Quick Shine Program

Manicures, nutrition, personal hygiene and presentation hairdressing are all part of the Quick Shine program which the Year 9 Work Education girls are taking part. The course is being run every Wednesday at the Morpheus Academy of Beauty. Every week the girls learn theory behind different aspects of beauty in a classroom and then spend the afternoon on the practical aspects of the training. Our thanks go to the IMB for providing the money for the project.

The girls are also involved in some competency based skills training at Macquarie Fields TAFE and doing a Certificate II in Skills for work and training express.

Me-POWER Community Resource

Community groups in Campbelltown have joined forces to develop a how-to guide, called the Me-POWER Community Resource, to support the area's youth. It would equip people to run the Me-POWER Program which could cover bullying and cyber bullying, stress and resilience, alcohol and other drugs, sexual health, communication and conflict resolution, goal setting and decision making.

Details: Anyone interested in the program can phone: UnitingCare Burnside, 4629 5164; Mission Australia, 4621 7400; Traxside Youth Health Service, 4625 2525; YWCA NSW — Youth and Mentoring Programs, 4629 3460.

Help at hand: Robert Townson High School students Brittany Harrison and Jarrod Betts, who contributed to the guide, with (from left) Peter Torbay from YMCA NSW, Karen Yuen of Uniting Care Burnside, Campbelltown MP Bryan Doyle, Louise Gee of Traxside Youth Health Services and Trish Kelly of Mission Australia at the resource's launch last week.
A very rushed term 2 is now over. For the first 6 weeks of term II staff were putting together your student’s half yearly report. The last few weeks are spent in printing and distributing the reports to you prior to Parent Teacher night on the first day back next term. Software and infrastructure problems during this reporting process may have resulted in the production of some reports which otherwise would have been corrected during our quality assurance practices. We have already begun to modify our processes to minimise or eradicate these issues. In the meantime should you find yourself with a report that you know to be wrong or even just wish to query, please let the school know. The easiest way is to bring your report during Parent Teacher night on the first Tuesday back, which will also be the students first day, discuss it with your child's teacher and they can ensure the report is corrected. Alternatively contact the school’s office and notify them of the issue and we will fix it at this end. We will then reprint a complete unedited report for your approval.

The last few weeks of this term also saw students participating in several leadership opportunities. In week 8 almost all students elected to be the audience for a student Talent Quest. Standing in front of your peers and performing in dance, song, as musician or other type of performer must be a daunting task. Congratulations to all performers for the outstanding contribution during that day. Congratulations also must go to the student leaders who organised and ran the event.

In recent newsletters I notified you of a large number of students utilising massive amounts of our schools (data) bandwidth. A significant proportion of this was due to the use of social media such as You Tube. This is concerning given that no students have access to this or other sites due to restrictions placed upon their account. After further investigation it was found that many students were using teacher accounts from our school and even schools around Sydney. This occurs because someone, for whatever reason, gets access to the username and password and shares this information with their peers. The consequence is a proliferation of students checking their Facebook or You Tube (or other) accounts. I gave the students a couple of days warning that I would begin suspending students for violating their usage contracts. I am pleased to say that for the majority things have returned to normal. I have contacted the Department to let them notify teachers from other schools about the misuse of their accounts and relevant staff from my school have reset the passwords. Though we will continue to monitor the situation it seems that things have returned to normal.

The first 2 weeks of next term will see year 12 participate in their trial examinations. This will be the first time we have conducted the trials this early in term 3. We hope in doing so that the students will endeavour to remain at school for as long as possible to take advantage of the education being provided right up until their last day. By conducting the trials this early they will not have completed their year 12 coursework and so will have to remain at school after the trials to do so.

As I have mentioned in previous newsletters student adherence to our school’s uniform policy in term I was sensational unfortunately, predominantly in years 9 and 10 (but not only them), this same pattern cannot be said of term II. I have begun conversations with our parents and citizens body to review our school uniform policy specifically with respect to a school tracksuit/microfibre pants and top. Preliminary discussions from this community body indicate strong support for the introduction of a winter microfibre option to keep students warm. It seems clear that this option will be introduced as a winter item however it will be different in design to the current sport tracksuit/microfibre pants and top. There will be further discussion on this topic with our P&C body next term.

Have a safe holiday and I look forward to seeing all of our students in term 3.

Warren Parkes
Deputy Principal’s Message (Yr 7, 9, 11)

I am looking forward to meeting the parents of my year 7 class on the first Tuesday of next term as parent teacher afternoon / evening is a positive link between the school and the community. Parents of all students should check with their children for booking sheets (check the bottom of their bags!)

Reports for all years will be sent home by the end of term to assist in any concerns you have with improving the educational outcomes of your child.

As winter hits us we need to emphasise the need for correct school uniform. School jumpers should be worn and not “hoodies”. Continued failure to meet uniform requirements will limit student opportunities for excursions, sporting representation or other extra curricula activities.

I congratulate year 12 as they prepare for the HSC. I have had great pleasure in tutoring a number of Year 12 in mathematics as they try to clarify earlier topics. I am a “sad” teacher who loves mathematics.

I wish all a pleasant break and anticipate a great term 3.

R. Morrow
Deputy Principal

Deputy Principal’s Message (Yr 8, 10, 12)

This term has seen the distribution of reports for all students detailing their academic performance and attendance. As a follow-up, Year 9 & 11 students and parents will be contacted regarding the need for interviews to discuss plans for improvement where reports indicated this need.

Students who have performed consistently well in Years 9 and 11 will receive letters of commendation over the next few weeks to support them in their positive approach to study.

Students and parents need to be aware that 100% attendance at school is required by the Department of Education and Communities. While it is understood that students and families have situations where illness and other personal circumstances prevent their attendance at school occasionally, it is becoming apparent that far too many students are taking time away from school for often trivial reasons. All absences from school must be explained by parents as soon as the student returns to school. Medical certificates for extended periods of leave are required. Parents seeking leave for students for other reasons should discuss the matter with the Deputy Principals.

Many students have expressed keen interest in completing TAFE courses in areas of specialization such as carpentry, automotives, hospitality etc. While we are keen to support students in such alternative courses, it must be understood that students are required to attend these courses consistently in order to satisfy the course requirements. The same applies to students attending work experience or work placement in Years 9-12. A half hearted approach to attendance by a few students is endangering the prospect of the school being offered places in TAFE & work experience in the future.

K. Chapman
Deputy Principal
Year 8 students, Zach Fullgrabe, Molly Malone, Logan Neilsen and Joshua Virgona are currently competing in the 2013 Premier’s Debating Challenge for years 7 and 8. They defeated Campbelltown High Blues in round 1 and will compete against Campbelltown High Reds in Round 2, later on this month. They are excellent ambassadors for Robert Townson High School and are to be commended on their dedication, strong work ethic and sense of team work throughout the competition. We wish them the best of luck in their future debates.

Year 12 Extension 1 English renewed a great relationship with the University of Western Sydney last week with the return of Dr Tom Lee who has been visiting us and working with the class (now a class of two, so great one-to-one help) on creative writing. When he first visited, Tom was working on his PhD on the work of W.G. Sebold, and now has his doctorate and is tutoring on three different UWS campuses, so we really appreciate his time and effort with us.

Daniel Bezett and Jacob Marquardt have learned a lot about creative writing techniques from Tom, and Daniel has some extra ideas for his Extension two Major Work.

UWS offer some excellent speakers in their programs for school students, and Tom has been wonderful for us, willing to spend time and help with resources.

Carolyn Wright
Head Teacher English

Students from RTHS attended an excursion to the capitol theatre on Wednesday the 5th of June to watch the Addams Family Musical, a broadway show based on the television series of fictional characters including Gomez, Morticia, Uncle Fester, Wednesday, Pugsley and many more. The year 9, 10 and 11 students travelled into the city on the day by train and had lunch in Sydneys ‘Pitt Street Mall’ food court before walking up to the theatre to watch the show.

It was a great show and filled with laughs and is suitable for any ages. Overall a fabulous day and we look forward to the next theatre excursion we attend.

By Jasmine Haddad (year 9)
Learn Auslan (Australian Sign Language)

If you would like to learn Auslan but find that you don’t have the time to attend a community college or TAFE, then this is the course for you!!

The Deaf Society is now offering a sign Online course. This is a basic introductory course in Auslan (Australian Sign Language). Study online for 7 weeks, watching videos and joining in the discussion forum in your own time. You need to be able to access a computer with internet of reasonable speed and download allowance that can download around 200MB to 500MB per week of videos.

The next course will begin on 22 July 2013. Each course runs for 7 weeks and each enrolment cost is $110.

For more information, contact the Deaf Society on (02) 8833 3604 or (02) 8833 3677 (TTY) or check out the website: http://deafsociety.live.oncourse.net.au/course/AUSLAN.

Barista Course

If you have consumed the coffee or hot chocolate at Townson Café this term, you will undoubtedly have been impressed by the taste and quality of your beverage!! This is because four senior students in HIU have been attending Padstow TAFE every Monday and learning all about making great coffee, serving customers, managing a coffee shop and writing resumes. The course finishes at the end of Term 2 but two of the students will be continuing to develop their skills at the Townson Café every Tuesday. If you haven’t already tried the hot beverages at our school’s café, what are you waiting for?

WELL BEING

Ensure the school office has all up to date medical and contact details for your child/ward. It is vital that we can contact you in an emergency.

Many responsible students have expressed an interest to become Year 9 Peer Leaders. Students will work with the incoming Year 6 and help them get ready for high school. Year 9 students will also gain valuable leadership skills during Term 3 when training occurs at Teen Ranch and at school.

Congratulations to Joshua, Penny and Abigail who graduated from Burnside’s Links to Learning Program this semester. Four new students from year 7 are ready to start next term and looking forward to doing Activ8, Rock and Water, aerosol art and more!

Parents are reminded how important it is to supervise your child’s online activity. Research shows 60% of 12-13 year olds have witnessed cyberbullying. To support your child keep up to date with safe online use—visit kidsspot.com.au for the latest tips.

Till next time,

Mrs Sally Willmott
Head Teacher Welfare

Our school website includes lots of valuable information regarding child well being. Articles this month include:-

A flyer from MTC Youth Connections offering a 12 week program offering assistance in communication, life skills, nutrition for young parents and their children, plus more.
AFRICAN DRUMMING WORKSHOP

On Friday the 14th of June, year 7 and 8 went to The Spirit of Africa interactive drumming incursion. We got to have our own drum and learn a beat to play along with everyone. Tuza and his dancing friend were from West Africa in a place called Ghana. The word “salaka” means sharing, sharing the spirit of Africa and its culture. Firstly they told us some interesting things about West Africa and Ghana and played some beats and songs on the drums. They told us about each drum and what they were used for. They taught us some African words for their clothing, drums and more. My favourite part was playing the drums. The most interesting part was when we and the teachers got to go up with Tuza and play a song and beat with him, it was like a real band! Another great part was when Tuza’s dancing friend showed us some of his dance moves and performed with some of the students. It was a very entertaining afternoon; everyone loved it and had a good time!

By Ashley Booker 8I
HSIE Faculty

Visit from Campbelltown Family Support Service – Nabu Team

As part of their study year 10 are completing a unit of work known as “Changing Rights and Freedoms”, which focuses on the changing rights of Indigenous peoples in the post-World War Two era. To aid their studies, on Monday the 17th of June, year 10 had a visit from Rhett Burrraster of Nabu Team, from the Campbelltown Family Support Service. Rhett is an Indigenous social worker who provided year 10 with a talk on issues affecting the Indigenous community both past and present. Rhett gave the students a verbal account of the injustices suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples since the beginning of British colonisation. Rhett also spoke about the problems with government intervention into Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. The students then enjoyed a didgeridoo performance from Rhett’s associate, Brandon McGuiness, who also asked for volunteers play the instrument.

By A Olm

Library

There are always new books arriving in the library and you can see them displayed as you walk in the door. If you have been too busy to come to the library you can always check the library section of the school website. Everything is listed there.

We had a visit by channel 7 sports commentator Jim Wilson on the 30th May. Jim talked to students about his career and what you need to do to be successful. He then went on to answer questions from students. Jim was very accommodating, and happy to talk about anything from careers in television to the State of Origin.

Don’t forget the July holidays are a perfect time to stay inside and catch up with some of your favourite authors or try some new ones. All the books are available to borrow for the holidays so come in and see what you can find to keep you entertained when it is too cold to go outside.

Mrs Hogan Teacher/Librarian
Mrs Lewis Library Assistant
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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| 1A   | 15 July  
Staff Development Day—no students | 16 HSC TRIAL EXAMS  
PARENT TEACHER NIGHT | 17 HSC TRIAL EXAMS | 18 HSC TRIAL EXAMS | 19 HSC TRIAL EXAMS |
| 2B   | 22 HSC TRIAL EXAMS | 23 HSC TRIAL EXAMS | 24 HSC TRIAL EXAMS  
Year 8-11 Opera | 25 HSC TRIAL EXAMS | 26 HSC TRIAL EXAMS |
| 3A   | 29 Yr 11 Study Skills presentation | 30 Education Week activities | 31 Yr 9 English excursion  
Romeo & Juliet (selected students) | 1 August | 2 |
| 4B   | 5 YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE  
Yr 10 & 12 English Listening Task | 6 YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE | 7 YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE | 8 YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE | 9 YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE |
| 5A   | 12 Year 9 English Media Task | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 6B   | 19 Peer Leadership Camp (selected students) | 20 Peer Leadership Camp (selected students)  
HSC Visual Arts and Industrial Technology exhibition | 21 Peer Leadership Camp (selected students)  
HSC Visual Arts and Industrial Technology exhibition | 22 | 23 |
| 7A   | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 8B   | 2 September | 3 | 4 Year 9-11 Drama Night | 5 | 6 |
| 9A   | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 10B  | 16 | 17 | 18 Year 12 Graduation | 19 Year 12 Formal | 20 Last day of term 3 |