



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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SEYMOUR TECHNICAL HIGH



Ms Jemima Hill and Mr Luke Treacy are new teachers in our Health and Physical Education faculty – welcome to our school!

The bushfires of Black Saturday have affected our school community; however, thankfully we have had no fatalities.

The school student body donated \$1,000 to the Red Cross bushfire appeal.

We have also donated funds raised by staff to our staff affected by the fires.

I wish to thank everyone for their wonderful support, generosity and assistance provided to so many in our community.

Tim McCartin—Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 20th February	Inter-house swimming carnival
Tuesday 24th February	Year 7 Family BBQ 6:00 pm
Wednesday 25th February	Vaccinations - Year 7 & Year 10
Thursday 26th February	GSSSA inter-school sports round-robin
Friday 27th February	Last day for parent EMA submissions
Wednesday 4th March	School Council nominations close

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**The Fires**

The last week has been a very difficult time for all members of our school community and the school paused to reflect at our Tuesday assembly on the loss of so many people. The entire school community observed a minute's silence led by one of our school captains who lost her home in the fires. Some of our staff and students have lost homes and other buildings and we are supporting them as much as possible. The Region and Department have been very caring and supportive in their provision of counselling, bus coordination and material assistance as well.

We have had counsellors working here together with our support team from the school, and we have arrangements in place to provide this assistance in the future to those who require it. We are fortunate that no member of the school was killed; however, many of our students have lost friends or neighbours.

I need to thank all members of our school for the strong caring support shown to all. All our community has been shocked by the devastation of these fires.

I want to thank our teachers in general for supporting our students but in particular our counselling staff led by Brooke Nester, our Student Welfare coordinator, for the magnificent work done by all.

School Council Elections

A reminder that nominations are called for parents and staff to stand for school council membership. This year's council group will have the very important task of guiding and approving the Master Plan for regeneration so it will be a busy but productive year. Nominations opened on the 18th February and will close on the 4th March. An election, if necessary, will be held on Wednesday 11th March. If you are interested in joining Council as an elected parent representative please ring the office for a nomination form.

Regeneration

Last week all the Principals of the four Seymour Schools and other representatives of those involved in the proposal met to discuss the detailed timeline for 2009. The first task is to select an architect by the end of March.

In order for the architect to develop a master plan by the end of November the Governance Board and schools will need to work out the broad brushstrokes of the proposal.

On Friday this week another meeting will consider the major questions including site(s), including new sites, multi sites etc. Related issues such as the structure of the sub schools and will need to be made and carried back to school and other shareholders.

STHS will have an architect visit next week made by Spowers, designers of award winning schools in

Victoria and noted for their environmental and energy efficient designs. We have to start discussions with architects regarding our application for the Technical Trade Centres in schools funding.

2009 School Leaders

On Tuesday at the school's first assembly an induction program was held for our 2009 school leaders. We were delighted that a large number of families were present to assist us in celebrating this formal occasion followed by a morning tea.

Our leadership positions for 2009 are as follows:

School Captains – Madelaine Richards and Rhys Macreadie, Activities – Jesse Woods and Rosalee Loxley, Environment – Mitchell Round, Magazine – Jessica Flavel, SRC – Jasmine Denke and Toni Page, Visual Arts – Bronte Halsall, Flinders – Joshua Neels and Yvette Le Cerf, Henty – Marcus Ure and Abigail Eastwood, La Trobe – Dylan Jaeger and Taylah Suffredini, Mitchell – Jacob Loraine and Melissa Jessiman.

Australian Army Band – Community Welcome Concert

This evening at 7:30 pm we are hosting the Australian Army Band at the PACC in a concert to welcome the Seymour Community and to celebrate the start of the school year. The program has been organised by the DCO at Puckapunyal and we are grateful for their support. Places will be reserved on a first-come basis.

Tim McCartin – Principal

HOMEWORK SUPPORT PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS ON PROBATION

At the end of each year, a team of teachers and Assistant Principals meet to discuss the results of students at each year level. If a student's results are of concern, but the panel believes that with extra effort and supervision the student will be able to complete the next year level satisfactorily, the student is given a probationary promotion. As a part of the probation process, the student is required to attend our compulsory after school Homework Support program.

This year the Homework Support program commences on Wednesday 25th February. Each session goes from 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm.

The program will continue every Wednesday throughout term 1 and will be supervised by Assistant Principals and Year Level Coordinators. We ask that if your child is included in this program that they bring their homework planner, any homework that they need to complete and / or work that they would like extra help with.

If the student's progress is monitored throughout term 1 to determine if it is necessary to continue in terms 2.

If you have any queries please contact either Mark Boland or myself on 5771 1300.

Sally Ann Venables – Assistant Principal



Carlton Football Club players, Brett Thornton, Luke Stanton and Jerrery Garland, visited our school and spoke to our Health & Physical Education classes.

AMBULANCE COVER

The school strongly advises families to have Ambulance cover. If your child is deemed seriously ill, or has an accident, every attempt will be made to contact you. However, our first priority is the well-being of your child and an Ambulance will be called if deemed necessary. The family will be responsible for the cost of this service.

Jurgen Frank – Assistant Principal

BPAY

This year BPay facilities are available for the payment of school fees, excursions etc. Your next statement will list the Biller Reference Number and your reference code.

All amounts paid by BPay will be allocated to the oldest outstanding charge first.

Keren Fletcher – Business Manager

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE 2009

Parents and guardians who hold a Health Care Card valid on 2nd 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 27th February is the last day to lodge your submission for this allowance. Late applications will not be accepted.

Keren Fletcher – Business Manager

Puckapunyal / Tallarook Junior Football Netball Club Inc

This club is seeking applications from interested players. Contact Paul Fleming on 0428 211 203.



Bronte Halsall, Melissa Jessiman, Jessica Flavel and Elizabeth Van Egmond at the Year 12 Valentine's dress up day.

CAREERS NEWS

Work Experience

Students of Year 10 will need to start making arrangements for their work experience placements. Careers classes will commence shortly, in which Year 10 students will be receiving Occupational Health and Safety training in preparation for work experience. Students in 10A need to remember that their work experience dates are Monday 16th to Friday 20th March.

The Age VCE Careers Expo 2009

I have a number of free passes available for students who wish to attend The Age Careers Expo. Tickets will be given on a 'first in best dressed' basis.

Date/Time: Friday 24th – Sunday 26th April 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Venue: Caulfield Racecourse Station Street
Caulfield More information:

www.education.theage.com.au

Networking Seminar

The Mitchell Shire Council's Economic Development Unit and the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development are hosting a networking seminar. The focus of the seminar will be on self promotion and building business contacts. Students and adults are welcome to attend this event. Details are as follows:

Date/Time: Thursday 26th March 6:45 pm – 9:00 pm

Venue: Gathering Space, Kilmore Family Centre, Skehan Place, Kilmore.

More information: Contact Kathy Preston: 57346205

Jeremy Linton – Careers Coordinator

UNCOLLECTED 2008 REPORTS

There are some uncollected reports remaining at the General Office. If you did not collect your report and "Spirit" school magazine last year, please do so as soon as possible.



Minister for Education

The Hon Bronwyn Pike MP

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February 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome back to the start of what promises to be another exciting school year. In Victoria, we are fortunate to have a world-class education system with a strong and vibrant government school system at its core. One of the greatest gifts we can all give our children is the solid foundation of a high-quality education. We are always working hard to improve so that every child can thrive, learn and grow.

Government schools are an important part of their local community. The people who make our schools great places for your child – principals, teachers, staff and school councillors – are dedicated to providing the best education possible for our children.

One of the most effective ways we can do this is by every being actively engaged in the education of our children. We can all help our children develop the knowledge, skills and learning strategies they need to engage in lifelong learning. Discussing your child's homework, talking with them about current events and encouraging them to make a positive contribution to society are all important ways in which you can support your child's journey through school.

I also encourage you to become actively involved in your child's school community. It helps children achieve the best possible learning outcomes. You can participate in school life, both formally and informally, through volunteering and staying up to date with your children's learning progress through regular contact with their teachers.

More information on Victorian government schools can be found at www.education.vic.gov.au or Education Line **ph 1800 809 834** can provide further advice and assistance.

I wish you and your children all the very best for the year ahead.

Hon Bronwyn Pike MP
Minister for Education