Welcome to 2013

I would like to welcome existing and new members of our school community to the 2013 school year. It has been a delight to meet our new Year 9 students, an additional fifteen students to other levels and to greet returning students. The atmosphere in and around the school is energetic and positive and there is a greater sense that we are a more nearly complete school now that we have three year levels. We have also welcomed some new staff and they are introduced to you below. Mr Stewart Milner is enjoying a period of leave for the first semester. We have been fortunate in employing Ms Nellie Kostiw to act as Assistant Principal for this period. Ms Kostiw brings a vast experience in leadership, teaching and management in schools and latterly in the DEECD Western Metropolitan Region.

Like many of you, I watched with interest the speech by Her Excellency, Ms Quentin Bryce, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia on Australia Day, January 26. Discussing some of the Australians who were formally recognised for their contributions to the nation, Ms Bryce called for a renewed interest in the study and application of science. She reminded us that science looks at the big questions we face and that Australian scientists have made outstanding contributions to scientific discovery and have contributed a great deal to significant technological and social change. Ms Bryce underlined the importance of schools and education in encouraging and supporting young people to become the science leaders and innovators of the future. ([http://www.gg.gov.au/speech/2013-australia-day-address](http://www.gg.gov.au/speech/2013-australia-day-address))

Of course we would hope that our students also leave us with important skills as communicators, as leaders and team members, are able to exercise and appreciate creativity, as people who understand and are able to function as involved citizens and who possess and practise appropriate values.

The Prime Minister has announced the date of the 2014 election. It is my hope that education will be an issue of great significance and interest to all parties contesting the election and that the election campaign can allow a mature debate about the future of our education systems in Australia. This should inevitably include discussion of funding models. The nation is well placed to move forward on funding with the report of a bi-partisan committee (the Gonski report) completed and provided to government and parliament in 2012. International experience would suggest that student outcomes are related to levels of resources devoted to students and their programs.

Student Wellbeing

For 2013 Ms Lisa Guastella is the Year 9 Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator, Mr Darren Nicholas is Year 10 Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator and Mr Travis Hand has this role for Year 11 students. Home Group teachers should be the first point of contact for parents on wellbeing or learning matters. The school also has increased access to professional support services in 2013.

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What is Going On at Suzanne Cory High School

Dates to Remember

Feb 11/12  
Yr 9 Leadership Days
Feb 14  
Proposed Industrial Action
Feb 20  
VCE Parent Information Session A (2-3:30pm)
Feb 21  
VCE Parent Information Session B (9-10:30am)
Feb 22  
Whole School Photos
Feb 26  
Yr 10 Immunisation
Feb 26-28  
Yr 9 City Week Program

Please see Term 1 Calendar on P7 for further dates
Information Session for Parents of Students in VCE Units 1-4

All parents of students who are undertaking a VCE Study in Units 1-4 in 2013 are invited to attend one of the VCE Parent Information sessions to be held at the school on Wednesday February 20 at 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm or Thursday February 21 at 9.00-10.30 am. These sessions will be conducted in the school auditorium and led by our Co-ordinator of VCE Programs and Development, Ms Martha Goodridge-Kelly. A formal notice and invitation to attend these sessions will be sent home with all students undertaking a VCE Unit 1-4 study.

Current industrial bans have resulted in the scheduling of these sessions during the working day. The material presented at these information sessions will be made available through the school website to those who are unable to attend at these times.

Advice for parents regarding Industrial Action on Thursday 14 February

The Australian Education Union has scheduled strike action for Thursday 14 February. Parents will be notified regarding further details and arrangements as soon as these are known. Please continue to monitor our school website daily from Monday 11 February.

1:1 Laptop Program

Commonwealth funding which has enabled students to be issued with a laptop free of charge has ceased. Schools now must resource these programs. You may have read newspaper articles about this and the different ways schools are going about funding the provision of computers for students. School Council has discussed various options to achieve this and has sought to achieve fairness and to minimise cost to parents by approving an eLearning Levy which will provide resources to allow all students individual access to a laptop computer for their use. As has been the case in 2011 and 2012, this will be subject to students and parents accepting responsibility for care and use of the computer. It will also be a condition that parents provide a commitment to payment of the eLearning levy. These agreements and commitments will be expressed through a formal agreement document. The levy will enable a fleet of devices to be maintained and refreshed, and be available to our students to support their learning.

School Council elections

I will soon issue a notice and nomination forms for the election of members of School Council. School Council has a number of responsibilities in relation to school policies and budgets and also provides an important forum for discussion and sharing of ideas in support of the continuing progress of the school. I hope parents will consider nominating for a parent-member position when nominations are called.

Transport issues

Many of our students travel by train to and from school. Various efforts have been made since the school opened, and even prior to that, to have the bus service and schedule improved to meet the needs of students both before and after school. Unfortunately we have not been able to convince decision-makers of the merits of our case. I spoke to students at assemblies this week about this matter and asked that they contribute to our campaign. Individual students and parents can send an email to the Minister for Transport requesting better transport services that meet their needs. The email might include a request that a review of the current service and schedule be undertaken and that there be an investigation of provision of additional bus services at school peak times. The state Minister for Transport is Mr Terence Mulder and his email address is: terence.mulder@parliament.vic.gov.au

Joint Selective Entry Schools Network

I am very pleased to advise that on March 15 a joint professional learning day, involving all staff from the four state selective entry high schools will be held at Suzanne Cory High School. This is the first all-schools joint activity to be held. The planning theme for the day will be how we best meet the needs of students of high ability and an impressive program has been developed for the day. Professor Munro, Melbourne University, will address teachers on research about content subject knowledge and evidence-based approaches to effective teaching. There will also be a presentation about the findings of the Parliamentary Inquiry into Gifted and Talented Education and workshops led by experienced teachers for all four schools. The selective entry schools have a strong formal and informal network and are building a strong professional culture based on our commonalities.

Best wishes to all

Peter Starford | Principal
**New Staff**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ms Tracey Bolton-Wood</th>
<th>Mr Michael Bourke</th>
<th>Dr Noelle Collombet-Sankey</th>
<th>Ms Jane Coyle</th>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Accounting &amp; Economics</td>
<td>French &amp; English</td>
<td>Science &amp; Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<th>Ms Kimberley Cunningham</th>
<th>Ms Nina De Garis</th>
<th>Mr Arnaud Gazelle</th>
<th>Ms Martha Goodridge-Kelly</th>
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<td>English &amp; Humanities</td>
<td>Legal Studies</td>
<td>French</td>
<td>Chemistry &amp; Biology</td>
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<tr>
<th>Mr Essam Iskander</th>
<th>Mr Michael Katilius</th>
<th>Dr David King</th>
<th>Ms Nellie Kostiw</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td>Mathematics &amp; Science</td>
<td>Assistant Principal (Acting)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Ms Helena Moore</th>
<th>Dr Eman Rofaeil</th>
<th>Ms Julie Stevenson</th>
<th>Ms Anna Tait</th>
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<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>Visual Communication &amp; Design</td>
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<th>Ms Sandra Wagner</th>
<th>Kylie Lee</th>
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<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Education Support</td>
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General Housekeeping

1. Students arriving late must report to the administration office to receive a Late Pass to enter classes. Students who do not have a late pass will not be allowed to enter their classrooms.
2. Students who are unwell during school hours must report to the administration office. Administration staff will contact the parent to organize pick up.
3. The administration office can not dispense any medication to students. Students should carry their own medication such as Panadol and antihistamines.
4. Any forms that need to be returned to the school that require payment must be enclosed in an envelope with the form. The student’s name, home group and amount enclosed must be written on the envelope. These can be returned either to the student’s home group teacher or directly to the administration office before classes begin.

School Uniform Reminders

We ask for parent support to remind students that the school blazer is to be worn at all times from the time they leave home to the time they arrive at the school gate. The same applies for the journey home. On extremely hot days only, a whole school announcement will be made before the last bell indicating that the wearing of blazers home is not required. However, the wearing of the school jumper is optional at all times. Given the warm weather currently, students are advised to not wear their jumper under the blazer to and from school as they risk overheating. The sport uniform can be worn to and from school only on Week A - Tuesday (for year 9s only) and Week A – Thursday (for year 10s only). Year 11 students are not able to wear their sport uniform to or from school on any day unless they are representing the school in Interschool sport activity. Students also are reminded that they are required to wear a sunhat and correct footwear as part of the sport uniform during outdoor sport and PE sessions. Finally, parents should ensure that students have all items of the uniform clearly labelled with their name.

Information for 2014 New Enrolments

Parent Information Sessions
Information Sessions for 2014 New Enrolments will be held on the following days:
Thursday 21st March 2013 6:30pm
Thursday 2nd May 2013 6:30pm
Pre-session school tours commencing from 5:30pm on above two evenings

School Tours
Term 1 2013
Thursday 28th February 9am
Wednesday 13th March 6pm
Term 2 2013
Thursday 18th April 9am
Wednesday 24th April 6pm

In addition to these dates, School Tours will be held every Tuesday at 10am.

Bookings are essential for all School Tours and Parent Information Evenings as numbers are limited. Please call 8734 2800 or email suzannecoryhs@edumail.vic.gov.au to make your booking.

Entrance Examinations
Applications to sit the entrance examination for selective school open on 12th February and should be made online at http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/secondary/Pages/selective.aspx. Applications close on 17th May 2013 and the exam is held on 15th June 2013. Examination outcomes and offers will be sent to students commencing from 15th August 2013.

Further details about the selective entry process can be found at: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/secondary/Pages/selective.aspx
The Australian Geography Competition

The Australian Geography Competition is a contest for Australian secondary school students, assessing their geographical knowledge and skills. The Competition aims to encourage student interest in geography and to reward student excellence. The Competition is open to students in all years of secondary school. In 2012 it attracted entries from approximately 80,000 students. The Competition is a joint initiative of the Royal Geographical Society of Queensland and the Australian Geography Teachers' Association.

The Competition is held in schools each year in late March. It consists of multiple-choice questions testing geographical knowledge and skills. The answer sheets are centrally marked and all participants receive results and certificates—high distinction, distinction, credit or participation. Students are graded at three age levels—junior for students 13 and under; intermediate for students 14 and 15 years old; senior for students 16 to 18 years old.

Here at Suzanne Cory HS, all students in Years 9 and 10 will be participating in the competition during period 3 on Tuesday 26th March. Prior to this day, students will be provided with more information about the competition. Examples of previous questions are available on the competition website. Any Year 11 students who are interested in registering for this competition should see Ms. Habgood or Ms. Sullivan. Outstanding students at each age level win prizes. Many special opportunities outlined on the website. [http://geographycompetition.org.au/](http://geographycompetition.org.au/)

Debating

Students are invited to join the interschool debating squad. There will be teams at each year level, so please indicate your interest and level of commitment ASAP. The competition is likely to be held on Wednesday evenings at Williamstown HS, beginning in mid-March and continuing into term two. Please see Mr. Cummins for more information.

Premier’s Reading Challenge

Students are encouraged to register for the Premier’s Reading Challenge. Please visit the iCentre and see Mrs Starford for more information.

Ms Sullivan
English/Humanities Leading Teacher

Newspaper subscriptions

All students have been provided with school subscriptions to The Age Digital Edition for 2013. Students will be able to easily access their individual edition through their student laptops at school from Monday to Friday from 6 am every school day. This interactive edition allows students to search and view articles in text or newspaper format, which can then be printed, emailed and book marked. Other options include having articles read out and translated into different languages. There is a 6 month archive of newspapers which includes the weekend papers.

Students will be able to borrow daily printed newspapers of The Age, The Herald Sun and The Australian in the iCentre. Electronic versions of news articles will be available to students through online databases, such as Ebsco and Newsstore Fairfax, which are accessible through the iCentre homepage at school and at home. Individual print school subscriptions of The Age will no longer be delivered to students at the school. If students prefer a printed edition, parents will need to make their own arrangements for home delivery.

Fiona Starford | iCentre Manager
Education Maintenance Allowance

Information for parents currently receiving EMA

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:
The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.
From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16.
In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in secondary school (up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of $250.
From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option
From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;
- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:
To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:
- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e. – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.
The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Installment One) and 15 July 2013 (Installment Two).

Payment Amounts - 2013:
- Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

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<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
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<td>Installment Two</td>
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Contact: School Office at the beginning of 2013 for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 25 February 2013.

Please contact the General Office on 8734 2800 for further information.

Instrumental Music Program

The SCHS Music department have a number of ensembles rehearsing each week. Those students participating in the Instrumental Music program here at school are expected to attend their respective rehearsals each week. Any other students who may be studying music externally and wish to perform as part of an ensemble are more than welcome. The weekly rehearsals are as follows:
- String Ensemble – Monday after school
- Concert Band – Tuesday after school
- Choir – Friday at lunchtime
If you have any queries regarding the school ensembles or the instrumental music program, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Portelli.
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In March I will be participating in the Leukaemia Foundation’s World’s Greatest Shave. I will be shaving all my hair off to raise money for people with blood cancer. We are forming a Suzanne Cory High School team and we are looking for more volunteers to shave or colour their hair. We will also be having fundraising activities at the school. So if you are not ‘brave enough’ to shave please donate to someone who is. If you have any questions, would like to participate or would like to donate please come see me or Ms Blain.

Caroline Alchin 10D

The House system is a major component of our school program. There are 4 houses, each named after a mountain in the surrounding area. Home Groups and their houses are as shown.

The House structure is used to promote student leadership, develop a friendly rivalry and competition and acknowledge individual and group participation and achievements in a variety of activities and events in the school.

Students can gain points for their House in five categories:
1. Whole School Activities such as Swimming and athletics carnivals, and House Chorals
2. Small Group Activities such as debating, intra-school sports etc.
3. In-school Community Service such as ambassadors, iCentre volunteers, sports coaches etc.
4. Out-of-school Community Service such as fundraising, Cancer Council’s Relay for Life, and International Women’s Day.
5. Values Cards which acknowledges students who are upholding the school’s Core Values of Respect, Aspiration and Contribution. This includes care for locker areas and the school environment.

We wish all students well and hope they enjoy the contest for the House of the Year Award in 2013.

Ms Blain | House Program Coordinator

Construction Update - Multipurpose Sports Courts

Construction of our multipurpose Sports Courts is almost complete. Finishing touches are underway and we hope to have access to the courts shortly. The courts can be used for tennis, hockey, soccer and lacrosse and have an all-weather, high quality, synthetic surface. This facility, funded by School Council, will enable our already robust sports program to continue to expand. We are thankful to our parents whose contributions have provided this facility for current and future students of Suzanne Cory High School.

Please consider the environment when printing this document.

All material printed in this newsletter is correct at the time of printing. Any errors are unintentional

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