



This week at Heywood & District Secondary College

A part of your community.....

From the Principal

This week has brought us to the half-way measure for this term and signals the urgency for our Year 12's to stay focused on persevering with their studies and to maintain their intent to be on task and on time with the completion of all set tasks. Perseverance has been defined as not being a long race but rather many short races one after another. This should signify to our Year 12's to keep their eyes on the set tasks and the timelines as they are set, with particular attention given to their Assessment Tasks and the preparation required for each one. Students have received their mid-year results which overall were good. Whatever your result was – disappointing or better than you expected - you must make sure that that you are going “full tilt” to the end of the year to ensure that you are in the best possible position for the end-of-year examinations.

This week our students have participated in a ‘School Travel Plans’ survey for the Glenelg Shire. Their aim is to form a snapshot of the walking and cycling activity and travel patterns of our students. The objectives are

to identify any issues restricting walking and cycling activity within the township of Heywood, and to then form an action plan to address them and find linkages with the Community Active Transport Plan and Glenelg Shire Council Bike Strategy Plan.

Our site plans have been submitted for our Science Learning Centre, confirming that it will be positioned across from the southern entry to our General Office, and the tendering process has begun. This is an exciting journey into the future for not just our buildings but our students’ education!

The Attitude to Schools Survey has arrived in the school. This survey was completed by students and gives their perspective on HDSC. We will be analysing their responses over the next few weeks in our staff meetings and student focus groups run by Miss Sutherland. This will help us develop our strategies for our next strategic plan in this review year.

Our reviewer, Bronwyn van Amerongen, will return

early in September and will be speaking to the many sectors of our school community to prepare a report to inform and recommend to us possible future directions and priorities for our school. If, as a parent, you would like to be a part of this consultative process please do not hesitate to contact the College so that we can include you in this important process for our future.

There is an information evening on the calendar, August 27. Your attendance will certainly inform you and support the impact this has for your child/ren’s choices for next year. It is very important that the choice of subjects is taken seriously; the life direction and overall skill development of your child/ren rests in some of these decisions. Being informed, taking the time to properly and fully read the prospectus (handbook) material and discussing potential directions is vital to a smooth transition from school to further education, training or employment in the future.

Enjoy the weekend.

Fiona McKenzie
Acting Principal.

From the Assistant Principal



Our 2009 Attitudes to School survey has just come into the school. This survey was conducted in early May. The survey looked at a number of aspects under the main headings of **Wellbeing, Teaching and Learning** and **Student Relationships** and specifically in the following areas: Student Morale, Student Distress, Teacher Effectiveness, Teacher Empathy, Stimulating Learning, School Connectedness, Student Motivation, Learning Confidence, Connectedness to Peers, Classroom Behaviour and Student Safety. The reason for looking at this data is so we as a school can celebrate what is going well and keep doing it, and also look at what is not working so we can explore ways to address it. Why? So we can ensure all students achieve their best academic outcomes and develop effective learning strategies as well as good thinking and communication skills. The results indicate that

our students perceive our school well (significantly greater than 50%) in the areas of Teacher Effectiveness, Teacher Empathy, Stimulating Learning and Classroom Behaviour. However, we are not perceived as well (significantly less than 50%) in terms of Student Morale, Student Motivation and Student Safety. Overall, there appears to be a mixed range of perceptions. Since last year students' views have improved in Teacher Effectiveness and Classroom Behaviour and remained about the same for Teacher Empathy and Learning Confidence. In all other areas there has been a decline since last year, though these levels are above those of 2007. In terms of our Annual Implementation Plan targets in the areas of Student Safety, Peer Connectedness, Student Motivation, Stimulating Learning, Teacher Effectiveness and Teacher Empathy, all have declined since last year (except Teacher Effectiveness); however, in the time since targets were set in 2006 we have made improvements in all areas. This improvement over time in student perceptions is indeed pleasing. I have conducted interviews this week with student groups from all year levels to examine more closely the

results and emerging issues. These will be fed back to staff for discussion in the near future.



Aiden Mibus and Jeremy Cameron have come up with a terrific project as part of VCAL Personal Development. They will be painting a chess board on our outdoor ball playing area so students can play chess with life-sized pieces at recess and lunchtimes. What a great initiative.

Kane Brough and Scott Gordon have been working on repositioning the front bench in one of our Science labs this week. This will facilitate Ms Sandars being able to manoeuvre her trike to the white board. We look forward to that big hole being covered up soon!



Robyn Sutherland
Assistant Principal.

Coming Events

August

Monday, 17th – Friday, 21st
Year 11, Mt. Hotham
Ski Camp.
Friday, 28th – Deb Ball
Monday, 31st –
Parent/Teacher
Interviews, 2-7 p.m.

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**Yr. 11 Biology Camp
5-7th August, 2009.**



At Biology camp we enjoyed:

- Echidna tracking and getting to hold one
- Night walking
- Campfire
- Hearing/learning about all the different types of plant life
- How to catch birds safely
- Night walk to feed animals
- Serenity
- Company of the emu
- Yabbing
- Chasing the emu

Bec, Katie, Emily, Ryley, Stephen, Eva, Tennielle and Daniel.



Community Events

WANT TO EARN EXTRA CASH?

Basketball umpires required for Junior Season starting next term.

**Please phone Nara Saunders for more details
0438 310773**

**Local band Emprica are headlining at the next
FReeZA,
at the Fawthrop Centre in Portland on
Friday, 21st August from
8pm to Midnight.**

Support acts include Lay the Fallen from Hamilton, Narcalypse from Warnambool and Face on Fire from Geelong.

Tickets available at door only for \$10. The first 20 in the door will receive a free copy of Emprica's new album "No More Show Business"

Fully Supervised event, Drug and Alcohol Free, no pass-outs. For further info call Amy at the Glenelg Shire Council on 5522 2326.

HEYWOOD TENNIS CLUB

Anyone interested in playing Junior (10 years plus) or Senior Tennis please contact Merelyn Bunworth on 5527 1733 or 0427 178115.

HEYWOOD TENNIS CLUB A.G.M.

*Tuesday, 1st September,
7.30 p.m. at Tennis Pavilion.*

Heywood & District Secondary College



Debutante Ball

**Heywood Community Hall
Friday, 28th August,
2009**

**Debs Presented
8.30pm
Music by Jeff Mizzi**

Tickets:

**Adults \$15
Secondary / Primary
students \$5
Tickets can be
purchased at the
Secondary College prior
to the ball or purchased
at the door on the
night.**

Supper Provided