



Eagle's Nest Theatre : Medea workshop

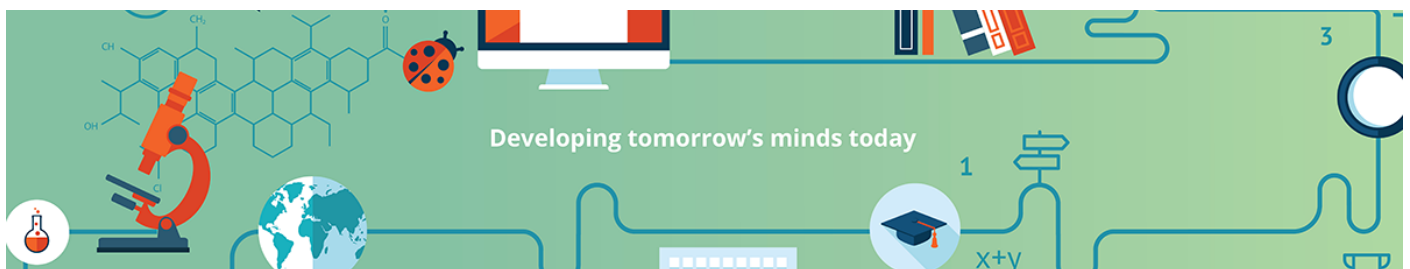
Blackburn High School

25th February 2020

ISSUE ONE

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Principal's Report

The Principal Team warmly welcomed the students, teachers and education support staff at the two school assemblies conducted on Thursday, 30th January. We have had a very positive and smooth start to the 2020 school year at Blackburn High School and acknowledge the students who have been fantastic during the mentor sessions, assemblies and classes. The staggered

start with Year 7 and 12 students attending on the first day and the other year levels on the second day has been very well received again.

We have introduced a third Assistant Principal, Ms Caroline Gachon, to the new and expanded leadership team in 2020. This team will continue the important work around whole school improvement.

The 2020 Blackburn High School Leadership Team

Joanna Alexander	Principal
Jane Richards	Assistant Principal
Geoff Vezey	Assistant Principal
Caroline Gachon	Assistant Principal
Cheryl Angus	Learning Specialist-Art/Technology
Martin Baxter	Leading Teacher-VCE and Senior School
Scott Conte	Leading Teacher-Hollows House Leader
David Coulter	Learning Specialist-HAP/STEM
Emma Dickson	Learning Specialist-Languages
Siobhan Dwyer	Learning Specialist-Humanities
Adrian Ferres	Leading Teacher-Melba House Leader
Claire Greve	Learning Specialist-Health/PE
Louise Hartley	Learning Specialist-Science
Tony Lahy	Learning Specialist-Mathematics
Shona Mcenaney	Leading Teacher-Transition
Mark Pasquali	Leading Teacher-Dunlop House Leader
Madeleine Taylor	Learning Specialist-English
Liam Tobin	Leading Teacher-Freeman House Leader
Jason Ziino	Leading Teacher-Director of Music

The focus for this year will be to continue to build on the momentum we've gained in establishing a collaborative learning community at Blackburn High School, where we authentically work together to strengthen and transform the Learning & Teaching.

Students will continue to be provided with a range of opportunities including rich academic experiences, out of class activities and student leadership programs such as camps and overseas tours, incursions and excursions, leadership activities, music programs, sport programs, the languages program with student exchanges to

France and from Germany, drama and arts programs and STEM. In addition, the ever increasing student-initiated clubs, which are run by our dedicated teachers and ES staff have provided another avenue for our students to pursue their interests and passions with their peers.

We have maintained our investment in improving the school facilities and grounds with a number of new relocatables and rooms, the covered outdoor PE/Sport learning space, expanding staffrooms and the removal of asbestos.



Principal's Report

2020 Blackburn High School Student Leaders

We look forward to working with the 2020 student leadership group who will provide an important student perspective on learning and teaching and school life at

Blackburn High School. Their insights will be invaluable in improving student engagement, achievement and wellbeing.

LEADERSHIP POSITION	STUDENTS
School Captains	Millie Castor, Nyah Humphreys-Crouch
Sport Captains	Bethanie Gray, Luyando Chinganya
Environment Captain	Tess Hickey
Debating Captain	Henry Shand
Wellbeing and Social Justice Captain	Dainika Morgan
Melba House Captain	Charlize Estrada
Hollows House Captain	Amy Dowler
Dunlop House Captain	Jasmine Lefebure
Freeman House Captain	Georgia Miers
Music Captains	Parmida Taheri, Roan Nair
International Captains	Captain Mona Zhang, Vice-Captain Yuna Kai
Performing Arts Leadership	Eddie Gibson

HOUSE EVENTS

The 2020 House Swimming Carnival was held on Friday, 7th February at the Boroondara Sports Complex in Balwyn with students participating and enjoying the day's events. Congratulations to Freeman House who have won this event three years in a row.

On Thursday, 20th February, over 400 students from Years 7-12 were involved at the 2020 House Performing Arts and performed at an extraordinary level. The performances were: Dunlop - The Lion King, Hollows - Hairspray, Freeman—Cinderella and Melba—The Princess and the Frog. Congratulations to the students, Ms Kaitlyn Archer for her outstanding leadership and planning and all staff who supported the students. Well done to Melba House for winning on the night with their superb interpretation of The Princess and the Frog.

2020 SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

I would like to recognize and congratulate the work of the 2019 School Council: Geoff Hugo (President-parent), Jim Rushby (Vice President-parent), Chris Carter (Treasurer-parent), Tanya Burton (parent), Kim Twigg Ho (parent), Lee Dowler (parent), Lisa Croxford (parent), Samuel Lee (parent), Jane Richards (DET-Assistant

Principal), Geoff Vezey (DET-Assistant Principal), Martin Baxter (DET-teacher), Shona Mcenaney (DET-teacher), Nicole Taylor (Business Manager-observer), Amy Dowler (student member), Ryan Stevens (student member), Ashley Burton (School Captain-observer) and Daniel Fearn-Wannan (School Captain-observer). Thank you to the School Captains who have been excellent role models and ambassadors for the school. All councillors have worked tirelessly to ensure that Blackburn High School continues to be a great public school. The 2020 School Council election process, which includes a call for nominations, has been announced to the school community.

2020 SCHOOL REVIEW

In 2020 we will be undertaking a review of the last Strategic Plan 2017-2020 and the recommendations will form the basis for the new school Strategic Plan 2021-2024.

Principal Team

*Joanna Alexander, Principal
Jane Richards, Assistant Principal
Geoff Vezey, Assistant Principal
Caroline Gachon, Assistant Principal*



D

Dunlop House

WELCOME

A big welcome from the new Dunlop team. It is a great honour to lead Dunlop House having spent the last 8 years leading Hollows.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Claire Greve who has led Dunlop tirelessly and is now the leader of the Health and Physical Education Learning Area.

I would also like to welcome all the new Dunlop staff and especially the two assistant leaders Ms Brittany Milner and Ms Laura Brock who have done a huge amount of work already to get the year started.

As always, our mentor program provides the cornerstone of the House structure and our Mentor Teachers will continue to be the first point of call for students and parents.

I would also like to welcome to Dunlop House Ms Loula Tarenidis as our new Dunlop House Admin Assistant. Loula takes over from Romy Bristow who has secured a Maths teaching job and we wish Romy very well. Loula comes to us with a wealth of experience and has 'hit the ground running' continuing the administrative order of Dunlop House.

We have already had some great events and I wish students all the best for the year ahead.



YEAR 7 CAMP

I look forward to reporting back on the Year 7 camp which is happening as you read this newsletter. We have welcomed 50 new Year 7 students from more than 20 primary schools and they have gelled together beautifully so far. The camp will be a great opportunity to have some fun and meet new friends. Parents will get an opportunity to meet class teachers at our dedicated Year 7 Student Progress Conference evening on 18th March (2-5pm).





Dunlop House

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Swimming Carnival was a great start to the year and it was great to see the *Sea of Red* in support of the mighty Dunlop. There were some great efforts in the pool and at the diving board. Overall, we finished third behind Hollows by just a few points. It was just great to see the House and school spirit that everyone showed.



HOUSE PERFORMING ARTS

Our students were simply amazing in their production of the *Lion King* last Thursday evening. The production was put together in just 3 weeks with no teacher input. It was a special night. A massive congrats to Kaja Jeffrey who led the Dunlop team in their fantastic performance.



Mr Mark Pasquali, Dunlop House Leader



F

Freeman House

My name is Bronwyn Roach and I am the Assistant House Leader for Freeman in 2020.

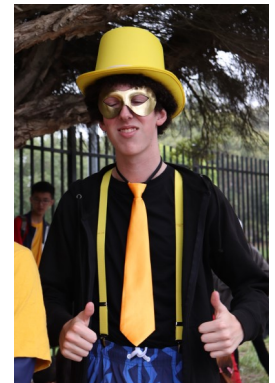
I have been at Blackburn High School since 2008. I teach Visual Communication Design and Art.

The start of the school year has been a busy one with the House Swimming Carnival, House Performing Arts and electing Mentor Leaders for our 15 Mentor Groups.

Georgia Miers in Year 12 has been elected as the Freeman House Captain.

The following students have been chosen as Mentor Group Leaders:

F1 Joshua Elrom
F2 Abbey Jones
F3 Jasmine Kellock
F4 Gemma Goold
F5 Leo Dykes
F6 Zoe Azzopardi
F7 Genevieve Cullinan
F8 Sarah Newnham
F9 Will Pronyszyn
F10 Bethany Rose Long
F11 Anthony Hicks
F12 Krystal Martin
F13 Isla Berick
F14 Danesh Devani
F15 Emily White





F

Freeman House

Later this term we have the Freeman fundraiser with all monies collected going to the Cathy Freeman Foundation.

Cathy Freeman established the Cathy Freeman Foundation in 2007 to help Indigenous children and their families recognise the power of education and achieve their goals and dreams.

Cathy Freeman Foundation programs broaden horizons and support Indigenous students to experience their full potential in school. The Foundation acknowledges the strength and wisdom that lies within remote Indigenous communities. Our work demands strong and trusting partnerships with community, Elders and school leaders. We partner with communities for the long haul, as we journey through the complexities of the work required to create social change.

The Foundation works with more than 1600 Indigenous children and their families from four of the most remote communities in Australia:

Palm Island in northern Queensland;
Wurrumiyanga on Bathurst Island in the Northern Territory;
Woorabinda in central Queensland; and
Galiwin'ku in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory.

The Cathy Freeman Foundation delivers education programs that are designed to travel the journey of a child's education from Pre-Prep through to Year 12. The programs aim to improve school attendance and ultimately increase Year 12 attainment and are effective in extending the children's horizons and future opportunities.

Kind Regards,

*Ms Bronwyn Roach
Freeman House*





H

Hollows House

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to all staff, students and parents as we embark on the school year that is 2020. Hollows House has hit the ground running with our student leaders playing a critical role in ensuring the smooth organising of two major events: House Performing Arts and House Swimming Sports.

Student leadership will be a major focus for Blackburn High School in 2020 and we are currently in the process of finalising our Mentor Group and Year 7 Leaders.

This Student Leadership group will meet with Assistant House Leaders to plan and discuss upcoming events and refine the everyday operations of the Hollows House.

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Well done to all students who participated in House Swimming sports on Friday, 7th February. With the pool a sea of colour it was great to see so many Hollows students, both junior and senior take part in the day.

Throughout the day our students took part in many events, including traditional swim styles, novelty events and of course the crowd favourite, The Big Splash!

Overall Hollows House finished in second place on points which was a fantastic effort. We will look to go one better in 2021 and take out the title!

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Hollows staff would like to take the time to thank parents and guardians for their support with the introduction of the new Mobile Phone Policy. The policy has already had a profound impact both inside and outside of the classroom. Students are noticeably more engaged within the classroom and the chatter and enjoyment within the yard during break times has also sky rocketed.





H

Hollows House

YEAR 7 CAMP

On Monday, 24th February our three wonderful Year 7 classes headed off to their first high school camp at Waratah Bay.

The camp includes many fantastic activities aimed at promoting inclusion and teamwork. We wish all of the Hollows students and staff the very best and look forward to the viewing photos and reading their stories in the very next newsletter.



HOUSE PERFORMING ARTS

Hairspray - Blackburn High School Style!

Thursday night was a testament to the hard work and dedication demonstrated by all of the students involved in our House Performing Arts production, including all dancers, singers, instrumentalists and backstage crew.

A special mention must go to our student leaders for their organisation and execution: Amy Dowler (Student Leader), Meg Wills (Dance Leader), Miranda Kinrade (Backstage Leader), Miles Stukenborg (Technical Leader), Jericha Edillon (Singing/Acting Leader) and Jennifer Yi (Music Leader).

Thank you also to the staff who dedicated their time before school, during lunchtime and also afterschool to assist in the supervision of these rehearsals.

Finally, thank you to the families who ensured students could attend the rehearsals outside of school hours, and of course for supporting our students on the night.

An amazing team effort by the Hollows family.



Mr Scott Conte, Hollows House Leader



M

Melba House



START OF THE YEAR

It has been another busy and exciting start to the 2020 school year for Melba students, staff and parents! We have welcomed 50 Year 7 students and a number of new students at other year levels. We have also welcomed two new staff members to the school and the Melba team:

Lauren Van Der Westhuizen- Health and Physical Education
John Richards- Technology

There have also been some changes to Mentor Teachers and positions in the House team. I would like to acknowledge the fantastic work of Jacinta Marcus from whom I have taken over as Melba House Leader. Clare Leavold and Rebecca Bianco are the new Assistant House Leaders.



HOUSE SWIMMING

In addition to the changes around our ever-growing school, students have been engaged in numerous exciting House activities.

The annual Swimming Carnival was held on Friday, 7th February and it was amazing to see so many students not only dress up in blue, but also have a go at the variety of competitive and novelty events. The friendly and supportive atmosphere of Melba students was wonderful to see. A big highlight for all students was of course watching The Big Splash competition.

Well done to all Melba students that participated in events on the day.





M

Melba House

HOUSE PERFORMING ARTS

Melba House are winners of House Performing Arts 2020!!!

The Melba adaptation of *The Princess & The Frog* was simply outstanding. The acting, singing, dancing and orchestra were all first class. Congratulations to all students involved in the House Performing Arts festival on Thursday night. A wide range of students have been working hard since last year to plan and prepare their performance.

A big thank you to all of the staff who have tirelessly helped supervise this student run production.

Congratulations to all our participants and especially to the leaders: Ebonie Lyon (Student Leader), Parmida Taheri (Dance Leader), Hannah McAulay (Singing/Acting Leader) and Nyah Humphreys-Crouch (Music Leader).

A big congratulations to the Tech Crew, musicians and those involved in making props who all make it possible for the performance to occur!



Mr Adrian Ferres, Melba House Leader



WELCOME

Another year has begun in the Blackburn High School Music Program and it is one that sees a number of changes. Among these is my role as the Director of Music. After many years as a Director in other schools, it is exciting to be taking on this position at Blackburn. We have a long history of musical excellence and it is this legacy and culture that sees our students continue to excel today.

I highly value these musical achievements, but more importantly, it is the skills our students develop through these experiences and being part of a safe and effective community that are part of what we do. It is going to be an exciting musical year at Blackburn High School and I look forward to our community sharing it with us.

THANK YOU

I would like to acknowledge the work done by my predecessor, Ms Jemima Bunn and wish her the best in her future endeavours. Also leaving Blackburn High School is Mr Stephen Hardie. Over a long period, Mr Hardie served many roles, including Director of Music and made a significant contribution to the program and lives of many students. On behalf of the Blackburn community, I thank both Ms Bunn and Mr Hardie.

ENSEMBLES

Our extensive ensemble program is now up and running. These are an integral part of the program and it is important that all students are attending prepared and on time.

Music leaders form an important part of ensembles and we are currently looking for our 2020 leaders. If interested, speak to your Ensemble Leader or see Ms Gammune. Applications are due Friday, 6th March.

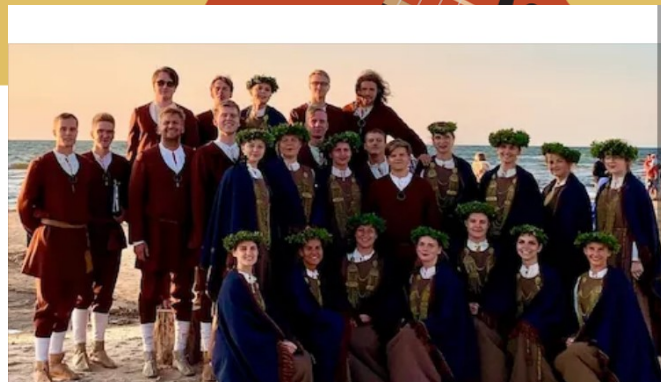
Recruitment night

Tuesday, 11th February saw a great recruitment night with performances from the Symphonic Band, Chamber Stings and Vocal Ensemble. Inspired by this, our Year 7 students were then able to try all of the instruments we offer and select what they wanted to play. Most positions have now been filled and offers are being made this week.

There will be 2nd round offers for any student who missed the chance to join our program.



Mr Jason Ziino, Director of Music



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Latvian Youth Choir BALSIS
LATVIA - THE LAND THAT SINGS! An e...



BALSIS YOUTH CHOIR EXCURSION

On Saturday, 8th February, members of the Blackburn Vocal Ensemble went to Latvian House in Elwood to see one of the premier choirs from that country perform in concert. The choir, with members as young as 16, won the Latvian national choral contest in 2018, beating adult choirs for this prestigious honour.

The Blackburn students were privileged to hear this world-class vocal ensemble sing a range of cutting-edge music from Latvia; one of the pre-eminent choral and compositional centres of the world.

Students commented on the choir's professionalism, their focus, the beauty and naturalness of their vocal tone and their amazing UNITY across mouth shapes, vowels, expression and musical intent. Tess Hickey, one of the students who attended, said: "Possibly the most vocal control and unification I've ever seen in a live choral performance! A fabulous experience."

Ms Marianne Rigby, Blackburn High Choral Director, commented, "Hearing the largely Latvian-speaking audience also join Balsis in singing the last piece, *Gaismas pils*, was a powerful moment for our students. They witnessed a culture whose choral singing is at the very centre of their national identity, whether in Latvia or Australia."

Gaismas pils: [youtube.com/watch?v=u8O8XzvjoM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8O8XzvjoM)

Ms Marianne Rigby, Choral teacher



Unit 3 – Geography Fieldtrip



On Friday, 14th February, the Unit 3 Geography class, along with our teacher Mr Butler, and Humanities Leader Ms Dwyer, went on a field trip to Burnley as a part of our first SAC for the year. Focusing on the land use change and impacts along the Yarra River, we used this excursion to collect primary evidence, including photos, to ultimately create a fieldwork report in response to the question, 'What are the effects of land use change on the health of an urban river system?'

Whilst it was a short trip of only around two hours, we were able to collect various forms of data, all of which will be useful in our SAC. From Burnley Station, we ventured towards the Yarra River, noticing the different types of land use on the way, such as residential and commercial. As we walked along the Main Yarra Trail towards Richmond, it began to rain, which was quite beneficial in our research, as it enhanced the effects of run-off. Eventually, the weather settled and we continued our walk, noticing some of the urban design techniques used in and around the area to manage the iconic Yarra River, noticeably polluted with oil and chemicals.

Overall, it was a very productive excursion which will now allow us to compose our final fieldwork report for VCE Geography. On 21st February, we will be visiting Warrandyte in order to compare how the impacts on the Yarra River differ in an inner-city area, versus a peri-urban setting.

Bella M.



Freeman Takes out House Swimming 2020

Our annual House Swimming Carnival was a great success with beautiful weather and an abundance of keen swimmers. The final placings for the

Houses overall were:

1st Freeman—2,972.5 points

2nd Hollows—2,147.5 points

3rd Dunlop—1,837 points

4th Melba—1,508 points

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded:

Age Swimming Champions

13 Years—Mason Porter & Chloe Atkinson

14 Years—Sebastian Poynter & Madison Freeman

15 Years—Harry Stephenson & Olivia Roche

16 Years—Mahdiyar Hajiketabi & Briella Humphreys Crouch

17 Years—Koby Crothers & Mikayla Freeman

20 Years—Stan Filippis & Millie Castor

Big Splash Champions

Junior—Eric Hubbard & Alannah Callanan

Senior—Jake Garcia & Shae Garcia

Diving Champions

Junior—William Pronyszyn & Olivia Roche

Senior—Theo Tsang & Elise McWilliams

Congratulations to all of the students who have qualified for our Swimming and Diving Team 2020. The Whitehorse Division competition will take place on Thursday 5th March at Aquanation. Information is now available on Compass for consent and payment. Any questions please email

[Nadine Roche \(Carnivals Co-ordinator\)](mailto:roche.nadine.nr@edumail.vic.gov.au)

roche.nadine.nr@edumail.vic.gov.au









Resource Centre

Students and staff

NAME YOUR BOOK

We have received a generous grant to buy books for the Resource Centre and we want you to choose them!!

-  Are you missing a book from a favourite series?
-  Do you know of a sequel to a past favourite book?
-  Have your friends been raving about an old classic, or a recent release, that you simply must read?
-  Can't find what you want at your local library?



Tell us which books you would like in our Resource Centre:

Email: darzins.liga.ld@edumail.vic.gov.au ,

leave a note or speak with Liga in the Resource Centre.

Do this by 13 March 2020 to have your book in for Term 2 reading.