Principal’s Report

Suzanne Cory High School provides a rich and diverse education. The concept of the ‘Renaissance person’, the well-rounded individual, is essential for future educational success. The programs offered at the school, both inside, and outside, the classroom provide a diversity of learning opportunities and experiences that enhance the character and education of each and every one of our students. They also provide a variety of skills and knowledge which will prove beneficial in the future.

Participation in all aspects of the program is the key to success at school. As I have stated to parents and students many times, “we are not an academic sausage factory”! In any one cycle, all students will participate in a variety of timetabled activities, all are of equal importance. One of the realities of the future job market is that ‘soft skills’ are increasingly becoming important for success in at both university and the job market. Purely focussing on academic success is no guarantee for future success. The ATAR is but a number that opens the door, but the individual still needs to negotiate through what lies beyond.

In the past month the school has been living the diversity of opportunity and experience. The most obvious, and public, event was the school’s first ever musical; Little Shop of Horrors. What an amazing show! Over three nights and with over 750 people coming to see the show, this was an ideal example of what

Little Shop of Horrors

Meek florist’s assistant Seymour Krelborn finds an unusual looking plant during a total eclipse of the sun and names it after the girl that he secretly adores. But as the plant grows so does its appetite...

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educational opportunities the school provides. The musical was so successful that we’re already planning for 2017! And there is also the likelihood of a play as well.

Over the past two weeks we have also celebrated LOTE week and ADT week. Both these weeks were opportunities for the relevant areas of the school to showcase the work they do on a daily basis throughout the year. And the highlight is the always colourful national dress day and subsequent parade. And just when we all thought there wasn’t time to do anything else, various sporting teams were representing the school. And on the weekend our students are still representing the school. On the same weekend as the musical a group of girls competed in a Bollywood school dance competition; and placed second! We are already having discussions how we can offer this as a co-curricular activity.

Every activity, timetabled class and aspect of the school program is essential to the overall development of the students. There is the expectation that the students attend all timetabled classes; this includes sport and co-curricular.

Colin Axup
Principal
Intermediate Badminton - Second Round Competition

Our boys and girls intermediate teams both got through to the second round of the badminton competition.

The girls team was: Divya Venkatesan, Sarah Nguyen, Frances Tabue, Rubina Singh and Praghya Godavarthy, all from year 10 and Sneha Chhetri from year 9.

The girls beat all three teams in their pool, with a decisive victory over Maribyrnong Sports Academy (6-0) and Matthew Flinders (6-0), and a slightly closer win against Melton (4-2). All of the girls played with real commitment and worked well as a team, taking responsibility for umpiring for one another.

In the semi-finals the girls played Laverton for another clear win (6-0). The finals were against the more experienced team from Braybrook. There was some fantastic singles play from Divya, Sarah, Praghya and Rubina, while Sneha and Frances made a hardworking doubles pair. The final score was 5-1 (points 114 -71). We didn’t quite make it to state comp this year but we took home the pennant for runners up. Well done girls.

The boys team comprised Steven Law, Justin Jose from year 10, Athan Tsoulos and Devesh Sharma from year 9. Two of our players couldn’t make it on the day so the boys had to work hard, with everyone playing both singles and doubles games. They had a convincing win against Melton (6-0) but then came up against the might of the Maribyrnong boys team, who comprise mainly state players – even then they scored some points. They fought for a win against Belmont (3-3; points 105-82) which meant they were drawn in the semi-final against Footscray City. They played hard, with Steven and Devesh’s singles games being particularly close, but lost to come fourth in the competition overall.

This was a great day’s play by all – everyone showed real commitment and support for their team. Next year...

Helen Bradwell

Victorian Zonal Chess Tournament

Chess has acquired a high reputation as being a means to discipline the mind, because it requires a strong memory and peculiar powers of combination, forward strategic planning and time management. It is also generally believed that skill in playing Chess is an evidence of superior intellect. Given how popular Chess is at our school and how active the Chess club members are, it was the natural step for our Chess club to successfully apply for and to host a Victorian Zonal tournament at the school.

Our students have competed against participants from variety of schools from all over Victoria, and while only Robert Tran and Shehan Wisidagama qualified to represent our school at the state finals, all participants gained experience on how to play competitive Chess, not to mention the new friendships they developed with some of the other Chess players.

Our school’s Chess club will continue providing opportunities for students to excel in Chess, and we are sure our students would always welcome a challenge.

Isaac Ryan
Chess Club Co-ordinator
Little Shop of Horrors

This term saw the hard work of Suzanne Cory High School students and staff alike come to fruition, as they took to the stage in their very first musical production - Little Shop of Horrors. Starting with auditions at the end of 2015, the creative team behind this production - led by Ms. Helena Moore - worked tirelessly with the students involved to create the whole world of this production. While the performers worked during co-curricular rehearsals to learn their lines and blocking, there were teams of tireless students and staff working on costuming, creating the program and posters, and developing sound and lighting designs to help bring life to this ambitious project.

Little Shop of Horrors sees meek florist’s assistant Seymour Krelborn find an unusual looking plant during a total eclipse of the sun and names it after the girl that he secretly adores. When Seymour discovers that his little ‘Audrey II’ has a taste for blood, he grudgingly caters to the plant’s needs and is rewarded with fame, fortune and the girl of his dreams. But as the plant grows so does its appetite, and it isn’t long before it wants more than just blood...

The three performances ran like clockwork - with nearly sold out performances finishing the run. A huge thanks to everyone who worked so hard to bring our Little Shop of Horrors to life, and thank you to everyone who supported our show.

The musical was an absolute dream!

After it ended, I spent countless hours in my room not knowing what to do with my life (even though I had a pile of homework waiting for me in the corner).

Three weeks later and I still miss the lights, music and thrill of being on stage. I cannot express how much being in the musical has changed me. I’ve made so many close friends and bonded with an awesome bunch of staff. Thank you to everyone for all the AMAZING memories. The cast still quote from the songs till this very day. (I’ll be singing Little Shop till I die).

Melissa Lam
Year 11 Student
Being in the musical was truly a unique and amazing experience. Although it took time out of Year 12, it was an experience I would never trade in for the world. Playing the role of Audrey II was challenging in the sense that it required a level of confidence and an element of eccentricity that was foreign to me. However, through continuous support from Ms Moore and other cast members, I was able to overcome the barriers I set upon myself. Hence allowing me to find my character.

The overall musical experience, enabled myself and other cast members to not only find the confidence to deliver a great show night after night, we also found the confidence to get out of our own comfort zones. Teaching we are capable of achieving far more than the limits we had initially set upon ourselves.

Kristine Carlos
Year 12 Student
Year 12 English Excursion to University of Melbourne

On Wednesday 20th July, all students undertaking Units 3/4 English spent the day at the University of Melbourne. In the morning they listened to a lecture from Professor Christopher Gribbin who shared his expert knowledge of the Classical Era, setting the context for the play Medea by Euripides. In the afternoon, students watched a performance of the play, directed by Andrew Blackman and presented by the Complete Works Theatre Company. This valuable learning opportunity was a great way to commence the final outcome of Unit 4 English.

Cindy Sullivan

“The performance changed the way that I see the play. Medea was portrayed as having a bit of a divided personality—I didn’t see her in this way when I read the play.”

“The lecture was amazing. It broadened our knowledge of the historical/social context. It helped us to understand the motivations of Medea and Jason.”

“The performance brought life to the play and created an initial impression of how we might perceive the characters once we start studying the play.”

“The lecture provided an interesting insight to the historical context within which the play was created. Prior to the lecture I didn’t realise that Medea was such a renowned figure among the Ancient Greeks.”

“The text itself invites us to form different readings of the character Medea, but the performance seemed to emphasise one reading.”

A Voice from the Past - Life after High School

Bianca Lee a 2014 graduate of Suzanne Cory High School has been living in Bendigo on campus accommodation for the last 12 months and is currently studying a Bachelor of Health Sciences in Dentistry/Master of Dentistry at La Trobe University.

Since February 2016, Bianca has been a student leader within the residential precinct, responsible for creating a positive community, supporting environment, supporting the successful transition of new students and providing events for fellow residents to ensure they have a positive experience here on res. Bianca is an Health and Wellbeing Student Leader who provides key elements of living here at La Trobe.

“Living on res has been an exciting, fun and challenging experience. It’s been great living in such a supportive community”, Bianca says.

Accommodation Services Residential Education Coordinators, Rachel Olsen and Georgia Irvine say that Student Leaders such as Bianca are not only excellent role models and sources of support for our 615 residents, but they also critically important in the provision and support of a respectful environment for our students to live and learn on campus.

“Student Leadership has given me the opportunity to meet new people, form relationships with people from different backgrounds and has facilitated my growth as a leader.”

Accommodation Services
La Trobe University Bendigo
High School Dance Competition

High School Dance Competition is a freestyle dance competition that “aims to encourage students to participate in activities beyond learning”. Our school, Suzanne Cory High School, participated and was awarded third prize this year. It all started when a student registered our school’s name in the competition.

Neha Devarakonda (Year 11) was our student co-ordinator and Mrs. Blain was our teacher co-ordinator who organised the program. They gave an announcement through compass and approximately 30 students signed up. A small group was formed to choreograph the songs: Tu har lamha, rangeela, laung gawacha, nachan farrate and malhari. Towards the end, we only had 18 committed students and the entire month of July was packed with practice sessions. We had practices at lunch every day and sometimes recess. who came and supported SCHS, it was indeed a great help. Behalf of the school, we congratulate Werribee Secondary School for winning the competition and Point Cook Secondary College for coming second. We would also like to congratulate the rest of the schools that participated. Also, a big congratulations to Sifti Singh (Year 11) for earning the best female dancer award.

When we asked students who had competed about their experience, they said that “it was a fun experience that we would love to do again and again.” It was a very great way for us to improve our teamwork, coordination and dancing skills. We also met many new people from different schools around Melbourne. It was not only a way to perform and represent our school, but also an unforgettable experience with lasting memories. The most exciting part, however, was when Mr. Axup agreed to add HSDC as part of our co-curricular program next year. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Finally, we would like to say a big thank you to Mrs. Blain for being with us every practice session during and after school and never complaining about it. Thank you so much for your feedback as well, it really helped us improve a lot. We would also like to thank Neha for arranging the costumes and organising our sessions. Thank you to everyone who participated for their ongoing dedication.

Yesh Boddu, Sandra Varghese, Aahana Kaushal
TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday August 19th, 7-9pm
Suzanne Cory High School
$15 per head or $100 for a table
(maximum 8 people)

For the Asia Pacific Youth Foundation Cambodia Tour -
Help us build a school for Cambodian children

Raffles and prizes to be won on the day

BYO Food and Drink
Tickets can be purchased through eventbrite.com.au - search for "Suzanne Cory Trivia Night"