



Dandenong High School Newsletter
Dandenong Campus
1st May 2007
Principal: Mr Martin Culkin

Principal's Article

Term two is now well underway for students and staff. All parents would have had the opportunity to see the progress reports for their sons and daughters that outline performance during term one. Further, the Parent Teacher Interview sessions also have given parents the chance to talk to teachers about the progress of students. I urge parents to continue a high level interest in their son or daughters work and assist them wherever possible. The whole school data on student performance for term one is very encouraging and shows that by and large students are applying themselves well.

The start of term two is the term when students must wear winter uniform. We are generally pleased with most students. It is essential that students are in full and correct school uniform each day and that full uniform is worn to and from school.

It was good to see a high level of participation at the Annual Athletics Sports last week. In a time when there are concerns regarding the health of young people, it was good to see so many students participating in healthy exercise.

The school had a very successful Dance Week last week. This area of learning has grown in leaps and bounds in the past few years and is particularly popular with students. A large part of the success of the program is attributable to Ms Kelly Burgess.

Work with Dandenong Education Precinct Project is progressing smoothly with design work going on. We are hopeful that the State Budget that will be delivered in early May will provide the funds to commence the project later this year or earlier next year. More information will be forwarded when it becomes available.

As I have indicated in the past the school is operating as a three campus school during 2007 - campuses are Dandenong, Cleeland and Doveton. Each campus has an Acting Campus Principal to manage day to day matters.

The school once again celebrated ANZAC Day last week. Students from the school attended services in Dandenong on ANZAC Day and two assemblies were held. The school was fortunate in having a number of guests and a key speaker from the RSL.

During the coming weeks the process for transition of students from Grade 6 to Year 7 will begin. Visits to the Dandenong High School campus will begin this week. Prospective enrolment inquiries are welcome through the General Office or via Ms Halla Marbani, Junior School Coordinator.

I am pleased to report that as a result of initiative by a teacher from the Cleeland Campus, Mr Jan Flageul, the school Rugby Team is experiencing great success. It is scheduled to play a curtain-raiser match before a Melbourne Storm match in the near future. Well done to these boys.

Martin Culkin
Principal

Dental Health Services Victoria

The School Dental Service [SDS] is offering FREE dental checkups and treatment for eligible Year 7 and 8 students who attend DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL.

Who is eligible?

Year 7 and 8 students who...

- Hold a valid concession card or are a dependant of a card holder
- Are **NOT** currently enrolled in the SDS

Year 7 and 8 students who **ARE** enrolled in the SDS will be sent a reminder letter when they are due for a check-up.

How do I know if my child is enrolled in the SDS or due for a check-up?

- Contact our Regional Office on **1300 360 054** to find out.

Where will dental check-ups and treatment be provided?

- Appointments will be made at our dental clinic located at:
**DANDENONG HOSPITAL
SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE
DAVID STREET
DANDENONG**

What services are available for students in Years 9-12?

- If they hold a valid concession card or are a dependant of a card holder, they are eligible for FREE dental care under the Youth Dental Program [YDP]
- Dental check-ups and treatment is provided at one of the many public adult dental clinic across Victoria
- They will not be placed on the adult waiting list and will offered the next available appointment
- Please contact **1300 360 054**

Want more information?

- Please contact our Regional Office on **1300 360 054**

VCE Enhancement Program at Dandenong High School



Taking on a Challenge - If you thought doing Year 12 was hard work well think again. A number of high achieving students (picture) have chosen to take on the challenge of a VCE Enhancement program in Philosophy offered by Monash University as well as complete their Year 12 subjects.

Students from Dandenong High School and St John's Regional College are undertaking a pair of university subjects in Philosophy as part of their VCE year which will count both toward their ENTER score and toward an eventual degree.

To gain entry to the program, students have to be established 'A level' achievers, and they must have the support of their school. Dandenong High School is proud to be one of only three schools in the State chosen as an Enhancement Centre where a tutorial program is offered to support their learning.

Students started one hour tutorials in the Griffiths Library at the start of the University academic year and have already attended one of four all day Saturday workshops with their subject lecturers at Monash University. "The work is challenging and at a higher level but this program gives us a good opportunity to gain a first hand experience of University work and life while still at high school. And we will be better prepared in the future." (Gokce Delioglu, Daniella Jong and Dilan Karakas)

Benefits

Students are provided with intellectual challenges and an approach to learning that may not otherwise be available in the normal Year 12 program. Students are able to interact with university staff members who have high expertise in their unit area.

Students attending classes will have the benefit of working in small groups and may form friendships with students of similar high academic ability from other schools.

Students are able to gain an insight into the demands of university study, which can greatly assist their transition from school to full-time university study.

The university study is included in the calculation of the student's Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank (ENTER).

When commencing full-time university study, enhancement students may have access to a range of first-year program options not normally available to other students.

For more information on the Enhancement Program see: <http://www.monash.edu.au/study/enhancement/>

Indonesian Satay Day

Once again the school welcomed the Indonesian Satay Hut to tempt the appetites of the Staff and Students at recess and lunchtime. There were many pleasant smells wafting from the Hut which made it difficult to choose what to have. The students certainly kept the chef and his workers on the run as they tried to cater for the many customers. We look forward to the return of the Satay Hut when they will be at the school during Language Week



First Aid Instruction to students

During Term 1 all VCAL students participated in a St Johns Senior First Aid Certificate. Students learnt how to handle general injuries such as abrasions and fractures, how to perform resuscitation and treat things such as snake and spider bites. These skills are very helpful in general day to day activities and also for the Wilson's Promontory hiking camp our students attended in the last week of term.



Overseas Students at Dandenong High School in 2007



There are currently 7 full fee paying overseas students at the Dandenong campus. These students are in Years 10, 11 and 12 and come from China, Taiwan, Cambodia and Vietnam. Two more students will join us later this year.

We proudly welcome overseas students into our diverse school community and it is always a pleasure to exchange ideas and learn a little about their culture, as they learn about life in Australia.



Last week at a school luncheon we officially welcomed Si Yao Lin, Tianze Wang, Year 11 students from China, Tran Anh Chau Vo, Year 10 from Vietnam and Emily Wang, Year 10 from Taiwan.

We also reluctantly farewelled our Exchange Student from Germany, Laura Stratakis. Laura is a bright and vivacious student who participated enthusiastically in school activities, especially



International Week. Laura thoroughly enjoyed her stay at Dandenong High School, making many friends and learning a lot about our language and culture.



ROCK EISTEDDFOD

Dandenong High School, as some of you may have been aware of in the later stages of last year, is entering the **Rock Eisteddfod Challenge in 2007**. We are all very excited about taking part in such a popular global event, and we are also looking forward to the challenges and hurdles that something of this size will bring.

The Rock Eisteddfod Challenge is a performing arts competition for Primary and Secondary school students from around the globe. It involves an original entry from the school, which combines dance, music, lighting, and costumes, telling a story or surrounding a theme which is of interest to the students at this school. The section that Dandenong High School is entering this year started in 2006, and is called RAW. This section involves a minimal expenditure, as well as no set, and is restricted to using hand held props only. It is designed for new schools to focus on the dance element, and not have to worry about competing against schools who have spent thousands, as well as who have won the competition before.

With 110 dance students now studying the art form at Dandenong High School, and with the huge success of the Shakedown competition last year, it was the perfect time for our school to become involved in a project of this scale. With a lengthy audition process we have managed to narrow the cast down to 65 dancers on stage - sometimes all at once! We also have 30 backstage crew (staff and students), led by Mrs Ffion Bowles, and a fantastic dress maker Ms Kamevaar who is coming up with some brilliant ideas which are already underway. Rehearsals have begun and are held every Thursday evening from 3.30pm until 6.00pm in the school hall. The competition is to be held at Rod Laver Arena in September of this year.

The theme for 2007 is '*Fallen Heroes*'. It opens with a mass of paparazzi using their cameras, and the public reading the cover of a Rolling Stone Magazine. Alive from the magazine come 4 main characters - Marilyn Monroe, Judy Garland, James Dean and Elvis Presley. The paparazzi swarm these characters throughout and eventually led to their demise. We see as the story comes to a close, a dance number with the partnering of the media and the stars, symbolising the battle these people faced and the pressure placed on them by their stardom. It ends with the flash of a camera and a newspaper headline - *Fallen Heroes - these stars were taken from us too young*. A photo of them is underneath.

This is relevant to our students here at Dandenong High School as the influence placed on all our students by the media is of significance. Things such as body image and peer pressure come from such publications.

If any parents, friends or community members of Dandenong High School would like to be part of the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge such as by providing donations, sponsorship etc, it would be greatly appreciated - contact Miss Kelly Burgess at Dandenong High School

This is a very exciting time for us and we hope others will get involved.

Miss Kelly Burgess - Rock Eisteddfod Challenge

The Age VCE and Careers Expo

Year 11 and 12 Japanese students have participated in *The Age VCE and Careers Expo 2007* at Caulfield Racecourse on the 20th of April. There were more than 160 exhibitors and 80 free seminars on VCE subjects, study and career advice. The students attended a Japanese seminar and they have obtained useful update information about successful strategies for the Oral examination and Tips for the Written examination. Trange Le and Mitesh Achari have won a raffle prize and received *The Leading Edge - Japanese 2nd Language VCE* for free. Congratulations!

Nobuko Kumakawa - Teacher of Japanese

