MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Students, Parents and Staff,

Instrumental Music
We have a number of student places in our Instrumental Music program. Our Instrumental Music Co-ordinator, Nicole McAlister, has been speaking with year 7 – 9 classes so if you are interested or would like additional information, please contact the General Office.

School Council
I am pleased to announce that the newly elected members of School Council are Mike Hurd, Citty Milburn and Deb Sparkman as parent members, Russell Poulier and Silvana La Leggia as staff members and Neil Morriss, Martin Rowe and Richard Burgoyne (student) as community members. Mike Hurd has been re-elected as President - congratulations!

We have a casual vacancy as David Godfrey has retired half way through his term of office. I invite any parents (including our new Year 7 parents) who are interested in joining School Council to phone or email the school and I will contact them and answer any questions about the role. It involves 10 Wednesday evening meetings for the year (about one per month) plus some involvement on one of the three sub committees. We are a really friendly group and our meetings are fairly informal. We really welcome new members.

STEM Academy
STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Fairhills is a specialist STEM school and this year we are further developing the arrangements by re-naming it as an Academy, appointing a staff member as STEM Director, producing a prospectus/brochure and extending the range of specialist STEM learning opportunities for students.

We already have a strong, well developed curriculum, including KIOSC Discovery, throughout years 7 -12 in STEM subjects. In addition we provide a range of optional programs, some scheduled on a weekly basis eg: Robotics, Science Talent Search and others as special events. These include a Solar Car Challenge, the Oil/Gas Industry student Conference, a Medicine in Science workshop and a I/T Games Design competition.

We are in the process of compiling a list of students with a particular interest in STEM so that we can notify them about up-coming activities on a regular basis. If you would like your student to be added to this list, please send an email or phone our STEM Director, Michelle Nickels.

Attendance
Thank you to the many parents who phone the Absence Hot Line before 9.15 on any day their student is going to be absent or late. Unfortunately, we still have a small number of parents are not remembering to do this which causes us extra work and cost in sending text messages, follow up phone calls or letters. We ask that all parents help us by consistently and promptly making the phone calls.
School Fees
Thank you to all our families who have paid their school fees in full or who have spoken to the Business Manager to make special payment arrangements. The third and final instalment of fees was processed last week for those families who chose to pay by Credit Card instalments. If you are paying by BPAY – please be reminded that the final instalment is now due.

Facilities
- We had an active and successful program of maintenance over the holidays including:
  - Pressure washing of brick walls of J block, the C block courtyard and Canteen courtyard
  - Painting the main school entry area and, most of the entry foyers in A, C, G and J blocks
  - Heavy tree pruning over 2 days to remove dead trees and to try to keep the possums out
  - Safety marking in the main school entry and several stairwells, including the stadium
  - The water fountain in the stadium foyer was re-installed with new tiles and no leaks
  - Emergency exit lights throughout the school had their annual test and service
  - General cleaning across the school, including all student desks
  - Tap washers were replaced throughout A, B and C blocks
  - Power leads on electrical equipment across the school were tested and tagged.

Our thanks to Paul McLeish, our Facilities Manager, for his organisation of these improvements.

Harvey Wood
Principal

Basketball Academy
Last year we were fortunate to have the local Bendigo Bank sponsor the Basketball Academy at Fairhills. We had hoped to use that money to help with getting teams to the National School Championships in the ACT. Unfortunately, we could not achieve that and so we used the money to buy some much needed specialist equipment. Two large balls to improve shooting, two heavy balls to improve passing and ball handling, some jumping steps and hand weights for fitness as all the boys want to jump higher and a computer basketball that gives great feedback to students shooting or ball handling.

The Academy students continue to work on their game and appreciate the support of Bendigo Bank. Please support them.

Andrew Potter  Director of the Basketball Academy
Year 11 Business Studies students have created a Small Business, Sweet Indugence, which will be open for business on the night of the Information Evening. So come and treat yourselves and help support the Royal Childrens’ Hospital at the same time.
Dear Parents and Students,

**OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT**

FLUTE  
CLARINET  
SAXOPHONE  
DRUMS  
VIOLIN  
PIANO  
VOICE  
GUITAR

A unique opportunity exists for your child to learn a musical instrument at Fairhills High School. The program consists of weekly lessons, participation in ensembles and performances.The program costs $50 per year ($37.50 from Term 2)

The school also owns some instruments for students to hire.

We are pleased to be able to offer a range of instrumental tuition for your son or daughter.

Lessons are held during school time on a group or individual lesson basis each week for 35 minutes. Mandatory ensemble rehearsal is held at lunchtime.

Please complete the form below and return within the next few days to the school office or to Nicole McAlister, our Instrumental Music Co-ordinator mcalister.nicole.s@edumail.vic.gov.au

Instrumental Music Program Enrolment Form

**Student Name** ……………………………………………………………………………………………

**Home Group** ……………………………………………………………………………………………

**Parent / Guardian Names** ……………………………………………………………………………………………

**Phone** ……………………………………………………………………………………………

**Email** ……………………………………………………………………………………………

**Previous Experience** BEGINNER ☐  EXPERIENCED ☐  (No.of Years ____)

(First preference - ‘1’ and second preference - ‘2’)

- Piano/Keyboard ☐  Guitar ☐  Bass ☐
- Flute ☐  Clarinet ☐  Saxophone ☐
- Voice ☐  Violin ☐  Drums ☐