Principal's Report

School Council Election
Nominations and elections for positions on School Council open this week. I would like to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of current councillors some of whom complete their current terms. While they are eligible to re-nominate, we always need new members so please check the details later in this newsletter or contact me on 02 6032 9483.

PT & CA Meeting
The Parents, Teachers and Citizens Association (PT&CA) will meet in the school library next Wednesday 24th February at 7.30pm. Existing and new members are invited and light refreshments will be provided.

Start of the Year
We have had a generally smooth start to the year with a full complement of staff and an operating timetable thanks to great work from Greg Barras. The one surprise is that we have a lot more students than expected. Year 8 is completely full and I am currently working to employ an additional teacher so that we can split the three large classes into four smaller classes. This change will be implemented as soon as possible once we appoint a teacher and implement the timetable changes.

School Council Family BBQ
The School Council BBQ was held last Thursday evening at the Rutherglen pool. It was great to see that despite the unsettled and even wet weather, quite a number of families were able to attend, including some families new to our school. Effective education is a partnership between the school and the home and opportunities such as this where parents and teachers can meet really open up the communication channels.

I would like to thank the Year 9 Alive students for organising and conducting the BBQ and the Instrumental Music teachers and students for providing the entertainment. We operate a very broad Instrumental Music program so if you want to learn an instrument at minimal cost, please contact Peter Scott on 02 6032 9483.

Dragon Boat racing & Bravehearts
Our Year 9 students were lucky to be invited to work with a team from Bravehearts to find out more about their organisation, Breast Cancer support and research and also take part in paddling and racing three Dragon Boats in Wodonga this week. The activity certainly pushed students to work better in team situations and closely follow instructions. At the end of the session, Bek Mollison presented a cheque to Bravehearts to assist them in their valuable work.

Gnurad Gundidj School for Student Leadership Team
While the communication from the students has been sporadic, we have heard from staff at Gnurad Gundidj who report the team is working very well. In the first two weeks they have been doing a range of practical and theoretical classes which will enable them to undertake further, more challenging, activities in the weeks to come.
SCHOOL COUNCIL BBQ

DRAGONBOAT RACING

Gnurad Gundidj School for Student Leadership Team
**My favourite subject:**

There are many different subjects in High school, but the one that stands out to me the most, and is different to anything else we did in Primary School, is Materials (metal work). I didn't know what Materials was going to be like at the start, but my first lesson was really interesting! My Teacher's name is Mr. Phillpot, and he told us (my class, 7D) about all the accidents that had happened in that room. Example: Once a couple of boys chipped some metal into star shapes and threw them into the roof, but then a couple of week's later, one fell back down and hit a different person on the head. It got stuck in their skull for life. So now I know how dangerous it is.

After the first lesson, Mr. Phillpot has us all hooked. When we came back for the second lesson, we all started to make something called ‘Soft Jaws’. When we measured up the piece of metal, we imprinted our initials on it with some lettering and a hammer. Unfortunately, we didn't finish them in that lesson, and then I was away for the next, so I didn't get to finish mine.

By the fourth lesson (my third), everyone has moved onto a new project. This time, we were making something with wood. Mr. Phillpot had kindly measured up some blocks of wood in preparation for that lesson. Firstly, we all had to go outside and copy some patterns from some leaves. As we came back inside, Mr. Phillpot told us that we were making some wooden leaves! Everyone was ecstatic about it. So, we set to work. First of all, we had to measure up 5mm from the end of the block, and chop it off with a saw, it was really difficult to accomplish!

By the end of the lesson, I had done it, and so far, we haven’t finished the challenge of making a leaf.

I really enjoy Materials, and I’m looking forward to the next thrilling session!


Mikayla Bridge
Homework Club

If your homework is a hassle and you want a little help,
Just join up to the homework club and you won’t have to yelp!!

The Homework club will be operating on a Wednesday afternoon from 3.30 to 4.30 pm in the library. It is open to all year levels, light refreshments will be provided and staff will be there to help with any problems. Students wishing to participate need to get a permission form from Mrs. Gillick.
The Homework club will start on Wednesday March 3rd

Tax File Number (TFN)

All people must eventually obtain a TFN. Save some time and hassles and apply for it through the school as a student. Collect a form from outside the General Office and return it to Mrs Leverett for processing. All forms received will be sent to the Tax Office at the end of Week 5 (5/3) and Week 8 (26/3) of term 1. Your TFN will be sent directly to your home address in 4 to 6 weeks. Please note that you will need the number on your Birth Certificate to include on the application.

2010 DEBUTANTE BALLS

If you are interested in taking part in this years Debutante Balls please contact Carol Fursdon on 0260328555 (after 5pm) to register. All names to be submitted by Monday 15th February.

In June-July 2010, students, aged 15 – 18 years, from over 15 countries will be arriving in Australia to study at local schools for 3, 5 or 10 months. Opportunities exist to act as a host family in a volunteer/unpaid capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis.

Host families help provide our students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To learn more about this opportunity call Student Exchange Australia New Zealand on 1300 135 331 or visit our website: www.studentexchange.org.au
Students discover the world on a WEP student exchange!

World Education Program (WEP) Australia is now accepting applications from students to participate in 2010/11 exchange programs for a summer, semester or year. Students and parents can choose from more than 26 countries, including France, Belgium, Italy, Germany and Spain.

Give your child the opportunity to have an international experience and gain the personal, social and academic skills that are so important in today's world.

*Student exchange is a journey of discovery – of self and of places, peoples and cultural practices.*

Exchange students return to Australia with maturity, confidence, and in many cases, proficiency in another language. If learning another language is not for your child, excellent programs to the USA, Canada, Ireland and the UK are also available.

Attend one of WEP's information evenings or go online at www.wep.org.au to find out more. **Scholarships to Italy and French-speaking Belgium are now available for January 2011!**

If you are more interested in the rewards of hosting an international student, you can find the relevant information on the WEP website or by contacting the WEP office.

WEP, a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the education departments, has opened the door to a rewarding and successful future for thousands of students.

**Upcoming information evenings:**

**Melbourne**
7:30 -9:00 pm
2 March
Kingston Arts Centre
979 Nepean Highway
Moorabbin

4 March
Northcote Town Hall
189 High Street
Northcote

23 March
Hawthorn Library Centre
584 Glenferrie Road
Hawthorn

**Sydney**
7:30-9:00 pm
10 March
Bowlers Club
95-99 York Street
Sydney

**Brisbane**
7:30-9:00 pm
10 March
Metropolitan Motor Inn
106 Leichardt Street
Spring Hill
What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

There are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.

- **A mandated elected DEECD employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- **An optional Community member category.** Its members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.
### School Council Election Process and Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Notice of election and call for nominations</td>
<td>Wednesday 17(^{th}) February 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Closing date for nominations</td>
<td>Wednesday 3(^{rd}) March 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) The date by which the list of candidates, nominator and seconder will be displayed</td>
<td>Thursday 4(^{th}) March 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) The date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed</td>
<td>On or before Friday 5(^{th}) March 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Close of ballot</td>
<td>Friday 12(^{th}) March 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Vote count</td>
<td>Monday 15(^{th}) March 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g) Declaration of ballot</td>
<td>Monday 15(^{th}) March 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h) Tentative School Council meeting to appoint Community Members (the Principal will preside)</td>
<td>Thursday 18(^{th}) March 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i) Tentative second School Council meeting to elect Office Bearers (the Principal will preside)</td>
<td>Thursday 18(^{th}) March 2010</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Phil Rogers*
Schedule 4  Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is called for members of the School Council of Rutherglen High School.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4 pm on Wednesday 3rd March 2010.

The ballot will close at 4 pm on Friday 12th March 2010.

Following the close of nominations, a list of nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and numbers of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Category</th>
<th>Term of Office</th>
<th>Number of Positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration in the poll in 2010 to and inclusive of the declaration of the poll in 2012.</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration in the poll in 2010 to and inclusive of the declaration of the poll in 2012.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: outgoing School Councillors may re-nominate for a further two year term on School Council.

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Phil Rogers
Principal.
Dates to Remember

Mon 22nd February
O & M Senior Cricket

Tues 23rd February
Swimming Sports

3rd- 5th March
Yr. 12 Camp

Thursday 11th March
School Photos

Breakfast Program
For Students
WHEN? Thursdays, 8.15am to 8.50am
WHERE? RHS Community Centre
WHAT’S ON? Milo, Tea, Coffee, Toast, Cereal….sometimes pancakes, smoothies and more!
AND….IT’S ALL FREE!!

If you wish to have your Newsletter emailed please contact the school with your details.

www.rutherglen.rhs.vic.edu.au

The school’s website is now operational with interesting information regarding the school, including past and current newsletters. Log on to www.rutherglenhs.vic.edu.au

Rutherglen High School

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