Principal’s Newsletter Report (16.2.16)

On behalf of the teachers and staff at Blackburn High School, welcome back and we hope that everyone feels energised and ready for the challenges of the 2016 school year.

Start of the 2016 School Year

We have had a very positive and smooth start to the school year that was facilitated by change in the process by introducing a staggered start with only Year 7 and 12 students commencing on Thursday 28th February and Year 8-11 students beginning on Friday 29th February. The rationale for this initiative was to focus on the Year 7 students and ensure that the Mentor Teachers had an opportunity to work with the small group of students and make their transition experience from primary into secondary school a positive one. In addition, we met with the Year 12 students (and students undertaking a Year 12 subject) at an assembly to emphasise a culture of high expectations, respect and pride.

New Staff and Farewells

With student enrolments at Blackburn High School continuing to increase, in 2016, we welcomed 13 new teachers and staff in the areas of Mathematics, Science, English, Humanities, Art, Technology, Instrumental Music and Integration support.

Leading Teachers: Sharon Gardner-Drummond, David Greenwell
Teaching Staff: Carolyn Gachon, Snjezana Torbica, Rebecca Bianco, Louise Hartley, Kohei Endo, Tameka Carter, Maria Niforas, Kris Burridge, Music Staff: Marianne Rigby Black, Christopher Munn
ES Staff: Karl Bakker

On Friday 12th February at a morning tea the staff farewelled Megan Purbrick, our Wellbeing Officer. Megan will be sorely missed by the staff, students and the wider community after 11 years of outstanding contribution to the Blackburn High School community. We wish Megan and her family well for the future.

2015 a year of excellence in VCE results

On behalf of the Blackburn High School Community, I am proud to announce that Christy (Mingkyung) Kang as the 2015 Dux of Blackburn High School. Christy achieved an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) score of 98.7 that included two study scores above 40 in the subject areas of Physics and Visual Communication and Design.

2015 has been an excellent year of achievement at Blackburn High School with 31% of our students in VCE obtaining an ATAR score of 80 and above and this includes 13 % of our students receiving an ATAR score of 90 and above. We acknowledge the teachers and families that have supported and encouraged our students throughout their VCE journey. The following students were recognised as VCE Excellence Award recipients during this week’s Presentation Night: Minkyung Kang, Sabrina Poon, Mohammad Azkarisabzevari, Dylan Freeman, Jordan Ung, Kanghyuying Chang, Rachel Carter, Xiaomin Zhou, Minji Kang, Elnaz Roshdi and Bonnie Hodge. Congratulations to all of our students and in particular to our Year 12 Class of 2015.

Excellence in student achievement

I am delighted to inform the School that the 2015 VCE Music Style and Composition student Kate Fyander was selected to perform her original composition at this year’s Top Class Sound program as part of the VCE Season of Excellence 2016. Our students Adam September and Tristan Webb have also been selected to perform in this year’s Top Class Music program as part of the VCE Season of Excellence 2016.
From the Principal’s Desk

Joanna Alexander
Principal

2016 Student Leaders
Our House System fosters and facilitates the development of student leadership within the school community.

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<th>POSITION</th>
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<tr>
<td>School Captain</td>
<td>Evette Harris</td>
<td>School Captain</td>
<td>Kyle Mc Crorey</td>
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<td>Dunlop House Captain</td>
<td>Kalina Taylor</td>
<td>Freeman House Captain</td>
<td>Ella Birt</td>
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<td>Hollows House Captain</td>
<td>Emily Short</td>
<td>Melba House Captain</td>
<td>Alyse Clarke</td>
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<td>Music Captain</td>
<td>Bridie Ronalds-Greatbach</td>
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<td>Ardian Strybosch</td>
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<td>Sport Captain</td>
<td>Nikou Ahmadi</td>
<td>Sport Captain</td>
<td>Alexander Lazaris</td>
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<td>International Student Captain</td>
<td>Michelle Zhou</td>
<td>Social Justice Captain</td>
<td>Marjorie Devereux</td>
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<td>Debating Captain</td>
<td>Anisha Devjani</td>
<td>SRC President</td>
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60th Anniversary Celebrations

We have organised a number of events throughout the year to celebrate and acknowledge our school’s 60th anniversary milestone. These include: Term 1 (16.2.16) Foundation Assembly, Term 2 (23.6.16) Concert, and Term 3 (19.7.16) Alumni Back to Blackburn Evening. I would like to thank Margie Lanyon for her work in organising these events.

On Tuesday 16th February we celebrated Blackburn High School’s 60th Anniversary at the whole school Foundation Day Assembly. In 1956 one hundred and one Form 1 students and eight staff came together as the first members of Blackburn High School. At this assembly our student leaders wore uniforms from a bygone era and three guest speakers addressed and Inspired the students and staff. Geoff Hugo, our School Council President spoke about the important role that the School Council serves in the community as well as the Importance of volunteering. Rowan Gronlund, an Alumni and current parent reflected on the role that Blackburn High School played in shaping his future as a member of the Australian Genome Research Facility. Bonnie Hodge, last year’s School Captain and the winner of the Top Designs in VCE Food and Technology spoke about her school experience.

International Student Picnic

On Saturday 13th February, the International Student Program successfully held their first picnic with all the students and about 55 families/host families. It was a great opportunity for everyone to meet and share their stories and experiences with each other. These informal events help to develop stronger links between members of the international student community at Blackburn High School. I would like to acknowledge the assistant principal, Jane Richards, who supported Isabel Zhou and her team on the day.
Welcome back to all the Students, Parents and Staff to the new school year. We have had an excellent start to the school year with events being well attended by students and parents. Over 900 students attended the swimming carnival and many families in attendance at the Year 7 BBQ and Music Expo Evening. Thank you to all the staff for their organization, assistance and attendance at these events.

Our increase in student numbers in 2016 has had many positive repercussions. One of these is greater elective and subject offerings for students, more students accessing this greater range of subject choice. This has directly resulted in less students having to access programs outside of the school.

Another benefit has been an increase in our facilities with the addition of four extra rooms in the form of portable classrooms. The double classroom behind Dunlop House has become the domain of the Languages Learning Area with French and German being timetabled exclusively in these rooms. This will enable the Language Learning Area to set up resources specific to the teaching of Language. The other two rooms, Food Technology, near the Williams road carpark and Science, between the 3 story building and top courts should be ready by the end of this month. We are all hoping this is the case as we have had to move some Science classes to non-Science rooms and the Food Tech classes have had to be roster through our existing kitchen.

All the new rooms are very bright and spacious as well as recently renovated to ensure they meet all building requirements and DET Safety Standards. At the moment we are busily planning how these rooms will be set up. We are ordering furniture and equipment for the rooms with some having already arrived and some will be arriving early next term. In the meantime we will be using some of the old furniture to get the rooms up and going.

Pre-Christmas we ordered over $50000 in new furniture in the form of student lockers, tables and chairs which are deigned to be more comfortable with their ergonomic qualities as well as flexible in the way teachers can set up their classrooms. We also have occasional furniture coming soon for the House areas and Resource Centre all of this should be arriving next week. The Principal team and School Council have been committed to improving and updating student amenities with many of these suggestions coming from the students themselves through the SRC and other student forums.

I am in the process of organizing some capital works which we hope will be completed at the first term break, namely paving in the courtyard, extra outdoor seating and other improvements to the school environment. Work will also begin soon on the Williams road carpark where a gate similar to those on Springfield road will be installed. This will secure the school in the evenings and at weekends and help protect us from vandalism and damage.

Over the Christmas break we converted F 8 into other computer room with 25 desk top computers to be used mainly for the Art and Technology programs. As well as this all existing desktop computers were replaced with new processors. Many of our machines were up to 6 years old and were becoming very slow.
As you can see there are many things we have done and will continue to do to improve our school amenities for both staff and students.

Tim Dalton
Assistant Principal
Welcome Back!

Hello my name is Kalina Taylor and I’m Dunlop’s House Captain for 2016. I would like to give a warm welcome to all the new students to our Dunlop House and to all our new Year 7s. I would also like to welcome all the new parents to our Dunlop community. I’m looking forward to a great year and can’t wait to get to know all the students of Dunlop better. I encourage all of our students to get together and be one team and participate in all our House events and see if we, Dunlop House, can be the first House to win all events for 2016. Participation is the key. Being together with one goal is another. This is going to be a great year filled with lots of great achievements from all of our students, and I look forward to leading us through 2016. Here at Dunlop House we strive for greatness. Sir Edward Weary Dunlop once said “I have a conviction, that only when you are put at full stretch, can you realize your full potential.”

First Term is always the busiest filled with lots of opportunities for all. This is where we can be together and participate in any small way to help gain points for our House. We have House Performing Arts, House Swimming and House Athletics. These are all great opportunities for us to meet new people, make new friends and have a LOT of FUN!! With House Performing Arts, there is acting, singing, dancing, back stage crew, prop helpers and these are all just as important as one another and helps us to be strong competition against the other Houses. House Swimming and House Athletics too are just as important for us to all be involved even if it is just to come dressed up in red to cheer our fellow Dunlop students in the events. Every one that comes, dressed in red gets us very valuable points for our House.

There are many, many other great things that we in Dunlop House do, such as our House Community fundraising event for the Sir Weary Dunlop Foundation. There is also a whole school Blackburn’s Got Talent Show and many clubs that you can join whether it’s for fun or to help with school work. We are a very privileged school where our teachers also give up lots of time and effort to arrange many school camps and tours across all year levels where you can continue to develop relationships that will in many cases last forever.

I look forward to the year ahead and all that it will bring and together let’s ALL PARTICIPATE in all activities as a team and be the first House to win all events for the year. GO DUNLOP

Kalina Taylor
Dunlop House Captain

Student Leadership

Congratulations to the following students for taking on a Mentor Group leadership role this year. Each week during Mentor Group time the students will attend a leadership meeting and use this time to plan for House and Mentor Group activities.

House Captain: Kalina Taylor
School Captains: Evette Harris/Kyle McCrorey
D1  Darcy Hannigan
D2  Sigrid Wright
D3  Damon Ashby/Liam McCrorey/Tamara Savic
D4  Tom Donnelly
D5  Jocelyn Appleyard
D6  Jasmine Lefebure
D7  Joanne Yang
D8  Zoe McAlavey
D9  Gemma Hooper
D10 Gordon Chan
D11 Ryan Hewitt
DUNLOP HOUSE NEWS

House Assistant:

Liga Darzins
8804 6410

Claire Greve
Dunlop House Leader

“I have a conviction that it is only when we are put at full stretch that we can realise our full potential.”  Sir Edward ‘Weary’ Dunlop.

Dunlop Year 12s
It has become a tradition in Dunlop to capture a Year 12 group photo on the first day of school each year. We wish all of our Year 12 students the best of luck with their VCE and final year of secondary schooling.

Housekeeping matters
Arriving at school on time
We would like to acknowledge the cooperation of Dunlop students who are meeting the school expectations and arriving at school on time to be at Mentor Group by 8.40am. Please continue to support the school and your child to arrive and be prepared for school.

House Music! Alice in Wonderland
This year the Dunlop House Music event is Alice in Wonderland! Lead by Kalina Taylor, Emily Preston and Evette Harris lunch-time and afterschool rehearsal have been in full swing, with many students from Year 7-12 getting involved. Students are working hard to put on what is surely going to be an exciting and vibrant performance. We look forward to seeing the finished product at the House Music Festival in the school gym on Thursday 18th February. We hope that Dunlop can achieve back to back wins!

House Swimming
Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who has made me feel so welcome at Blackburn High, from the Mentor Teachers to the senior students (who “interviewed” me on my first day!) to the wonderful Denise, Bronwyn & Geoff who know all there is to know about Freeman House and have been happy to share that knowledge with me. Coming into a school with fresh eyes gives one the opportunity to really see how a school operates, and I’ve certainly seen a smooth beginning to the year. The Year 7s have settled in so quickly to their new adventure at high school, helped out by their Mentor Teachers and older Freeman students. I thought it would be nice to share some of their thoughts about Blackburn High with you:

“BHS is a lot more fun than I thought it would be; teachers and Ella Birt are so welcoming. I love how involved we can be with things like leadership or House Music.”
“T have had lots of fun at Blackburn High. I really enjoy learning French.”
“Blackburn High has been really welcoming! I’ve only been here one week and already I’m in House Music and Swimming.”

At our House Assemblies, I have been mentioning my highlight of the week, lowlight of the week & what I’m looking forward to. There have already been numerous highlights including the Year 7 Barbecue and Music Information Night which gave parents, teachers and students the opportunity to meet each other before being delighted by the orchestras. Having lived in Blackburn for 20 years, I have always heard about the wonderful music program at Blackburn High, but to finally catch a performance was fantastic. The Swimming Sports also showed me positive aspects of the school – Freeman almost captured Hollows and we have started our planning for the Athletics Sports to take their crown! The attendance and participation rates were really pleasing, and it would be lovely to see that commitment repeated at the Athletics Sports at the end of term.
Welcome to the first newsletter of 2016. I would like to welcome Sharon Gardner-Drummond to Freeman as our new House Leader. It has been a busy start to the year, welcoming over 70 Year 7 students, and having the Swimming Carnival and House Music.

We have been busy interviewing Year 7 students for the role of Year 7 Leader. We had 15 applicants which was fabulous. We will be deciding on 3 to help support Freeman House and to gain valuable leadership skills. The Year 7 camp is coming up which will be wonderful.

We will also be continuing our support of the Freeman Foundation. Our fundraising day is in March to raise money to support the indigenous community on Palm Island.

Ms Roach
Assistant House Leader
INTRODUCING OUR HOUSE CAPTAIN

Hi, my name is Emily Short and I am so proud to be the Hollows House Captain for this year.

I came to Blackburn in Year 10 and was immediately taken by the friendliness and help I received from all members of the school community. I would now like to put something back into the school.

It has been great to work with our new Year 7 students and also great to work with my peers in the older levels. I look forward to making it a memorable year for everyone in hollows from Year 7 to Year 12.

WELCOME TO OUR YEAR 7s

A huge welcome to our new Year 7s who have made a great start to the year. It was so good to see them on the first day interacting freely with our Year 12 students. We have almost 30 primary school represented in our Year 7 cohort and I’m sure this will be the start of an exciting six years of secondary schooling for our students.

It was also great to see so many parents at our Year 7 BBQ on Tuesday as well as the Music Expo which followed.

HOUSE MUSIC UPDATE

Thankyou to all the students who have been working hard on our House Music presentation of ‘Annie’. It is again so great to see so many keen Year 7 students joining our older students in this fun activity.

YEAR 7 CAMP

We are so looking forward to our Year 7 Orientation Camp at Waratah Bay. The camp will take place from Monday Feb 29th to Wednesday March 2.

The camp will be a great way to get to know lots of other students.
WELCOME NEW TEACHERS

As the school grows so does our teaching staff. We are lucky enough to welcome three new staff to Hollows.

Maria Niforis comes to us from Mt Waverley SC as a Maths teacher. She has taken over the H4 Mentor Group.

Louise Hartley is a Maths teacher who has a doctorate in astrophysics and has taken over H7 Mentor Group.

Mr Kris Burridge is a Science teacher with experience in Victoria as well as London. Mr Burridge will be floating between Mentor Groups.

Welcome all to the Hollows ‘family’.

HOLLOWS MENTOR GROUPS AND TEACHERS

Our Mentor Groups and teachers for 2016 are as follows.

H1  Mr Terry McGann
H2  Ms Christine Simpson
H3  Ms Jocelyn Purcell
H4  Ms Maria Niforis
H5  Mr Scott Conte
H6  Ms Louisa Pennell
H7  Dr Louise Hartley
H8  Ms Pei Yu Hsu
H9  Mr Steve Thomson
H10 Mr Adrian Metheringham
H11 Mr Chris McDuff
H12 Ms Julia Beer

House Leader:  Mr Mark Pasquali
Assistant House Leader  Ms Tess Monda

HOLLOWS YEAR 12 2016

At assembly on Monday 1 February our Year 12 students were presented with their Year 12 badges and acknowledged by the House. We wish them all the very best for the year ahead.
Welcome to 2016

Welcome back to all our Melba students and families for the new school year. On behalf of the Melba Staff I would particularly like to welcome our Year 7 students and their families as they join our vibrant school community. We also welcome new students from across Years 8-12 and I trust and expect that their time at Blackburn High School will be both challenging and fulfilling.

As the student numbers continue to grow so do the numbers of teachers at Blackburn High School. We welcome two new teachers to Melba in 2016, Mr David Greenwell and Ms Carolyn Gachon. They will be looking after Mentor Groups M1 and M5. They are both experienced teachers and have quickly settled in to the rhythm of life in Melba and Blackburn High School.

While the term is young, it has already been an action packed start to the year with even more to come. Classes have started smoothly, the Year 7 BBQ and House Swimming Carnival are completed but, as I write this, House Performing Arts is in full preparation in the lead up to this Thursday night’s performances. Our production is ‘Peter Pan’ and the level of student involvement and leadership being displayed is a humbling experience. Then to top it all off our Melba Year 7 students will be on camp next week, Wednesday February 22nd to Friday February 26th. It’s no wonder we are so excited!

As House Leader, I wish to thank all our parents for the manner in which they have supported the school in the critical areas of uniform and having students prepared for classes. Without the effort you have made to ensure that students arrive on time, in uniform and with all their class requisites this smooth start would not have been possible. This is one small example of how the school and home work in unison to develop fundamental values and patterns of behavior that will assist students to be successful at school and in later life.

I look forward to conversing further with you as the year progresses.

Martin Baxter
Head of Melba House
Sports Report

Last Thursday we had the Swimming Carnival. It was great to be in the new Ringwood pool – what a fantastic venue! Wonderful to see that this event continues to be such a big part of our school experience with so many students involved.

Melba arrived with big smiles and joyful attitudes. Participation was the key and much encouragement and support was provided by friends or new found friends. In school events, Melba students are always known for their team spirit, enthusiasm and kindness toward other houses, even Hollows!

Unfortunately Hollows won (again!), but at the end of the day we had heaps of fun and thoroughly enjoyed the day spent with friends. These days will form lasting memories of our school days that will stay with us forever. Hope to see Melba’s great qualities being carried out over the years ahead.

Go Melba!

Nikou Ahmadi

Sport Captain
Thursday the 11th of February saw Blackburn High School staff and students venture to Aquanation for our Annual House Swimming Carnival.

It was a fantastic way to kick off the school sporting year as over 900 students attended and competed for their respective houses.

The facility was glowing with a wave of colorful house t-shirts as students supported their peers up and down the swimming pool.

The behavior of the student cohort was a real positive, as it allowed for a safe and enjoyable environment for all students, whether it was their first or last swimming carnival.

A huge congratulations to Hollows House who again topped the overall points tally with 2582 points. Other placings were as follows;

1. Hollows — 2582
2. Freeman — 2437.5
3. Dunlop — 1712
4. Melba — 1685.5

Age Champions will be revealed at next week’s whole school assembly.

Finally, congratulations to all staff and students on making the day a wonderful success.
Welcome back to school and we trust you enjoyed your time over the Christmas period. This year we changed the start to the year with one professional development day to enable us to have Years 7 and Units 3 and 4 students only on Thursday 28th January. We felt it was important to run a program that was tailored to suit these specific students to ensure they made a good start to the academic year. The feedback from stakeholders has been positive. Our professional development time focused on our directions and goals, student wellbeing training, as well as time for teachers to collaborate.

This is my first year in the role and I will be working with the three other Directors of Learning & Teaching – Jemima Bunn, Shona Mcenaney and Arlene Roberts. Our daily work comprises of improving student outcomes through:
- Building practice excellence
- Curriculum planning and assessment
- Building leadership and teams
- Empowering students and building school pride
- Setting high expectations.

Significant other initiatives we will be working on this year include:
- Aligning the school’s curriculum with the new Victorian Curriculum.
- Continue to improve the effectiveness of teacher collaboration as individuals and teams.
- Continue to improve the assessment and reporting processes across the school.
- Continue to develop differentiated classroom programs that meet the needs of all students.
- Continue to improve the use of student data to improve student outcomes and learning.

**Assessment and reporting learning task date**

Teachers have their first cycle learning tasks on Compass and the first reporting date for this assessment is Thursday 24th March. I would encourage you to examine these learning tasks to determine the nature of the activity and assessment procedures.

**Information and Communications Technologies.**

Mr Merriweather and Mr Carr have been imaging devices over the previous fortnight and this week we started training Year 7 students on using the device and our network. This is in addition to Ms Gaitanis teaching the students about our Resource Centre. Thank-you to parents and guardians who have signed the ‘Responsible Use of Technology’ agreement. If parents/guardians haven’t signed the agreement it will mean their child will not be able to use our network until this is completed on Compass.

Geoff Vezey.
Director of Learning & Teaching
This fortnightly Newsletter will keep you in touch with career events, expos, courses, Open Days and so on. Attending career events will assist you to make wise career decisions. Students who do research, attend events, collect information, and talk to others about careers frequently find it easier to make their own decisions.

VCE RESULTS FROM 2015

It was pleasing to see so many Blackburn High students perform well in the VCE exams and achieve some excellent ATAR scores. The median ATAR showed an increase from the previous year and this reflected all the hard work done by the student group and their VCE teachers. The key statistics are presented below for your interest.

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Students with ATAR above 90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students receiving tertiary offer</td>
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<td>Students receiving multiple offers</td>
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<td>Students with their 1st preference</td>
<td>34%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students with their 2nd preference</td>
<td>13%</td>
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WHAT ARE SOME ALTERNATIVES UPON LEAVING SCHOOL?

One option is university study. Research shows that those who have a university degree are (on average) less likely to be unemployed and are likely to earn more during their lifetimes than those who do not. 

Those entering employment with no study plans need to understand that their career options and earning capacity are likely to be limited in the long term. Qualifications are VITAL.

Thinking of University? There are nine in Victoria:

- Australian Catholic Uni (ACU)
- Deakin
- Federation University
- La Trobe University
- Monash University
- RMIT
- Swinburne
- The University of Melbourne
- Victoria University’s

NOTE: Charles Sturt University is sometimes listed with Victorian Universities. It is a NSW university with a campus on the Victoria/NSW border (Albury-Wodonga). There are many providers of vocational education (VET) such as Bendigo, Box Hill Institute, Gordon, Holmesglen, Kangan, Melbourne Polytechnic, RMIT, Swinburne, VU.

With so many institutions available it is important that you do some research during senior years at school. This includes attending Open Days, Career Expos, school holiday programs and so on.

FOCUS ON DEGREES

The ONLY university in Victoria offering an undergraduate medical degree is Monash. Acceptance into this course is based on a combination of ATAR, UMAT result and a multi-mini interview. UMAT is short for the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test. This year the test will be held on Wednesday 27 July. For details see – http://umat.acer.edu.au

Registrations are open now and close at 5pm (AEST) on Friday 3 June, 2016. The UMAT is a multiple choice assessment; it is possible to purchase practice tests at this website, and you are strongly advised to do so.
TOP DESIGNS

Congratulations to Bonnie Hodge who has been selected for this year’s Top Designs Exhibition as part of the VCE Season of Excellence 2016. Top Designs is part of the VCE Season of Excellence managed by Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. It runs from Friday 18 March – Sunday 10 July 2016 at the Melbourne Museum, Carlton.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

The Food Technology staff are excited to welcome a new room in the form of a portable over the Christmas holidays. Work is currently under way to get the facility up and running hopefully before the end of February.

WELCOME BACK

Welcome back to Tameka Carter, who was here taking Cheryl Angus’s classes in Term 2, 2015. She will be taking VCE Studio Arts, Photography and Multimedia.

Below: Year 7 Art and Year 10 Food students at work.
Student Representative Council (SRC)

The 2016 SRC is about to be elected with many students submitting applications. Watch this space for SRC news!

Social Justice Captain

Congratulations to Marjorie Devereux who has been appointed the first ever Social Justice Captain for Blackburn High School. Marjorie feels passionately about social justice issues both at school and in the wider community. Well done to the other applicants.

**Why did you want to be Social Justice Captain?**

I think it’s really important to pay attention to issues that are often overlooked. Together with other students I believe we can make a difference on issues of social justice at school but also outside of school, for example through working with organisations such as the Safe Schools Coalition Victoria, World Vision and the Oaktree Foundation.

**Why is social justice important?**

We need recognition of everyone in our school community and the way they identify in relation to race, religion, gender or sexuality. The school community can’t function effectively if not everyone feels included. We need to create environment where everyone has support network in place. In terms of social justice globally the work we do can make a huge difference, for example last year we raised over $5000 for 40 Hour Famine to help improve the lives of many people in the developing world.

**What are you excited about?**

I’m really excited about Breakfast Club which I’m working on now with Ms Monda. I want to increase awareness and participation in our diversity group. I’m really keen for us to participate again in 40 Hour Famine and Live Below the Line. I am also looking into us celebrating Harmony Day for the first time. I’m also excited about the energy and enthusiasm shown by other compassionate Blackburn High School students. With them on board we can achieve a lot this year in terms of social justice.

If a student is interested in social justice issues what should they do?

They should come and speak to me and I will talk to them about how they can be involved. I would love students to approach me with their ideas.

Lions Youth of the Year

Blackburn High School has a long history of involvement with the Lions Club Youth of the Year competition. The competition has been in existence for more than 48 years and boasts many high profile Australians amongst the ranks of former entrants, including Kevin Rudd.

This year I am delighted to report that three students are competing for Blackburn High School: Ardian Strybosch (Yr 11), Alyse Clarke (Yr 12) and Alice Turner (Yr 10). It is outstanding to have three students, each from a different year level, with the skills and confidence to participate in this great event and we congratulate all three for taking part.

Ardian was the first student to compete, giving a fascinating speech on astrophysics to the Box Hill Lions Club.

Alyse was the second to compete in the Donvale Lion’s Club Youth of the Year contest. She was awarded best speaker on the night. This was a great achievement as she was competing against six other students from Doncaster SC, Doncaster East SC and Mullana SC and the standard was very high.

Alice is due to compete next week, for Nunawading Loins Club. We wish her the best.
**Chaplaincy Program**

**Year 7 BBQ**

It was great to see so many Year 7 students and their families at the annual Year 7 BBQ.

We were lucky to have wonderful weather on the night, and it was great to see our new families getting to know each other, and the staff here at Blackburn. Another huge thanks to the Chaplaincy Support Group for putting on this event and cooking close to 1000 sausages! Also thanks to all of the teachers that came and helped on the night. It was a great success and a lovely way to welcome our new families to the Blackburn High School community.

Reminder to parents of Year 7 students: Please make sure you fill out the Chaplaincy Consent form and also the Circle Time Consent form if you want your child to be able to access support from the Chaplain. You will find these on Compass. Your child will not be able to see the Chaplain, or participate in Circle Time activities without your consent. If you have any questions about this please contact the Chaplain Kate Hill, by calling the school.

**Second Hand Uniform Shop**

A reminder that the Second hand Uniform Shop is open every Tuesday morning from 8:15—8:45am.

If you would like to donate uniform items, you can leave them at reception or your child’s House Office at any time.

Thank you to all who have already donated uniform. It is greatly appreciated.
INVITATION TO JOIN FRIENDS OF MUSIC

You are invited to attend the FRIENDS OF MUSIC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY 1st MARCH 2016 AT 7.00PM IN THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT.

Friends of Music, (FoM) are a group of parents who are interested in helping the wonderful teachers who comprise the Music department. FoM supports the department by providing Front of House, refreshments, and other duties at each of the concerts. FoM also undertakes fundraising activities to purchase new instruments and equipment which are used by the students.

Friends of Music is one of the very few areas in the high school where parents are able to play an active role in their children's education by directly supporting the teachers. It also provides an opportunity for meeting other parents. There are two ways to support FoM. You may either join the FoM Committee, or you may become a FoM supporter.

FoM Committee meetings are usually held once or twice a term, and mainly address the planning for FoM events – the support for school concerts and other fundraising activities.

FoM supporters are emailed prior to each event, requesting assistance. Those who are available are then added to the supporters’ roster for the event.

If you would like to join the FoM Committee, you are warmly invited to join us at the AGM on Tuesday 1st March. If you would like to join the committee, but are unavailable on that date, please email me to inform me of your interest so I can add your name to the Committee Membership.

If you would like to have your name added to the list of FoM supporters, please email me with your details.

Please consider joining the Friends of Music committee, or becoming a Friends of Music Supporter.

Heather Pennings
FoM President

penningsheather@gmail.com
We are looking for: Local families to host International Students from overseas who will be studying at Blackburn High School from Years 10—12. Homestay families are paid approximately $290 - $310 per week. You must be English-speaking, willing to help the student(s) adjust to life in Australia and help improve their English through a variety of means. Please contact the International Students’ Program Coordinator Isabel Zhou on 8804 6464 if you would to have any further information please email: zhou.isabel.y@edumail.vic.gov.au

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<td>Happy Labor Day</td>
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