



This week at Heywood & District Secondary College

A part of your community.....

From the Principal

It certainly is hard to believe that our Year 12's have only four more weeks of formal classroom time left of their secondary career. They are gearing up for their examinations and looking at future courses and careers with their VTAC applications. My advice is to stay focussed and not panic, set yourself study goals and stick to a regime until after the examinations are over. Remember your teachers are only too willing to offer assistance, so please use their expertise. October Tests are the first three days of next term, so the holidays will require time spent in preparation for these.

Ms. Sullivan has done a fantastic job with the SunSmart policy and the return of wearing hats from the 1st September. We have had a lead-in to the wearing of hats but are now expecting that **all** students wear their hats outdoors.

It is the end of term next week and the "Annual Staff vs Students Football Match" is a traditional celebration of the end of Term Three. There are some return guest appearances to look out for,

with the normal rivalry kicking in!

The Aiming Higher students have been out preparing for the Great Victorian Bike Ride, this week making it to Port Fairy, which is one of the legs of the actual ride. Their fitness levels are improving and they are getting into the swing of these practice rides – good to see.

On Tuesday night we held our "Keys Please" evening run by Vic Roads to introduce learner permits and the rules that apply. There was a great turn-up of both Year 10 and 11 students and parents with pizzas and soft drink provided. Thanks go to Mr. Clint Foster for his organisation of this important event.

NAPLAN 2009 Reporting Packages will be arriving in the school next week and will be sent home to parents. As in 2008, parent reports will include information such as:

- individual student results for all NAPLAN tests on the ten-band National Achievement Scale
- an indicator for each assessment area that

shows the national average and the middle 60% of national results

- a written description for each assessment area identifying the types of skills assessed
- a summary table describing the skills and understandings students are likely to demonstrate in each of the bands.

Enjoy the weekend.

Fiona McKenzie
Acting Principal.

From the Assistant Principal



Room 17 has gone!!! An inspection revealed that it was not cost-effective to remove it so the DEECD instructed that it be demolished. I'm including before, during and after photos of this demolition.



On Tuesday I attended an information session on the new Engagement Policy. The Minister for Education recently announced that the current attendance and code of conduct guidelines for Victorian government schools will be replaced by the new Effective Schools are Engaging Schools: Student Engagement Policy Guidelines. These new guidelines recognise that schools should be safe, inclusive and supportive environments where students strive to achieve their best. A key element of the new guidelines is the development of a Student Engagement Policy for our school. This Policy will communicate the school's rights, expectations and consequences for bad

behaviour. Our school community is not only made up of students and teachers but also includes parents, grandparents, friends and other members of the community who care about our school. For this reason, I seek your input and assistance over the coming months in order to develop a Student Engagement Policy for Heywood and District Secondary College which reflects your views as important members of our school community. If you would like any more information on the new guidelines please see our office staff for a Frequently Asked Questions flyer, or the guidelines are available on the internet on www.education.vic.gov.au.

The chess board has been completed!!! Well done to Amanda Gibbins, Stephen Aldridge, Aiden Mibus and Jeremy Cameron.



Thursday was a massive day for our Great Victorian Bike Ride team. They rode to Port Fairy via Bessiebelle. Today they go to the YMCA for

extra training classes. All of this great preparation will ensure our riders are successful, I am sure.



Our school prides itself on being a safe and welcoming place in which students can learn. There have been several instances of bullying recently. This is extremely concerning. Our school does not tolerate such behaviours, and while students will be given every opportunity through restorative conversations to reflect on and change their behaviour, repeated instances will incur detentions or suspensions. We ask that parents support us as we work on developing and enhancing our students' personal and interpersonal skills.

Robyn Sutherland
Assistant Principal.

Coming Events

September

Monday, 14th – Lions' Youth of the Year, 7.00 p.m.

Friday, 18th - End of Term. 2.30 p.m. finish.

October

Monday, 5th - Term IV commences.

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Coming Soon



The latest fundraiser for Parents and Friends is "Mocks",

which are socks for your mobile phones. They are \$10 each. You can order them through the office and the library. Both places have the large range of colour and designs. The range includes electronic mocks for \$15, mock cards for \$12, and even mock twisters for \$7. You have to pay up-front. The fundraiser will run until 14/10/2009. Delivery will be a couple of weeks after that.

Advance News

There is a:

hip-hop artist coming to HDSC on the morning of Friday, 9th October, for Years 7, 8, 9's and interested 10's (separate sessions).

professional make-up

artist coming to HDSC at lunch-time on Tuesday, 13th October, for girls who are interested from Years 9 to 12.

Good Shepherd Buying Service

The Good Shepherd Buying Service is a free statewide telephone service assisting Pension/Health Care Card holders and various non-profit community groups to obtain lower prices on household goods and health appliances. In utilising an established and trusted network of traders, the Buying Service is able to negotiate discounted prices on a range of items which include fridges, washing machines, TVs, furniture, beds and other selected appliances. The Buying Service is not a retail outlet; it is able to assist you with your pricing requests.

Tel: 94174666

www.goodshepvic.org.au/microfinance

Community Events

HEYWOOD TENNIS CLUB

Anyone interested in playing junior or senior tennis please contact Merelyn Bunworth ASAP on 5527 1733 or 0427 178115.

Tennis coaching will commence in October - Monday evenings at 5.15 p.m.
Tennis nets are up for you to have a hit.

The Victorian Student Number

Information for parents

What is the Victorian Student Number (VSN)?

The VSN is a student identification number that will be assigned by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to all students in government and non-government schools, and students in Vocational Education and Training Institutions. The number, which is unique to each student, will be used as a key identifier on a student's school records, and will remain with the student throughout his or her education, until reaching the age of 25. The VSN is nine digits long, randomly assigned, and tied to identifying information about the student (name, gender, date of birth).

Why is the VSN being introduced?

The introduction of the VSN will provide the capability to accurately detect patterns of student movement through, and departure from, the Victorian education and training system. It will greatly improve the collection and analysis of timely and accurate data about education in Victoria.

Why do students need to have a VSN?

In a large and diverse education system such as Victoria's, a standard, centrally assigned student number is the best way to identify individual students. Using a reference number to collect and store data helps avoid the errors and confusion when names are misspelled, changed, or mistaken for other similar names.

Most Australian states either have already or are intending to introduce a student number, and the practice is common in many other countries, including New Zealand and Canada.

Where will the VSN appear?

The VSN will appear:

- on common student communications, such as enrolment confirmations and report cards, and
- on applications made by the student for enrolment in new schools or institutions.

Why does the Government need information on students?

The Department collects information to track improvements made to the education system, to identify areas that require further improvement, and to analyse trends and identify future needs. The VSN will simply improve the accuracy, reliability and completeness of this information, providing a better basis for assessing needs and developing policies to meet them. The improved quality of information will also result in more accurate reporting to the community on the state's education system.

Will the privacy of personal information be protected?

Yes, security is built in to the VSN system and the number itself. The student records maintained in the VSN system contain minimal information about each student – name, date of birth, and gender together with the date of admission and date of exit from each school attended.

The VSN system is not a collection point for other student data such as academic achievements and outcomes, health or welfare information. Because the number is randomly assigned, personal information about the student cannot be inferred from it.

Access to the data in the VSN system is strictly limited, and the database itself will be maintained in a fully secure environment. The information will be used only for educational purposes and the ways in which the VSN can be used are prescribed by legislation. The legislation also includes criminal offences for use of the data for other than the prescribed purposes. Commonwealth and State Privacy Principles have also been used to guide the design of the VSN system.

Are parents and students entitled to see the information stored on the VSN system about the student?

Yes. A student (and the student's parents, if the student is under the age of 18) may request a copy of the information held in the VSN system relating to that student.

What do schools think of the new system?

Schools, other education organisations and education experts have been regularly consulted during the development and design of the VSN. Care has been taken to minimise the administrative demands that the VSN places on schools. There has been

broad support from the education sector in general, for the introduction of the VSN.

How can I find out more?

Visit

www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/vsn/parents.htm or send an email question to:
victorian.student.register@edumail.vic.gov.au

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