

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

TERM 3
13 August 2009
Issue No. 3

DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST

Wednesday

Years 7 - 10 Maths
Competition

Thursday, 20

VCE Information Night 7pm

Saturday, 22

Working Bee 9am - 11am

Tuesday 25

Finance Committee 6.50pm
School Council meeting
7.30pm

Thursday, 27

Winter Concert 7.30pm

Friday 28

Late Start 10.30am arrival

Saturday, 29

ELMS Test (AM)

Monday 31

Year 11 and 12 Parent
Teacher Interviews
2.30pm finish

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1

Late start 9.45am arrival
Year 11 Hahndorf Trip
Finance Committee 5.30pm

Thursday 3

Beachside Athletics Carnival

Friday 4

Ski Trip
Year 7 Immunisations

ADVANCE NOTICE

Tuesday 8

Year 7 and 8 Parent Teacher
Interviews 2.30pm finish

TERM DATES 2009

Term 3

13 July - 18 September

Term 4

5 October - 18 December

CONGRATULATIONS TO STUDENTS

Well done to the Junior School Council, who raised nearly \$5000 for charity on our Charity Casual Dress Day. We sent \$1000 to four very worthwhile charities that the students voted to support:-

World Vision
Guide Dogs of Victoria
Sids and Kids
State School Relief Fund

We have donated to Legacy and will support other fundraising charities. It is important that our students learn to support those less fortunate than themselves.

PARENTS PARKING IN THE BUS DROP-OFF ZONE

Parents will be requested to move their car if they are waiting for a student out the front of the school, and a large excursion bus returns to school. Students are not permitted to get off a bus parked in the middle of the road. So even if you are in a legal two minute parking bay we may request that you move your vehicle as soon as a large bus returns. This is a student safety issue and I am sure all parents will support our teachers.

SCHOOL ANNUAL WORKING BEE

Saturday August 22

I hope many parents (with or without your student) will give an hour or so, on Saturday 22nd, to help improve the school environment. Your help saves the school a considerable amount of valuable funds. I would especially invite new Year 7 parents to participate (see further details in this newsletter).

THEFT FROM STUDENT BAGS

Unfortunately, I have to report that some students have had money and iPods stolen from school bags over the last few weeks. This is most unlike our students normal behaviour, as our students have shown great respect for the property of the school and fellow students, over many years. Steps have been taken to remedy this situation, but we request that parents reinforce the advice given to students here at school, namely:-

- i. Do not leave valuables in bags left lying around during Sport, PE classes or outside the Library. All valuables should be kept in the large locker provided to

each student and a quality lock (\$10) kept on this locker at all times.

- ii. All items of value (including calculators, iPods, books and uniform) should be named and/or engraved.
- iii. Report any theft or suspicious behaviour near bags, to Mr Newton immediately.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

With the Hall unavailable, interviews will be held in the Music Centre, Library and MERC building.

Andrew Newton

Daily Operations & Finance

MENTAL HEALTH AND CYBER SAFETY

As discussed in Mrs Binnion's previous Principal's Report (July 30, 2009 Issue 2), it is essential that parents keep constantly vigilant and informed about their children's use of 'on-line' activity and mobile phones, if we are to avoid them being at risk of bullying and predatory behaviours.

The negative consequences to mental health and well being are extremely great, if our children are subjected to, or involved in emotionally destructive use of technology.

Despite increasing reports of the damaging or tragic consequences of such bullying behaviours, we tend to reassure ourselves by thinking that it was remote from us - (sadly) involving someone else's child and family, when in reality it may just as easily happen to, or involve our own child or their friends.

We need to keep 'up to speed' and informed about the nature, methods and possibilities such technologies provide to our children both positively and negatively, particularly given that this is overwhelmingly our children's method of social networking and communication.

To assist parents, the following Mental Health and Cyber safety links are very useful starting points.

<http://www.netalert.gov.au>
<http://www.cybersmart.gov.au>
<http://www.beyondblue.org.au>
<http://www.youthbeyondblue.com>
<http://www.reachout.com>
<http://www.kidshelp.com.au>
<http://www.somazone.com.au>
<http://www.headspace.org.au>

Viv Bacon and Liz Pentland
Student Welfare Coordinators

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It is with great pleasure that I take on the role of Acting Assistant Principal (Teaching and Learning) for the remainder of 2009.

TOURNAMENT OF MINDS

This year we have seven Tournament of Minds teams taking part in the competition on August 22 and 23. The teams are busily preparing themselves for the event. Thank you to Mr Perry (TOM Coordinator) for his hard work organising the McKinnon entries and also to the TOM teams' mentors: Ms Brown, Ms Bourke, Ms Duncan, Mr Hurwitz, Mr Killeen and Ms Long. Good luck to all the students involved.

DEBATING

The Senior Debating Rounds have now finished and our teams did very well. They learnt a lot and performed admirably - well done. The DAV's Junior Schools Program is about to begin next week, and McKinnon is one of the host schools. This year the College has a record number of junior debaters taking part. Good luck to the Junior debaters. Thank you to Ms Arena (Debating Coordinator) and the debating mentors: Ms Cozens, Ms Duncan, Ms Haynes, Mr Jewell and Ms Long. In addition, Ms Arena will be taking a number of Year 10 students to compete in the Barry Jones Cup at Parliament House. We wish the Parliamentary Debaters well!

YEAR 8 SURVIVOR

Over the next two weeks all Year 8s will be participating in a rogaining exercise as part of the Survivor Challenge. I hope the weather is kind!

STAFF IDPs

Over the past fortnight, teachers have been discussing their IDPs (Individual Development Plans) with their facilitators as part of the staff performance management process. This is a very valuable exercise for staff as we strive to continually improve the fantastic teaching and learning that takes place at McKinnon.

Scott Evans
Acting Assistant Principal

SINGING AND CHOIR NEWS

SINGFEST

Last May students from Years 8 - 12 attended the two days of Singfest organised by the Southern Metropolitan Instrumental Music Coordinators. The two day event was held at Mentone Girls' Secondary College and comprised students from more than eleven Government schools within the region. Kate Sadler was employed as the main conductor and Jo Abbott (currently filling in this term for Mrs Moloney as piano teacher) was the official accompanist. All had a great time and learnt a lot of interesting information from Kate. She is quite radical and creative in her thinking. The event culminated in a concert during the afternoon of the last day.

Blanka West
Vocal Instrumental Teacher

SENIOR SCHOOL REPORT

UNIT 3 AND 4 PRACTICE EXAMS

Year 11 and 12 Students

As stated before, these exams will be held in the last three days of the September holiday break (Wednesday September 30 to Friday October 2).

The students have been given a proposed timetable; we understand it is going to be a very busy few days and the schedule is tight. We have asked students with clashes to notify the Year 12 Student Managers to arrange alternative times.

We have brought about this change to ensure staff have time to go over those exams in depth, thus giving students vital feedback before the main exams.

If any parents have concerns, please contact me.

YEARS 10 AND 11 VCE INFORMATION NIGHT Thursday August 20, 7pm - 8.30pm

Both year levels have been given an information sheet regarding this important evening.

Year 11 parents and students should take the opportunity to access the KLA (Key Learning Area) Managers and tertiary representatives to assist in course selection for Year 12, 2010.

Year 10 parents and students are required to attend a presentation on the VCE course and then access the KLA managers and tertiary representatives to assist in course selection for 2010 and beyond.

Peter Thompson
Head of Senior School

SPORT

JUNIOR SPORT REPORT

Congratulations to the Year 7 Girls' and Boys' Soccer teams who are now Southern Zone Champions! The teams will now go on to play in the VSSSA State Finals on Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th September respectively, at the Darebin International Sports Centre.

Congratulations also go to the Year 7 Boys' Football team who easily defeated Kooweerup in the Southern Zone Quarter final last Thursday. They now go on to play Elisabeth Murdoch College in the Southern Zone Final - good luck.

I also had the pleasure of coaching the Senior Boys' Hockey Team last week. They are the Southern Zone Runners Up! The boys gave it their all but were narrowly beaten by Mt Erin 2-1 in the final. Congratulations to all the boys for their enthusiasm and dedication to training. We've got a great team for next year.

The Year 7 and 8 Term 3 interschool matches begin this week so please remind your student to bring a water bottle to sport, as well as their uniform and equipment. Go McKinnon!!

Carole Hooper
Junior Sport Coordinator

SPORT (continued)

INTER SCHOOL SPORT ROUND ROBIN 3

Inter Sport Round Robin took place on Thursday 6th August. Some great individual and team performances from McKinnon students and a big thanks to all the coaches for their time and effort.

EVENT	COACH	PLACE
Boys Futsal	Mr Bustin	1st
Frisbee	Mr Noble	1st
Boys Hockey	Mr Blackmore	1st
Girls Rugby	Mr Hoskin	1st
Boys Futsal	Miss Long	2nd
Girls Hockey	Mrs Hooper and Mrs Briggs	1st in pool, awaiting final
Boys Rugby	Mr Reynolds	4th
Boys Basketball	Mr Long	5th
Girls Basketball	Mrs Hunter	5th

Good luck to all the teams progressing to the next round.

Andy Hart
Inter School Sport Coordinator

SUCCESS STORIES

Congratulations to our musicians **Jake Antman, Henry Barratt, Jack Endall, Max Koenig, Tejas Kumar, Ash Richter** (all Year 10), and **Jarni Blakkarly** (Year 9), whose band 'Brass Monkeys' achieved second place at the City of Greater Dandenong Battle of the Bands 2009 on Friday 7th August. The boys competed against seven other upcoming bands and were rewarded with a \$100 voucher and six hours of rehearsal time.

Also to **Josh Baldacchino, Jordan Stout and Ollie Bannister** (all Year 11), members of 'Common Ground' which played at the recent Bayside Battle of the Bands 2009. The band may have missed out on a place but won \$216 in prize money for their efforts in enticing the greatest number of audience members to attend the event.

A great effort!

Jenny Jones
College Publicity

A special invitation to all parents, especially to Year 7 parents
to attend the

ANNUAL SPRING WORKING BEE

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Date: Saturday, 22nd August

Time: 9.00am - 11:00am

Meet: In front of the Assembly Hall

Tools: Please **bring** some tools e.g. wheelbarrows, secateurs, pruning saws, shovels, spades, weeding tools, gloves and rakes.



PROJECTS

To improve the school gardens and grounds.
Please come to help improve the environment for your child.

There is only one working bee each year - at the start of Spring.

Andrew Newton
Assistant Principal and Building & Grounds Convenor

Colin Barry
Facilities Manager



McKinnon Secondary College

Presents

**Winter Concert
2009**

'A spectacular music event not to be missed'

Thursday 27th August, 7.30pm

Robert Blackwood Concert Hall,
Monash University, Wellington Road Clayton

Concession: \$12

Adults: \$17

Tickets available from the school library