From the Principal

The past two weeks has provided a snapshot of education at Suzanne Cory High School. While classes have continued, the Year 9 students spent two days at Deakin University undertaking a transition program; Unit 3 Biology students went on excursion; boys from all four year levels represented the school in both cricket and baseball; and girls from all year levels represented the school in softball. Add to this heady mix the House Swimming sports and you have a broad educational program.

“Education is more than just text books and classes. And education is more than just an ATAR.”

During this week, we ran two VCE information sessions for parents and students. This gave me an opportunity to explain to members of the school community my vision of education in general and the VCE in particular. I stated, in simple terms, that “we are not an academic sausage factory!” We are not a conveyor belt whereby a student steps on at the beginning of Year 9 and steps off at the end of Year 12 and straight into a university. Education is more than just text books and classes. And education is more than just an ATAR. This is not to downplay the importance of the VCE and obtaining an ATAR, rather it is to place it into perspective.

Our educational aim at Suzanne Cory HS is to produce what has often been termed the ‘Renaissance person’; a person who is a ‘polymath’; a person of many talents. In simple terms, this is a person who undertakes physical activity, appreciates music and art, is educated, well read, of good character and leads a balanced life. This sounds daunting; however, if we consider it terms of what our students have been involved in during the past two weeks, then we already have some students immersing themselves in this rich educational environment.

The main point of contention for the VCE students was the issue of a balanced life. Earlier this week I was walking around the school prior to the start of the school day and as I walked past the auditorium the sound of beautiful piano playing could be heard. Inside was a Year 12 student playing; this was a student who was providing balance to his life. All of the speakers at the information session, including the student counsellors and the careers advisor, emphasised the importance of providing the balance between academic endeavour and other aspects like sport and music. The importance of having that balance cannot be overestimated.

Albert Einstein stated that “It is a miracle that curiosity survives formal education.” Our aim is to ensure that the VCE and the pursuit of an ATAR do not inhibit the growth of both curiosity and an appreciation of lifelong learning. The educational program at the school is based on the values of respect, aspiration and contribution; that is, balance.

Colin Axup
Principal

SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS
School Council nominations close Monday 23 February at 4pm.

SCHOOL CALENDAR
A school calendar of events can be viewed on our website.
Firstly, on behalf of the student body, we would like to thank Matthew and Isabelle, the 2014 school captains. They certainly left us with big shoes to fill and we feel over-joyed to have been given the opportunity to fill them.

We hope to represent the school community to the best of our abilities and we will be here to support you all through your journey at Suzanne Cory High School this year. As your leaders, we will aspire to inspire you all to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, as a past American president once said.

People who changed the world did not grow up thinking they would do so nor did they grow up with a single hope to change the world. Martin Luther King Jr, Mahatma Gandhi and Neil Armstrong all did not grow up thinking "I hope I grow up to change the world." No, but rather they had aspirations, ambitions and goals that they strived towards. In the same way, we must together unite and climb this mountain known as high school.

We must all use our ambitions and aspirations to drive us as students as we learn to grow as individuals and as we persist to achieve our dreams. Of course things don’t always go our way in life or in terms of school. We often find ourselves getting set back or rejected. This is normal and these minor setbacks should only give us strength to progress and become better.

Remember that life is supposed to be a bumpy ride, so we have to embrace the tears, hardships and sadness as well as the excitement and happiness that life challenges us with. It’s important to remember that you can’t always have the best in life, but you can make the best out of what you get in life.

In saying this, failure should never be accepted as an answer nor a solution, but rather it should motivate all of us to dream bigger and to achieve more. As Michael Jordan once said "I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed”.

We know that 2015 will bring with it many good times and many times of struggle. No matter what happens, let us all unite together and climb the mountain of 2015. No matter how many times we fall, let us never give up on achieving goals, dreams and aspirations. We look forward to spending the journey with all of you this year.

Ricky John and Erene Sakabetis, School Captains 2015
ENGLISH UPDATES
Units 3 and 4 VCE English Language

Unit 3 Outcome 1 is all about informal language. So conversation is a big focus of the work this term, but we're not just chatting. We look at what linguists have found out about how conversations work, analysing the structures within speech. We apply this knowledge to transcripts of everyday talk, for instance identifying verbal and non-verbal cues for turn-taking, or the ways in which a speaker can dominate in conversation. Students also keep building on their knowledge of the linguistic ‘subsystems’ that they learnt during Year 11 (tools for analysis such as syntax, phonology and semantics). In our first SAC, in week 6, our students will practise writing clear, concise paragraphs in response to questions on a spoken language text. This prepares them for the first part of the VCE exam, but also serves as a first step towards writing longer analytical responses, boosting their skills and confidence.

Ms Helen Bradwell and Ms Louise Leong, Year 12 English Language team

Year 10 English

As a new member to the Suzanne Cory HS English faculty, the first few weeks of school have been an exciting time as I get to know the students. The study of English and Literature has long been my passion and I endeavour to share my enthusiasm with the young people in my classes. This week our Year 10 students are preparing for their first assessed piece, which will be a creative response to the novel To Kill a Mockingbird. The assessment will take place in class during week 6. It is an opportunity for students to exercise a bit of creative freedom and expression through their writing and exploration of ideas. Our study of To Kill a Mockingbird has focused on the central themes of racial prejudice, justice and gender. Additionally we are analysing Harper Lee’s use of distinct language and literary techniques. The content at times has been challenging, yet rewarding for students as they develop a deeper understanding of the text.

Ms Nalan Velisha, Year 10 English team

STUDENT ABSENCES

Keeping an accurate record of student attendance is crucial. Parents are required to notify the school if their child is absent. You can do this in a number of ways:

- On our school website
- By emailing us on suzanne.cory.hs@edumail.vic.gov.au
- By calling us on 8734 2800

Please report any student absence by 10:30am.

All absences require a signed note from home upon the child’s return to school.
OzCLO 2015
Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad

OzCLO is a language puzzle-solving competition for students in years 9-12.

No linguistic knowledge necessary, however it’s great for students who like languages, maths, computers and natural sciences.

National winners will go to Bulgaria to compete in the International Olympiad!

Try your hand at a puzzle right now!

Below are some English words written in Braille, an alphabet made of raised dots for blind people to read with their fingers.

We’ll tell you what five of the words are:

door, ware, rare, deer, dare

Match the word and the Braille spelling – and then you can figure out what the sixth word is!

Can’t get it? That’s OK, the answer is at the bottom of the poster!

If you enjoyed that you’ll love:

Registration is free!

For more information and sample puzzles:
Email: vic@ozclo.org.au.

Answer: door = 1, ware = 3, rare = 5, deer = 4, dare = 2.
The sixth word = word!
OPPORTUNITIES FOR WRITERS AND READERS

For enthusiastic readers of YA fiction

‘Freshly Squeezed’ is a website set up to promote opportunities for writers of YA fiction. They run competitions for writers who are working on novels, such as the first chapter competition next month.

The organisers are keen to hear from teenage readers who might be interested in reviewing some of their competition entries – see link below if interested. Here’s what they have to say:

- Teens: Your opinions are the most important. If you love reading (or hate it but are still willing to help out up-and-coming writers) our writers would love your opinions. You will need to read the first chapters from five different writers, then tell us what you liked and what you didn’t. Join the readers’ mailing list (be sure to use an email address you check) for updates before the critique period March 6 – 28.

For teens based in Melbourne or Victoria there is an opportunity to be part of a panel with the Digital Writers’ Festival. Email info@freshlysqueezedreads.com asap for details or go to their website on http://www.freshlysqueezedreads.com/#readers

For writers interested in journalism

THE UNDERAGE

The Under Age is calling for submissions by Weds February 25.

The Under Age is an online newspaper written entirely by Victorian high school journalists. Each fortnight the group of 12 meet with industry professionals from 5.00-7.00 pm at The Age offices in central Melbourne to learn about working in journalism and to workshop story ideas for the newspaper. The Under Age covers news, sport, politics, art and culture.

See here for the link if you’re interested:

The Ada Cambridge writing competitions

The annual Ada Cambridge biographical and prose writing competitions are now open for anyone from the western suburbs. This year there are also two exciting new categories for young people aged 15-18 years old – a short story prize and a graphic short story prize.

The four prizes are:
- The Ada Cambridge Biographical Prize – $1,000
- The Ada Cambridge Poetry Prize – $500
- The Young Ada Awards Short Story Prize – $250
- The Young Ada Awards Graphic Short Story Prize – $250

All entries are due on Sunday 1 March 2015. For entry forms go to http://willylitfest.org.au/the-ada-cambridge-writing-competitions-are-open/

The Ekphrasis Poetry Award

The word ‘ekphrasis’ comes from the Greek ek ’out’ and phrasis ’speak’, as well as the verb ekphræzein, which means to call an inanimate object by name. Artistically, ekphrasis is a rhetorical device in which a visual object, usually a work of art, is vividly described by another artistic medium. For example a poem that describes what is happening or shown in a painting and by doing so enhances it, especially if it captures the sentiments of the artist when the work was created.

Categories
The Award is open to poets residing anywhere in Australia. Poems must be up to twelve lines and respond to one of twelve selected art works from the Nillumbik Shire Art Collection.

There are two sections:
1. Open Section: $500 first prize; $300 second prize and $200 third prize
2. Young Poets Section, for poets aged between 12 and 18 years: $150 prize

Each poet may enter up to three (3) poems. There is an $11 entry fee for each poem entered, with the exception of the Young Poets Section which has no entry fee.

Online entries close 5pm Monday 30 March 2015, hardcopy entries must be postmarked Monday 30 March 2015. For more information and conditions of entry, go to http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Things_to_do/Arts_and_culture/Awards_and_Prizes/2015_Ekphrasis_Poetry_Award
On Friday 13 February the intermediate baseball team played in the Wyndham Division tournament. Initially, there were to be two other teams, but upon arrival at President’s Park we discovered that Manor Lakes had already withdrawn. Apparently upon hearing about the intimidating lineup and superb battery Suzanne Cory would be fielding, they had withdrawn in expectation of certain defeat. Therefore, only Baden Powell College stood between us and a berth in the Western Metropolitan Regional Finals.

Captain Heejae won the toss and elected to pitch, and very quickly Baden Powell were in difficulties as Heejae struck out the first two hitters and got out of the inning after only 19 pitches and four batters. Catcher Kyle was outstanding behind the plate, smoothly taking every pitch and preventing opponents from running.

Suzanne Cory’s hitters took advantage of some wild pitches, erratic catching and overthrowes to get on base, steal extra bases with almost every pitch, and race home. We reached our regulation 9th hitter having only suffered one out. All Hazaifa needed to do was get to first and all our base runners would score. Showing excellent plate discipline, the first time ballplayer worked the count and was awarded a walk, adding four runs and leading to an 8-1 lead by the end of the first.

By the bottom of the second it was all over, with a final score of 25-6 in our favor after the regulation four innings. Heejae was masterful on the mound, with his pitches in the strike zone unhittable, and Sehaj, pitching for the first time, demonstrated excellent control. Our players demonstrated a careful eye for pitches, took off for steals early and backed each other up when fielding. Above all, the support and communication between the players was exceptional, with all of the boys constantly calling out directions and encouragement to each other, which made a considerable difference to the game.

Scouted playing cricket at camp last year, Vrund and Yannick proved excellent fielders, with Yannick also smashing an inside-the-park home run in the final inning. Lakshan made great plays at several positions and skilfully worked four at-bats. Matt provided a dependable glove at first and showed the newer players how to run the basepaths. Rhushi had very smart at-bats, ending up with a perfect on base percentage, and Dulanaka and Hazaifa kept balls in the infield and picked runners off second and third. Victor, Nick and Sanjuna energised the team with their enthusiasm and support.

Best of luck to both the intermediate and senior teams at the Western Metropolitan finals!

Ms Rachel Fenby

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GTAC WORKSHOP

Students studying VCE Biology Unit 3 participated in a full day workshop to the Gene Technology Access Centre on either February 12th or 13th. Working with scientist mentors students completed a range of learning tasks including a bioinformatics task, as well as investigating enzymatic activity using spectrophotometers. Mr Bruce Drummond
COMPUTING WAS PRETTY BASIC THEN ADA LOVELACE TRIED AN ALGORITHM

What will you try?
goolsciemcfaieux.com
At Suzanne Cory we implement the School Wide Positive Behaviour Framework (SWPB). The underlying theme is teaching behavioral expectations in the same manner as any core curriculum subject with the ultimate goal being to increase academic outcomes and improve overall social behaviour. The school values that underpin everything we do were formed by the implementation of this framework and have been embedded into everything we do as a community at the school. The values of respect, aspiration and contribution mean a great deal to both the staff and students at Suzanne Cory. The behaviour expectations have been built around these values and are in the student planner, as well as on posters around the school to remind students of them. The school wide positive behaviour team work very hard analyzing data and using it to guide us in putting in place practices and strategies to support students learning and wellbeing throughout the school.

During tutorial this term the Year 9 students are being taught about the processes within the school, the criteria for acceleration, and also have an external agency ‘Apollo Education’ coming in to work with them during all our seminars and tutorial sessions. So far we have had a fantastic start to the year from all our students and we are looking forward to working with them during all our seminars and tutorial sessions. Ms Laura Ruddick

Year 10 students have a focus on careers this term, encouraging them to think about possible VCE pathways and career options. The students will work through a program called Career Voyage, and identify their strengths and interested as well as the career opportunities associated with them. There are also sessions around writing a resume and preparing to apply for jobs as many of them have shown a keen interest in this area.

Apollo Education are also coming in to work with our Year 11 and 12 students each term. The Year 11 focus around this is VCE success and Apollo will be giving them tips and advice on making the most of their time and the importance of organisation. There are also sessions on balance and wellbeing to help them manage the stressful times when they may be feeling increased pressure and stress. Year 12 students will attend a seminar with Apollo Education on ‘Oral Presentations’ and ‘Staying Sane’ in such an important time in their lives. We also look at leadership and being a role model to younger cohorts.

So far we have had a fantastic start to the year from all our students and we are looking forward to working with them during all our seminars and tutorial sessions. Ms Laura Ruddick
APPLICATIONS CLOSE MARCH 6, 2015
Applications forms are available at
http://youth.wyndham.vic.gov.au or the YRC,
86 Derrimut Rd, Hoppers Crossing.
For more info call Youth Services on 8734 1355

WYNDHAM YOUTH TALENT COMPETITION
CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 12-25 IN WYNDHAM!

HEAT 1: FRI 13 MARCH, 5PM-9PM @ YRC
HEAT 2: SAT 21 MARCH, 10AM-3PM @ YRC
FINAL: SUNDAY 29TH MARCH @ WYNDHAM CULTURAL CENTRE

FIRST PRIZE $1000!
12-17 AGE WINNER $500
18-25 AGE WINNER $500

Categories
Music Group + Music Solo
Dance Group + Dance Solo
Other
YEAR 9 LEADERSHIP DAYS

The Year 9 students spent the 9th and 10th of February participating in our annual Leadership Program. The program helps to develop connections between the students, improve communication skills and form bonds for the coming year. Through a series of activities students work in teams designed to test their perseverance and resilience. On day one students had to plan as a team how to solve a problem working to their final goal. On the second day in their Home Groups they raced around the Deakin University Waurn Ponds Campus fulfilling tasks to earn points. Home Groups fought hard to complete as many tasks throughout the day. At the end of the day 9D claimed victory with the most points scored.

The two leadership days consisted of small activities that required teamwork, communication and mental stamina or perseverance. The days helped us as a home-room bond and get to know a lot more about one another’s both personality and strengths or weaknesses.

Zoe Lovatt 9B

It was a great experience on the first day YMCA Deakin set up activities such as minute to win it, egg drop challenge and other smaller activities. On the second day it was more outdoor activities and we went to CISR and saw advanced robots and machines. It was a really good experience thanks to the teachers, Deakin University and the YMCA staff.

Ahmad Rubas 9E
INFINITE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

OPEN MIC NIGHT!

WITH HEADLINE ACT:
MIDNIGHT COLLECTIVE

BANDS/SOLO ARTISTS
OF ANY STYLE AND
EXPERIENCE WELCOME

SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY
5 - 9:30 PM

FREE ENTRY
NO REGISTRATION
NO MINIMUM
SET TIMES
PERFORMERS MUST
BE BETWEEN THE AGES
OF 12 - 25

Wyndham Youth Resource Centre
86 Derrimut Rd, Hoppers Crossing 3029
This is a fully supervised smoke, drug & alcohol
free event, no passouts
Management reserves the right to refuse entry
Contact 8734 1355 for more information