Principal’s Report

During the week I had the pleasure of observing student presentations in a Year 10 philosophy class. Not every Year 10 class will have students discussing the ideas and impact on society of theorists such as the renowned French philosopher Simone de Beauvoir. While her central theme is fundamentally about gender, de Beauvoir’s attitude to life is inspiring: “Life is occupied in both perpetuating itself and in surpassing itself; if all it does is maintain itself, then living is only not dying.” The challenge this idea poses for our students is clear; live life to the full. In so many different ways our students are more than just living life as they pursue their individual goals, but more importantly pursue goals for the greater good of society.

Philosophers challenge with their ideas. Our students are willing to both accept the challenge and to challenge others. In the first instance, the challenge of homelessness in Melbourne was one that a group of our students accepted and responded to through the community based organisation Urbanseed. After collecting donations of warm clothing and food, they spent time on the Tuesday, the report writing day, handing out ‘care packages’ to the homeless in central Melbourne. Next week is ‘refugee week’, and the school’s ‘Students for refugee Rights’ group will be holding a number of events to discuss the international issue of refugees. This is an often controversial topic; however, schools are about education and education is about the discussion of ideas. This is one topic among many that our students will discuss, debate and challenge throughout the year.

Students have a vital role to play in the formulation of ideas and strategies for the school. Throughout the first semester of my time as principal of Suzanne Cory High School, I have been oft asked the question; “so how’s the new school?” The best way to encapsulate my response, and to also provide a message about career selection for our students, is to draw on a quote from the ancient Chinese philosopher, Confucius: “Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life.”

Colin Axup
Principal

Financial Assistance
Applications for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund are due on Friday 26 June.
You can download a copy of the CSEF Application Form on our website.
Please submit the completed form, along with a copy of your current health care card to the General Office by Friday 26 June.
Important Payment Notice

Language Perfect online payment due Monday 22 June

Language Perfect is an online language vocabulary and grammar tool that Suzanne Cory High School has integrated into its languages curriculum since 2013. The annual license fee of $16.50 was included on the 2015 booklist; however, it appears they haven’t received payment for your son/daughter.

This is a friendly reminder that you have until Monday 22 June (last week of Term 2) to pay $16.50 for your child’s Language Perfect account. Language Perfect is part of the language course and is required for each student. Your child would be able to tell you how useful it has been for their language learning.

You can pay for the account online here: https://start.languageperfect.com/campion-949-519.html
Please ensure that you enter your son/daughter’s name and Language Perfect username so we can check them off. Student’s account will be deactivated on Wednesday 24 June if still unpaid.

Username: SCHS (first name) (last name)
Password: Kevin

In the case of Kevin Nguyen,
Username: SCHSKevinNguyen
Username: Kevin

Ms Chizuko Inoue-Andersson
PLT Leader LOTE

Pay for Language Perfect Now

Refugee Week 14 - 20 June

Theme: “With courage let us all combine”

Monday assembly: presentation
Tuesday lunchtime (T8): Guest speakers
Thursday lunchtime (auditorium): Staff versus student debate (gold coin donation)
Friday lunchtime (T8): Letter writing
Have your say - School Uniform

This term, students voiced their opinions about the possibility of altering some of the current school uniform requirements. Two aspects of the school uniform in particular were focussed on – that plain white socks in summer and plain black socks in winter be worn and that trousers or shorts be worn all year round. Currently, girls are required to wear the school supplied white socks with red and yellow stripes in summer and black socks with red and yellow stripes in winter and the wearing of trousers is only meant for winter and shorts for summer.

Both parents and students are invited to complete a survey asking for your opinion on whether or not the aforementioned changes should be made to the uniform, and if the school uniform policy currently stated in the Student Planner is clear and easy to follow.

The data received from the survey will be passed onto School Council.

Complete the survey

Year 12 English

Currently, the team of Year 12 English teachers are marking the final assessment task for Unit 3 English. This outcome generally presents us with one of our most interesting, enjoyable and challenging reading experiences as we encounter a variety of forms, styles and approaches to the task.

The task consists of an extended piece of writing (1000-1200 words) in response to an unseen prompt related to the Context of ‘Encountering Conflict’.

Students draw on ideas and arguments from the set text, Life of Galileo by Bertolt Brecht, to construct their own text for a specified audience and purpose. The task allows students scope to write imaginative pieces and experiment with different forms and styles of writing.

Many of our students are strong writers and this task provides them with an opportunity to express considered perspectives on concepts of enduring social significance such as: systems of power, change and progress; individual agency and heroism; internal conflict; and questions of truth, knowledge and faith.

Later this year we will be publishing some of the outstanding pieces in a special ‘Context writing’ anthology.

We have just commenced studying the Unit 4 Context text-The Lieutenant by Kate Grenville. It is expected that students have already read this text and are currently re-reading it with a view to creating a piece of writing that shows close engagement with ideas related to the ‘Encountering Conflict’.

The SAC based on this text is scheduled for Wednesday 5 August. As a supplementary resource, we recommend that students also watch ‘The Secret River’, which premieres on ABC this Sunday 14 June.

Ms Cindy Sullivan
Leading Teacher, English/Humanities
Year 10 Digital Photography Excursion

Sabrina Lu

Steven Tran

Sabrina Lu

Tarra Co

Tarra Co

Sabrina Lu

Steven Tran
Intermediate Football Team Update

3 weeks ago, the boys’ intermediate football team participated in a friendly interschool competition against 3 neighbouring schools in the Werribee region. The team of 18 + 3 optional subs played with admirable courage against some very tough opponents. They played aggressively down the wings and also exposed gaps in the corridors effectively when necessary. By playing in this style, they nearly won 2 games, losing on very tight margins. Overall, a commendable effort. **Raiy NAIKKAR 10G**

WMR Cross Country

On Thursday 11 June, 10 of our students set off for Brimbank Park to represent Suzanne Cory at WMR cross country.

It was great to see all of students not only performing at a high level within their individual races, but also behaving exceptionally all day and being great ambassadors for our school.

A special mention must go to Alexia Humphries of 10A, who came in an amazing second place to qualify for the state championships! An amazing effort. **Ms Anna Hamilton**

Environmental Youth Summit 2015

On Friday June 5, 12 students from the Suzanne Cory High School Green Group participated in the Wyndham Environmental Youth Summit 2015.

At the summit the students developed many of their great ideas and initiatives to help improve our local environment and the planet. They also learnt about climate change, the role of non-biodegradable plastics in sea pollution and native animal rehabilitation at various workshops.

It was a very worthwhile day. **Mr Bruce Drummond**
Commerce & Politics Week

No matter which industry you eventually choose to work in, a sound understanding of commerce and politics is invaluable to your career prospects. From financial markets and economics to the latest management practices, studying commerce can offer you the skills and knowledge to prepare you for a successful career. Similarly, studying politics will help you gain valuable analytical and practical skills in areas of oral/written communication and research, as well as developing awareness of events and issues of national and global significance.

Following on from the success of last year’s Commerce Week, during the final week of this term, we are once again hosting a series of seminars and lectures for interested students from years 9-12. This year we have expanded the sessions to include a politics lecture. This week presents a valuable learning opportunity for Yr10 students who will soon be selecting VCE subjects as well as our current VCE students who are considering university pathways. Students are encouraged to attend as many sessions as they wish. Please see your Humanities teacher for more information.

Events

Monday 22 June
lunchtime in PD centre
Institute of Chartered Accountants

Tuesday 23 June
lunchtime in PD centre
Politics lecture

Wednesday 24th June
7.45-9am in PD Centre
Budget Breakfast (all available places have been filled)

Thursday 25th June
lunchtime in the auditorium
Guest speakers from Monash & Deakin Business Department will present information on course options, career outcomes and life on campus.

Monash University and Deakin University will be here in our auditorium at lunchtime on Thursday 25 June to present on course options, career outcomes and life on campus.

Any students who are currently enjoying or considering studying Humanities (particularly Accounting, Business Management and Economics) in VCE should come along to this informative session.

University degrees in Commerce and Business offer students endless opportunities.

Monash University’s Student Recruitment Officer, Te Hira Cooper and a current Business student will present on course options and degree types. Listen to why students study Commerce and Science at the same time or why they may continue on to study Law. They will be here to answer questions regarding study combinations, course structure and general university requirements. Many SCHS students enrolled in Monash University courses this year – find out why!

Deakin University’s Faculty of Business and Economics will be here to present on course options, majors available, trimesters and all that sets Deakin apart from other universities. With campuses in Burwood and Geelong, Deakin is a popular place for students to study Commerce and all things Business! Deakin wants to inform you all about where their graduates go, what employers are looking for and the opportunities available to their students during and after university.

Brochures and information will be available for collection and there will be time for questions at the end of these two presentations.
Welcome to the end of a long and very busy Term 2. I wanted to take the time to touch on a few vital elements of the School Wide Positive Behaviour Framework that we at Suzanne Cory have embedded into our school life.

One important feature of this framework is acknowledging positive behaviour of students within the school. The "Values Card" system has been introduced to reward positive behaviour at anytime, before school, in class, during recess/lunch, after school or on excursions.

The cards are to be given to students who demonstrate the core values through their actions. This may be an extraordinary demonstration or simply doing the right thing such as picking up papers without being asked, offering assistance, turning around their behaviour, improved punctuality or application to work, completing a piece of work above their usual standard etc.

Last year we introduced a new rewards system, and it has been very well received by both students and staff. At the assembly on Monday, all the values cards that have been awarded for that term were put into a box and four cards (one for each year level) were pulled out at random and these students won movie tickets as a further reward for upholding our school values.

The following students were drawn:

Hugh Nguyen 9A Cottrell
Vrund Shah 10A Rothwell
Mark Suniga 11E Blackwood
Yinwei Feng 12C Rothwell

Congratulations and keep up the fantastic work!

To finish the tutorial program off for the term the Year 10 students will be attending a Keys Please session. This is the pre-driver education session entitled delivered by VicRoads.

The program offers information and practical ideas for Year 10s. The program emphasises the importance of gaining 120 hours of practice and teaching students to become safer drivers in the future. Overall the students found this a useful and informative presentation that got them thinking about getting their Learners and starting to get prepared for the open road! VicRoads has also developed a resource for parents and supervising drivers called Lessons from the Road. To access this material go to the VicRoads website and search for Lessons from the Road - online resource for supervising drivers.

We also plan to hold an end of semester BBQ on the last Thursday of term for the Year 12 students to acknowledge their hard work and focus throughout the semester. They are heading into a very busy and high pressure time as exams draw closer and want to take the opportunity to remind them they are supported and encouraged and to ensure they enjoy the last few months of their schooling here at SCHS.

Ms Laura Ruddick
Leading Teacher SWPB

Students working hard in tutorial

School Wide Positive Behaviour

Hugh Nguyen 9A Cottrell
Vrund Shah 10A Rothwell
Mark Suniga 11E Blackwood
Yinwei Feng 12C Rothwell

Congratulations and keep up the fantastic work!

To finish the tutorial program off for the term the Year 10 students will be attending a Keys Please session. This is the pre-driver education session entitled delivered by VicRoads.

The program offers information and practical ideas for Year 10s. The program emphasises the importance of gaining 120 hours of practice and teaching students to become safer drivers in the future. Overall the students found this a useful and informative presentation that got them thinking about getting their Learners and starting to get prepared for the open road! VicRoads has also developed a resource for parents and supervising drivers called Lessons from the Road. To access this material go to the VicRoads website and search for Lessons from the Road - online resource for supervising drivers.

We also plan to hold an end of semester BBQ on the last Thursday of term for the Year 12 students to acknowledge their hard work and focus throughout the semester. They are heading into a very busy and high pressure time as exams draw closer and want to take the opportunity to remind them they are supported and encouraged and to ensure they enjoy the last few months of their schooling here at SCHS.

Ms Laura Ruddick
Leading Teacher SWPB

Students working hard in tutorial

School Wide Positive Behaviour

Hugh Nguyen 9A Cottrell
Vrund Shah 10A Rothwell
Mark Suniga 11E Blackwood
Yinwei Feng 12C Rothwell

Congratulations and keep up the fantastic work!

To finish the tutorial program off for the term the Year 10 students will be attending a Keys Please session. This is the pre-driver education session entitled delivered by VicRoads.

The program offers information and practical ideas for Year 10s. The program emphasises the importance of gaining 120 hours of practice and teaching students to become safer drivers in the future. Overall the students found this a useful and informative presentation that got them thinking about getting their Learners and starting to get prepared for the open road! VicRoads has also developed a resource for parents and supervising drivers called Lessons from the Road. To access this material go to the VicRoads website and search for Lessons from the Road - online resource for supervising drivers.

We also plan to hold an end of semester BBQ on the last Thursday of term for the Year 12 students to acknowledge their hard work and focus throughout the semester. They are heading into a very busy and high pressure time as exams draw closer and want to take the opportunity to remind them they are supported and encouraged and to ensure they enjoy the last few months of their schooling here at SCHS.

Ms Laura Ruddick
Leading Teacher SWPB

Students working hard in tutorial

School Wide Positive Behaviour

Hugh Nguyen 9A Cottrell
Vrund Shah 10A Rothwell
Mark Suniga 11E Blackwood
Yinwei Feng 12C Rothwell

Congratulations and keep up the fantastic work!

To finish the tutorial program off for the term the Year 10 students will be attending a Keys Please session. This is the pre-driver education session entitled delivered by VicRoads.

The program offers information and practical ideas for Year 10s. The program emphasises the importance of gaining 120 hours of practice and teaching students to become safer drivers in the future. Overall the students found this a useful and informative presentation that got them thinking about getting their Learners and starting to get prepared for the open road! VicRoads has also developed a resource for parents and supervising drivers called Lessons from the Road. To access this material go to the VicRoads website and search for Lessons from the Road - online resource for supervising drivers.

We also plan to hold an end of semester BBQ on the last Thursday of term for the Year 12 students to acknowledge their hard work and focus throughout the semester. They are heading into a very busy and high pressure time as exams draw closer and want to take the opportunity to remind them they are supported and encouraged and to ensure they enjoy the last few months of their schooling here at SCHS.

Ms Laura Ruddick
Leading Teacher SWPB

Students working hard in tutorial

School Wide Positive Behaviour

Hugh Nguyen 9A Cottrell
Vrund Shah 10A Rothwell
Mark Suniga 11E Blackwood
Yinwei Feng 12C Rothwell

Congratulations and keep up the fantastic work!

To finish the tutorial program off for the term the Year 10 students will be attending a Keys Please session. This is the pre-driver education session entitled delivered by VicRoads.

The program offers information and practical ideas for Year 10s. The program emphasises the importance of gaining 120 hours of practice and teaching students to become safer drivers in the future. Overall the students found this a useful and informative presentation that got them thinking about getting their Learners and starting to get prepared for the open road! VicRoads has also developed a resource for parents and supervising drivers called Lessons from the Road. To access this material go to the VicRoads website and search for Lessons from the Road - online resource for supervising drivers.

We also plan to hold an end of semester BBQ on the last Thursday of term for the Year 12 students to acknowledge their hard work and focus throughout the semester. They are heading into a very busy and high pressure time as exams draw closer and want to take the opportunity to remind them they are supported and encouraged and to ensure they enjoy the last few months of their schooling here at SCHS.

Ms Laura Ruddick
Leading Teacher SWPB

Students working hard in tutorial

School Wide Positive Behaviour

Hugh Nguyen 9A Cottrell
Vrund Shah 10A Rothwell
Mark Suniga 11E Blackwood
Yinwei Feng 12C Rothwell

Congratulations and keep up the fantastic work!

To finish the tutorial program off for the term the Year 10 students will be attending a Keys Please session. This is the pre-driver education session entitled delivered by VicRoads.

The program offers information and practical ideas for Year 10s. The program emphasises the importance of gaining 120 hours of practice and teaching students to become safer drivers in the future. Overall the students found this a useful and informative presentation that got them thinking about getting their Learners and starting to get prepared for the open road! VicRoads has also developed a resource for parents and supervising drivers called Lessons from the Road. To access this material go to the VicRoads website and search for Lessons from the Road - online resource for supervising drivers.

We also plan to hold an end of semester BBQ on the last Thursday of term for the Year 12 students to acknowledge their hard work and focus throughout the semester. They are heading into a very busy and high pressure time as exams draw closer and want to take the opportunity to remind them they are supported and encouraged and to ensure they enjoy the last few months of their schooling here at SCHS.

Ms Laura Ruddick
Leading Teacher SWPB

Students working hard in tutorial
Bonjour, tout le monde! On Wednesday 20 May, all Year 10 French students participated in a French poetry competition organised by Alliance Française.

To participate in this competition, the students had to study a French poem and memorise it to recite it in front of an examiner. This year’s poem was ‘Le Brouillard’ (The Fog) by Maurice Carême.

The students will be given their grade based on their pronunciation, intonation, fluency, expressions and knowledge of the poem. Thank you for the work of our French teacher, Sarah Rogerson and our new French assistants, Véronique Le Jalle, and Françoise Moyen. Merci beaucoup!

Ms Chizuko Inoue-Andersson PLT Leader LOTE

Language Perfect Olympics 2015

18 May to 28 May.

For this competition, students go on to the Language Perfect site and answer LOTE related questions (Eg, Chinese, French, Vietnamese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Greek, German, Latin, Italian, Arabic and Russian) in the target language. The total number of questions answered by SCHS were 172,408 in 11 days!

The following outstanding 20 students accumulated many points and received an award. Congratulations!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elite Award</td>
<td>Winda Ng</td>
<td>10,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elite Award</td>
<td>Leanne Ng</td>
<td>10,062</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Award</td>
<td>Megan Khuu</td>
<td>5,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Award</td>
<td>Becky Su</td>
<td>4,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Award</td>
<td>Zoe Cook</td>
<td>4,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold Award</td>
<td>Charlotte Simons</td>
<td>3,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Award</td>
<td>Henry Truong</td>
<td>2,274</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Award</td>
<td>Judy Hong</td>
<td>2,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze Award</td>
<td>Anna-Maria Antonijevic</td>
<td>1,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze Award</td>
<td>Bryan I</td>
<td>1,385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze Award</td>
<td>Khushi Kalra</td>
<td>1,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze Award</td>
<td>Brandon Tran</td>
<td>1,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronze Award</td>
<td>Benjamin Ly</td>
<td>1,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Award</td>
<td>Leon Zhou</td>
<td>763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Award</td>
<td>Julie Nguyen</td>
<td>682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Award</td>
<td>Tony Nguyen</td>
<td>602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Award</td>
<td>Justin Sunario</td>
<td>581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Award</td>
<td>Sanika Hambarday</td>
<td>547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Award</td>
<td>Sarah Tran</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit Award</td>
<td>Diana Pena Pantoja</td>
<td>503</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Footscray used to stink. It was awful. A drive through Footscray would result in one’s nostrils being assaulted by a smell akin to something like steamed, boiled and pounded dog. This was due to the meat processing and tanneries that were located in and around Footscray. And then the smell stopped.

The reason it stopped was in no small part due to the advocacy of the residents of the western suburbs voicing community concerns through the media, parliament and local council.

This episode is a classic demonstration of the transformative power of those within a community enacting change. And I suspect that it will only be through the next generation of western suburbs political activists that community concerns regarding access to services, issues surrounding social justice and equity and fairness can be addressed. And it is highly probable that these same people would have involved themselves in public speaking and debating whilst at school.

It is through these invaluable experiences that young people gain not only the confidence and skills to perform as successful orators, but also a sophisticated understanding of the ethical and moral concerns that weigh upon contemporary society.

As the only select entry school in the western suburbs, Suzanne Cory High School is uniquely positioned to contribute to, and shape how future generations engage the social, political and economic forces that impact on the lives of our local communities.

Most schools might be fortunate to have one or two students who are socially and politically engaged and are keen to develop their public speaking skills. At this school we have so many students like this that we turn them away.

At interschool debating and public speaking engagements our students now dominate their opposition. The feedback I constantly receive from adjudicators, opposition teachers and parents is that our students are in a completely different league to their opponents.

Given that we now have well over forty students of this caliber the challenge for us is how do we further the development of this embarrassment of riches? Should we be satisfied with continual domination and awards? Or do we have a unique opportunity to give back to the western suburbs by creating a strong and powerful voice that advocates for its community?

These are questions that I invite all members of the school community to raise with me as we consider where we take this program next.

In the mean time it would be remiss of me not to mention those students who achieved some important individual awards:
Round 2 & 3 interschool debating best speaker was awarded to: Maheen Ajmal, Ankita Bijukumar (twice), Mackenzie Pyke, Hana Umer, Joshua Cordina, Kristine Carlos, Zein Alhamandi, Tim Eastwood, Louis Devine and Ravee Pathya.

The Debaters Association of Victoria recently held a regional final for junior public speaking. Swetha Jinson and Anagha Giri were two of the four students who progressed to the next round.

The VCAA adjudicated Plain English Speaking Award regional final held at Suzanne Cory High School on Thursday 28th May resulted in first and second place awarded to Karen Chow and Elena Demosthenous respectively.

Congratulations to those students for their outstanding achievements. Thanks to teachers and parents who offer their support to this invaluable extra-curricular activity by working with students and attending events.

Mr Nick Cummins
Join our 6 Week Challenge to BITE BACK!

Get involved and win!

5 awesome prize packs to be won

Get in quick! Registration closes June 18th, 2015

Full info on how to enter at BITEBACK.org.au

Good luck!
Giving adolescents freedom and minimising risk

Young people typically want more independence. But giving young people more rope can be downright tricky for parents these days. Here are some ideas to help ...

Adolescents usually want more freedom than parents are prepared to give.

Most teenagers think they are three years older than they really are, and many parents think their teenage children are three years younger than they really are. Getting the ‘freedom’ balance right is obviously quite tricky, though it often comes with experience.

You are probably familiar with the fact that the teenage brain is very much a work-in-progress. Parents of teenage children should carry a little card with the words “Teenager: Brain under Construction” printed on it to remind them that young people are poor assessors of risk.

Adolescents often act first, and think later. This means parents need to be very hands-on with their parenting in this potentially tricky stage. It’s important that parents put processes in place that will help reduce risk and keep their young people in this age group safe.

These include: expecting teenagers to maintain contact with you; setting time limits for being out; and rewarding responsible behaviour with greater freedom.

There are three things parents need to know when their young people go out:

1. Where are you going?
2. Who are you going with?
3. When will you be home?

From my experience most parents ask the first two questions, but often forget to ask the third question – When will you be home? Get into the habit of asking this question each time your adolescent steps outside the front door to go out with their peers.

Link greater freedom to responsible behaviour
Young people often use their peers as leverage when they want more freedom. “Everyone else in my class is allowed to go to...” This type of comment is hard for a parent to resist.

But it’s better to link greater freedom with responsible behaviour rather than going along with what the crowd is doing. When adolescents show they can act safely within limits (of place, time and people) then push those limits out (stay out later, go further afield, go with a wider crowd) accordingly.

It takes some parenting steel to act in this way – that’s why parents generally need to support each other when raising teenagers.

HERE ARE FIVE SIMPLE PARENTING IDEAS TO BUILD INDEPENDENCE IN YOUR YOUNG PERSON:

1. Never do for a teenager the things they can do for THEMSELVES
2. MONITOR kids’ movements without being too restrictive
3. Reduce risks for teenagers through SKILLING UP & SCAFFOLDING
4. Build EXPECTATIONS around remaining in contact and home times
5. REWARD responsible behaviour with greater freedom