As I review the work and life of the school over this first term, I am reminded of the enormous energy and commitment of students and staff to our shared purpose. We are fortunate to have a co-operative, interested, talented and active student body which, working in collaboration with teachers, demonstrates daily a belief that learning is more than that which happens in classrooms, that leadership is a personal practice, that we care for each other and others and that our school exists for all who learn and work in it. I draw your attention to our students’ leadership of and participation in the World’s Greatest Shave as an example of this. A full report of this activity is on page 4 of this Newsletter. I commend our students for their athletic achievements and participation at the Athletics Carnival. A report is on page 5.

Staff appreciate the trust parents and students place in us to care for and nurture students and to make professionally grounded judgements about, and in the interests of students. The support and interest of parents is also appreciated for the value it adds to our work and to student achievement. It is very gratifying to have the input and involvement of parents who naturally have the strongest interest in their own child but who also see beyond that and who have an appreciation of broader issues and interests.

School Council
School Council is a formally constituted body which has a role in relation to support for school improvement through the School Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan, policy development and approval, development, approval and oversight of the school budget and as a forum for discussion. School Council comprises elected members having a two-year tenure, with approximately half retiring each year, and some members appointed as community members with a one-year term of office. As a consequence of the recent election for parent members to two parent-member category vacancies, Ms Sarita Dhawale and Dr Gondal were elected. This means the composition of School Council for the period April 1 2013 to March 31 2014 is Ms Tina McCarthy, Ms Sarita Dhawale, Mr Marty Oakes, Mr David Blake and Dr Iqbal Gondal, all in the parent membership category, staff members Ms Muollo, Mr Milner (Ms Kostiw as nominated proxy until August) and myself as School Council Executive Officer. At the first meeting of the new School Council, consideration will be given to the appointment of community members to Council. This allows the Council to have broader input through students and other community representatives.

Ms Dani Perrot has retired from School Council. I would like to acknowledge and thank Dani for her contribution to the deliberations and work of Council.

At the most recent meeting of School Council, the School Strategic Plan (SSP) 2013-2016 was adopted. This comprehensive plan for continued development and improvement follows our year of self-evaluation and external review in 2012. I invite parents to read the plan which can be accessed on the school website www.suzannecoryhs.vic.edu.au

Outstanding student success
Abdullah Sheriffdeen, Year 11 (Kororoit), was selected as member of the Victorian delegation for the 2013 School’s National Constitutional Convention held from 20-22 March 2013 in Old Parliament House, Canberra. This is an outstanding achievement and follows Ab-
dulla’s participation in related events in Victoria last year. Delegates to the convention are invited on the basis of assessment of the quality of their contribution in similar forums and their leadership potential. Delegates received a return flight to Canberra and were provided with accommodation during their stay. They also had the opportunity to meet and hear from national leaders. The topic discussed by delegates was ‘Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Islander People in the Constitution’. Congratulations Abdullah.

**Joint Selective Entry High Schools Professional Learning Day**

On Friday March 15, more than 350 teaching and support staff gathered at Suzanne Cory High School for the inaugural joint selective entry high schools professional learning day. The purpose of the day was to bring together staff from all four selective entry schools to share our experience and practice, to learn from each other and to establish professional networks.

Our School Captains, Tiffini Tran (Rothwell) and Ryaan Rashid (Kororoit) welcomed our guests and School Council President Ms Tina McCarthy opened proceedings and welcomed all present to Suzanne Cory High School. The day commenced with an address by Dr John Munro from the University of Melbourne. Dr Munro, an internationally acknowledged expert and consultant in the field of gifted education, discussed models of effective teaching for students of high ability. He linked research and practice to demonstrate effective methods and raised a number of questions which are the basis for continuing discussion. Mr Ian Burrage, from DEECD, addressed us on the outcomes and actions resulting from the recent state parliamentary inquiry in the education of gifted and talented students. Staff then worked in workshop groups based on common roles and topics of interest.

An evaluation of the day is underway and it is planned that this professional learning will continue, with a similar gathering to be held at Nossal High School in 2014. It was a source of great pleasure and pride to host this important day. Our guests were extremely interested in the school building and programs and expressed admiration for the manner in which our school captains and student ambassadors conducted themselves and represented the school. Congratulations to those students, to the many and various staff who supported the program by presenting workshops, assisting with administrative and organisational arrangements or organising furniture. Special thanks and acknowledgement to Ms Frances Muollo who led the organising committee and whose leadership and organisational skills ensured a highly successful and interesting experience for all participants.

**Term break**

As we head toward the term break may I thank all for your continuing support and contribution to our school. Term 2 commences on Monday April 15.

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable break. Students will have a limited amount of set work to complete over the break but will have time to rest and relax and perhaps enjoy some personal reading for pleasure.

Best wishes and thanks to all,

_Peter Starford | Principal_

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**WINTER UNIFORM:** Students are reminded that from Day 1 of Term 2 they may choose to wear either the summer or winter uniform. From Friday April 26th, the day after Anzac Day, winter uniform is compulsory for all students.

**Early dismissal time on Wednesday April 17**

Parents should note that students will have five shortened periods on this day, in order to enable staff to receive accredited training for Anaphylaxis emergencies. Students will be dismissed at 12:21pm.
Competition Writing Co-Curricular Group News

Last year students from the Competition Writing co-curricular group submitted writing to the Fellowship of Australian Writers National Literary Awards 2012. The National Literary Awards attract hundreds of entries from every state in Australia. Success of our students in this award is a reflection of both the quality of their entries and their strength as writers. Congratulations to all students who contributed to these collections.

Luke Mannix was awarded Highly Commended for his collection of writing 'Thought' in the Mavis Thorpe Clarke Award Part 1 (individual entry).

Students from Competition Writing (Semester 1, 2012) were awarded Highly Commended for a collection of writing ‘Ancient Persian Comics’ in the Mavis Clarke Thorpe Award Part 2 (group entry). Contributors were: Aishwaryaa Suresh Babu; Rigel Mascarenhas; Elena Demousthenous; David Tran; Malavika Jayakumar; Yousif Al-Mashat; Anupama Nayak; Veevan Nguyen and Rhyannion Mathison.

Students from Competition Writing (Semester 2, 2012) were awarded Highly Commended for a collection of writing ‘The Teen Years’ in the Mavis Clarke Thorpe Award Part 2 (group entry). Contributors were: Thao Tran; Ravindi Paragahatota Liyanage; David Tran; Elise Zsidai; Natasha Sharma; David Tran; Ashleigh Jom; Dee Verma; Lyn Nguyen and Titus Lee.

These awards will be presented at a ceremony on Friday April 12 and the collections of student writing will be available from the iCentre for students to read.

More information about the National Literary Awards can be found at: http://www.writers.asn.au/index.php?page=fawawards

Writing Competitions

Some writing competitions available for students this semester include:
The Commonwealth Essay Contest 2013 (All Year levels) http://www.thercs.org/youth/429
Write across Victoria (Year 9) (Details to be announced)
The Age ultimate story (Years 9-11) (Details to be announced)

Fiona Starford | Competition Writing

ASX Sharemarket Game

This term in Year 10 Economics, to supplement and extend their learning, the majority of students have elected to sort themselves into small syndicates to compete in the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) Sharemarket Game. In addition, Year 11 students in both of our VCE Economics classes have formed syndicates and the competition is hotting up. The game involves students using a hypothetical $50,000 to establish and maintain a portfolio of shares. The portfolios are valued based on real-life data and updated by the ASX live. The game is a useful life learning tool as students get to analyse real-life economic and business data on which to make buying and selling decisions. They are able to make capital gains from their investments and receive dividends as their target companies pay out. While there are prizes to be won in the game, the real benefits of the game are to:

- develop a knowledge of the sharemarket
- learn how to research companies
- discover the importance of wise investment decisions
- begin to learn more about investing which is beneficial for their future

Despite the sharemarket struggling over the past few weeks, several syndicates have done some great research and are performing well in the game to this point. None more so than “Dao Corp” who currently sit 46th in Victoria and 192nd of over 15,000 national syndicates. They are closely followed by “Fenby’s Chamber of Commerce” who are also in the top 100 in the state. I encourage all syndicates to continue researching and developing investment strategies to learn valuable investing skills for later in life. For those syndicates who haven’t yet traded in the game, there are still about seven weeks remaining for you to get involved. The Sharemarket Game runs again in Term 3 when syndicates will be able to put into practice the lessons learnt this time around. Good luck to all.

Mr Bourke | Humanities Teacher
Over the past few weeks students and staff at Suzanne Cory High School have been actively collecting donations in support of the Cancer Council’s “World’s Greatest Shave.”

The idea initially came from Caroline Alchin in 10D who had registered as a volunteer to shave her hair in order to collect funds for the fight against leukaemia. House Captains came on board to support her and decided that in order to encourage participation and donations they would make it a House competition.

So collection tins were circulated in the Agora and on the 19th of March a “Cake Sale” was held with each house offering a variety of sweet, delectable and delicious treats. On a fine, sunny day the courtyard outside the Agora was abuzz with students and staff sampling the many different, cakes, cookies, fairy floss and biscuits. Their generosity resulted in $634 being raised with Blackwood contributing $227 dollars and therefore winning the House Cake Sale Competition.

On Thursday 21st of March the main event took place in the auditorium at lunchtime. Five students, Caroline Alchin 10D, Kelvin Tran 10C, Jackson Zhang 10C, Ricky John 10E and Zayd Mohammad 10G, as well as the surprise guest, Mr Trajanovski stood before a packed crowd and had their hair shaved by Ms Ladd, Ms Kylie Lee and Ms Karen Mirza from Kangan TAFE who donated their time and had the task of calming the nerves as well as cutting hair.

We would like to thank all those who generously contributed money, time or cakes, the volunteers who made the most personal contribution and the hairdressers for making this such a successful week.

The combined totals from the collection tins, cake sale and hair shaving raised $1237.20, with a further $200 donated by the Parents and Friends Association and $40 from an online donation.

This resulted in a total school donation of $1477.20.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved.

Ms Blain | House Program Coordinator
Athletics Carnival

The House Athletics Carnival was held on Friday 22nd March at the Victoria University Athletics Track. The day was very successful with staff and students celebrating the school’s values through physical activity. A rich school culture was evident and the atmosphere was electric from start to finish. Students competed in track and field events throughout the day, house colours were paraded and many a sausage sizzled. The overall house winner for the day was Cottrell. On the competitive side, a boy and girl from each year level was selected as overall winners based on number of wins in both track and field. The winners, who will be presented with an award at an assembly in term 2, are listed below:

Year 9 boys: Ahnaf-Al Wahab
Year 9 girls: Sandra Vilvarajan
Year 10 boys: Ravee Pathya
Year 10 girls: Emily Lew
Year 11 boys: David Nguyen
Year 11 girls: Darcy Hales

Well done to all the participants!

Mr McDowell | Sports Coordinator

Values Cards

Over the past few weeks students have continued to uphold the Suzanne Cory values and were given recognition for their efforts by receiving Values Cards and contributing points to their Houses. Students have been rewarded for such things as assisting teachers with equipment, submitting work of a high standard, improving their punctuality, wearing the school uniform correctly and performing at assembly.

Students receiving cards were:


Blackwood: 9D: Whole Class, 9E: Whole Class, Andrea Kovacevic, Crystal Egodawatte, Syeda Abedi, Devika Nair, 10F: Harrison Nguyen, Joseph Nguyen, Kathy Phan, Lisa Nguyen, Ravee Pathya, Newton Dao Nguyen x2, 10G: Rehan Tissera x2, Lyn Le, Elif Yildiz x2, Anupama Nayak x2, 11D: Andy Chung, Bailey Allen, Eric Ng, Kevin Xu, 11H: Saurya Shrestha

Rothwell: 9B: Briannen Hermans, Darcy Morgan, Andrei Kostovski, Zaynab Sherifdeen, Naga Santoshi Vedula, 9G: Daniel Chahine, Brian Nguyen, Nick Ziino, Hiruni Seneviratne, 10B: Timothy Eastwood, 10C: Yu Cong Ding, Mykky Luong, Alicia Lim, Elicia Lai, 11E: Jervis Lai, April Custodio, Tiffini Tran x2, 11F: Duong Vo, Sophia Nguyen

Cottrell: 9A: Alanah Noronha, Zoe Cook, Whole Class x2, 9C: Matthew Chen, Jasmine Xiao, Whole Class x2, 10A: Ryhannion Mathison x2, Kristine Nguyen, 10D: Rachel Appel, Peter Duong, Aaron Gomes, Garge Gollacheenmalage, Sungwoo Jin, 11A: Sandra Isaac, 11G: Michelle Trinh, Anhkim Tran, Mary Nguyen, Monika Sekulic, Zahra’a Albariki, Siraj Ansari, Ajishia Kizhakumtala

Congratulations to all students!

Ms Blain | House Program Coordinator
Nillumbik Shire Council invites writers living in Australia to enter the 2013 Alan Marshall Short Story Award. There are three sections:

1. Open Section: $3000 first prize for fictional stories up to 2500 words, open to writers residing anywhere in Australia. Entry fee: $16 per story.
2. Local Writers Section: $2000 prize for a fictional story up to 2500 words, open to writers who live, work or study in the Shire of Nillumbik. Entry fee: $16 per story.
3. Young Writers Section: $400 prize for a fictional story up to 1000 words, open to all young people aged between 14 and 18 years, residing anywhere in Australia. Entry is free.

Entries close: Friday 17 May 2013 (postmarked)

Ekphrasis is a genre of poetry that explores works of art and seeks to ‘gets inside’ its visual subject. The Nillumbik Ekphrasis Poetry Award is a celebration of the Nillumbik Art Collection and the literary arts. Poets are invited to respond to one or more artworks from the Nillumbik Art Collection with a poem in any genre, up to 12 lines in length. Each poet may enter up to three poems. You must use a separate entry form and fee for each poem entered. There is a $10 entry fee for each poem entered, with the exception of the Young Poets Section (no entry fee).

The 2013 Nillumbik Ekphrasis Poetry Award will explore “rhizomata”, the four elements of earth, water, air and fire, as defined by the 5th century BC Greek philosopher and poet, Empedocles.

First prize: $500
Second prize: $300
Third prize: $200
Youth prize: $150 (12-18 years old) Entry is free

Judges will also select twelve poems to be printed on a series of postcards with the corresponding artwork.

Entries close on Monday 15 April 2013 (postmarked)

See the following website for more information and entry forms for both competitions
http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Things_to_do/Arts_and_culture/Awards_and_Prizes

The first round of the interschool debating competition took place last Wednesday evening at Williamstown High School. This has come at a challenging time for students as many are faced with multiple assessment tasks across a range of subjects. The balance between core academic requirements and co-curricular activities is one we all face in the life of the school. Nevertheless, one of our Year 9 teams, Alicia Plessa, Becky Su and Kristine Carlos, chalked up a convincing victory with Kristine carrying off the best speaker award. Our other Year 9 team consisting of Eden Ahmed, Tasfia Alam and Raiyana Ahmed narrowly lost their debate by only three points, demonstrating their overall competitiveness at this level. Our sole Year 10 team, comprising Emily Lew, Timothy Eastwood and Ali Naqvi, came within one point with Timothy picking up best speaker award. The result for our Year 11 team, which included Matthew Lagamba, Sanjiv Raveendiran and Abiramy Selvanathan also came within one point of victory with Matthew picking up best speaker. So overall there continues to be some excellent personal achievements with some more work to do on the team aspects of debating. Term 2 will be a busy time for students involved in debating and public speaking. There are three rounds of interschool debating and opportunities for students to partake in both the Plain English Speaking Awards (PESA) and the Wynspeak public speaking competitions.

Mr Cummins | Debating Coordinator
Avalon Air Show and Defence Expo
A group of Year 11 students recently attended the Avalon Air Show and Careers Expo where they heard about the wide range of careers available in the aviation industry. It was interesting to hear from young people in the industry about the various pathways they took in order to get to their current roles as aircraft maintenance engineers, aeronautical engineers, pilots, defence force staff and flight attendants, to name just a few. Added to this was the opportunity to see and speak to the people who operate the many aircraft on display. This included everything from the RAAF Roulettes, FA 18 Hornets and Super Hornets to C130 J Hercules.

University of Tasmania
Last week I had the privilege of attending the University of Tasmania’s, Career Adviser Symposium where I saw firsthand the University’s facilities in Hobart and Launceston. Of particular interest was the tour of the new facilities for the medical and biomedical students where classes take place across the road from the Royal Hobart Hospital. The radio telescopes based at Mt Pleasant and involved in research work with other space science observatories around the world was another standout. In Launceston I saw the state of the art facilities at the Australian Maritime College where future marine & maritime engineers, naval architects and maritime logistics managers are trained before they take up jobs all over the world. The university offers courses in wide range of areas and encourages mainland students through generous scholarship opportunities. Students and parents can find more information at the University of Tasmania website www.utas.edu.au. I am also happy to discuss course information and pathways with any interested students and/or parents.

Explore Course and Careers at RMIT – Back by popular demand in 2013, is a range of ‘Experience Day’ holiday programs for Year 10-12 students. Get a hands-on and interactive experience of courses on offer at RMIT, and find out about careers in accounting, engineering, fashion, justice, medical sciences, media, advertising, environment, IT, and art and design. To register interest and to be notified when events are on go to: www.rmit.edu.au/experiencedays.

Engineers Careers Expo— Engineers Australia has an Expo providing interactive workshops, over 80 exhibitors, presentations and advice from leaders in the engineering profession. When: 11am-7pm, Thurs 21 Mar; Where: Etihad stadium; Information: www.engineeringexpo.org.au; OR: Call Sarah on 9321 1703, scooke@engineersaustralia.org.au.

Ms Clarke | Careers, Pathways & Awards Officer

OPEN DAY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (10am – 4pm)
Sat 3 Aug – Monash Uni (Berwick, Gippsland, Parkville, Peninsula campuses)
Sun 4 Aug – Deakin Uni (Warrnambool); Monash Uni (Caulfield, Clayton); Swinburne (Uni & TAFE) (Hawthorn)
Sun 11 Aug – Australian Catholic Uni (Melbourne); Deakin (Geelong); RMIT (Uni and TAFE)
Sun 18 Aug –La Trobe Uni (Bendigo); Melbourne Uni (Parkville & Southbank - VCA);
Sun 25 Aug – ACU (Ballarat); Ballarat Uni; Box Hill Institute: Deakin (Burwood); La Trobe (Bundoora); Victoria Uni; William Angliss Institute
Sun 1 Sept – La Trobe (Albury/Wodonga)
Suzanne Cory High School will provide an opportunity for all interested Year 9 students to participate in a tour of Canberra during the last week of Term 2. The travel to Canberra is by luxury coach, departing the morning of Monday 24th June and the return home is by plane, with a flight scheduled for the afternoon of Friday 28th June. On arrival in Melbourne, the group is transferred back to school by coach for pick up.

The experiences and places visited during this tour to the nation's capital provide students with an opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of present and past Australian society. These experiences are designed to support and complement learning in the areas of Science, History, Geography, Politics and Civics at Years 9-12. A total of 14 venues are included in the tour, providing a wealth of rich experiences in and around Canberra.

During Home group, all Year 9 students should have received information about the upcoming Canberra Tour. An information evening will be held for participating students in early May.

Please be aware that places are limited and that travel bookings have been made for 57 students and 6 staff at this stage. It is important that deposits are returned to the general office by Monday 22nd April. Payment options for the balance of the costs are available from the general office.

Please see Ms Muollo if you have any questions.

Semester 1 Interim Reports

Term 1 Interim Reports have been prepared for selected students and will be mailed home at the end of term. If your child receives an interim report in the mail, please discuss the feedback provided with your child and if required, with your child's Student Wellbeing Leader who can be contacted at the school on 8734 2800.

The Student Wellbeing Leaders are:
Year 9—Ms Lisa Guastella; Year 10—Mr Darren Nicholas and Year 11—Mr Travis Hand

Do you have any old mobile phones lying around the house?

We are collecting unwanted mobile phones to raise money & help our environment. Our school will receive $3 for each phone received working, or not working. Please send any old mobile phones lying around the house to school with your child. Also, talk to your friends, colleagues, neighbours and other family members and encourage them to clean out that bottom drawer and finally get rid of the old phones that have been doing nothing but collecting dust.

www.australianmobilerecycling.com.au

Please consider the environment when printing this document.

All material printed in this newsletter is correct at the time of printing. Any errors are unintentional

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