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IMPORTANT DATES

7 th November, 2012	Yr 11 Exams commence
9 th November, 2012	Y10 Coursework due
20 th November, 2012	"Flying Start" commences for Y11 going into Y12 in 2013
20 th November, 2012	Y10 Exams commence
30 th November, 2012	Y10 last day
19 th December, 2012	Awards Night Y10 - 12
21 st December, 2012	Last Day Term 4
31 st January, 2013	Year 10 and 11 students commence Term 1, 2013
1 st February, 2013	Year 12 students commence Term 1, 2013

For more information on anything in this newsletter please visit the new website at www.bhssc.vic.edu.au ! Also, download the calendar if you want to have a handy reference about events.

Principal's report

End of the road for year 12

The end of the academic year is rapidly drawing to a close. Like most people I find myself asking 'Where has 2012 gone?' For our year 12 students in particular, the last few weeks have gone very quickly and it is a case of 'still a lot of work to do and not a lot of time to do it in!'

I wish those year 12 students who have formal external exams all the best over the next few weeks. Keep in mind that the exams are about testing your knowledge of work that has been completed throughout the year – it is not about introducing new work. If you have completed class work throughout the year and you have used your revision time productively, then you will be able to cope with the exams.

During October we have again run an exam revision period to allow our students to sit formal practice exams. The aim of these exams is to give students the opportunity to practice sitting exams under formal conditions. At their completion all students will need to reflect on what they got out of this period. If the exams told you that you didn't know your content well enough, then the rest of the revision period will provide you an opportunity to revisit key components of your course. Remember that your teachers still remain the best reference for you during the revision period. Continue to use their expertise to help guide you prior to the final exam.

On Tuesday October 23 we held our annual year 12 Celebration dinner. It was wonderful to see so many students, parents, teaching and educational support staff come together for the night. The Celebration dinner provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of every year 12 student. Many of our talented music students had one final opportunity to display their musical talents. Thank you to all members of the college community who attended this night and a special thank you to Dave Aumann and Michelle Clark for their support and guidance of our year 12 cohort throughout the year.

On Friday October 25 we had a final assembly and farewell luncheon for the year 12s. It was a delight to see both staff and students mixing so comfortably at this event. Our year 12s

behaved very well during their last week of formal classes. I congratulate them the mature and responsible manner with which they approached their end of year activities.

Steve Cook
Principal

BHSSC student receives Outstanding Bravery medal in the Pride of Australia honours for 2012.



Two Victorians, Ryan Miller and Vanessa Robinson received the Outstanding Bravery medals at the recent National awards.

Ryan received his medal for saving the life of an elderly woman when she fell on to train tracks at Box Hill station.

Only when she was out of harm's way did the North Ringwood teenager realise the train had stopped just five metres away.

"I don't feel like I saved her, I just feel like I helped her," Ryan said.

Ms Robinson was recognised with the Courage medal for her tireless work campaigning to improve gas and fossil fuel safety after the death of her two young sons to carbon monoxide poisoning at Mooroopna two years ago.

Vanessa Robinson and Ryan Miller were chosen from 70 finalists around the country in 10 categories as winners of this year's Pride of Australia National Medal.

Doctors, paramedics, parents and children whose acts of bravery, generosity and selflessness have inspired others were recognised during a gala ceremony at Sydney's Sheraton on the Park.

Farewell and Good Luck to the 2012 Year 12 students!



Some thoughts from our departing students....

The beginning of the end...

It does not really seem all that long ago that we were all being tugged along with our shorts down below our knees and jumper sleeves well over our hands, practically skipping to our first day of school. It seems even less time that we were graduating primary school and anxiously awaiting the start of the bigger, scarier high school.

It is the last week of year twelve classes and (although it felt like a long time sitting in the back of Year 8 Geography class) time really has flown.

I'm feeling every emotion from stressed to nostalgic, to relieved and then straight back to stressed again! It cannot be ignored that there is a lot riding on these final few weeks and those handful of exam papers that mean so much.

However, I don't think anybody can help but notice the start of the celebratory feelings in the air. It is undeniably exciting for everybody, because regardless of whether you're continuing onto tertiary education or you're travelling through Europe: it's finally our decision! There really are only a few more steps, despite their height, between us and the door to the world!

Courtney Young

I made it after 13 years, that's pretty cool. It's exciting and scary at the same time, while you're glad to be finished you don't know what you're going to do without it. As much as students complain about school, it's a big part of our lives and I will miss just going somewhere each day and having a set structure. Now I have finished school I won't be given a free run at home, and I'll have to fend for myself. From the 15th of November I won't know what I will be doing each day, whilst schoolies is planned out after that it's a bit of a mystery.

Harry Burgess

After 13 years of schooling I have gained life-long friends and a great deal of knowledge that I will carry through with me as I further my studies through to University. Making the transition from my first high school to Box Hill Senior has given me the necessary skills to be able to go through to University with the confidence I need to make new friends and continue on my pathway in life. I will miss the people at Senior and the smiling faces that I now know well, however finishing high school is a milestone that many, including myself, have been looking forward to for years now and I'm excited about the uncertainty and the unknown journey I am about to embark upon.

Alex ☺

School so far has been the majority of my life, the feeling of finally conquering the obstacle is overwhelming yet scary. Through my life at school, you are constantly guided and helped whereas after I graduate, the help provided has decreased by a substantial amount. The thought of finally being old enough to go to uni, and have a full time job gives me a sense of independence and responsibility. This in turn justifies my emotions of how I feel about school, being scary yet rewarding.

Yianni Griffiths

<p>Orientation Program for Year 12, 2013 - "Flying Start" - (Current Year 11 Students)</p>

The Flying Start Orientation program will be held on Tuesday November 20 to Friday November 23. Attendance is compulsory for all students enrolling in year 12 in 2013. Students will be completing coursework for each subject. This work will not be repeated in 2013. Homework will be given in each subject and students should expect approximately 90 minutes of homework on the Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Home Stay Register: 2013 expressions of interest

Box Hill Senior Secondary College maintains a Home stay register to place International students who enrol in our college and other students who might otherwise have to travel long distances to attend.

For every international student that we enrol into the college will need to have accommodation provided by us as the host school. Normally the home stay accommodation is with a local family for the duration of their stay. The home stay experience is an excellent way for a student to improve their English, learn more about Australian culture and make the most of their international education experience. It is essential that the home stay accommodation arranged by the school is of high quality and provides a safe, comfortable and caring environment.

Home stay is full board accommodation offered by a family, couple or single person for which a set, weekly fee is charged. This fee which is paid by the student covers expenses associated with hosting an international student. The preferred home stay arrangement is where one international student resides with a local family in the family home, but two students at one home stay is acceptable where all quality standards are met, where the students are compatible and are not from the same language background.

Home stay host families must reside in the same residence as the students. The only exception is where the host owns a secure self-contained bungalow on their property. Home stay services include provision of:

- A single bedroom for the student's exclusive use
- Three meals a day, seven days a week
- Facilities including: a bed, wardrobe, towels and linen
- Gas, electricity, heating and water costs
- Cleaning services of common living areas
- Use of living areas within the residence
- Study facilities, including a desk, study light and bookcase

Home stay parents play an important role in providing support, stability and a nurturing home environment during an international student's stay in Australia. Host families are encouraged to assist the student's cultural adjustment and support their community and social integration. Australian families with children attending the same or other secondary schools provide an opportunity for the student to develop social relationships and shared experiences that strengthen the home stay relationships and valued cultural experience.

If any member of the Box Hill Senior Secondary School community would like to consider becoming a home stay provider, or alternatively they know someone who may be interested in doing so, then please contact me at the college on 9890 0571. I will then provide more details on what is required to be registered as a home stay provider.

Sandy Toohey
International Student Coordinator

Fashion Parade 2013

The Fashion came alive on the 11th October! It was an amazing event where all BHSSC fashion students had the chance to walk on the catwalk and showcase their work.

Our thanks go to the following: the many talented fashion students, makeup and hairstylist students, lighting by Eddie Wired 4 Sound and the energetic DJ Stefan S, the catwalk organised by Neil Meredith, film montage and programme created by Selena and Cassandra Repanis and of course, the extra support of Linda Farrington and our Assistant Principal Jim Ellison.

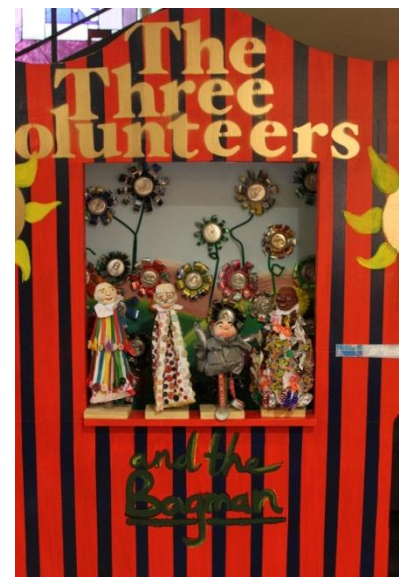
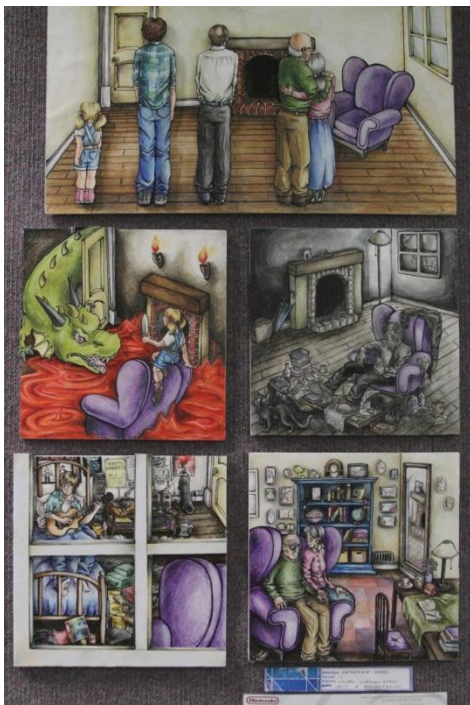
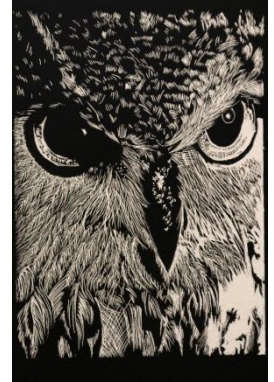
Finally an enormous thank you to both of our fashion teachers, Maria Repanis and Glenda Meredith.



Annual Art Exhibition

Congratulations to all students who took the time to prepare and exhibit their work in the Annual BHSSC Visual Arts Exhibition.

Many hours of preparation were put in by staff and students to ensure another amazing display of artistic talent.



Science News

Monash University Chemistry Challenge



Over the September holidays Year 12 students, Tori Dopheide and Rob Greenway, took part in the Monash University Chemistry Challenge. They represented Box Hill Senior Secondary College alongside 50 Victorian schools participating in the event.

Through a mix of lectures and lab sessions participants were able to learn about the structure and functions of the skin, the real science behind moisturising creams and how creams can be used to deliver medication. Tori and Rob were also able to explore the molecular basis of how nicotine works and design their own medicine.



International Students & Student Travellers BHSSC Luncheon 2012

Leading up to the onset of the BHSSC World Challenge Borneo Expedition and BHSSC India Trip, intended for November of this year, our International Students and our overseas bound students met for a luncheon this week, to discuss their travel plans, intended travel activities, and experiences.

Students from each traveling team introduced themselves to the group, and offered a presentation outlining the intentions of each trip, and showed some photos and images from the places they are traveling to. They also discussed some of the activities they are looking forward to, including trekking through the jungle of Borneo and visiting the Taj Mahal in India.

International students introduced themselves and discussed some of the reasons they decided to come to Australia, and explained the differences between cultures and the educational systems.

In addition to these formal presentations, the students shared a lovely lunch and had the opportunity to get to know one another.

Following the return of our Borneo Expedition and India Trip, we intend to all meet again to reflect upon these experiences, and touch base with our International Students.

Michelle Clark

Don't know what to do over the holidays? Donate blood!



I had the inspiring opportunity to take a group of students from Box Hill Senior to the Ringwood Blood Donation centre. I had always thought about donating blood but had not done it.

Year 12 student Tori Dophiede is an inspiring young woman. She organized an excursion for twelve students and two teachers to donate blood. I thought it was a great thing to do and decided to

support it by being one of the accompanying teachers. While waiting at the Ringwood centre Tori told me why she had organized the excursion.

"On the 20th of December, 2011, my friend Kahlia lost her battle to Ewing's Sarcoma, an aggressive form of cancer that causes tumours to grow. We had grown up across the street from one another, our parents were best friends and she was like my sister when I was young, so watching her suffer and eventually pass away was devastating. My world no longer made sense. During her battle with cancer, Kahlia was an ambassador of the Blood Buddies program, a program ran by the Red Cross designed to encourage people to donate. This was because she relied on many transfusions to keep her alive during her fight.

After Kahlia passed away, I felt as though I needed to do something: to bring a positive legacy out of such an unfair death. I was shocked to learn that only one in thirty people donate their blood, whilst one in three people require blood. This meant that people like Kahlia were not getting the blood, platelets and plasma that they required to stay alive. It confused me to think that there are millions of healthy Australians that could save lives, and yet they weren't doing what they could, this is how I got the idea to organise an excursion to donate blood.

Thankfully both my chemistry teacher, Louise Macfarlane and my previous English teacher, Anni Adams, were both on board, understanding that it was an important and worthwhile cause, and they willingly donated their time. Getting students together for the excursion wasn't as hard as I thought, after talking to students about why I wanted to do the excursion and putting signs up around the school, I already had more than enough students to run not only one excursion, but two excursions to the blood bank"

Louise Macfarlane and I have taken on Tori's cause. We want this to be something that Box Hill Senior and MYSC continues to do. Not just the students but the teachers and parents as well. Tori has inspired me to give blood now and I am booked in every three months. So far we have saved 30 lives.

Join us this Christmas. Give the greatest present - a 'gift of life'.

Find your closest centre at <http://www.donateblood.com.au/>

And when you donate blood remember to register with Box Hill Senior Secondary by going on line to:

<http://www.donateblood.com.au/who-can-give/club-red/join-group>

And check out how many lives we save at

<http://www.donateblood.com.au/who-can-give/club-red/view-group-tally>

You can donate if you are over 16 and meet the requirements which can be read on the above web site.

Join us in making a difference, remembering friends, and letting Tori know that her action has made an impact on this world. How many lives can we save?

Anni Adams

BHSSC Student Chess Champion for 2012 - Mathew Alix Year 12



Newly crowned student "King" of Chess at BHSSC, Mathew Alix of Year 12 recently took part in a staff v students challenge match with staff member, Ross Brisbane.

In an enthralling chess match, watched by an enthusiastic staff and student lunchtime audience, Mathew was unable to overcome the strategies employed by Ross and unfortunately had to concede.

It was good to see the match enjoyed by so many students. As chess becomes more entrenched as an extra-curricular lunchtime activity, it is planned for this staff challenge to become an annual event.



EMA - Newsletter Information 2013



Education Maintenance Allowance - information for parents currently receiving EMA

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including **textbooks, stationery, uniforms** and **excursions** for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of \$150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of \$250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of \$200 and \$300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, \$62 million over four years will be redirected to the State's most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account **or**
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection **or**
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; **and**
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004** **or** be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner **or** be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at **29 January 2013** (Instalment One) and **15 July 2013** (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts - 2013:

	Prep	Years 1 - 6	Year 7	Year 8 – Age 16
Instalment One	\$140	\$105	\$210	\$175
Instalment Two	\$60	\$45	\$90	\$75
Annual Total	\$200	\$150	\$300	\$250

*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is **28 February 2013**.