



This week at Heywood & District Secondary College

A part of your community.....

From the Principal

Term 2 has started and sadly it has begun with tragic news for our College and the Heywood community, with our sincere condolences going to the Pomeroy family for their sad loss.

I do hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable break, although our thoughts go out to all in our community who have been touched by the sad events of last Thursday.

We welcome Mrs June Leahy as our Librarian for two days a week this term, and also Mrs Rebecca Phyland, who will be teaching a new program to support literacy across the curriculum – “Green Literacy” for selected Year 7 to 9 students for two days a week this term.

Remember, that the next Parent/Teacher interview time will occur next **Monday, 27 April**, for Years 10 – 12, from **4 – 6 pm**. It would be very pleasing to see as many parents as possible at this event. If you have any questions about this, or are unavailable to

present for an interview, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Please ensure that you are asking your child to make the appointments for interviews for you.

Term 2 is again busy with sport and events other than class work, so organisation and planning is critical. Please take the time to check with your child/ren that their school work commitments are covered and organised so that they have the best possible chance of success.

This Wednesday, at our Assembly, I had the great privilege to invest our form captains, (student leaders) and acknowledge their importance in the school as role models and representatives on the Student Representative Committee.

Please remember to notify the school with a note or a phone call if your child is unable to attend so that our attendance records are accurate. If your child is unwell and needs to have work sent, we are more than happy to support the learning at home.

This Term is when we embark on our self - assessment, as a first stage of our review, being at the end of our four-year strategic plan. This will involve consultation with all sectors of our community in evaluating, reflecting and planning for the future directions of the College in the development of a new strategic plan, with the help of our reviewer, Bronwyn Van Amerongen. We have begun this process in our first staff meeting this week, and will be inviting the involvement of all sectors of our school community throughout this term. This will take a lot of work and preparation. To assist in this process the College has placed this year's Annual Implementation Plan and our Annual Report on our website –

www.heywoodsc.vic.edu.au

Please take the time to read these documents or ask for a copy at the General Office.

Please keep an eye on the calendar and check the School Newsletter to be aware of what is going on. Our Newsletter is now published on our website. If you notice that one is not

coming home as regularly as it should, you can now access it on line.

Fiona McKenzie
Acting Principal.

From the Assistant Principal

This has been a very sad week with the passing of a past student, Justin Pomery, last week. Our heartfelt sympathy has been extended to the family and especially to Andrew and Ben.

At our General Assembly on Wednesday I focussed on our theme of organisation. Organisation is the ability to set goals, manage time effectively and be responsible for personal behaviour, items and belongings. The thoughts and behaviour associated with organisation include setting goals that are achievable, yet challenging; planning ahead of time how and when tasks will be completed; making sure you understand instructions and what is required; ensuring that tasks are completed and submitted on time; bringing all materials and an appropriate attitude to class; and keeping work neat and orderly. We ask that parents support us by stressing the importance of organisation, as we encourage students to practise this vital key to success.

The week has been busy with Year 12 students attending a very informative Tertiary Information session in Portland on Tuesday. Year 11 VCE students have spent yesterday and today in Geelong and Melbourne visiting universities and information sessions for senior studies. Thanks to Mrs Smith and Mr Prett for organising the trip and accompanying students on such an important excursion to enable them to make informed decisions about their future.



Our students have been busy training for the South West District Athletics Sports next Thursday. Thanks to Ms Dridan who has enthusiastically given her time to coach students



It has been a long time coming, but it has truly been worth the wait...our new shade sail area is very blue and very beautiful – another area for students to be in shade, enjoy one another's company and abide by our Sunsmart Policy. Thanks Ms Sullivan.



There have been several instances of bullying already this term. This is distressing for those concerned and will not be tolerated. Bullying behaviour is recognised as a whole of community concern. The school has a responsibility for providing a safe environment that provides positive conditions for learning. We seek parent/guardian assistance in dealing with harassing behaviours. Further information regarding approaches to addressing bullying behaviour can be found at:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/safety/bullying>.

Robyn Sutherland
Assistant Principal.

Coming Events

April

Mon., 27th – Parent/Teacher Interviews, Years 10-12, 4.00 – 6.00 p.m.

Wed., 29th - Year 7 Girls' HPV Vaccinations

- Year 10 Beacon Charter Signing Ceremony, 1.30 – 3.00 p.m.

Coming Events Cont'd.

May

Mon., 4th - Grade 6 Parent
Information Night
5 – 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 5th – Aiming Higher
Celebration Evening
7.30 p.m.

Mon. 11th – Friday, 15th
Australian Business
Week (ABW)

Tues., 19th - School Council

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Lost Property

Currently we have an assortment of items that are awaiting collection, e.g. bags, purse, earrings, clothing, etc. If you have misplaced an item please see Ms. Colley to claim it prior to Friday of next week (1st May). All unclaimed property will be donated to the Opportunity Shop.

From Your Library

NOW OPEN

Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge

Students, it is highly recommended you start reading.

A full range of books are available from our library. Visit the *Premier's Reading Challenge* website to see the booklist.



www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/

Parents & Friends

Parents & Friends are conducting a Garden Express Bulb fundraiser. Forms and money must be returned by Wednesday, 29th April. Please support this fundraiser so we can purchase much-needed equipment for our students.

We have recently purchased two outdoor table and seat settings to be used under the new sun shade.

A New Kind of Shade....

As most students and staff are already aware we now have our new shade structure in place over near the tennis courts. This shade sail adds to the trees already providing shade to offer the students quite a large shade space. The construction of such a shade area was very expensive and I thank the school for their contribution towards funding. The area will also become a decorative feature and we hope students will enjoy the comfort and protection from the sun that it will provide.

The Parents and Friends' group have gladly supplied the seating that will be placed beneath the shade cloth. They have been an enormous support to me in my endeavours to make our school not only SunSmart, but a stand-out and a leader to all other secondary schools in this area. The

seating will allow for the option of an outdoor classroom that can be used in the warmer months.

It is not long now until sun hats have to be packed away for the winter. The UV index is already dropping to 3 and 4. So on the 1st of May it's HATS OFF DAY. As usual I will be offering students a sun hat 'babysitting' service so hats will not be lost between now and September.

It concerned me that a number of sun hats went missing over the Easter holiday break. Students who do not have sun hats in September will have to buy a new sun hat at the cost of \$10. So please take up my offer to look after your hat. It will be washed, repaired (if needed) and your name will be re-written on it.

Personally, I would like to thank all students for their support in wearing their sun hats over the last few months. You are clearly educated on the issue of sun care, the effects of the sun and skin cancer. You make me very, very proud.

*Thank you,
Miss Sullivan.*



Community Notices

**PORTLAND AND DISTRICT
BADMINTON ASSOCIATION**

The 2009 season is starting!!

WHEN: 7:30pm on
Wednesday, 29th April.

WHERE: Heywood Community
Centre.

Practice will be on: Wednesday
15th and 22nd April (7:30pm).

Everyone is welcome.
For more information, contact:
Michelle Hayden (0408 359 054)
or Michelle Patterson
(0438 422 613).

**HEYWOOD JUNIOR
FOOTBALL CLUB**

**MEETING AT THE CLUB
ROOMS
TUESDAY, 28TH APRIL
6.15 P.M.**

ALL WELCOME.

**HEYWOOD
MARKET**

Farmers Market, also Trash &
Treasure

*Sponsored by Heywood Lions
Club*

*Saturday, 2nd May, 2009.
Village Green beside the Post
Office.*

9.30 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Stalls available - \$10 per site.

Enquiries:

Graeme - 0417 106707
Mark - 0412 039466

***Foster Care Needed
For Young People***

If you've ever thought about
Foster Care
NOW could be the right time!
Dare to care by fostering a
brighter future for a young
person.

Anyone interested in becoming
a foster carer or finding out
more information about what is
involved is invited to contact
Pam Jackson or Marion Noye
on 5561 8888 at Brophy
Family & Youth Services.



**Bonjour! Ciao! Or just plain
G'day!**

**INTERESTED IN
HOSTING AN EXCHANGE
STUDENT?**

**Open a door to other countries!
Expose your family to another
culture and extend your family
unit on an international level.**

**World Education Program
(WEP) is looking for Volunteer
Host Families for International
Students arriving in July, 2009.**

**Students from Belgium, Italy,
Brazil, France, and Germany
are looking for families who are
prepared to welcome them into
their homes as a family
member.**

**These young ambassadors are
looking for life-long friends and
a place to call home during their
stay. If you would like more
information on becoming a Host
Family, please contact our
National Office.**

**World Education Program
Toll Free: 1300 884 733**

**Ph: (03) 9598 4733
Fax: (03) 9598 4233
Email: wep@wep.org.au**

**An information pack can be sent
on request.**

**It's easier than you think and a
fantastic experience for all!**



HEYWOOD & DISTRICT SECONDARY COLLEGE

P.O. BOX 180, HEYWOOD, VICTORIA
PH: (03) 5527 1303 FAX: (03) 5527 1067

24th April, 2009.

Dear Parents/Guardians

Heywood & District Secondary College – staff, students and community, would like to convey their sincere condolences to the family of Justin Pomery, a past student of the College, after the tragic loss of his life last Thursday night.

At this time, we recognise and celebrate the life of Justin as a valued member of our College community. Our staff and students have been advised of this sad news, through a special staff briefing, whole school assembly and this parent newsletter. This will enable our community to stand together, support each other and acknowledge our collective loss.

We have been reassured by the care and concern demonstrated by students and teachers in the support offered at this difficult time. Also, we have in place at school a support system which involves our Student Welfare Co-ordinator and psychologists from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. This team of counsellors will be available to speak with any student/family who feel the need to consult with someone on a confidential basis. Please contact us to make all necessary arrangements.

Your son/daughter may be affected by this death in many different ways. Reactions may include not wanting to go to school, crying, anger, not wanting to be alone, lack of concentration, sleeping or eating problems.

It would be best for school routine to continue as normally as possible and for students to attend each day. There is no doubt that we have all been saddened by this event. Every effort is being made to support students at school and we feel sure you will be doing the same at home.

Heywood and District Secondary College is here to support its community in such tragic circumstances.

Fiona McKenzie
Acting Principal
Heywood & District Secondary College.