MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Principals Report

Dear Students, Parents and Staff

The month of August is not yet complete, however it has already been action packed with a wide variety of exciting staff and student activities. On Monday 10th August we welcomed the return of our Principal Mr Harvey Wood from his recent visit to the UK to catch up with family members. In his absence Mr. Russell Poulier did a splendid job as Acting Principal. I am sure he would agree that one of the most unusual challenges during this time was the ability to keep the school in full operation throughout an unexpected power failure which left us without lighting, heating, computers or phones. Our staff and students coped remarkably well on this day and inadvertently had a taste of the life that many of our grandparents would have experienced in their school days. Other activities that are not specifically reported upon in this newsletter include the Year 10-12 downhill ski day organized by Ms Bishop; VCE Art excursion to the city galleries and the Student Leadership activities day with Ms Mulvogue.

Semester 1 Awards Ceremony

On Thursday 6th August, the top 10% of students nominated for an Award at each year level were invited to participate in a special lunch to celebrate their achievements. This mid-year informal style of ceremony was the brain child of our Student Leadership team and has been well received by the recipients over the last few years. On behalf of the Fairhills High school community I would like to congratulate the following students who were invited to the Awards lunch.

7A. Riley Colcott, Michael Cotter, Brianna Gerakis, Chandramoule Rajamundiandi, Meaghan Townsend.
7B. Laura Barclay, Kiera Gaskell, Erin McCombe, Mitchell Tucker
7C. Jayne Brown, Jade Harder, Ana Jovanovic, Charlotte Rowe
7G. Ashleigh Little, Imogen Rhodes
8A. Mekaela Bramley, Ethan Jackson, Siobhan McCullough Andrews, Gerald Morales, Taylor Virgona

21st August, 2015

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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<td>27th – 30th August</td>
<td>School Musical production – “Footloose”</td>
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8B. Emma Love, Christopher Tyson, Darcey Wood
8C. Imogen Berrett, Amy Roncali, Jessica Warner
8G. Alexandra Black, Tiana Jones, Thomas Lach, Connor Maclachlan
8H. Emily Le, Rhianna Ludbrook,
9A. Sarah Dunlop, Hayley Fay, Paige Rowe
9B. Lachlan Carroll, Shae Latham, Leah Mason, Luke Saultry
9C. Mikala Corrin, Lisa-Marie Horn, Paul Johnson, Jaimee Little
9D. Kyle Bell, Harvey Chinn, Molly Daggers, Nikita Veloff
Subject selections and VCE Information nights

It was wonderful to see a large number of parents and students attend the variety of Information Nights organised by our Careers Manager Mrs Rundle across the last few weeks. Students welcomed the opportunity to hear about their future pathways and options. Selecting subjects that suit students’ needs and interests is a key part in enabling their futures and we thank Mrs Rundle and her team for the hours of preparation that go into these events. Students will have an opportunity to engage in a one on one counselling session with our VCE careers team over the next 2 weeks before any final subject selections are made. Parents of our year 10 and 11 students will also be provided with an interview time to discuss their student’s final pathway in Term 4.

Immunisation reminder

The final round of Knox Council immunisations will be conducted on Monday 31st August. The session will involve Year 7 male and female students for the final dose of Human papillomavirus; Year 8 male and female students for diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough and any other student who has missed their scheduled immunisations this year.

Fairhills Trivia Night

All staff, students, parents and members of the wider Fairhills Community are invited to participate in the Fairhills Trivia Night to be held in C block on Friday September 11th. The night which runs from 7 pm – 10 pm will include a silent auction and a variety of fun games in and amongst the main trivia action. The purpose of the evening is to fundraise for the Thailand trip. This money will go towards building supplies and resources for the community projects being undertaken in the regions to be visited by our students in November this year. Tickets cost are $15  Adults and $10 Students and can be purchased via the General Office. Come along for a great night of fun and games.

School Uniform

We are heartened and very grateful for the continual support of our wonderful parents and students (current and ex), who generously donate student uniforms back to the school. These uniforms are distributed to families in need and in turn they are extremely thankful for this support. Please continue your generous donations which helps make a difference to other members of the Fairhills community. Whilst Uniform vouchers for new items are available from Miss Middleton, this year’s budget is close to being exhausted such is the demand, and we ask parents to consider the second hand options. We would like to remind parents and students that "hoodies" are not permitted to be worn at school and this includes the odd occasions when a student’s regular school jumper or jacket is unavailable. On these occasions students should wear a windcheater or alternative plain woollen jumper without a hood or in some instances can borrow school uniforms items from Miss Middleton (Senior School AP).

Kathryn Middleton
Associate Principal (Acting)
**Year 9 Global Classroom**

On August 5th our Year 9 Global students spent their lunchtime selling Thankyou Water to students and staff. In the process they learnt about the benefits of buying Thankyou Water and providing clean water to impoverished communities. We use this activity to introduce the students to the idea of making a difference to the community and making them aware that they have a responsibility to contribute to society. Along with raising funds and awareness for the Thankyou group, the money they collect is also used to fund Global Classroom projects. Over the next few weeks the students will conceive, plan and undertake a project that makes a positive impact on the school or local community. Some of these projects will be hugely successful and some will fail dismally however, along the way students will learn important project management skills, negotiate with influential people and realise they don’t necessarily work well with their friends in a group. They will also develop new skills and abilities and recognise leadership attributes in themselves and the people around them.

**News from the Language Department**

So, how does a teacher end up being a match maker, travel agent, tour guide, and interpreter in their spare time? That's what happens when KSKK is in town!

Organising activities for the 7 students who visited us from Japan recently involved all the above, but boy, was it worth it! The group, who were reported by their leader Ayumi Tominaga who visited Fairhills 4 years ago as being 'very quiet', ended up being the life of the party. They entertained not only our students, but Ferntree Gully North PS and Boronia West PS students with dances, songs, and games. They saw koalas, penguins, ate fish and chips (out of the paper of course!), shopped till they dropped at Queen Victoria
Market, and took Sovereign Hill by storm (unfortunately no one found gold to pay for all the Market shopping!). They took selfies with Fairhills students, stuffed koalas and signs. Selfies selfies!

They also left an indelible mark in the hearts of the families they were hosted by, making friendships which hopefully will stay alive via social media, and when our students go to Japan in September.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the families who hosted. Without you this amazing part of our language program, which brings real life language learning to the school, wouldn’t exist.

Performing Arts Showcase

On Tuesday 21st July over 50 students from Year 7 through to Year 12 displayed their talents to an audience comprising of family and friends during the performing arts showcase evening.

Students in Year 7, who have just begun learning their chosen musical instrument this year, demonstrated their terrific progress, along with very accomplished performances from students who are completing a VCE performing arts subject.

A variety of performances were showcased including: dance, theatre studies, flute, saxophone, piano, violin, vocals and percussion.

Thank you to our performing arts coordinator Mrs Suzi Pedler for organizing the evening.

Congratulations to all students involved.

If any queries regarding the music program or you would like some information regarding music lesson opportunities, please contact me via the school office or email

mcalister.nicole.s@edumail.vic.gov.au

Nicole McAlister
Instrumental Music Coordinator.
STEM Academy

Science Week

Mon 17th August – Fri 21st August was SCIENCE WEEK at Fairhills. The week began with a BANG in the form of an Exploding Watermelon in the A Block courtyard at lunchtime. This was followed by a Soft Drink fountain and students hypothesising about which brand/type would produce the tallest soda stream. These favourite fun experiments had students enjoying the effects and hopefully thinking about the science behind the spectacle.

Wednesday had students enjoying Flubber and the Year 7 students reminiscing about making it in their science classes earlier in the year.

Thursday had students carrying out fun experiments such as making rainbow paper and lemon volcanoes at lunchtime, whilst Friday saw students making designing and constructing structures from cards, toothpicks and foam packing material. Friday also had students performing science rap songs that they made up.

Daily Quizzes incorporating Science Trivia Questions were entered by the students with prizes being awarded daily. Here is a question for our newsletter readers:

True or false - sterling silver is pure silver?

Overall a Successful Scintillating Science Week.

KIOSC Vision 2020 Sustainability Conference

By Riley Colcott and Karly Wiesner, Year 7.

We were delighted when we discovered we would be going to the Vision 2020 Sustainability Conference held at KIOSC. At the start of our tour we had a guest speaker called Rob Gell (Rob Gell is a geomorphologist with a degree in Meteorology. He has been a weather presenter for both National Nine News and Seven News). Rob talked about how our world is sustainable and what to expect in the future. He was inspirational to hear. We were then put in different groups to do different activities. They ranged from food to electricity and how to help in everyday things (like when possible ride a bike instead of driving a car, they were all about staying sustainable and keeping not only Knox but Australia sustainable). There were about 7 different groups. In the first workshop we made and tasted vegie spaghetti. (The presenter used vegetables that were not considered perfect enough for sale and so were being thrown out but instead got donated to her). Another activity was brainstorming ways to help the animals and our society. Others were about power. A few questions they asked us were ‘how much do we use?’ and ‘how many people in the world have power?’ and things like that. Overall we really enjoyed our time at KIOSC and really want to go again. It was awesome representing Fairhills.

Thanks for this opportunity.
2015 Video Game Challenge

The Australian STEM Video Game Challenge is a national competition open to all Australian students in Years 5-12. The Challenge is completely free to enter, and represents a great opportunity for students to engage in learning about science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) in a fun and challenging way. Fairhills had two students enter the challenge this year: Jordan Hawkes in Year 12 and Rachel Kent in Year 7. They had to develop an idea into a game, then design and code this game into a playable version. Rachel used Sploder - an online game creator – as her platform. A little character goes up and down levels to capture crystals.

Fairhills wishes both Jordan and Rachel the best of luck in the Challenge!

Solar Car Challenge

Fairhills applied to be a part of the API (Australian Power Industries) Solar Car Challenge. We were supplied with a class set of kits to use. The Year 10 Applied Science class had to build the cars from scratch, charge them and will eventually race them. For many students this was their first experience of the internal workings of a gear box and the learning experience was invaluable. The students have learnt how to build the car, connect and wire in a motor, build a gear box and connect in solar panels. A slight hiccup was encountered when the cloudy days did not give enough sunlight to charge the cars. However, the group overcame that obstacle by charging them with electricity and all the cars were working. The next challenge was to get the cars moving faster, so the class learnt about gear ratios. They are now able to pull apart and rebuild the gear boxes and are currently working on reconfiguring gear ratios to maximise the speed of their vehicles in the hope that they will win the championship race!

Good luck to all!

Michelle Nickels
Director of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Answer to Science Trivia Question

False. It contains up to 7.5%
Fairhills Debating Team

Fairhills would like to congratulate the Fairhills Junior Debating Team on their final debate of the year last fortnight. With only two weeks to prepare after the holidays, the team of Esther Prasad, Nekia Thompson and Riley Colcott worked hard to construct a watertight case on an emotional topic, competing against St. Andrew’s Christian College on the topic that all students should learn about a variety of religions in schools. Although Fairhills narrowly lost to St. Andrew’s, Ms Mac swears that they really should have won because of their nuanced arguments, moving personal anecdotes and flawless presentation.

Congratulations to all members of the junior debating team who have shown such dedication in 2015!

Although the Debating Association Victoria competition has formally finished for this year, the junior debating team (years seven to nine) will continue to meet on Wednesdays throughout third and fourth term, from 2pm – 3pm in the library. Students will be honing their skills and taking part in workshops with experienced debaters from outside the school, in order to be ready to win next year! Students who are still interested in giving debating a try should contact Ms MacLeman in the Languages office and students and teachers should also look out for the student/teacher debate which will be happening early in Term 4.

Adelaide McLeman

Maths Homework Club

Each Friday after school the Mathematics Department runs a homework club where a number of maths teachers assist students. This can be useful if a student is having difficulty, needs to sit an assessment task or needs to catch up on work. If you need a maths explanation from a different teacher this is the place for you!

Jeremy Klitzing
2015 NAPLAN Certificates For Year 7 Students, Year 9 Students And Year 10 Accelerated Students

In May our Year 7 students, Year 9 students, and Year 10 accelerated students participated in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing scheme. The certificates with the results for each student have arrived in the school and will be distributed to students on Monday August 24, Tuesday August 25 or on Wednesday August 26. If you have any questions about the NAPLAN results or you have not received your certificate by Friday August 28, please contact the school on 9758 5022 to talk with Kathryn Middleton or Russell James.

FOOTLOOSE - THE MUSICAL

Our Performing Arts team has been working hard on honing their skills as they rehearse every week in preparation for the school’s production of Footloose. I urge families to get in early and book your tickets for the three performances that will take place from the 27th to the 29th August, 2015.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM trybooking.com/133349

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE via CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund)

Parents who successfully applied for CSEF during Term 2 now have access to these funds ($225 for each student).

If you DID NOT apply during Term 2 and held a valid concession card on 13th July 2015, you may be eligible to apply for this Victorian Government funded allowance – you must apply BEFORE the end of Term 3 for access to the funds early in Term 4.

The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual amount is $225 for each secondary student. To apply please contact the schools office or download the application form www.education.vic.gov.au/csef. The closing date is 11th September 2015.

FAIRHILLS HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

7.30PM, AUGUST 27TH, 28TH AND 29TH

FAIRHILLS HIGH SCHOOL’S PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM trybooking.com/133349

FOOTLOOSE is presented through special arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical on behalf of R & H Theatricals: www.rnh.com
STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Parents are reminded that they are required to notify the school of any absences for their students -
Log onto COMPASS and enter the ‘reason’ and the relevant dates or
call the Absence Hot Line and leave a message or
call the school and talk to the receptionist.

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Fairhills High School Library
Julia Newnham
Phone: 0397585022  |  Email: newnham.julia.e@edumail.vic.gov.au

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
Did you attend Haering Road Preschool?

40 year celebration

Enjoy a fun filled afternoon reconnecting with your past pre-school friends and teachers.
Share the experience with your family or just come and have a look!

Sunday 13 September 2015 11am – 3pm

17 Haering Road, Boronia 3155

Email – haeringrdps@gmail.com
FAIRHILLS
- Trivia night -

7 PM > 10 PM
IN C BLOCK
SEPTEMBER 11TH
- Gold coin games
- Silent auction
- BYO food

Tickets being sold at the general office.
Adults - $15
Students - $10

Fundraiser for 2015 Thailand trip!