From the Principal's Desk

Attitudes to School Survey 2013

The results for the annual student survey have just arrived in schools. The results for Swinburne Senior paint a very healthy picture of our students. The survey was completed in May this year with students responding to a variety of questions. For the majority of categories, the results were the highest that our students have posted.

Year 11
Student Relationships
- Classroom Behaviour
- Connectedness to Peers
- Student Safety

Teaching and Learning
- Learning Confidence
- School Connectedness
- Stimulating Learning
- Student Motivation
- Teacher Effectiveness
- Teacher Empathy

Wellbeing
- Student Morale

The results in the above categories were the highest scored by our Year 11 students in the last five years and, with the exceptions of Learning Confidence and Student Motivation, higher than the State means.

Year 12
Student Relationships
- Classroom Behaviour
- Student Safety

Teaching and Learning
- School Connectedness
- Stimulating Learning
- Student Motivation
- Teacher Effectiveness

Wellbeing
- Student Morale
- Student Distress

The results in the above categories were the highest scored by our Year 12 students in the last five years and, with the exception of Student Motivation, higher than the State means.

Triple J Unearthed High

Excitement gripped the school over the past few weeks when a band called When We Were Small were announced as one of the finalists in Triple J’s Unearthed High competition.

The band comprises four members with two attending Swinburne Senior. Jack Cross (guitar) and Francesco Galati-Grossi (drums) are Year 11 students and have been with the band for a few years now. They describe the genre of their band as being Indie but admit to being influenced by a broad range of music.

The band’s current single, Untied, received rave reviews and received airplay on Triple J. It currently tops the charts for Unearthed High 2013.

The boys were extremely active in generating support for the competition and were very grateful that their fellow Swinburne students embraced them so warmly. They would like to pass on their sincere thanks to everyone who supported them.

I am hoping to have When We Were Small play at a Friday lunchtime concert in the near future.

Centenary Celebrations

The celebrations for our centenary begin next Tuesday 27 August with a dinner at Leonda by the River for current and ex-staff members. A number of special guests will be helping with this event and include Ted Baillieu (State member for Hawthorn), Josh Frydenberg (Federal member for Kooyong) and Linda Kristjansen (vice-chancellor of Swinbur ne University). More details of the event will be provided in the next newsletter.

Michael O’Brien-Principal

Assistant Principal’s Report

Semester Two is well underway with our students busy completing assessed coursework. The Parent-Teacher Interviews conducted on Wednesday 14 August offered an opportunity for teachers to meet with parents to discuss their progress and achievement levels.

Emily, our Careers Advisor, has been working hard looking at 2014 pathways for our exiting students. This includes sorting through the complexities of making applications through VTAC for university degrees and TAFE diploma courses. The career night earlier this semester was a successful event where a number of university staff attended and outlined course programs and requirements for entry.

Emily is running course counseling interviews for year 12 students outlining all pathways options for next year.

A dress to impress theme for this year’s school formal saw over 350 students attend Leonda by the River on Tuesday 23 July. This event was a great success. The SRC organised a photo booth, great music and encouraged lots of dancing. I would like to thank all the students that participated in this fabulous night for making it so memorable. All photographs taken on the night are accessible on the Happy Medium website.

www.happymedium.com.au

Rob Lewkowicz-Assistant Principal
Our Resident Psychologist
Margaret Naughtin is an experienced psychologist who has worked in educational settings for many years. She has expertise in the assessment of cognitive abilities and in the diagnosis of learning difficulties in students. Her work also includes assistance to students to improve their learning strategies and study skills. She finds her work particularly satisfying when students work hard to overcome difficulties and can see that they have progressed.

Margaret is employed by DEECD and works with students from Prep to Year 12. She is also a former teacher who has taught in both primary and secondary schools and in a tertiary institution.

Margaret works at Swinburne on Monday-fortnightly.

Our Resident Social Worker
Marg Bianchi’s role is to support students by working together with teachers and family to improve educational outcomes. Marg has strong links with community and works collaboratively towards overcoming barriers to students reaching their potential. She works towards strengthening relationships between school and family.

Marg works at Swinburne for a half day each Tuesday morning and Friday afternoon.

Industry and Enterprise and Business Management students are googlified!
Students learnt the intricacies of job placements through an excursion to watch the film “The Internship”. The story line revolved around two mature age sales personnel who lose their jobs in a small business selling luxury watches and land an opportunity to prove themselves fit to do an internship in “Google”. They struggle to prove themselves amongst much younger, technologically savvy, university graduates who are all vying to land a job in the “best place to work”. They adapt, face resistance, learn new skills but are also able to bring to their team experience, maturity and well developed sales and networking skills to help their team win the internship in the end.

As part of the Business Management and Industry and Enterprise courses, students learn the theory of managing staff, developing employability skills like teamwork, communication, problem solving, technological abilities, adaptability, initiative, learning and self-awareness. This movie offered a practical pop culture look at the theory studied and the overall feedback was - we must move the classroom to the cinemas more often!

Gita Menon
Business Team Leader

How would you rate schools today?
In just over two months, 12 years of schooling for over 200 Swinburne Senior Secondary College students will come to an end. Year 12 is finished and with that a whole new world will open up. For some it will be University, some TAFE, some the workplace and for others it may be the start of something completely new and not yet even imagined.

At the end of Year 12, students do not receive a ‘Report Card’ as they have in the past 12 years; rather they receive their completion certificate, either VCE or VCAL. However what sort of ‘Report Card’ would the school receive from the students, and schools in general?

In these last few months of the VCAL Senior Literacy class, the students have been exploring the role of purpose of schools with the aim of producing a ‘Report Card’ on their own and others experience of schooling.

This has involved a number of activities such as writing letters to past teachers who made a positive impact on their lives, and identifying inspirational learning moments. Additionally working in groups students are researching both the past, present and future of schools. This includes researching and writing articles on the evolution of schooling in Australia, the future of schooling and surveying students, staff and parents about their experiences, understandings and hopes for schools today. These results will be analysed and compiled into research reports, providing the students with important information gathering skills, analysis skills and summative writing skills.

The findings, together with all research articles and glimpses of personal highlights and challenges relating to school will be collated into a booklet and be available at Valedictory in December. Below is a request from students on all parents to participate in this activity and complete an online survey on the role and purpose of schooling. On behalf of the VCAL Senior Literacy class I thank you in anticipation of your support.

Elizabeth Reardon
VCAL Coordinator
Dear parents, as a part of our senior literacy class, we are researching the role of schooling and education. My group is looking at in particular what parents think what the roles of schools should be today and in the future. We would appreciate it if you could click on the attached link and complete the survey. If you could do this by Monday 26 August it would be awesome.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5XTFBTN

Rob and Henry

The legal studies excursion to the Metropolitan Remand Centre
On Tuesday the 6th of August, the year 11 Legal studies class went on an excursion to the Metropolitan Remand Centre. Located near St. Albans, the bus ride took us forty-five minutes before we finally reached our destination. This was OK though, as many students had come prepared with a variety of tasty snacks to share around. It also gave us all some time to exchange our ideas on what we might find and explore any questions that we might have had.

Above: Yr 11 Legal Studies class on the bus ready to go to the remand centre.

When we arrived there we had to go through a rigorous security screening process which involved us walking through a futuristic looking device which tested the air quality to determine if we had any explosives on us. Thankfully we didn’t and were able to proceed down to the visitors’ centre.

In the visitors’ centre we were welcomed with some tea and coffee. There was a full-scale plastic map of a prison cell on the floor which gave us an insight into the cramped conditions these prisoners spend up to 12 hours per day.

The prisoners finally arrived in the welcome centre and we split up into two groups so that we could have a chat to them about life in the remand centre. The students were able to engage in a free dialogue which allowed them to ask any questions of the prisoners. There were many fascinating points raised from lessons learned on the inside to the workings of the criminal legal system.

Overall it was a great day which was well enjoyed by all of the students and most importantly it gave them a unique insight into this particular aspect of the legal system.

Above: The Yr 11 Legal Studies class outside the remand centre.

Marcus Laging
Yr. 11 Legal Studies teacher

On Tuesday 6th of August, Swinburne’s year 11 Legal Studies class went on an excursion. The experience of going to the Metropolitan Remand Centre was one of a kind. Going to a prison was one thing, but going to the Remand centre, was completely different. The people we interviewed were on trial. Therefore, we had to talk to them in a much more polite manner, as if they were everyday people just like us. A sense of equality had to be maintained. As soon as we got there, we were strip searched (I’m joking). However, the people we were going to interview were actually strip searched before they could meet us. We, in the meantime, just had to remove any hoodies, empty our pockets, walk through a full body scan, and had to be individually searched by prison guards. Also, before we could meet the people on trial, we were given a long and informative speech about the Metropolitan Remand Centre itself. Our teacher found it very enlightening, however, I begged to differ.

The whole interview process was very interesting. We informally shared biscuits and cordial with five alleged criminals. They told us about the crimes that they confirmedly committed and also about the crimes that they allegedly committed. Some of these crimes included-Assault, armed robbery, trespass to goods, trespass to land, drug manufacturing, drug trafficking, arson, and murder. One thing that all five of these people on trial had in common, was that at least one each of their wrongful actions was taken under the influence of emotion(s). Unfortunately for them, emotion does not justify the breaking of laws. Personally, I felt very exclusive at the time, to be sitting directly opposite to a man, who literally chainsawed a woman’s head and limbs off, and then hid the remaining her body’s remaining parts.

I had asked an alleged criminal what he missed the most from the world outside of the centre. He answered saying, “Honestly, nothing. We have everything here. You can eat as much as you want, you can shower for as long as you want, and you can live without having to conform to a particular society”. I personally thought his answer was bizarre. Sexual intercourse would have been a decent enough answer. What we all seemed to find interesting was that the alleged criminals did not seem regretful of their actions. It was as if they did acknowledge them, however they did not oppose to a single one of their past decisions. Not a single person complained about anything. Overall, the excursion was an experience like no other.
was a once in a lifetime chance and it felt good to take full advantage of the opportunity.

Rashmi Rao  
Year 11  
“Mansfield”  
Mansfield. The day long bus ride down the never ending highway that leads to nowhere and then here we are. Every hour spent playing I Spy is worth it for the moment the doors open, and the country breeze rushes past our eager lips. Breath it in. We’re here, we’re free.

This place holds so many memories. Stories of my childhood lie scattered through the towering grass, on pathways down the rugged banks of the river. They hang in the cloud, swaying in the soft breeze. Every moment lost from my mind is held in the bubbling river, catching in the sticks and weeds.

In Mansfield we are young, innocent, untouched. We are free to be little, to be bright eyed and excitable. Oblivious to stern looks and furrowed eyebrows, everything is play. There is no danger or worries in the world, there is no concern. The bills are paid, there’s money for food, and the mortgage isn’t due till next week. Everything’s smiles, Dad’s not angry, this time he might even stay longer than a few hours. His embrace is warm and the smell of tobacco and with a hint of something else is welcome and comforting. His wide smiled kiss is prickly on our foreheads, his leather jacket soft over his flannel shirt and his bag holds treats and surprises, I just know it. We each claim arm and leg to tug upon as we drag him into our laughter, and show him our every discovery since the last time he visited.

Mum’s face is full and bright and her cheeks rosy, and she’s smiling as strands of black hair fall softly beside her face, freed from the clasps of her sunflower hairclip. Her hands are rough and dirty, fresh from the garden, where a row of fresh seeds lie planted and watered under the rich soil. She carelessly wipes her palms on her aged blue jeans, and shakes the dirt from her leather boots.

The sky is blue and hot with the summer sun, burning burning burning.

We’re sprawled on the rocks like snakes, soaking up the rays of the harsh Australian sun. The blue tongued lizard even shows a hint of a smile, as he rolls his lazy eyes back and settles into a shady nap. Far from home, this is adventure, this is discovery. This is new, fresh, summer, forget about the yells and deadly silence, just let yourself laugh out loud into the breeze. And we do, giggling, pointing, wrinkling our youthful faces. The river licks the hillsides playfully and trees dip their branches into the cool stream. Relief. They breath out a sigh of relaxation and let the current drag their lazy arms downstream, tugging at their trunks. They hold their roots deep in the grainy earth and sway in the staggering heat, making shade for us. We are kings and queens, we are explorers.

We make chocolate mud pies in the pools of the rocks, stirring with sticks from the riverbank. When they’re done we fling them into the water, spraying wet muddy sand through the air. No need to wash the dishes, we jump in too, splashing and writhing in the freezing rushing ripples. The adults lie in the leafy green shade on sandy towels, baskets of food and books surrounding them. Packed lunches of homemade salad sandwiches lie waiting, made with grainy bread cut in quarters. And for afters there’s peanut butter ones, and fresh cut fruit and maybe even a slice of chocolate porridge cake if we eat our crusts. A bottle of weak icy Ribina is kept in the cold esky, safe from the hot heavy breath of the wind. Sisters, mothers, daughters with matching laughs, matching bather tan tines and matching freckles. Shoes, hats and bathers are spread over the grass where we flung them off in anticipation, as we ran into the sensational cold water. We are free, splashing in the pool of freshness with childish delight.

Leaving doesn’t cross our wandering minds, not just yet. The tantrums and the tired wails can wait till later, right now is time for smiles. The cold will set in, and the ants will find the open containers of sesame snaps, and march triumphantly home with the few tiny crumbs. Then will come to venture to the big wooden house, to wash our feet and warm our tiny hands. But not for now, not till the sun disappears behind the gum trees and settles below the horizon. Not until our skin grows blotchy from the cold and we can’t hide the chatter of our teeth as we jitter from the drips of water on our skin.

Mansfield is now, Mansfield is here, nothing else in the world holds power to trouble my mind. In Mansfield I am witty, enthusiastic and hungry. There’s no boundaries, no need for control, and its okay to be selfish. In Mansfield am a child, not a parent, and its okay.

Rose Bryss  
Year 11

SSSC Careers Newsletters  
Students, Parents and Guardians will hopefully be aware that once a month a specific ‘SSSC Careers newsletter’ is uploaded to Compass and to the SSSC Careers Facebook page. This newsletter updates SSSC students and their parents and guardians about careers events that are happening around the state. Students are encouraged to read this newsletter to keep up to date with everything they need to know about life after high school.

These newsletters will be published more frequently in term 3 in order to keep students up to date with Open Days and course information that will be needed by students applying through VTAC.

Emily Barnes  
Careers Advisor

RSPCA Cup Cakes Fundraiser  
Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to purchase some really great cup cakes on Monday 19 August. The cakes were sold over recess and lunchtime with all proceeds going to the RSPCA.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 29th January</td>
<td>Teacher Professional Development (Students not required for classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 30th January</td>
<td>All students commence with assemblies &amp; initial Orientation Activities. Student ID photos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 31st January – Monday 4th February</td>
<td>Orientation Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5th February</td>
<td>Normal classes commence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11th February</td>
<td>VET Program begins this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19th February</td>
<td>VCE/VCAL Information Evening – 6.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 22nd February</td>
<td>Summer Sports Senior Round Robin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 4th March</td>
<td>Golf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11th March</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 13th March</td>
<td>Boroondara Division Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19th March</td>
<td>Regional Swimming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20th March</td>
<td>Student/Parents/Guardians/Teacher Afternoon and Evening: Units 1 &amp; 3 Interim Report distribution A–K – 3.30pm–7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27th March</td>
<td>Student/Parents/Guardians/Teacher Afternoon and Evening: Units 1 &amp; 3 Interim Report distribution L–Z – 3.30pm–7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 28th March</td>
<td>Term 1 finishes at 2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 15th April</td>
<td>All students – Term 2 classes commence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 25th April</td>
<td>ANZAC Day – Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 30th April</td>
<td>Senior AFL (Boys &amp; Girls)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 6th May</td>
<td>Winter Sports Senior Round Robin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 7th May</td>
<td>College Information Evening for prospective students – 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 17th May</td>
<td>Boroondara Division Cross Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 22nd – Saturday 25th May</td>
<td>College Play Season – 7pm Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th June</td>
<td>Year 11 and 12 Music Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 7th June</td>
<td>Last Day Semester 1 Work – All Units 1 &amp; 3 work due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10th June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday Holiday – Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11th June</td>
<td>Mid Year Practice Exam for Year 12 English/Literature/English Language/EAL (formerly ESL) – 10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 12th June</td>
<td>General Achievement Test (GAT) NOTE: 11th – 12th June no normal classes operate for yrs. 11 &amp; 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 14th June</td>
<td>Report Writing Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17th June</td>
<td>Semester 2 begins for all VCE/VCAL students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 28th June</td>
<td>Term 2 finishes at 2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 15th July</td>
<td>All students commence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 23rd July</td>
<td>Formal/Social evening – 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 7th August</td>
<td>Australian Language Certificate 2 (French)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th October</td>
<td>Year 12 English/EAL (formerly ESL) – practice exam – 10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th October</td>
<td>CCAFL Written Examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th October</td>
<td>Year 12 Literature/English Language practice exam – 10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 17th October</td>
<td>Arts Show Opening 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 20th October</td>
<td>College Open Day &amp; Arts Show 12.00pm – 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21st October</td>
<td>Swinnies: Media Awards. 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21st October</td>
<td>Year 12 students final formal lessons - All Unit 4 work due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22nd October</td>
<td>Year 12 students Last Day celebration. Year 11 students do not attend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 25th October – Tuesday 29th October</td>
<td>Year 12 Home Study Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 30th Oct. – Friday 22nd Nov.</td>
<td>Year 12 October/November Examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 1st November</td>
<td>Last Day Year 11 Semester 2 Work – All Unit 2 work due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 4th November</td>
<td>Year 11 Home Revision Div. Staff PD Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5th November</td>
<td>Melbourne Cup Day Holiday – Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 7th November – Friday 8th Nov.</td>
<td>Year 11 Classroom Revision sessions – normal timetable operates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 8th November</td>
<td>Year 11 students finish formal lessons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 11th November</td>
<td>Year 11 Exam Study Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12th – Wednesday 20th November</td>
<td>Year 11 November Examinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 21st November</td>
<td>Exam Review for all Year 11 classes and BBQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 9th December</td>
<td>Year 12 Transition Program this week – details TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th December</td>
<td>Year 11 Student Reports distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18th December</td>
<td>Year 12 Valedictory – 7pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20th December</td>
<td>Term 4 finishes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>