Principal’s Report

Communication is essential to the development of a community. Our community is geographically dispersed which creates its own challenges. Parent teacher interviews are one way of providing communication between the school, and in particular the teachers, and parents. Every school approaches these events differently, although local schools manage the process a little easier due to the proximity of the families to the school. As a school we will continue to consider the best way for teachers to communicate with parents about student progress. This will be an ongoing conversation within the community to discuss the best ways for the community to communicate.

One of the most recent improvements has been the implementation of Compass. Many families are already familiar with this program from their children’s previous schools. As we develop our use of the system, our guiding aim is to increase the school’s capacity to effectively communicate. The eighteenth century English philosopher Joseph Priestley, lamented “The more elaborate our means of communication, the less we communicate.” While I’m sure Joseph Priestley didn’t have the internet or Compass in

NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2015

17-21 August was Science Week at SCHS. Our students and teachers celebrated with fire, paper planes, mystery substances and much more...
mind when he was writing in the 1700s, it is an apposite warning for us to ensure that we do not make communication between the school and our families too complicated. Our guiding principle will be to find the most appropriate and most effective solution to the issues of communication. Any ideas you may have to improve our communication are welcome.

While on the topic of communication, this week I have made several visits to the art, design and technology (ADT) wing. The Year 12 Visual Communication and Design Students have been spending many hours working on their folios, which are due today. The creativity and ability of our students is outstanding. I would also like to thank the teaching staff who have likewise spent many hours out of class supporting and assisting the students. The Studio Art and Food Technology folios are also due very soon.

On Monday 14 September, the House Choral competition will take place. Singing, and music in general, is a common means of communicating. Group singing is an important part of developing a culture. Having a song links people to an organisation or group. In simple terms, a song like a national anthem promotes and enhances belonging. Football teams, of all codes, have club songs that bind supporters and players together. This is just one reason why we will have our own school song, which will be sung in public for the very first time at our speech/awards night on 1 December. In the meantime, we will continue to promote the benefits of group singing. The website moresingingplease.com in promoting singing states “Group singing is cheaper than therapy, healthier than drinking, and certainly more fun than working out. It is the one thing in life where feeling better is pretty much guaranteed.” The house leaders, both staff and students, have been leading and inspiring their houses to sing with gusto, passion and feeling. I am looking forward to both the singing and the music of the competition.

Colin Axup
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES

Fri 18 September: Final day of term 3; Dismissal at 2.20pm (full school uniform)

Mon 14 to Friday 18 September: VCE Trial Exam Week (full school uniform)

Tue 15 September: USA Tour departure

Wed 30 September: Yr 12 VTAC applications due

Mon 5 October: Term 4, day 1 for students and staff. Yr 12 SEAS applications due.

Thur 8 & Fri 9 October: Biology Camp to Marysville

Fri 16 October: Year 12 laptops returned or purchased outright

Tue 20 October: Final day of Year 12 classes

Wed 21 October: Year 12 Celebration morning. Valedictory dinner, 7pm at Flemington Racecourse

Tue 27 October, 7pm: 2016 Year 9 Parent Information Evening

Wed 28 October: VCE Unit 3/4 Exams commence

Tue 3 November: Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

Thur 12 November: Confirmation of Enrolment Day, Year 9 into 10

Fri 13 November: Confirmation of Enrolment Day, Year 10 into 11

Mon 16 November: Confirmation of Enrolment Day, Year 11 into 12

Tue 17 November: 2016 Transition commences—Year 9 into 10, 10 into 11, 11 into 12

Tue 1 December: Speech Night at Melbourne Convention Centre

Mon 7 to Wed 9 December: Year 9 Camp (Phillip Island)

Mon 14 December: VCE results released
Housekeeping & Year 12 notices

2016 subjects
All students will receive confirmation of their 2016 subjects early in term 4.

VCE Trial Exam schedule
VCE trial exams will run throughout the final week of this term. As normal, Year 12s are required to attend school in full school uniform for their trial exams. The trial exams are scheduled for the same length of time as VCAA exams to provide students with an authentic experience leading up to the VCAA exams and these trial exams are a critical step in preparing for the end-of-year VCE exams. They help students to develop stamina, to improve time-management skills during exams, and to identify areas to revise further. A copy of the trial exam timetable will be distributed early this week by Mr Darren Nicholas. The comprehensive VCAA exam timetable (VCE exam navigator) has already been distributed to students.

Year 12 teachers will be available to work with students leading up to exams and teachers will inform students of any formal revision sessions that have been organised for their subject.

Year 12 Laptops
Year 12 students who have used school laptops this year are required to return their devices to the school by no later than Friday 16 October. Laptops (and power packs) must be returned in person to Ms Kristine Saunders. Students must back up their files and folders and store those on their own home computers and on USB flash drive before returning their laptop. As per the SCHS Acceptable Use Agreement, the laptops must be returned in proper condition—if there is any damage to the device, please see Ms Saunders at the iCentre as soon as possible to arrange for payment of repairs. There is the possibility of students purchasing their devices outright—students who are interested in doing so should contact the general office and speak with Mr Milner.

Wellbeing for the VCAA exams
With the VCE Unit 3/4 exam period approaching, these are some important reminders for students:

Stay organised

• Develop and use a study and revision timetable
• Know your exam schedule and prepare accordingly
• Remove distractions while studying

Get enough sleep
• Get at least 8 hours of sleep each night and set bed time at the same time each night
• Stop studying one hour prior to sleep and wind down before you sleep
• Avoid caffeine later in the day and avoid technology use just before sleep

Take care of yourself
• Ensure you are eating healthy so you’re getting the best nutrition to function at your best
• Stay hydrated and exercise regularly
• Support others and seek out support

Take regular breaks
• Schedule regular breaks in your study timetable. Fill those breaks with things you enjoy doing.
• Take a break when you notice your concentration is starting to diminish.
• Consider relaxation techniques—e.g. deep breathing exercises, meditation, stretching.

Support for students
The following staff are available to assist Year 12 students and parents:

Year 12 Wellbeing Leaders
Ms Nina De Garis, Ms Julia List and Mr Alex Malone

Year 12 Home Group teachers

Curriculum Leading Teacher
Ms Martha Goodridge-Kelly (for enquiries about VCAA exams)

Timetabler
Mr Darren Nicholas (for enquiries about trial exam timetable)

Careers Advisor
Ms Chloe Baker

Student Counsellors
Mr Josh Whelan and Mr Drew Le

Assistant Principals
Mr Stewart Milner and Ms Frances Muollo
National Science Week

National Science Week is an annual celebration of science in Australia, an opportunity to join together to enjoy and explore the wonders and benefits of science.

Events happened all over school. Brains were boggled at the daily trivia competition; rocket balloons; paper airplanes were launched high inside the Agora; fire literally was held in hands; staff and students competed in identifying mystery substances; trees were planted; and many others.

Our science staff provided a morning tea with a science theme twist for all the staff. Staff created brain, Andromeda Spiral Galaxy, isotope, and atomic element symbol cakes and pastries and many other magnificent culinary creations of sufficient quality to make it on to a Heston Blumenthal menu.

Our year 9 Science classes were addressed by visiting Melbourne University medical students and in the next few days all classes visited Sunshine Hospital to develop practice their medical diagnosis skills in a real world setting. These activities were designed to coincide with and enhance the teaching of our “Body at War” science unit.

The entire Grade 5 and 6 of Bellbridge Primary School and Grade 6 of Werribee Primary School visited Suzanne Cory High School. Small groups of visiting students were embedded into our regular Science classes for three days. Students from both schools enjoyed the days very much and we look forward to contributing further in meaningful ways to our local communities. This is yet another clear example of our students living out our school values of Respect, Aspiration and Contribution.

Suzanne Cory High School looks forward to further opportunities to strengthening our links and contributions to our local communities and in particular the Western Suburbs. I would like to thank the entire Science teaching team and especially our overworked laboratory technicians, Hoa Nguyen and Silvina Rainone for their efforts in the planning and conduct of the days. Mr John Trajanovski
As a part of the our trip we learnt about the process of giving blood, and also got to give taking blood a go! The medical students from the Western Clinical School of Melbourne ran us through the process of taking blood from a fake arm.

First we applied the tourniquet to change the blood flow through the arm's veins and sterilised the area with a chlorhexidine wipe.

We then attached the barrel to the needle and inserted the needle into the arm at a 20-30 degree angle and attached the blood vial to collect the fake blood from the arm before detaching the barrel and blood vial from the needle. The final step in the process was to dispose of the used needle in the biohazard bucket.

Overall, everyone had a great day getting to talk to the medical students and getting to see how many aspects of how a hospital and medical procedures work.  

Mackenzie Pyke 9A
One of the activities was a stimulation of a laparoscopic appendix removal surgery. We were fortunate enough to learn how to use the different equipment and techniques needed to perform this surgery. We had to use a tool called a needle driver to pick up pieces of rubber that were placed on a group of rods. We then needed to transfer the pieces onto another rod on the mat using the needle driver. This proved to be a bit more difficult than what we were showed as you needed to pay attention to the computer screen to see what you were doing. It was fair to say some of us were quite challenged by this, as we did need to use both our hands to transfer the rubber. Some of us managed to do this successively while others managed to end up with all the rubber on the mat and not on the rods. Overall, this activity taught us many new skills and was very enjoyable!

Melisa Smajic 9A

One of the three activities involved using stethoscopes, oximeters and blood pressure units, which measured the heart rate of the students and challenged them to get used to using these three different types of medical equipment.

After a short presentation about the heart and its functions, a Sunshine Hospital doctor taught the students how to use the stethoscope, where to place the stethoscope and also how to get an accurate reading. After a couple of minutes trying to decipher each other’s heart rate, the fingertip oximeter was put to the test and although there was the casual mishap, the oximeter provided fairly accurate readings and results.

After this we tried our hand at the OMRON blood pressure system which measured the pressure of the blood in the arteries. Janath Fernando 9B
SCHS a gold level recipient for School Wide Positive Behaviour

Last week Assistant Principal Frances Muollo and myself were asked to attend and present at the annual SWPB Symposium at the MCG in Melbourne in front of 700+ teachers from other schools around the state. It was a great honor to represent SCHS at this event because we were also one of three schools in the state to be awarded a ‘Gold Level’ certificate for School Wide Positive Behaviour Support Implementation by the Victorian Department of Education and Training.

The underlying theme of the framework is teaching behavioural expectations in the same manner as any core curriculum subject. The outcome is a positive, healthy school climate and increased academic outcomes. The school has set up a number of systems and policies to support this framework and includes vital elements such as our school Matrix and Values (Respect, Aspiration and Contribution), Values Cards and positively acknowledging student achievement, allowing them to experience more success in all areas of their schooling.

I would like to congratulate all the staff and the students for their hard work in implementing the framework each year as this award belongs to all of us.

Ms Laura Ruddick Leading Teacher SWPB

2015 Australian History Competition

During term two our year 10 students tested their historical skills and knowledge against students from all around Australia in the 2015 Australian History Competition.

The students performed to a very high standard with 40% of the students achieving a credit or higher. This year we produced our best result as a school with 10 students receiving a High Distinction, putting them in the top 20% of all participants.

Congratulations to the following students who achieved a High Distinction:

Ayman Sungkar 10A  
Nicola Spencer 10A  
Angelo Bombuwelage Don 10C  
Jasper Ramage 10C

My Linh Do 10D  
Bree Fraser 10D  
Gayatri Juneja 10E  
Joshua Cordina 10F  
Naomie Tran 10G  
Eddy Yao 10H

Ms Jasmine Byrne Assistant Humanities Co-Ordinator
Model United Nations French Conference

On July 24 we participated in the Model United Nations French Conference at The University of Melbourne. It was a very interesting experience. For six hours, we immersed ourselves in the French language, along with several other VCE French students to discuss the rights and risks of refugees around the world.

We were assigned to be delegates of France, and, as a result, were attacked by other countries with their questions and proposals. We were forced to think on our feet and respond appropriately to their demands - all of which was carried out in French. It was difficult at first to respond quickly and accurately, however we soon became accustomed to having concerns thrown in our direction and we learnt to respond as if we were French natives.

Overall, the day, although challenging at times, was a beneficial experience for us and definitely kept us in the mindset of French language and refugee rights.

Joanne Nguyen, Teresa Ta & Jenny Tran

Asia Pacific Youth Foundation Info Session

WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER, 7:00PM

A representative of the APYF will be in attendance, along with staff from the school, to discuss the program and answer any questions you may have.

Based on the initial request for a $200 deposit, we have enough students to undertake the program. If you have not yet paid a deposit you are still able to attend the program.

Once the information evening has been conducted, we will ask for students to commit to the program by paying a $500 non-refundable deposit by Thursday 15 October (this is in the second week of next term). For those students who have already paid the $200, this means an additional $300 is required to confirm your place in the program. For those students yet to pay any deposit, this will require the full $500.

The two staff members who will be accompanying the group will be Ms Carina Owens and Mr Nick Cummins. If the group reaches twenty students we will most likely send a third member of staff.

This is an exciting opportunity and fundraising for the project has already begun! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school.
Wear it Purple Day

ON MONDAY 31 AUGUST WE CELEBRATED WEAR IT PURPLE DAY

Wear it Purple day aims to educate, celebrate, advocate, empower and support LGBTIQ or ‘rainbow’ young people in our school community. Students in The Sexuality Alliance organised a variety of activities for the day including adding to our pledge wall with purple hearts and selling Wear it Purple wrist bands and ribbons.

Are you interested in mental health?

The Victorian Government has launched a new consultation website so every Victorian can have input into the next 10-year mental health strategy. The insights and ideas shared will help shape the strategy, including shared goals for the future of mental health services and a vision for wellbeing in Victoria.

Taking part is simple – you can share a single idea, interact with other people’s ideas or upload a written submission.

To share your ideas, please see: Victoria’s New Mental Health Plan.

Consultation closes on Wednesday 16 September.
Intermediate Girls Basketball

For the first time in the history of the school, the girls now move on to the regional competition held in October.

The Intermediate Girls Basketball team were victorious in the Interschool Basketball Competition with an undefeated run into the grand final. The team was assisted by our two student coaches Aman Bhatia and Praveen Weerasiri who were instrumental on the day. Below is a one of our star players account of the day. Ms Laura Ruddick

On Wednesday 12 August, the Suzanne Cory High School Intermediate Basketball team competed in the local interschool basketball competition at Eagle Stadium in Werribee. Our team of 9 girls played 2 pool games in the beginning of the day against Tarneit Secondary and Al-Taqwa. All the girls came together well as a team and pulled out two great wins! We then advanced to the semi-finals where we played Tarneit Secondary for the second time. It was a tough game playing against some aggressive and talented opposition, but the girls were able to pull though and win the game.

This meant that we then played off in the Grand Final, a massive achievement in itself for the girls! The final was a tough game and took everyone's contribution to pull through and win! The girls and I were all very excited to have won the day and to be going through to the next round. Zoe Day 10E
Intermediate girls badminton team reach the state semi-finals

**Team players:** Lyn Tran 10G, Divya Venkatesan 9H, Malshi Gamaleth 10C, Siantelle Johns 10D, Teodora Vuruna 10B, Michelle Tran 10F

Intermediate Girls badminton team reach the state semi-finals
August 11 2015

We had a great day’s play. The opposition was tough and our Intermediate girls faced even the state-ranked players with absolute commitment.

Of three matches in our group, we won one, beating Yarrum 4 games to 2, with singles wins from Divya, Malshi and Siantelle and a doubles win from Divya & Teodora. We drew one match (Charlton 3 - 3), with Lyn just losing an epic singles game 22-24, and Divya and Siantelle winning their singles. Divya and Teodora proved an effective doubles pair in this round too. We lost to Balwyn (5-1), whose first player is one of the top players in the state in the U17 age group. Divya managed to win her singles in this round, making a fierce comeback to finish off her opponent 21-16. Other games were close, too, with some determined play by Michelle and Lyn in the doubles – they lost by just three points against Balwyn’s state player and her partner.

That meant we were tied for second place with Charlton and Yarrum, with each team winning one match in the round. The stats were in our favour: on a game aggregate we were placed second in the group, so our girls went through to the semi-finals.

In the semi-finals we had to face the team from MacRob, in a repeat of last year’s state level competition. With two state-level players in their team, one of whom has represented Australia, it was tough. I was impressed by the effort all of the girls made, fighting hard to the end. Our final score was 0-6, but with good games, particularly from Malshi in the singles. MacRob went on to win in the final round.

This was a big achievement for our girls: for the second year we have been one of the top four schools in the state in this age-group. Well done to all the players for their tenacity and teamwork – a great result. **Ms Helen Bradwell**