Principal’s Report

Throughout the year the success and contribution of our students, and members of the broader school community, are recognised and celebrated. The end of the year is an opportunity to celebrate the whole school and the whole school community. Schools celebrate their years in different ways; however, at Suzanne Cory High School the decision was taken at the beginning that we would celebrate our year with a whole school function, originally called awards night.

This year we will celebrate the whole school at Presentation Night, which will be on Tuesday 1 December at 7.30pm. This will be held at Plenary, the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. This is an event for the whole school community and more importantly for students of all year levels. The expectation is that all students will attend this event as it is a part of the school program.

We will have as our guest speaker Professor Margaret Sheil, Provost of the University of Melbourne. Professor Sheil is deputy to the Vice Chancellor and is a recognised university administrator and scientist. She will provide the main address to the whole school on the evening.

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Presentation Night will also be an opportunity to recognise many of our students and to also showcase the talents of our students. The evening will include not only presentations, but also musical performances, including massed singing by the whole school. Earlier this year I announced that we would be commissioning the writing of a school song. The composer, after working with a group of students, has written a wonderful school song and composed the music. The students will start to learn the song next week; however, the first public performance of the school song will at Presentation Night. This will be a significant occasion in the development of the school culture and will provide a means by which the whole school community can unite. Anthems, theme songs and club songs are an essential aspect of developing culture and unity and a school like ours should have its own school song that recognises the character of our school and our students.

The Year 12 students have their final day of classes on 21 October. This is their day of celebration as they prepare for the upcoming VCE exams. That evening the Valedictory Dinner will take place, where friends and family, staff and students can join together in a particular celebration of this cohort of students.

Term 4 is always a busy term. While the Year 12 students, and the majority of the Year 11 students, prepare for the Unit 3 & 4 VCE exams, the remainder of the school is also preparing for the school examinations. Staff are already preparing for 2016 and the school is well advanced in preparing the transition for the next cohort of students. One change to preparations for next year, is the induction of at least 25 new students into Year 10. The creation of the equivalent of an extra class at Year 10 is enabling the school to provide a better Year 10 program. What this means though is that we have to expand the number of home groups at Year 10. Most of the new students will be absorbed into Kororoit House, which means the current 9E and 9F will be split and three home groups will be formed. With the advent of new home groups we will be moving from the nomenclature of “9E”, “10E”, “11E” and “12E” and using designators that indicate the house to which the home group belongs.

Finally, I would like to remind those students that are interested in participating in the APYF program to Cambodia in 2016, that deposits are due by Thursday next week.

Colin Axup
Principal
Debating and Public Speaking

There have been a number of significant events and milestones for the public speaking program in recent times. A number of students attended the UN Evatt competition this year. The students participated in a mock United Nations Security Council deliberation, gaining a unique insight into the machinations of high-level diplomacy. Elizabeth Vu and Sukhmani Randhawa did well enough to progress to the semi-final of this event. This was followed up by the inaugural select-entry school’s version of this event, hosted by Melbourne High. Joshua Cordina’s reflection follows.

On Friday 28 August four students from Suzanne Cory High School attended the inaugural Selective Entry Network Evatt UN Debate. This day permitted students from our school in conjunction with students from Melbourne High School and Nossal High School to simulate discussions of the UN Security Council working in pairs fulfilling the role of delegates from fifteen different states. We participated in three different debates over the course of the day, each on a different issue of international importance and relating to a resolution paper. The first debate related to the status of the islands of the South China Sea, an issue recently propagated by territorial advances made by both China and Japan in the region. Our next debate related to the migration crisis in the Mediterranean, and how to effectively manage the flow of refugees from war torn states into Europe, a lively debate as our school’s teams were representing Lithuania and France. Lastly the day concluded with a discussion relating to reducing trade in international narcotics, and Elizabeth Vu and Sukhmani Randhawa being awarded a prize for their excellent debating.

Overall Elizabeth Vu, Sukhmani Randhawa, Michael ‘Zhixin’ Ye, and myself enjoyed our experience representing the interests of an entire nation for a day, with many other involved delegates.

This year the Debating Association of Victoria held their inaugural senior public speaking competition. This is a very competitive event that was hosted by St Kevin’s college. Two students representatives from Suzanne Cory High participated in this event, Louis Devine and Sukhmani Randhawa. Louis’ speech on the present state of multiculturalism in Australia was awarded second place overall.

Finally the Debating Association of Victoria invited Suzanne Cory High School to send a female senior student to represent the school at the Young Women and Leadership Q & A with the former Governor General of Australia, Quentin Bryce. Here is Karen’s reflection on the evening.

On September 10, I was privileged enough to attend the Young Women Leadership Q&A with Quentin Bryce at Victoria University with other young females from a variety of different backgrounds. Byrce fielded many insightful questions regarding the position of women in public life. It was refreshing to see how an individual of such significant and influence in Australian society was able to communicate in such a personal and grounded manner. The message I took away from this experience was the imperative for all aspiring leaders, regardless of their gender, to be able to communicate simply and effectively with people from all walks of life.

Mr Nick Cummins
Debating and Public Speaking Coordinator

Pictured: Dame Quentin Bryce and student representatives at the Young Women and Leadership Q&A, Sept. 10th
HOUSE CHORALS 2015 CONTINUED

With three new elements added to the mix: solo, band and a small choir, House Music Leaders had to count on things playing a bit differently this year. United by the central theme of ‘Togetherness’ and the set song of ‘You’ll Never Walk Alone’ originally from the Roger and Hammerstein musical Carousel, members of each house gathered last Monday to speak out with one voice and put on a bright and dazzling show for their teachers and friends.

Highlights included the new faces that have joined the line-up of soloists on the day, many surprising us with their vocal and instrumental prowess, much to the delight of the audience especially in response to performers from Rothwell.

The Blackwood band provided a new and what you could say almost revolutionary cover of ‘Apologise’, and the whole House marching on stage with their tricolour badges for ‘Do you hear the people sing’ shining in the spotlight.

Kororoit took full advantage of the theme of the year, showcasing ‘We’re all in this Together’ as their chosen song for the entire House, complete with the iconic dance and cheerleader outfits.

Finally, Cottrell managed to steal the show with a fantastic performance of ‘Valerie’ from their small choir, garnering a special mention from the principal himself. The competition was close, and the judging was not easy. It was wonderful to see everyone on the day give their absolute all and be there for one another from the rehearsal to the actual day.

Congratulations to Cottrell House for another win this year, know that your efforts have been rightfully rewarded and the stage blessed with your A grade performances. House leaders and members of Blackwood, Rothwell and Kororoit, dwell not on your losses and ‘what-could-have-beens’ and look instead to what you have accomplished that day. Be proud of yourselves, stand tall knowing that you have sung loud and you have sung well.

Sofia Pacheco (11D)

Pictured: Cottrell (Top Right), Blackwood (Top-Middle), Rothwell (Bottom-Middle), Kororoit (Bottom)
Children’s Book Week: 24 – 28 August

Children’s Book Week is an important week in the school calendar celebrating the vital reading culture at Suzanne Cory High School. The theme this year was ‘Books Light up Our World’ and the students and staff certainly lit up the school with a great week of activities. On the Monday a student vs staff debate took place in a packed auditorium.

The topic was: ‘That movies are better than books’. On the affirmative team were the students: Lyn Nguyen, Kahil Phan and Louis Devine. Opposing were the staff: Ms Tracey Bolton-Wood, Mr Jason Portelli, and Mr Nick Cummins.

Thanks to all who participated. The staff put up a brave fight with some brilliant arguments but in the end the students’ method won the day. Some competitors learnt the hard way that making a grand entrance doesn’t necessarily make for a great argument.

On the Friday, students and staff frocked up as their favourite Book Characters. People showed great imagination in their choice of costumes which ranged from a group of teachers dressed as The Very Hungry Caterpillar to a student who dressed as Mr Saucepan from Enid Blyton’s ‘The Faraway Tree’.

Boen Galutera of 9H won the Children’s Book Week Quiz where students had to match the book title to the author’s picture. The week doesn’t run itself and a big thank you to Ms Cindy Sullivan, Ms Louise Leong, and Ms Lyndi Chapman for their enormous help. Also thanks to, Briannen Hermans and Vaishu Vedula for their wonderful eye catching posters. Finally thank you to iCentre Book Club for helping the week run so smoothly.

Paul Byrne
iCentre
A Midsummer Night’s Incursion

On Monday 31st August, Bell Shakespeare Company performed “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” to the year 9 students and “Macbeth” to the year 10 students at Suzanne Cory High School. Here are a few samples of Year 9 students’ comments:

The show was amazing. It explained the book very clearly. The action and use of words gave the play a great sense of comedy. The setting and the use of props, the acting and dialogues combined the past to the present in an amazing way. It made the play interesting and easy to understand.

“A Midsummer Night’s Dream” is hard to penetrate, due to his “ye olde” style of writing, but through reading, performing and watching it being performed, it’s easy to see why Shakespeare still endures the passage of time. Bell Shakespeare actors modernized it but still kept its essence. Their acting was vibrant, their voices convincing, the script perfected to a “t”. You could see their efforts bleed into every single moment. We’d love to see what else they have to offer next year.

Bell Shakespeare has done a spectacular job in translating the play from script to stage. Each actor embodied several characters using quirks and various techniques. Quick changes of settings and costumes were used to bring the characters to life. The language of the script was very much similar to Shakespeare’s original although displayed in a more modern and entertaining way.

Overall the play represented the book perfectly and everything locked into place. We could understand most of the words, so we enjoyed the entire show. At first we walked into the room thinking that it was going to be boring but as we walked out, there were smiles all over our faces. We would give it a rating of 10 out of 10.

The play was very well presented and I actually learnt more about the play than from other sources of learning. I feel that I really understood the play this time.

Watching the play was more entertaining than reading it because seeing Shakespeare’s words in action allowed us to understand the story better.

The performance left us with feelings of joy and excitement but most of all, it created an unforgettable experience.

Nalan Velisha
Victorian Young Leaders to China

Last month nine Year 9 students who are studying Chinese attended a pre-departure camp in the city. These 9 students accompanied by Miss Ladd are travelling overseas to China in the first week of Term 4 for a leadership and language program called the Victorian Young Leaders to China program.

We are going to spend 6 weeks in China, 2 of which we will stay at universities in Beijing and Xi'an and the remaining 4 weeks we will spend at a high school in Nanjing.

The Suzanne Cory High School group will be joined by students from 3 other Victorian State Schools, Horsham College, East Doncaster Secondary College and Northcote High School. We will spend our time in China being immersed in the Chinese culture and language. We will also be travelling to various monuments, tourist attractions and historical landmarks and take part in intensive language classes, culture classes and history classes.

At the pre departure camp over the weekend we spent the first day completing introduction and leadership exercises and activities. We did this to get to know one another and the other students from other schools that we are travelling with. The second day we spent preparing for China and their culture.

We had people speak to us, and we did activities about the basics of what to do in China, what is expected of us and what the cultural differences are between Australia and China. We are all looking forward to our trip overseas, and the opportunities it will give us.

Isobel Sacco (9H)

Up and Over the Fence!

During the recent September school holidays one of our Year 10 students, Jasper Ramage of 10C, competed in the Under 20 Australian Fencing Championships which were held at the State Fencing Centre in North Melbourne.

Jasper competed in the men’s epee event as well as the Victorian men’s team sabre event, which placed third in their competition. This is another fantastic example of SCHS student who is pursuing excellence both at school and in his chosen field of extra-curricular activity. Congratulations Jasper on your bronze medal!

Alex Carroll
Middle School Wellbeing Leader