



# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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**VOL 1**

**DATE 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

**SEYMOUR TECHNICAL HIGH**

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

The start of the year has been very smooth and the extra professional development days last week gave staff an opportunity to engage in very valuable activities to prepare for 2009. Our new Year 7s have started as a happy and enthusiastic group beginning to explore the years ahead of them. I am delighted with the atmosphere of the school and all groups' continued committed approach to the teaching and learning program. A number of activities have been planned for our Year 7s and this opportunity to start the year engaged in group activities will be most valuable and rewarding.

### **Staffing Report**

I would like to welcome two first year teachers, Jemima Hill and Luke Treacy who are commencing their careers in the PE area. We wish them the greatest success and long and satisfying careers.

We also welcome back from two years in London, Amanda Wilson who has returned to take over the responsibility of looking after our Year 7s as Year 7 Coordinator. Robert Adam has returned as well to the school and he is our Year 9 Coordinator.

Finally, last Friday the staff had a special morning tea for Liz Mazurek, an extraordinary teacher of the creative arts. Liz finished her wonderful career and we honoured the amazing contribution she had made to the school over many years. We wish her the best from all the teachers, parents and students she has influenced and taught in her outstanding career.

### **Regeneration**

Last Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January, our school community met with the other Seymour schools in the PACC with invited leaders of our community, local welfare agencies and representatives from Mitchell Shire. The Regional Director, Mr Stephen Brown, also attended and announced that the school now has the Ministers' approval to go to master planning this year to prepare a design for possible consideration in the 2010 State Budget. The day was led by Professor of Education at The University of Southern Queensland, Dr Dorothy Andrews, who facilitated the day.

### **Australian Army Band - Community Welcome Concert**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 pm we are hosting the Australian Army Band at the PACC in a concert to welcome the start of the school year for our community. The venue is limited to 267 seats and while we have asked our Year 7s first, all families are invited. Please see the cut-off section in this newsletter to indicate your intention to attend, or contact the Puckapunyal DCO office on 57357731. Places will be reserved on a first-come basis.

continued overleaf

## IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 7 Family BBQ 6:00 pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 7 Aquatic Activities afternoon #1
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 7 Aquatic Activities afternoon #2
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Central Australia Information Evening 7:30 pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	School Council Meeting 7:30 pm
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Inter-house Swimming Carnival

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT continued****School Council Elections**

School Council elections will take place if necessary within the next few weeks. The School Council has a huge role in setting major policy and directions for the school. The major issue for 2009 will be setting future directions for the school in our Regeneration plans.

**New Uniform**

The Year 7 students are the first to wear our new school uniform. I am delighted with their smart appearance and looking forward to the full implementation in 2010.

**Student Planners**

Our student planner should be in the hands of each student and we request all parents to have a look at the booklet and assist their child to use it for the very important role it is designed to achieve. The planner has advice on study skills and can be used to check homework and correspondence to and from school. The planner has specific information on the school including a map, contact details, timetable and school rules. It has a full list of our new uniform and our internet and computer policies. It also has a huge list of very important skill and curriculum support information that children can use.

**Year 12 Study Day**

I would like to thank our Year 12 students and staff who attended the study day at the PACC yesterday. All Year 12s were given the information they need to work on making the year successful, including study and organisational skills. Thank you in particular to Mr Garner for the organisation of this day.

In conclusion I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our families and students, and in particular new students to the school. I hope 2009 is an especially successful year for all our students.  
Tim McCartin – Principal

**EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE 2009**

Parents and guardians who hold a Health Care Card valid on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009 are eligible for an Education Maintenance Allowance. The first semester payment will be \$310.10. If the card is still valid at the commencement of Semester 2 a further \$132.90 will be paid. Half of these amounts are paid to the school and half to parent/guardian.

If a student turns 16 during 2009 a pro-rata payment will be made.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February is the last day to lodge your submission for this allowance. Late applications will not be accepted.

Keren Fletcher – Business Manager

**2009 LUNCH PASSES**

We as a school are very concerned about students leaving the grounds during school hours without permission from parents or the school.

Obviously, we as a school are duty-bound to be responsible for our students during school hours. However, if students leave the school without parental and school approval we are unable to exercise this responsibility.

Students in Years 7 to 12 will only be permitted to leave the school grounds if they have an official Seymour Technical High School Lunch Pass or a note from their parents approved by the school for a particular purpose on a specified day.

Year Level Coordinators will issue students with Lunch Passes (town students only) which will incorporate a photo of the student, upon receipt of a letter of request from parents. If you would like your son or daughter to be issued with a Lunch Pass, please complete and return the request form. These have been issued to students - please return this request to the General Office by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2009.

Students who have not had their school photo taken in 2009 will be required to attach a passport size (no bigger than 30mm x 30mm) with their request.

It is important to point out that Lunch Passes only authorise students to visit their own homes for lunch. Lunch passes will only be issued to students who live within reasonable walking distance from the school unless other arrangements are made. They do not give students permission to go down the street or elsewhere. (S.T.H.S reserves the right not to issue Lunch Passes if the travelling distance is unreasonable).

In future, students in Years 7 to 12 found out of the school grounds without permission will face the following consequences:

*First Infringement* - letter home to parents, warning

*Second Infringement* - letter home to parents, report card, punishment task

*Third Infringement* - letter home to parents, suspension.

If you would like your son or daughter to be issued with permission to leave the school for a particular purpose on a specific day, please provide a letter specifying the purpose and times for the school to approve.

In the interests of our students, we request your support of these arrangements.

David Mills – Assistant Principal

**UNCOLLECTED 2008 REPORTS**

There are some uncollected reports remaining at the General Office. Please collect your report and "Spirit" school magazine so as soon as possible.

Jurgen Frank – Assistant Principal

**UNIFORM**

At the end of 2008, a new school uniform was adopted by the school. Please find a list of the new uniform for boys and girls with this newsletter.

This year, the new uniform must be worn by all Year 7s. Next year, the entire school will have to wear the new uniform. As older students need to replace parts of their uniform this year, they will need to replace them with the new parts of the uniform. Our supplier, C. & J. Kerris Menswear, have the uniform available for all sizes and a number of older students are already wearing the new uniform, or parts of it.

Sally Ann Venables – Assistant Principal

**SPORTS UNIFORM**

As a part of our discussions about the new uniform last year, we considered the idea of allowing students to wear their sports uniform all day. However, after much discussion with community members and other schools who also have separate sports uniforms, it was decided that students need to change into their sports uniforms just before class and back into their main school uniform at the end of the PE lesson. One of the key considerations was personal hygiene.

Like the main school uniform, many students across all year levels are wearing the sports uniform in their PE classes.

I would like to thank parents for their support of the introduction of the new uniform. It is much appreciated. I would also like to congratulate all students wearing the new uniform on their presentation – you look great!

Sally Ann Venables – Assistant Principal

**Parents of Year 7 students**

You are invited to a **Community Welcome Concert** at the school's Performing Arts Centre on

Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> February at 7:30 pm

The Australian Army Band and other musicians will be performing. This is a welcome to

Seymour Technical High and the Seymour Community.

Booking / an indication of interest is required so that we know the number of people attending.

Please return the slip below to the General office at the school or phone DCO – Puckapunyal on 5735 7731.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY ARE WELCOME

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL GENERAL OFFICE

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**YES WE WILL BE ATTENDING THE COMMUNITY WELCOME CONCERT**

**FAMILY NAME:**

.....

**NUMBER ATTENDING:**

.....

**CARLTON PLAYERS VISIT**

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February four Carlton players will be visiting the school and speaking to our Health and Physical Education classes. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions in regard to health and fitness and discuss their training programs, preparations for events and other wellbeing techniques.

The players will be staying on joining the rest of the team and conducting a Superclinic with local junior teams at Kings Park from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm, followed by a Sportspersons' Night – all welcome!

Stephen Garner

– Heath & PE Teacher / Year 12 Coordinator

**Seymour Football/Netball Club**

In conjunction with the newly formed Puckapunyal/Tallarook Junior Football Club Would like to invite all interested and enthusiastic AFL supporters to a

**“Sports persons night”**  
**Next Tuesday – 10<sup>th</sup> February**  
**– for 1 night only!!**

Held at Kings park football complex – Tallarook St Seymour.  
 The night will commence at 8.00 pm - \$25 per head  
 The entire Carlton FC team including the coaches (Brett Ratten and Robert Harvey) will appear to entertain the crowd.  
 All players will be allocated a table to be seated on, so you could be sitting next to – Fev or Juddy.  
 Tickets are available from the GMCU – 72 Station Street  
 Hurry – tickets are going fast!

**MITCHELTON MOONLIGHT CINEMA**



**Experience the magic of the movies outdoors**

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February we will be raising the curtains on our first ever Moonlight Cinema. Bring your family and friends, pack a picnic and blanket and sit back and enjoy our outdoor cinematic experience.

**Tickets: \$15 adult, \$10 children between 5 and 15, \$40 family**

**Pre bookings preferred to avoid disappointment. Remaining unreserved tickets available on the night**

**FEATURE: FOOLS GOLD (PG) - Starring Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson**

**STRICTLY NO BYO ALCOHOL**

**Bookings/enquiries: 03 5736 2221 or for more information visit [www.mitchelton.com.au](http://www.mitchelton.com.au)**

## **CAREERS NEWS**

### **Work Experience Arrangements for Year 10 Students**

Each year, students in Year 10 are encouraged to complete a week of work experience. The benefits of work experience for a young person are significant, even if they already have part-time jobs. Some students have decided to pursue a different career path as a result of doing their work experience placements. Other students' work experience placements have enabled them to secure part-time or full-time employment in areas that was of great interest to them. In an attempt to minimise the impact on the school's learning program that typically occurs when large numbers of students are away, we schedule specific weeks for the purpose of work experience placements. There are circumstances in which a student may request to do more than one week of work experience, or complete work experience on dates other than those that were scheduled for their Form Class. Special arrangements can be negotiated in these circumstances. The scheduled work experience dates are as follows:

- 10A Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March
- 10B Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April
- 10C Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May
- 10D Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May
- 10E Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

We are planning to complete most of the work experience placements in the first semester of this year. Please start discussing placement ideas with your Year 10 son or daughter and encourage them to approach this as they might if they were trying to get a job. Assistance is available from the Careers Office if required.

### **Melbourne Motor Show and Careers Seminar**

Years 9 – 11 students who would like to attend a Careers Seminar on the Automotive industry, and then visit the Melbourne Motor Show, need to register their interest by writing their names on a list on the door of the Careers office. This event is not available to VET students as it will occur on a day when VET classes are scheduled (either Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> or Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009). A list of 10 students will be required for this event to take place.

### **Avalon International Airshow – Careers Information Day**

A limited number of STHS students in Years 9 – 11 will have the opportunity to attend an information

day on careers in Aviation, Aerospace and Defence. Anyone who is interested should register their name at the Careers Office as soon as possible. Students will be selected to attend this event based on their level of interest in this field and a 'first in best dressed' basis.

**Date:** Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March (departing STHS very early and probably returning late). More details will be provided in the next few weeks.

**Jeremy Linton – Careers Coordinator**



**Matthew Mount on placement at Seymour and District Locksmith during 2008.**

### **Seymour Senior Netball Association**

Summer / Autumn Ladies Season on Monday evenings – commences mid February.

Nomination forms available from Total Sports, Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre and Go-Lo. Team and individual nominations accepted.

Contact Veronica on 0409 140 971 or Karen on 0431 865 714.

### **Seymour Junior Netball Association**

This competition is open to boys and girls 5 to 15 years with competitions for U12, U14, and U16 players. To register be at the Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm or on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February from 10:00 am to 12 noon. You must bring a parent or a guardian. Talk to a SJNA contact for more information: Nicole 0407 922 737, Sue 0400 135 745 or Cathy on 0417 058 238.