



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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VOL 5

DATE 2nd April 2009

SEYMOUR TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL



Congratulations to all students who participated in the VSSSA Eastern Zone Swimming Championships and showed great school spirit cheering and supporting each other. Thank you to the parents who attended and helped out with the many jobs on the day. Good luck to our school representatives at the State finals today.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 3rd April	Last day, term 1 - Interim reports mailed
Friday 10th April	Central Australia trip returns
Monday 20th April	Term 2 begins
Tuesday 21st April	Parent-Teacher interviews Year 7 - 12 Family surnames A - L, 4:00 to 6:00 pm
Thursday 23rd April	Parent-Teacher interviews Year 7 - 12 Family surnames M - Z, 4:00 to 6:00 pm
Thursday 30th April	Vaccinations - Year 7 Gardasil 2 and Chickenpox
Friday 1st May	GSSSA Interschool round robin

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

A very eventful term one has passed and I am very proud of the committed teachers in this school who worked so well as a team through the bushfire period. Equally, our students have experienced so many strange and tragic experiences and continued to push through for all kinds of success both in academic and sporting areas. Both our sports carnivals went ahead and gave us days to work together for a fun-filled and happy experience. A big thank you to the support the school received from parents and everyone in the community. I take this opportunity to wish all staff and students a restful and safe holiday and look forward to a refreshed start to term two.

Ongoing Bushfire Support

I remind all students and parents that support is available and will continue to be offered to students who may have experienced any ongoing issues from the bushfire period. We have a data base of students directly affected and others requiring support. If you know of anyone else who needs assistance please contact myself or the Student Welfare Coordinator, Ms Brooke Nester.

Year 7 Middle Years Update

I need to congratulate the members of the middle years team for an outstanding start to secondary school for all Year 7 students. The Year 7 students have been great in their enthusiasm and behaviour. Parents attending Year 7 morning teas report pleasing levels of confidence in the teaching and learning program and report that their children are loving secondary school and the great levels of support provided by our Junior School coordination team.

New Uniform Compulsory in 2009

The new uniform is off and running and receiving very positive feedback from all quarters. May I please remind all parents that the new uniform is compulsory for all students from Year 7-12 in 2010. If your child in Year 8-12 needs a new item of uniform please update to the new model! The uniform is endorsed by School Council and it will not be acceptable in 2010 to wear old items and provide advice that they were purchased new in 2009.

Technical Trade Centre

On Monday a working group met to discuss the submission of an application for Federal funding of the provision across the southern part of the region of technical trade centres. We have, as a school, been nominated as the northern hub centre with the possibility of rebuilding or refurbishment of the trade wing, depending on the grant available. The complication is the timing of the Regeneration process and we have to probably start this project before the full regeneration model. It is nevertheless an exciting time to put resources into this work and our master plan will be of real importance to make it all work.

Tim McCartin – Principal

VSSSA EASTERN ZONE SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Wednesday 18th March, 30 students, 2 staff and approximately 12 parents travelled to Albury to attend the VSSSA Eastern Zone Swimming Championships. Students from 25 different schools competed during the day. Seymour Technical High School gained 5 1st places, 12 2nd places and 10 3rd places. The following students also qualified to swim at the State finals on Thursday April 2nd in Melbourne: Sarah Fleming (Backstroke and Freestyle), Jessica Fleming (Freestyle), Adam Flint (Freestyle) and the U13 Boys Freestyle Relay Team consisting of Lachlann Tyson, Ben Denyer, Jonathon Frankel, and Wade Layton.

Sarah Fleming was also awarded Under 14 Girls Age Champion on the day.

Seymour Technical High School was awarded 3rd place overall. This is a wonderful accomplishment for our school – well done!

Tracie Baker – Excursion Teacher

PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEW PROCEDURES

Tuesday 21st April & Thursday 23rd April 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Interim report Parent / Teacher interviews will be conducted for all students in years 7-12 in April and October over two evenings.

The interviews will begin on Tuesday 21st April for families with surnames beginning with the letters A to L and conclude on Thursday 23rd April for families in the M to Z section.

Mid year interview evenings for years 7 to 10 students will not continue. (This decision has been made due to the very low participation rate.)

Parents of all students who are studying VCE units will have an additional opportunity to speak to their child's teachers at the June Parent / Teacher evening. This time corresponds with the completion of unit 1 and 3 studies, and VCAL units.

The existing process of booking sheets will be continued as this has helped to reduce the bottlenecks which these evenings have previously produced.

Students' interim reports will continue to be mailed to parents and the semester reports will be handed to your child on the last day of each semester.

Additional information will be with your child's interim report. If you have any concerns please call the school and speak to myself, Jurgen Frank or Sally Ann Venables.

David Mills – Assistant Principal

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

We expect that all EMA cheques will be at the school by the commencement of Term 2. These may be collected at the General Office between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm. Parents who used their portion of the allowance to purchase books from Landmark school supplies will not receive a cheque.



Heading home at a leisurely pace at the Pretty Sally Trail Rides.

YEE HA!

Unit 1 VCE students visited the Pretty Sally Trail Rides as part of our unit 1 studies. We took part in a 4 hour horse ride taking in the lovely views of the Great Dividing Range. We galloped up mountains with great speed, led by our talented state champ endurance rider, Samantha Cubbin. None of us fell off because we are all very skilled and so we had a great day.

Hannah Skewes – VCE O&E Studies Student

YEAR 9 TASMANIAN TOUR 2009

Monday 14th to Friday 18th December

This is during the school's end of year program in 2009.

Thank you to all the parents and students who returned an expression of interest form for the tour of Tasmania.

The school has received 35 expression of interest and based on this return, we will be operating one tour of 40 students and 4 staff.

At this point we have only 5 vacancies for students on this fantastic trip. If you are interested and have not yet let the General office or myself know, please do so ASAP to avoid disappointment.

The cost for this tour includes airfares, all coach tour transport including to and from the airport and school, accommodation, all meals (except lunch on Monday and dinner on Friday), all admission and activity fees.

The total cost for this all inclusive 5 day tour is \$750.00.

A payment plan will be available over the next 8 months for those parents who wish to take advantage of this option. Further details and payment slips will be given to all participating students early next term.

If you require more information about this fantastic tour, contact me at the school on 57711300.

John Simpson – Tour Coordinator

INTER-HOUSE ATHLETICS SPORTS

We enjoyed a good day on Friday 20th March at our inter-house athletics sports event at Kings Park. After the final tally, the results are as follows:

Flinders 709, Mitchell 666½, Henty 655 and Latrobe 511½.

Age Champions

13 yr Jonathan Frankel & Keely Goggin
 14 yr Jake Rowlands & Rhianna Drummond
 15 yr Ethan McMennemin & Hailly-Denim Monaghan
 16 yr Shaun O'Loughlin & Rebekah Van Egmond
 17 yr Nick Dundon & Isabella Paholek
 18 yr Josh Neels & Renae McKeown

Thank you to everyone for all your assistance in making this event so successful.

Christy Rilen – Sports Coordinator

STHS ANNUAL REPORT

Each year, all Victorian schools produce an Annual Report on many aspects of the school's performance during the previous year. This report details student achievement, attendance, retention rates, aspects of student wellbeing and financial statements.

Parents who would like to read the 2008 Annual Report from our school are able to do so by accessing a copy on the school's website:

www.seymourths.vic.edu.au .

Alternatively, parents who are not able to access the website are invited to collect a copy from the school's General Office, or have their children do so.

Jurgen Frank – Assistant Principal

\$1040 CHALLENGE

“Learning to help, helping to learn”

This year our 8D English class has established a yearlong project which we are calling our “\$1040 Challenge, *Learning to help, helping to learn.*” We are trying to raise enough money to give a year's education to 40 orphans in Zimbabwe. We know that an education will give these children hope and a chance to succeed in life. We have decided to create 4 different major fundraisers, as well as smaller activities, to be run throughout the school year.

Our major fundraisers are:

- Out of uniform *Footy dress up* day – Friday 15th May, gold coin donation.
- Cake stall outside the Commonwealth Bank – Saturday 30th May.
- Sausage sizzle outside Safeway and not during school hours – Term 3, date TBA.
- Term 4 activity to be confirmed.

Please help us give these kids hope and a better education.

Cody Dare & James Ure – Year 8D



Our 2009 inter-house athletic sports Age Champions from left to right: Jonathon Frankel, Ethan McMennemin, Shaun O'Loughlin, Keely Goggin, Rebekah Van Egmond, Nick Dundon, Jake Rowlands, Josh Neels, Renae McKeown, Isabella Paholek & Hailly-Denim Monaghan. Congratulations to you all!

YEAR 12 OUTDOOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Last Wednesday and Thursday the Year 12 class went to the Bellarine Peninsular. We walked the Otways Ranges in Lorne, camped at Ocean Grove and snorkelled at Pope's Eye in Queenscliff. During this water experience we encountered two seals, which we swam with. We also spied a stingray while snorkelling which caused great excitement. This was a compulsory part of the course teaching students about natural environments and it was enjoyed by all.

Ms Paholek – Outdoor and Environmental Studies Teacher



Dylan Jaeger, James Forbes, Jessie Woods and Kane Lofts aboard the boat that ferried us to Pope's Eye for our snorkelling adventure.



Trekking through the Otways National Park in Lorne with Johanna Jalo capturing the scenery.

Josh Williamson, Joshua Neels and Nick Dundon enjoying the water hole at the Otways National Park.

SOS FOR HOST FAMILIES

It is the dream of many teenagers to visit our vast and "exotic" country, Down Under. Their dream can only come true with your help. It is only through the hospitality of caring families, with an interest in better cultural understanding and world peace, that these dreams can become reality. STS High School Foundation urgently needs volunteer host families for students arriving in July 2009, from Europe and Canada.

For more information, please contact us at stsf@people.net.au , call 1800 263 964 or website: www.sts-education.com.au .

