



This week at Heywood & District Secondary College

A part of your community.....

From the Principal

This week has seen the return of our Year 10 students full of stories of their adventures from Work Experience. It is an absolute pleasure to hear from each student their individual learning experience – successes, adventures and mishaps, and also to know that our Heywood students are held in high esteem in the world of work. This certainly is a direct result of the hard work and preparation put in via Careers lessons and more by Mrs. Melinda Radcliffe and Mrs. Kerrie Smith.

Our Year 9 students are on their camp in the snow and will no doubt be learning a great deal about the cold and exercise. An excellent snow season for them to experience and the exhilaration of the slopes – speed and the falls - mean that they will come back to school with many stories of what they have learnt. Many thanks must go to Mr Clinton Foster and Miss Kim Dridan for their organisation and supervision of this event.

Our VCE students shared a day focussing on study skills with students from Casterton

Secondary College, utilising our new open learning space in the College as a venue. This was a timely event in maintaining and reinforcing the importance for our students to focus on the end of their study year in preparation for their exams. This was also a very positive opportunity and experience for our students to share dialogue, emotions and aspirations with other rural students. Thanks must go to Mr. Jeremy Prevett for organising this invaluable learning experience.

Our Year 7 Green Literacy students also had an opportunity to put into practice what they have learnt with a visit to Narrawong with Ms. Rebecca Phyland. Such field trips reinforce what they have been studying and bring reality and relevance to what they have read and are encouraged to research and write about.

It's so important that parents support the learning process and encourage the completion of homework, reading, and their children taking responsibility for their own learning. Reinforcing the firm but fair approach at home, in line with the school guidelines,

will support the recognition that the building of personal disciplines is as important as knowing how to read and write.

Our reviewer will be visiting the school next Wednesday to collect documents that will enable her to begin the review process. She will meet a number of staff and also be given a tour of the school by some of our students whilst classes are in operation. This will give us an opportunity to gain insight into aspects of our curriculum, welfare and transition processes over the past strategic plan, and inform us on the future directions and priorities that we need to address for improvements across our school in the development of our next strategic plan.

If you get a chance to visit the school it would be our pleasure to give you a tour of the results of our refurbishments that were completed in the holidays with the Rudd funding. Our rooms have become brighter with the paint, carpet and open classroom spaces that have been created. A clean and vibrant learning environment to stimulate active learning is one goal

that we are embracing throughout this process.

It is an exciting time ahead for our new Science Learning Centre as the architects will meet next week with us to begin the process of determining the best site, followed by the tender process, with a very short timeline to have this building completed by June, 2010.

As always, our organisation is very busy with curriculum reviews and evaluations in preparation for the handbook for student decisions for their 2010 programs.

Enjoy the weekend.

Fiona McKenzie
Acting Principal.

From the Assistant Principal



On Monday afternoon a group of teachers and I visited Portland Secondary College to share learnings of engaging Year 7 students as well as looking at how teacher coaching

operates in their setting. To finish the day we were part of a school network meeting that looked at the E5 Instructional Model which all teachers across the state will also be putting into practice and refining over the next few years. The first "E" of the model is Engagement. What does this look like in the classroom? The teacher fosters relations with and between students and develops shared expectations for learning and interacting.



They also stimulate interest and curiosity, promote questioning and connect learning to real-world experiences. The teacher structures tasks, elicits students' prior knowledge and supports them to make connections to past learning experiences. They present a purpose for learning, determining challenging goals and making assessment and performance requirements clear. The teacher assists students to consider and identify processes that will support the achievement of the learning goals. I strongly believe that our

teachers already do a fantastic job of engaging our students, and yet in order to improve outcomes for all students there are still more strategies we can use to enhance our skills in this area.

Marcus McInnes, from Keynote speakers, ran a most informative study skills forum for our VCE students. He was a confident speaker who has only recently completed VCE himself, attending Balwyn High in 2007 where he gained an ENTER score of 91.8. Marcus is currently undertaking a Bachelor of Business in banking and finance at Monash Uni. The aim of the day was to help students balance commitments throughout the year and develop good study habits. Our thanks to Mr Prett for organising this day for students.





**Robyn Sutherland
Assistant Principal.**

Coming Events

July

Sunday, 26th – Friday, 31st
Year 9, Bogong Ski
Camp.

August

Tuesday, 4th – School
Council Dinner
Meeting, 6.00 p.m.

Wednesday, 5th – Friday, 7th
– Yr 11, Biology
Camp - Little Desert

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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Library News

The Premier's Reading Challenge is still happening within the school. So, please keep reading, then recording your books. Any problems? See Vicki in the Library.



The Library opening hours for this term are:
Monday: 1.15-1.40 p.m.
Wednesday: 1.00-1.30 p.m.
Friday: 1.00 - 1.30 p.m.

The latest Scholastic Book Club has arrived. Anyone who wants brochures should see Vicki in the Library. Remember, all books sold = extra books for your Library. Orders and money are due back by Monday, 10th August.

Vicki Gallpen.

Science with Year 7

Enthusiastic Science students have been working hard this week to create a collage to celebrate "Mission Incredible: 40th anniversary of Apollo 11". Students researched various aspects of this event and contributed to a fantastic display.



Year 10 Work Experience

Last week Year 10 students took the opportunity to go out on a week's work experience, which they had organised themselves through the Careers class.

Some of the students decided to do their work experience out of the local area, such as Kyneton, Hamilton, Mt Gambier, Warrnambool and Port Fairy.

I had the pleasure of visiting the students in the local area and I phoned those I couldn't visit. I enjoy the visits and phone calls as the feedback from employers is always positive. It makes you very proud to work with these students. Some employers yet again have asked if the students could do two weeks. Two of the students were offered School-Based Apprenticeships.

This week the students have come back full of chatter about their week and wanting to tell us about their experience. For me and other

staff this is very rewarding.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the employers for having our students and giving them invaluable experience in the workforce. Without you, work experience wouldn't happen. We will be having a Business Breakfast as a thank-you to our employers and invitations will be going out shortly.

Lastly, to the parents and guardians of these students: you should be very proud of them because we certainly are!

Kerrie Smith
Careers Advisor.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

Reminder:

Key Dates:

- Eligibility day – **13 July, 2009.**
- Parent Applications close – **7th August, 2009.**
- EFT payments – **Mid August, 2009 onwards.**
- Cheque Payments – **Late August/Early September, 2009.**



*Cake Maker
Extraordinaire
Sharon Bamblett*

Community Events

**Heywood Junior Basketball
Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday, 4th August,
3.30 p.m.
Community Complex**

All Welcome

All positions need to be filled before the new season commences in Term 4. Please seriously consider taking on a position.

Enquiries: Sharron Atwell
5527 1602.

*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