

4th August 2009



DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

School Address:

**Dandenong High School
Princes Highway, Dandenong
Victoria, Australia**

**PO Box 681, Dandenong, 3175
Victoria, Australia**

Principal's Article



Martin Culkin

I am pleased to report that the attitude to work by the senior students, Years 11 and 12 has improved significantly this term. This follows an assembly that was held at the start of the term where the expectations of the school were once again outlined. Of particular importance is the short time left for the 2009 school year for each group. I would hope that parents and guardians are supporting their son or daughter with encouragement to work hard.

As a follow up to the recent student reports, Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on Thursday 13th August, next Thursday week. Documents will be sent home with students to allow parents and guardians to make appointments.

We received good news late last week that the whole of Stage 2 of the building program, the building of the remaining four Learning Centres has been funded. We can now expect work to commence in the next week or so. The first things that people will notice will be the removal of all of the relocatable classrooms and the demolition of several other buildings. The period of building for this project is in the region of 12 months.

We have also received information that the school will receive a Language Centre as part of the Federal Government's Economic Stimulus Package – Building the Education Revolution. This project is valued at \$2,000,000 and it will see a very large building located on the Ann Street section of the school. It will be integrated into the Physical Education and Performing Arts complex that will be built as part of Stage 3. This is excellent news for the students of the school and for the community as the facility will be available for community use.

The school has been inundated with visitors who wish to come and see the innovative work that is currently taking place in the school. Excellent work is being done by students and staff alike. A very large number of staff have been engaged in high level professional development activities in recent weeks. Students from the Middle School were involved in Pledge Day last week as part of the Beacon Foundation process in our school. Essentially students are asked to make a pledge that they will seek worthwhile activities once they leave school and avoid just taking welfare payments as a first option.

Detailed planning is underway at present for International Week which will run between Monday 14th and Friday 18th September. The highlight event will be the International Concert to be held for students on Thursday 17th September.

The Course Confirmation Process for students who are going into Year 11 and Year 12 in 2010 will be held on Thursday 20th August. This will be a compulsory session for students and parents/guardians to attend to finalise courses and payments for 2010. More details will follow shortly.

The school will be reporting to the community about its achievements and work over the past year to the Community Reference Group which will meet on Wednesday 19th August. A large and representative group of community people have been invited to this event which will be held in one of the new Learning Centres at the school.

YEAR EIGHT DARWINIA MEDIEVAL CASTLE PROJECT

Recently, Year 8 Darwinia students completed a unit on the Medieval Period. As their main project for this unit, they were asked, in groups, to construct a castle based on one we had studied, or they could find a picture of. The results, if a little overwhelming by their size, were awesome in their breadth of design and the enthusiasm in which the students brought to the task. One of the students (Richeena Dilingler) wrote;

“My group, Hasina Salehi, Zaneta Vincent, Cindy Sulemanovski, Merita Jakupovska and I were inspired by the Japanese culture and architecture of the Middle Ages, so we decided to construct a Japanese castle. As we began to design the castle we were so fascinated by the beautiful culture as well as the detail of the architecture. Our initial plan was to construct a miniature structure, but as the design began to take shape, our construction got bigger and bigger. With the help of Miss Ishikawa we got an amazing insight into the Japanese culture and how they built their castles. We were very proud of our castle and the hard work we all put into it.”

Miss Ishikawa, Miss Bowman and I are extremely proud of all the students of Darwinia 8, and as you can see from the photos, their efforts certainly paid off with some amazing work. Well done.

Bronwyn Cook

