHSSC Student Leaders from previous years. These new roles have been included to allow greater student involvement and to offer BHSSC students greater opportunities to excel. For more information on the BHSSC Student Leadership Program, please refer to the SLP Handbook for 2014 (available to view on Compass), or contact Michelle Clark at the College. Students are encouraged to discuss this opportunity with their Advocate in upcoming Advocacy Sessions.

India Trip 2013

Very early on the morning of November 27, 2013 two staff members, Fern Brisbane and Jim Hooper, embarked with 10 BHSSC students on a journey to India. Our destination was the Neerja Modi School, Jaipur in the state of Rajasthan. After our flights we arrived at Delhi Airport to the colour, chaos and people that are India. We were collected by our guide (a teacher at Neerja Modi) and began our second journey by bus to Jaipur, an ancient city with a past dominated by Maharajas, magnificent palaces and tremendous wealth and a present struggling with overwhelming poverty and pollution.

The Neerja Modi School is a private educational institution with over 2000 day students and 500 boarders. It boasts an Olympic size swimming pool, 2 magnificent cricket ovals and a host of other sporting facilities. The main building is a maze of staircases and white marble walls. While the senior classrooms are furnished with old - fashioned wooden desks and chalk boards, the junior rooms are celebrated with Disney characters and brightly coloured furniture that provide a happy environment for positive learning. All lessons are in English. The students study the Indian curriculum as well as access to the International Baccalaureate. Our accommodation was the Boarding House, a marbled, multi - stored building across the oval, opened by Shane Warne (a regular visitor to Jaipur) some years before. Our rooms were serviced daily with a fridge stocked with fruit drinks and bottled water as well as chips and biscuits for the snackers amongst us! Every day, we were rewarded with outstanding meals; from traditional Indian curries to the best toasted chicken and mayo sandwiches I have ever tasted, not to forget the chocolate cake and pineapple fluff. The school chef presided over all our meals and made us feel very welcome.

Neerja Modi is also host to the Nischay Girls School, a small campus on the premises which educates some of Jaipur's poorest and underprivileged girls. The students are provided with clothing, exercise books, pencils and a main meal. The fate of these children without this educational opportunity is quite horrifying. In the poorest parts of India, female children are regarded as a 'Burden'. Many are condemned to death at birth or grow up malnourished and are often sold by their families into domestic servitude or slavery. When we first visited Neerja Modi in 2012 we

took over a small donation to support the campus. In 2013 we made a whole College priority to raise money to support these girls. The wonderful efforts of staff, students, parents and Box Hill North Primary School, raised over \$2,000. This money directly purchased bicycles for 31 of the older girls who would then have transport to employment. As leader of the tour I was given complete transparency over the purchase, and a presentation of the bikes to the girls was conducted while we were there. We were then guests to a performance of traditional Indian dancing by the students. Words cannot really convey the feeling we had as individuals and as representatives of BHSSC what it is like to make such a difference to the lives of others.

As well as our time at Neerja Modi we had the opportunity to visit some of India's, indeed the world's greatest historical sites including the Taj Mahal, Pushkar, the holy city, the Red Fort, Jantar, Mantar, the largest stone observatory in the world, the Amber Fort and the Ranthambore National Park for Tigers. Ranthambore used to be the hunting ground of the last Maharajah of Jaipur. It is now home to 30 tigers that have complete reign in this wild and rugged environment. The security is very strict and no one, including the Prime Minister, is permitted to stay in the park overnight. We went on both an evening and morning safari and stayed at the Ranthambore Regency. The safari was conducted in an open 4 wheel drive vehicle which surpassed the bumpiest ride theme parks have to offer. As we travelled through this stunning natural terrain, home to monkeys, crocodiles, deer, elk, peacocks, panthers and other magnificent creatures, all eyes searched for the tiger. They say you can visit the park 20 times and never see a tiger. This time we saw two! Content under a tree, well hidden, was a large female, oblivious to the clicks of cameras, muffled yells and much pointing. But the best was yet to come. After we left the traffic jam that had exploded at the female sighting, the word 'tiger' echoed from the vehicle in front of us. A large male was walking down the road towards us. We sat in silent awe of this creature. My colleague, a professional photographer, snapped away as I leant out of the vehicle to capture the moment, iPhone in hand, as this beautiful animal walked past us, less than 6 feet away. He gave us a look of complete disdain and then disappeared into the trees.

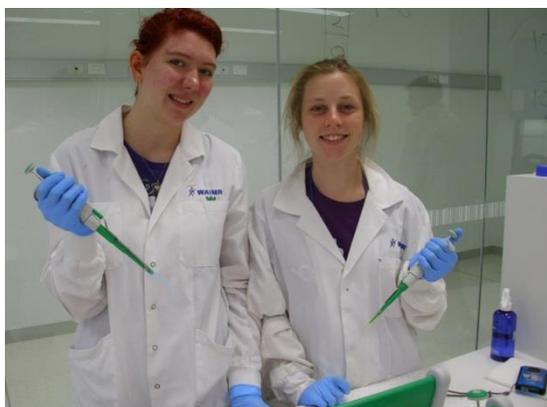
In contrast to rugged beauty of Rathambore, Indian cities are dominated by vibrant colour and traffic jams. The traffic is horrendous and the students were outstanding in their patience as we sat for hours in our little bus to travel 5 kilometres in Delhi. Yes, the toilets can be shocking but after 4 hours of holding on, as one of our girls can vouch, you really don't care.

All in all, our trip to India was life changing. We were treated with generous hospitality by our host school and we had experiences that will live with us always. It is the Colleges' intention to organise another trip this year so if you are interested please contact us for an outline of this year's trip.

Fern Brisbane
Trip Leader 2012 and 2013
Director of Curriculum Development

Science News:

Megan Borondy at National Youth Science Forum January 2014



Megan Borondy (left) from BHSSC flew out to Perth on January 6th to attend the National Youth Science Forum. Selected Top Science Students from around Australia were flown into the University of Western Australia to participate. Megan examined 500 year old ice, tested for atmospheric bubbles. She visited Alcoa mines to learn about environmental rehabilitation and completed a medical research boot camp. Megan has made a network of friends from across the Nation and confirmed her passion for a future in medical research. This opportunity was provided through the generosity of the Upper Yarra Rotary Club.

Visual and Performing Arts News

'In the Spotlight'

2014 is underway! New students to the College are settling in and finding their way around; making new friends and meeting their teachers. As the challenges of a year ahead present themselves it is a good time to reflect on the achievements of last year students.



The Performing Arts are very proud of the inspiring work produced by the students of 2013. Leah Milburn Clark and Tessa Luminati achieved an A+ for their Drama Solo performances. They have both been invited to audition for **Top Class!** We wish them the very best. Leah is also to be congratulated for her outstanding study score of 47 for Drama and 43 for Theatre studies.

Leah Milburn Clark (right), in costume for her Drama solo performance exam and Top Class auditions.

She is portraying the character of Mr Moon (the personification of Luna Park.)



Chelsea Potenzi and Eliza Veal were the stars of Year 12 2013 Product Design and Technology Class showcasing their talents at the annual Box Hill Fashion Parade. Both of these girls worked as designers throughout the year creating highly innovative designs and garments. They clearly understood the concept of 'good' design and used their creative thinking, knowledge and skills to construct garments of amazing quality. Both are to be congratulated on their outstanding VCE study scores of 40.

Music Industry Technical Production High Achievers.



Congratulations to Oliver Winton and Connor McClelland who both achieved a study score over 40 for Music Technical Production. These students produced outstanding recordings and achieved excellent marks in the final external examination.

New Guitar for the Music Department



Thank you to Mr Mathew Clarke, a College parent, who has made the very generous donation of a superb Fender Telecaster guitar to the Music Department. The guitar will be used for concerts and recordings. As Mr Clarke said, 'it's good for the students to play a guitar that doesn't fight'.

Peter Ryan

VCE THEATRE STUDIES 2014

With a brand new Study Design in VCE THEATRE STUDIES, the Yr. 12 BHSSC class is preparing for their Unit 3 Theatre Presentation of "SCHOOLIES – a Mini-Musical" to be held mid- Term 2. Students are working collaboratively to design, create and present a live entertainment performance for the College community. Students are in the process of assuming stagecraft coordination roles and establishing their characters within the planning stage of production. The College would like to acknowledge the tireless hours of rehearsals and production meetings that this task entails. Further information on the above performance event will follow in later newsletters.

Sport News

A big welcome to everyone in the Basketball, Football, Future Stars and Tennis programs. This year we have large numbers in all main sports. Currently all students are being assessed by Bounce Physiotherapy for their muscular skeletal assessment. This is an important part of the program and students should read information found throughout the sports wing for times they need to be present. Students will need to be in the cardio room ten minutes before their scheduled time.

I will remind all sports students that immediately after the screening sessions conclude (week 3) that Tristan King from Bounce Physiotherapists will be attending every Tuesday from 9.00 – 11.00am. A booking sheet is located outside the PE office. Students must select a time and be prompt. If you do not book in you will miss out.

Late last year the football department developed a partnership with the TAC club, Oakleigh Chargers. Both parties see enormous potential for students striving to realize their AFL dream. The BHSSC program provides a comprehensive fitness and conditioning component plus skill acquisition and development. Oakleigh Chargers have recognised that this is a good fit for any of their players who attend the school and we hope to continue with it well into the future.



Congratulations to some of our Future Stars. Firstly, Brit Jackson Year 10 won the Junior Women's Under 17 State Time trial in cycling. She also finished second in the sprints division. Brit is now part of the Victorian team and will compete in the National Track Championships in Sydney at the end of February.



Secondly, Rachel Limburg in Year 11, has been selected for the U18 Women's Team Australia squad in baseball. She will compete in the Asia Insurance Phoenix Cup against teams from Japan, Korea Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Rachel is a pitcher and outfielder. We wish both girls well in their next level of competition.

Ian Aitken, BHSSC coach and Kew Giants coach has been honoured by being named the VAFA coach of the year award. The award is open to coaches from Premier division to Division 4. Ian not only coached the U18 Kew/BHSSC Giants team to a premiership but also the Senior team as well. Congratulations.



Box Hill Senior Secondary College is pleased to announce that Cheryl Chambers will be taking up the position of Head Girls Coach in 2014. Box Hill Senior is very fortunate to have a coach of such outstanding experience and ability to complement the boys Head Coach, Kevin Goorjian. During her career Cheryl played 261 games for the Bulleen Boomers before becoming Bulleen's Head Coach from 2002-2009. In 2013 she was Head Coach of the Australian Gems U19 National

Woman's team that won a Bronze medallion at the World Championships. In 2013 Cheryl has coached the Knox Raiders Woman's SEABL team to the championship title. Cheryl is also currently Assistant Coach to the Melbourne Boomers.

We look forward to a successful 2014 for our Girls program under the leadership and guidance of Cheryl Chambers. Kevin and Cheryl believe 2014 will once again see BHSSC pre-eminent in Inter school basketball. Also we would like to extend a warm welcome back to our old and new basketballers for 2014.

Box Hill would also like to congratulate Charlotte Brancatisano for making the State Under 20 team at only 17 years of age. We also congratulate Michael Wearne on being named State emergency player for Under 20 State team for 2014 at only 17 years of age.

USA Tour Meeting Information Night 2014.

When? Wednesday 26th of February

Where? Box Hill SSC Hall

What Time: 6.30pm Sharp

BHSSC has contracted "Aussie Basketball Travellers" to coordinate our 2014 USA Basketball Tour. If you would like information on Aussie Basketball Travellers, please visit their website at <http://www.allaussie.com.au/>.

There will be forty positions available for students on the tour (twenty boys and twenty girls) and players will be split into two boys' teams and two girls' teams. Eight BHSSC staff will accompany the students. A representative from ABL will also travel with the group.

If you have any questions, please contact the Basketball Office on 98951162.

Ben Simmons Commits to LSU



Simmons during his time at Box Hill SSC, when they toured with ABT in 2012.

A FAMILY connection has helped budding Australian basketball talent Ben Simmons decide he will continue his burgeoning career at Louisiana State University.

LSU, where original Australian Olympic scoring sensation Eddie Palubinkas made his name and which gave the NBL its Hall of Fame guard Al Green, won the nod from Simmons over the storied programs at Duke, Kentucky and Kansas.

Simmons, 17 and 208cm, is the son of former Melbourne Tigers and Newcastle Falcons import Dave Simmons, who also spent some time at Canberra Cannons and Sydney Kings.

David Patrick, who played NBL for Canberra Cannons during Simmons' time in the capital, is Ben Simmons' godfather.

International Students 2014

We want to welcome all new and returning international students to Box Hill Senior Secondary College. Our program is growing steadily. We presently have 16 students across Year 10, 11 and 12 and a further 6 students studying English before they commence at BHSSC in the next few months. Together, we are looking forward to a very successful year.

Names:

- Front (Left to right): Anson Yan, Maki Nakata, Shuang Li, Ann-Marie Qin
- Middle (Left to right): Anni Adams (EAL teacher & International Student Liaison), Lawrence Mao, Steven Zhang, Zoe Zheng, Michelle Yin, Siqi Gu, Belverlyn Jian (International Student Coordinator)
- Back (Left to right): Andy Huang, Jonathon Choi, Troy Xu, Andy Wang
- Missing: Sainly Molotti, Alike Choo, Qianjin Li



Introducing the Advocacy Program for new parents

The Box Hill Senior Secondary Advocacy model was introduced in 2012, as a new pastoral care model based on research that indicates that advocacy programs make a strong positive impact, not only on student attendance and retention, but on general engagement in learning, academic achievement and psychological and social wellbeing. Additionally, the program supports the College Charter priorities and the Victorian government Managed Individual Pathways initiative.

What is an Advocate?

An 'Advocate' is a staff member who is allocated to a group of students and is committed to meeting with them on a regular basis.

The label 'advocacy' was adopted, rather than 'advisor' or 'mentor', to emphasise a particular aspect of the relationship, in that the teacher/advocate focuses on listening to the student to ensure that the student's voice is heard within the school.

Advocate and students will meet once a week (at least) on a Thursday for an hour, during which they will explore the student's engagement in learning and the possible barriers to success. The advocate will encourage students to reflect on their learning and to develop a sense of purpose in their experience of schooling.

What does this mean for you as a parent?

The aim of your program is to support students to achieve their social, emotional and academic goals within the school community. As a parent, you will liaise with your child's Advocate to discuss any school related issues including; progress, GPA's, attendance, subject issues, behavioural issues etc. Should any issues with your child arise; the advocate will be the first point of contact.

Amy Pascoe
Director of Wellbeing and Advocacy

Wellbeing Section

The Wellbeing Team at BHSSC

Purpose of the Wellbeing Team at BHSSC

To promote mental, social, physical and emotional health for young people in order to enhance learning and life course outcomes.

The role of the welfare team

- To provide support for staff in dealing with at risk students
- To provide support for students who are dealing with issues such as: mental health, disabilities, social issues, disadvantage, crises
- to provide information for staff concerning a number of issues that may affect students
- To provide strategies for staff and parents in dealing with students who are experiencing some of the aforementioned issues.

The Wellbeing team

Andrea Foster – Youth Worker

Amy Pascoe/Andrea Wood – Directors of Advocacy and Wellbeing

Gemma McKechnie – Psychologist from Nirodah Trust

Wellbeing referral process

1. Parents can refer students directly by calling either Amy or Andrea Foster on 9890 0571
2. Students can self refer through teachers or Student Services
3. Teachers can refer, through school referral process

Counselling

- Can offer in school short term counselling with Andrea Foster
- Can provide assistance in obtaining long term external counselling
- Can offer a free counselling service with Gemma McKechnie a registered Psychologist, through Medicare and Nirodah Trust

Local Initiatives

Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee

The “Whitehorse Youth Representative Committee” (WYRC) is looking to recruit for 2013. Young people from the age of 12 – 24 years from the City of Whitehorse who may be interested in being a young leader are encouraged to apply. Being in the WYRC will provide members opportunities to do the following:

- Talk to other young people about what is important for them
- Be a strong voice for young people’s needs in the community and represent them to council
- Learn about Leadership, Advocacy and Consultation
- Learn more about and increase your connection to your Whitehorse Community
- Learn and connect with your local council and better understand how it works
- Meet new people with similar passions and interests
- Have lots of fun

For more information, contact Jacqueline from Whitehorse Youth Services on 98989340 or email on jacqueline.piper@whitehorse.vic.gov.au or download a form from www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/Youth-Services.html

Whitehorse FReeZA Committee

FReeZA is an innovative youth development program providing young people between the ages of 12 and 25 with the opportunity to attend affordable and accessible music and cultural events.

- By participating in the Whitehorse FReeZA committee you will be given the chance to make decisions and lead in the staging of events, whilst also broadening networks within the community by connecting with local businesses, schools and other organisations.
- Being a part of the Whitehorse FReeZA committee will also build your self-confidence, create and develop professional relationships, and provide opportunities to explore various education and employment pathways in the music industry.
- As well as developing new skills, you will also provide important performance opportunities for local musicians and emerging artists to showcase their talents through state-wide competitions such as the annual FReeZA Push Start Battle of the Bands.
- The other types of events that you can also get involved with through your local FReeZA committee include staging of live band gigs, BMX/Skate comps, Hip Hop showcases, art and short film competitions, DJ dance events, theatre productions and local community, music and youth festivals.

For more information, call Whitehorse's FReeZA Coordinator, Amy McDonald on 9898 9340 or email amy.mcdonald@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

Cruzin Study Homework Program (Term 1)

This is a free, supported homework program for all secondary school, TAFE and university students. Sessions are available each week of the school term. Please contact Amy Pascoe, Director of Wellbeing and Advocacy on 98900571 for more details.

Australian Red Cross Blood Service

2014 Youth Ambassador Program Invitation

Thursday 20th February 2014
10:00am to 3:00pm

Victoria University Convention Centre
Level 12, 300 Flinders Street, Melbourne

About the Youth Ambassador Program

- The Youth Ambassador Program is an interactive and educational way for schools to introduce the value of blood donation to their students
- Youth Ambassadors are invited to participate in a training day at the beginning of the 2014 school year – an opportunity to learn the skills required to plan and promote a blood drive within the school community
- We provide a tailor-made program adapted to your individual school's needs
- Your school's donation contributions can be tracked through the Blood Service Club Red Online website
- Dedicated Blood Service Community Relations Officers provide support through promotional engagements, school presentations, appointment scheduling and transportation to local donor centres (where applicable)

How will the program benefit your students?

This program provides a tangible development tool for your students, incorporating:

- Exceptional opportunities for developing leadership skills
- A focus on Community Service: fulfilling requirements for a number of courses and programs such as Duke of Edinburgh, university applications or career programs
- An opportunity to develop sense of self and belonging by way of giving back
- An educational insight into the process of blood donation and how blood is used
- At the conclusion of the program, Youth Ambassadors are presented with Certificates of Appreciation and Letters of Accomplishment which are highly regarded in portfolios and resumes.

How to get involved

We invite you to **nominate up to four Youth Ambassadors** to represent your school for the 2014 Club Red Youth Ambassador Program.

Please complete and return the attached nomination form and send via email to communityrelationsvictas@redcrossblood.org.au or fax 03 9694 3539.

We will be in contact in the new year to confirm student participation and provide further information. Please don't hesitate to contact our support team on 1300 886 524 if you have any questions.

We thank you in advance for helping to ensure a healthy and sustainable blood supply for Australia's future.

Yours sincerely,
Sarah Lacey

Community Relations
Australian Red Cross Blood Service
P: 03 9871 4508 | F: 03 9871 4599 | M: 0417 286 170

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

(The closing date for nominations is Monday March 10, 2014.)

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 college.

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