

1st February 2008

Issue Number 1.

School Council President - Mrs Jenny De Witte

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tues 5th Feb Yr 12 Orientation Session
Mon 11th-15th Feb Yr 9 Bogong Camp

Tues 19th Feb Yr 7 camps start
Tues 26th Feb Swimming Carnivall

Welcome back all our students and families for the new school year. We trust everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas holiday and that students have returned to school with an eagerness to learn and willingness to set high expectations of themselves.

We are very fortunate to start the year with a full complement of teachers all of whom are very committed to ensuring that their students achieve their academic potential within a caring and nurturing environment. This year we have a number of new teachers commencing at our school. We extend a very warm welcome to Mrs Liz Bennett (Instrumental Music Coordinator), Mr Kent Fisk (Instrumental Music), Miss Kasha Kikkert (on exchange from Canada), Miss Stephanie Opasinis (Media /SOSE), Ms Camille O'Sullivan (Maths/Science), Mr Sandy Swankie (Wood Technology) and Miss Christina Xynos (English/SOSE). We also welcome Mrs Gail Finlay who will be working with our very dedicated integration staff.

At the start of each year we commence with a general assembly where we welcome back all our students and wish them every success in their studies. We have many new students starting at our school for the first time in 2008 and along with all other students we will endeavour to make their educational journey an enjoyable, rewarding and fulfilling experience. At our assembly we encouraged all students to make the most of the many opportunities that will be offered to them in 2008. We also explained the importance of accepting increasing responsibility for their educational pursuits and everyday actions as they progress from one year level to the next.

At Healesville High School we place particular emphasis on ensuring that our educational programs are inclusive of the important values and beliefs that our community would expect from a school. As was reflected in last years Presentation Evening we pride ourselves on, and are recognised for the personal, social, civic and environmental responsibilities displayed by many of our students.

Healesville High School has a fine tradition of excellence across the board - academic, sporting, cultural, artistic and many enrichment programs. Our Year 12 results from last year were very pleasing with 98% of students successfully completing Year 12. The majority of these students have received their first, second or third preference for Tertiary studies in 2008 and of the remaining students, most have successfully secured their chosen pathways in either TAFE studies, traineeships or apprenticeships. Congratulations again to all our Year 12 students from 2007, and in particular to Danielle Hradsky who was our dux with an ENTER score of **96.20**. Of the 47 students who completed their VCE exams 3 achieved an ENTER score above 90 and 5% of all study scores were over 40. The highest possible study score is 50. In comparison to our neighbouring schools these are excellent results and reflect the commitment, dedication and expertise of our staff.

Our focus this year will include exploring new teaching and learning strategies and opportunities for students to extend their abilities and interests. Later this year we will be developing our strategic plan for the coming four years. We will continue to build upon our strong foundations as a caring and nurturing school and we will be committed to exploring, developing and implementing initiatives and programs that will improve student learning outcomes, cater for individual learning styles and strengthen our community relationships.

We have high expectations of our students in the way they approach their studies, their actions and their commitment to uphold the values and beliefs of the school. School Council and our staff again ask for parent/guardian support so that we can continue to build upon the excellence of our school in our community and for your child to achieve his/her best.

I strongly urge all parents to take an active role in your child's education. Your interest and involvement sends a very powerful and positive message to your child. A number of parents last year volunteered their time to become involved in the school program. If you would like to be involved with any part of our curriculum program please do not hesitate to come up and speak with either myself, Mr Rennick or Mrs Shelley. ***You will be made most welcome!***

Your ideas, views and energies are always welcome at Healesville High School. You may seek to formalise your participation through School Council or by volunteering your time to assist in the classroom and beyond. The contribution and support of our parent community will be a major factor in the success of our students.

All of us at Healesville High look forward to your continued support for **our school**.

NEWSLETTER

The school's weekly Newsletter is generally distributed to the eldest student of the family on Fridays. **I urge all parents/guardians to ask for it each week as it is an important means of communication between the school and home.** The school will assume that information provided in the newsletter is made available to all concerned. During Term 1 this year we will be surveying parents to gauge support for making the newsletter available through email and electronically via the school web-site.

HOMEWORK

Healesville High School encourages its students to strive for excellence in their academic performance. We also encourage students to develop a positive attitude to their studies.

Students will have many opportunities and the full encouragement of their teachers to realize their potential while at our school. Students will be encouraged to take more responsibility for their own learning and to develop skills necessary to establish and achieve their ambitions. The value placed on consistent homework across all levels remains the same and will be enforced by all staff.

We believe that homework is very important because it:

- * **contributes to the development of organisational and discipline skills.**
- * **It forms an integral part of a student's assessment.**
- * **Is an ongoing commitment to wide-reading, revision, practice, course review and research.**

Homework includes any work set by teachers for completion at home. It may also include extra work that needs to be completed in order to improve the student's competence in a field of study. Homework is to be recorded in the student's diary and parents are encouraged to support their children by checking that homework is being consistently attempted.

UNIFORM

Last year we publicized the changes that were made to the school uniform policy. Although there will need to be a phase-in time for certain items of the uniform it was pleasing to see that the overwhelming majority of students have commenced the school year wearing the correct school uniform with much pride. A reminder to parents that school shoes must be black leather or suede and is fully enclosed. Black leather runners with black laces are also acceptable.

Undoubtedly school uniform fosters equality and promotes a positive school identity and image within the community. **The wearing of school uniform is compulsory for all students and it must be worn correctly in all situations.** Student managers and home group teachers have been asked to check uniforms regularly and record any infringements in the student diary. A letter will be sent home to the parents of those students who are persistently in breach of the uniform policy. We ask for your full support to ensure that your son/ daughter adheres to the uniform policy. If there are circumstances that prevent any student from wearing any part of the school uniform they should see their level manager to discuss the matter. Copies of the uniform policy are available from the General Office.

Tom Bege—Principal



MUSIC NEWS



Welcome to a new year of Instrumental Music at Healesville High School. I look forward to meeting the music students and parents of our current musicians and starting a new Junior Band with our Year 7's. Of course if you are in a higher year level and would like to join us, we'd love to have you!

LESSONS: Lessons will begin on Tuesday 4th February. Students to see Mrs Bennett at recess on Monday 4th February to confirm times.

BAND REHEARSAL: For students who have been part of the program last year, band starts Tuesday 5th February. 3.00pm - 4.30pm. I am really looking forward to starting some great pieces of music and enjoying the start of a fantastic Concert Band. Parents are welcome to pop in and see us at the end of rehearsal.

RECRUITMENT NIGHT: Please note change of date to **Tuesday 5th March at 7.30pm**. This night is a very special night for all Year 7 students and parents to find out about the exciting Instrumental Music Program at Healesville High School. All music staff will be there, instruments will be on display and of course supper!! More information will be sent to families over the next few weeks.



Instrumental Music Staff: Liz Bennett
& Woodwind

Kent Fisk Brass Teacher
Gordon Pendleton Percussion Teacher

Liz Bennett





Wanted!!!

Donations of fabric, lace, ribbon, buttons, zips... would be appreciated by the textiles department.
Shelley Morley

Tasmania 2007

A fantastic experience for all involved; the 2007 Tasmania trip included a jet boat ride, the Tahune Airwalk, the inevitable tour of the Cadbury factory, the ghost tour at Port Arthur, a cruise on the Derwent River, a hike around Dove Lake, the challenge of walking in to Wine Glass Bay and a pleasant sojourn at the Friendly Beaches. We were fortunate to have delightful weather for our week in Tasmania. Our crossing of Bass Strait was relatively calm and most students enjoyed the experience of sailing on the Spirit of Tasmania. Many of our happy tourists had not previously experienced air travel, but their nerves were quickly dispelled by the exhilaration of take-off



and all enjoyed the views of Victoria as we returned to the mainland. Details of the 2008 Year 10 Tasmania trip will be published soon.

Thursday Maths Club

A teacher will be available every Thursday lunchtime (from the half-time bell onwards) to assist students who need help with maths. This could involve assistance with class work, homework, projects, preparation for maths competitions or even extension work for those who would like to get ahead.



Wednesday After School Maths Help

Weekly maths help sessions are available after school to any students who wishes to receive additional assistance. Two maths teachers are available to help you every Wednesday at 3.25pm in Room 5B, for a maximum of 1 hour.



VCE NEWS

Year 12 students will be attending an orientation day at Swinburne (Lilydale campus) next Tuesday (5th Feb). There will be guest presenters who have recently completed their VCE studies and achieved highly in their tertiary studies. They will assist our students in goal-setting and improving their study skills through a series of workshops. Year 11 students attended an information session this week covering the important issues and requirements of VCE. This will assist them in making a smooth transition into their VCE studies.

Debutante Ball



The Rotary Club of Healesville is again hosting a Debutante Ball to be held on Thursday 26th June 2008 (end of Term 2) at the

Lilydale International. Places are being offered to girls currently in Year 11, or the equivalent if no longer at school.

Practice will commence on FRIDAY 6th May at the Healesville SCOUT HALL and then every Friday evening through all of second term.

An important INFORMATION SESSION will be held at the SCOUT HALL at 7pm on Friday 22nd February to which all interested students, partners AND parents are encouraged to attend. Please be there to reserve your place. For more information contact: Cheryl Chippindall on (AH) 5962 4319 or (MOB) 0419 302 490.

Careers/MIPs Information

Interested in becoming a Truck and Bus Automotive Mechanic? This is the opportunity you have been looking for. CMV Truck and Bus Pty. Ltd. has a fast-track Automotive Apprenticeship available to selected candidates. Volvo is one of the largest manufacturers of heavy trucks in the world at Clayton, Dandenong, Laverton and Warragul. CMV has two intakes a year (beginning and mid year) and has 10 full-time Apprenticeships available at each intake. For more information and application details contact Mrs Edwards or Ms Tacey at school.

William Angliss Institute, as part of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, is offering young people aged 14-18 the opportunity to experience foods and hospitality careers for a day. Trial-a-trade day promises to be fun, affordable, and a great opportunity for young people to learn new skills working as a chef, baker, butcher, waiter, barista, confectioner or patissier. For more information contact Mrs Edwards or Ms Tacey at school.

Score a \$5000 Top Sports Grant for Your School.

Anyone can nominate Healesville High School when they make a purchase at a Bakers Delight Bakery. Every entry goes into the draw to score a grant. Hurry entries close 7th March!



Healesville Netball Association Registration Day

Junior/Senior players and Net Set Go 5-10 Years
Thursday 7th February at Eca Centre 4.00—5.30pm
Contact Yvette Stanley: Ph 5962 1620

Coaches needed!

**HEALESVILLE HIGH SCHOOL.
IN 2008 ALL STUDENTS MUST WEAR
FULLY ENCLOSED BLACK LEATHER SHOES**

YES



Plain black runners are OK

NO



Ballet style, T Bar or Buckle shoes are not allowed



White runners are not allowed

