Principal’s Report

Every school year creates memories for us all. At this time of the year we reflect on the year past for the Year 12 cohort. This week started with a visit from Professor Suzanne Cory, who made time to inspire the Year 12 students. On Wednesday they had their ‘final day’; unfortunately referred to by many as ‘muck up day’! After thirteen years of primary and secondary schooling, these young adults were ready to let off a little steam before the reality of VCE exams once again surfaced. It was a day to celebrate a year level that we, as a school, have appreciated for their verve and vitality.

Term 4 is the time for celebration for all year levels. The Valedictory Dinner was a wonderful way to celebrate the Year 12 students with family, friends and members of the school community. A night of conflicting emotions for many people, all the speeches, from both staff and students, were filled with emotion. This is a special time of the year for the Year 12 students as they finish classes, prepare for exams and prepare for the next stage of their life journey. At both their assembly on Wednesday and at the Valedictory Dinner, I quoted William Shakespeare, who stated “We know what we are, but not what we may be”. This is the challenge for all of our students, to strive for what we may become in the future.

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EYE SPY - Art, Design and Technology Showcase 2015

From October 12 - 16 the Third Annual Art, Design and Technology Showcase took place in the T Wing at Suzanne Cory High School - and with each year its bigger, and better than the last...

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All communities, regardless of how big or small, celebrate their values, their successes and the fact that they are simply community. Countries have national days, like Australia Day and the Fourth of July, smaller communities have their own special celebrations. As a community, Suzanne Cory High School is still in the process of creating that cultural expression of celebration. For us it will be Presentation Night. Last year was the first year that the whole school, all 800 students, were able to come together in celebration. This was just the beginning of what we will make a tradition of celebration.

The Presentation Night on 1 December will be a major school event that all students are expected to attend. This will be a night to celebrate all members and I look forward to all members of the school community attending on the night. More information will be sent directly to parents and students.

Next Tuesday we will be holding an Information Evening for the 2016 Year 9 students and their parents. This begins the process of welcoming new members of the Suzanne Cory High School Community. I look forward to being able to welcome the newest members of our community. At the same time, we are also working on establishing an alumni association so we can continue the connection with our students after they have left. Our community extends beyond just the current students and their families.

I look forward to seeing you all at Presentation Night.

Colin Axup
Principal
VCE Biology Fieldtrip Camp

As the study of Australian ecosystems is a major part of the Unit 2 VCE Biology course, it is only fitting that we go on a fieldtrip to experience directly what we are introducing in the classroom. So on Thursday 8th October, 92 Biology students ventured to Lake Mountain.

After 3 hours travelling time, including the beautiful drive through the Black Spur, we reached fire devastated town of Marysville. It was very inspiring to see this town, which was left with only a few buildings remaining after Black Saturday, well the way to its former beauty.

We set off up the hill for Lake Mountain. On arrival at the top, at a place called Gerraty’s, we commenced our Biology work. This site is 1400 metres above sea level. After we gained our bearings and pointed out some interesting features, we gathered our equipment and set off on foot to our main site, Echo Flat, about 2 km along a ski trail.

Here, we studied our main focus areas of soils, fauna, flora, human impact and fire regeneration. We were amazed at the differences at this elevation compared to lower levels. We appreciated the natural beauty of the dominant tree species here - *Eucalyptus pauciflora* (snow gum) even if all of them were burnt. Once all of scientific activities were completed, samples taken and data recorded, we retreated 300m in elevation to make further observations and comparisons.

Our next site was at 1100 m above sea level – Kelly’s Paddock. Here we recorded the dominance of Alpine Ash (*Eucalyptus delegatensis*) and messmate (*E. obliqua*). We recorded the presence of the ancient tree species of southern beech (*Nothofagus cunninghamii*). This species evolved before the southern landmass of Gondwana broke up into the various southern continents. It is also naturally found in Antarctica and South America.

The day went quickly despite the huge amount of investigations we had to perform.

That evening after dinner we visited Stevenson Falls which was beautiful in its floodlit glory. We stayed overnight at Camp Marysville where we told stories around our camp fire. The next day we visited Healesville Sanctuary and were treated to their magnificent bird show. We were amazed at the different types of adaptations that the different bird species have that suit them to their ecological niches.

The Unit 2 Biology teachers, Ms Nguyen, Mr Drummond and Mr Trajanovski would like to thank Mr Stewart, Ms Owens, and Ms Hamilton for their attendance and assistance during the fieldwork. We would also like to thank our pre-service teacher, Ms Wilson from Melbourne University who also came along and provided support.
EYE SPY - ADT 2015 CONTINUED

From October 12-16 the third annual Art, Design and Technology Showcase took place in T wing at Suzanne Cory High School. Each year we have seen it become bigger and more diverse. The Showcase continued our tradition of celebrating the achievements of our students in the arts, design and technology subjects and was an opportunity to acknowledge not only their talents and skills but also their hard work. We were again able to present a comprehensive sample of creative imagination and skills in a range of artforms, performances and product making, drawn from the ideas, thinking, dreams aspirations and talent of Suzanne Cory High School students.

On opening night staff, students, families and friends spent time in the exhibition space where examples of art and design work ranging from highly realistic greylead rendering, expressive lino printing, sensitive painting, graphic design work, architectural model making, ceramics, working robotics, photography and entertaining film presentations were on display. They were also treated to light refreshments and a range of delicious finger food and sweets prepared by the Food Technology students.

Visitors then moved into the auditorium where they were thoroughly entertained by the school orchestra and jazz ensemble as well as talented individual musicians and singers. An added highlight was the opportunity to hear the performances from our first VCE Music Performance class, with each student performing an item that has been rehearsed and refined over the year for presentation in their upcoming exam.

Congratulations to all the students involved in the exhibition and performances and thank you to family and friends for coming along to our 2015 Showcase
English Studies Update

Year 9 Work on Picture Books

Our current unit of work for year 9 English involves studying picture books. You may associate picture books with simple bedtime reading for rather younger kids. But these two books – ‘The Island’ by Armin Greder and ‘The Lost Thing’ by Shaun Tan – are complex, with an artful use of language and visual images – and definitely not just for children. Both reflect on wider social issues in quite different ways, while the form makes them accessible to a wide audience. In class at the moment the year 9 students are responding imaginatively to these stories, forming strong interpretations from studying the way the text and graphics work together. This will be the basis for a comparative essay, which will be part of the year 9 exam. Our broader aim is to give students practice at comparing texts, in line with the demands of the new VCE study design for 2016. Meanwhile, year 9 English is story time…

Helen Bradwell
English PLT

Unit 2 English

In Year 11 English, students are currently delivering oral presentations of a point of view on a current issue of social significance. This is always an interesting part of the course for both students and teachers, as we have the opportunity to hear diverse perspectives on a range of contentious issues.

This year, many students have chosen to express a point of view on issues related to the offshore processing of asylum seekers and the radicalization of young Australians. Students who take an interest in issues related to the economy have elected to tackle the Trans-Pacific Trade Partnership, penalty rates and housing prices. Others chose to present their viewpoint on the banning of rap singer Chris Brown and the problem of violence against women.

Their choices reflect a keen interest in topical debates that impact on this nation. Students are to be commended for their ability to research an issue and deliver an original, well-structured and engaging speech. This assessment task also provides students with an opportunity to develop their ability to construct a reasoned argument, employ persuasive strategies for an intended effect and hone their delivery skills, in preparation for one of the first SACs in Unit 3 English.

Ms. Cindy Sullivan
Leading Teacher English/Humanities
Real success was Made in Melbourne

Congratulations to Year 12 Media student Lyn Le, who has had her film selected to appear as part of the upcoming Made in Melbourne film festival. Lyn’s film, titled ‘Han-nah’, is one of only eight short films selected for the High School Showcase which will screen publicly on Sunday 29th November.

To watch Lyn’s film, head to the SCHS Media YouTube channel:  [https://www.youtube.com/user/SCHSMediaChannel](https://www.youtube.com/user/SCHSMediaChannel)

For more information on the festival, or to purchase tickets, head to the Made in Melbourne website:  [http://www.mim.org.au/index.html](http://www.mim.org.au/index.html)

Doxa UPP

The Doxa UPP camp was a great experience and gave us all an insight of what our futures may look like. We were surrounded by those our age and wanting to attend university, we had the privilege to talk to adults that currently attend university and lastly, those who’ve had an occupation for many years. Along with the main priority of this camp, we were also able to make new friendships and meet many new people. We created bonds over activities such as bowling; speed networking; ice-breaking activities; trivia and games and last but not least, dinner. Everyone that attended this camp can undoubtedly say that bowling brought us all together and although we’d only met a day before, we were like family.

Sandra Kumar, Amasha Baddegama, Huy Dinh, Justin Jose, Amos Lee, Yasoja Liyanaarachchige, Nivasan Srinivasan, Frances Tabije, Chamudi Wijetunga