



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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VOL 3

DATE 5th March 2009

SEYMOUR TECHNICAL HIGH



Last week's Year 7 BBQ family evening was a great night, with over 160 students, family members and staff attending. Whilst munching sausages (or a veggie burger) and salad, families had time to chat with teaching staff about how the Year 7s are settling into secondary school, the new uniform, new friendships and much more. Students also had the opportunity to show their parents their lockers and some of their classrooms. Luckily, the weather held and the smoke that had been oozing through Seymour's skies earlier in the day lifted so that everyone could enjoy the evening.

The BBQ is a part of the school's transition program, providing families to meet with teaching staff in an informal setting. Another part of the program is our Year 7 parent morning teas. Parents will be invited to attend a morning tea catered for by their children when their child's class completes the six week Food Technology block. The ANZAC biscuits are usually scrumptious and the school provides tea and coffee so that you can meet with the members of our Junior School team and chat about your children and their schooling.

A special thank you to Mark Boland, Amanda Wilson, Terry Griffiths and Wayne Burgess and to everyone else who contributed to the night to make it so successful, and of course, to all of those who came on the night!

Sally Ann Venables - Assistant Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 6 th March	GSSSA Inter-school Swimming Carnival
Monday 9 th March	Labour Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 11 th March	School Council & AGM Meeting 7:00 pm
Monday 16 th - Friday 20 th March	Year 10A Work Experience Week
Friday 20 th March	Inter-house Athletics Sports

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

I hope the cool weather of the last few days signifies the end of the major bushfire season. The school has received advice several times to cancel buses and I thank all for dealing so well with what often can be late advice. The Department and Region have had to make difficult decisions and we thank them for their support.

Tours

Today I walked the school, as I often do, and I saw a Year 7 group competing in an international challenge for World Maths Day, busily typing answers to maths questions. In another room Year 12 Psychology students were undertaking a simple lie-detector test as part of their understanding of brain perception and consciousness. In another room two Year 7s were teaching the class about longitude and latitude while the teacher observed. Lots of busy work and happy and involved kids. We are about to start our tours for prospective Year 7 enrolments, so please feel free to contact my secretary and join a tour of the school with myself or an Assistant Principal.

Swimming Sports

Once again our students had a wonderful day at the House Sports. I thank all staff, students and parents for their help in this year's program. In particular I wish to thank Mr Garner for his invaluable help in this program.

Regeneration

Last night was the first meeting of the Regeneration Governance Board as set up by Hume Region. Membership consists of the four Principals, the Regional Network Leader – Ms Jan Gill-Kirkman, Bill Melbourne – Mayor of Mitchell Shire, Judy Payne – Manager from Berry Street, David Aisbett – Executive Officer and Karla Chatfield – Mitchell Shire Kindergarten Services Manager. Site visits have occurred from visiting architects who may tender for the design of the project and the Principals have met twice, including undertaking a complete work-through of some of the sites. A meeting of school councils will take place shortly. Our timeline is to have an architect appointed by the end of March, then Master planning and full costing completed by November.

School Council Elections

School Council Elections have taken place and I am delighted to announce that, as only two parents have nominated for the positions, I declare them elected. They are Val Pinder and Chris Chapman. The major issue for 2009 will be setting future directions for the school in our Regeneration plans.

Technical Trade Centre Application

We continue to work on this application and will visit some schools with excellent facilities to see what is available and works well. The Regeneration will be part of the process connected to this model. The aim will be to have both stages of the program in place.

Tim McCartin – Principal

STUDENTS LEAVING THE SCHOOL AT LUNCHTIMES

Parents are reminded that students leaving the school grounds at recesses or lunchtimes (other than those with permanent lunch-passes to go home for lunch ONLY) **MUST** bring a note from home to authorize their absence. The school recommends that students should not, however, be given notes from home to buy food at local fast-food outlets. Parental notes for fast-food outlet visits will not be approved at school.

Students with permanent lunch-passes are also required to sign out.

Assistant Principals are patrolling the town's streets each recess and lunchtime: students without signed notes, or students who have not signed out at the General Office are being given detentions, and parents are being informed through letters from co-ordinators. Recurring offences will incur further penalties.

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

Forthcoming Heritage Train**Tocumwal Race Train
Easter Saturday, 11th April 2009**

On Easter Saturday, 11th April 2009 the Tocumwal Racing Club will celebrate their 139th Easter Cup meeting.

The Seymour Railway Heritage Centre (SRHC) is pleased to announce that a special Tocumwal Race Train will operate to Tocumwal on this day; giving interested people an opportunity to enjoy both a relaxing heritage train travel and a country race meeting.

Full Details of the next Heritage train are now available from www.srhc.org.au.

How to make a Reservation

By Telephone – Call 03 5799 0515 and then select 22 at the Voice Menu. Please leave a message if your call is not answered. *Please have a Credit Card handy when you call or you may request a Tax Invoice*

A **Reservation Form** is also available for download from the SRHC Web Site (www.srhc.org.au).

Important Note

Due to an earlier start (8.20 am) in the morning and a late return (9.30 pm) in the evening this train will not interlink with V/Line services to/from Melbourne.

For details of accommodation in Seymour please visit <http://www.seymour.org.au/index.cfm/Accommodation>



Carly is congratulated by Liz Johnson of Seymour Lions.

LEADER OF THE FUTURE

The Lions district final of the "Youth of the Year" competition was held on Sunday 1st March at the Nagambie Institute Hall.

The quest is designed to encourage student interest in leadership and community service.

Carly Burgess won the zone final and was congratulated by Liz Johnson from Seymour Lions Club.

Carly was interviewed by a panel of judges, and then competed in public speaking in front of an audience of family and Lions Club members. She also responded to two impromptu questions and presented a five minute prepared speech entitled 'Australia the lucky country, or is it?'

Carly will now represent Seymour in the next level of the Lions Quest on 22nd March at Tatura. If successful there, she will advance through further levels of competition to the National Lions Convention in May.

We are very proud of Carly's accomplishments - well done Carly!

HOUSE ATHLETICS

The Inter-house Athletics has been brought forward to Friday 20th March due to the availability of the grounds. I hope that parents can come and support their children on this day. Sorry for any inconvenience that this change may have caused.

Christy Rilen - Sport Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

School Based Apprenticeship Available in Animal Care

A School Based Apprenticeship is currently available in Animal Studies. The successful applicant will be working at a local cattery/kennels every Monday and will be expected to complete Certificate II in Animal Studies. Contact the Careers office for more information.

Avalon Airshow Careers Seminar

Students who were offered a place at the Avalon Airshow and Aerospace Exposition will need to ensure they return their permission slips and bus fare by TOMORROW (Friday 6th March). Students must wear full school uniform and bring a hat and sunglasses. Lunch will be provided at the venue.

Work Experience Arrangements

Year 10 students need to be making arrangements for work experience placements. While students are encouraged to approach potential employers themselves, assistance is available from the Careers office for students who are experiencing difficulties with making contact with employers, or who are struggling to decide where they want to work. Students who are interested in completing work experience with Qantas (competitive application process) or the ADF at Puckapunyal will need to make arrangements urgently as places are limited.
Jeremy Linton - Careers Coordinator

Labour Day Weekend



Annual Park to Pub & Back

1.1 km Open Swim Event

Saturday 7 March 2009

12 Noon start

Buckley Park boat ramp

Categories:

Open Men & Women

Under 18 Boys & Girls

Individual Trophies awarded on the day

Cash prizes for category winners

Perpetual Trophies displayed at

Nagambie Lakes Entertainment Centre

Pre-registration preferred

Enquires: Andrea Richards 5794 2779

or drop in to Ginger's Hair on High

Education Tax Refund – Get 50% back

Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to \$750 for primary students and \$1500 for secondary students.

This means you could receive a refund each year of up to \$375 for each primary and \$750 for each secondary school student in your care.

Are you eligible?

To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:

- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- the Veterans' Children Education Scheme
- the Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- a scheme under s256 of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004*
- an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

What can you claim?

You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:

- laptops, home computers and associated costs — for example, internet and paper
 - educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
 - stationery and art supplies
 - school textbooks and associated learning materials
 - trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.
- ❗ Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

When can you claim?

You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009.

- ❗ Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

➡ For more information:

- visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au
- phone the Tax Office on 13 23 61.