From the Principal

This is my final newsletter to the school community in my capacity as Principal of Auburn High School. The last 12 months have certainly been an interesting period in the development of this new school. The time has flown by very quickly.

I will not recount the very many things that have been achieved – the list would be too long given the space that is available in this newsletter. It is very important to recognise though that none of this would have been possible without the support and hard work of key people. The Department of Education has supported us well; the Regional Office in the form of the Regional Director and Assistant Director has lent great support. The School Councils of Hawthorn Secondary College and Auburn High School have worked very hard on behalf of the school. My immediate colleagues, Virginia Murray and Stephen Kimonides, have been tireless workers for the new school and during 2013 in the planning stage. The teaching staff that we retained from the former staff have provided great support to the work of the whole school and have provided leadership to less experienced new teachers. I want to commend particularly the new staff, both teaching and non-teaching staff, for their wonderful work.

None of the work would have been possible without the terrific attitude towards change that the vast majority of the students in the school have displayed. It is usually very easy for Year 7 students as they come into a new high school each year. It is less easy for students who were part of one school in one period of time and were asked to embrace another school in a very short period. The transition from Hawthorn in 2013 to Auburn in 2014 has worked well for most. We are in the early stages of creating a new culture that will embrace all members of the school community. This is a work in progress and it will take a significant amount of time.

Auburn High School is in the very early stages of becoming a truly great school. The key elements are in place. Judging by the interest at our recent Open Morning and Information Evening, the community is certainly talking about Auburn as a realistic education option for young people. It will now be up to all concerned to embrace the direction the school has set. I am very confident that our new Principal, Ms Maria Karvouni, will lead the school to greatness. I look forward to working with her during a transition period into early term 2.

In closing I wish to thank all who have contributed in some way to the early development of our school. I thank members of the school community for their input and the many constructive comments that have been passed on to me. I will retain a very close interest in the development of Auburn High School, both as an educator and a resident in the local community.

Martin Culkin
Principal

2 April 2014
**UNIFORM REMINDER**

All students are required to wear the **winter uniform** from the start of Term 2, Tuesday 22 April.

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**THE TERM THAT WAS AND THE TERM AHEAD**

*Graffiti Education Incursion*

Year 8 was lucky to receive an anti-graffiti presentation from Xavier from Boroondara Council. Through comic performances, video and role-playing the program reinforced the message of personal and social consequences of undertaking graffiti, as well as exploring positive avenues of self-expression and developing personal decision making skills.

*Year 8 Lorne Camp Reminder*

A quick reminder for parents to return the permission slip and pay the money for Year 8 Camp to the front office. Due to the relatively short notice, a deposit can be paid and an instalment plan can be arranged.

*Student Free Dress Day*

Students had a Free Dress Day on Friday 28 March for a gold coin donation. $197.55 was raised and this sum will be donated to the State School Relief Fund.

*Student and Parent Surveys*

In the first two weeks of term, students will be asked to complete the Department’s Attitude to School Survey. This survey poses a number of questions to students about their learning environment and teachers – such as: if their teachers motivate and stimulate them in their learning, if they feel confident as learners, if they feel stressed or positive about coming to school, and if they feel connected to their peers etc.

The results are used by the school to assess our relative strengths and weaknesses, and some of the data is discussed in student focus groups to gain a better insight into areas of concern.

Thank you to those parents who completed our internal parent surveys at the parent teacher interviews. This data will also be the subject of further discussion.

*Camps and Extra-curricular Activities Term 2*

Many of the teachers have volunteered to run lunchtime clubs commencing in Term 2. Most are open to all age groups. However the Young Experimenters is specifically targeted to Years 7 and 8.

I would like to thank the staff for offering the program, as these clubs run in addition to their lunchtime yard duties.

We also have two year level camps operating in the first two weeks of term: our Year 7s are off to Waratah Bay first week back, and the following week our Year 8s are off to the coast for the Lorne Surf Camp.

Students not participating in the camps are expected to attend school.

Our Year 9s are also in for a surprise first week back. A team of teachers (Ms Doumas, Mr Stannard, Mr Christopoulos and Ms Gibson) have planned a special three-day program designed around team building, team work, project management, and report writing which will culminate in a special event for the School in October.

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Martin Culkin
The Arrow

Art and Technology News

The ADEC has been a hive of activity since the beginning of 2014 and the launch of Auburn High School. Our Year 7s brought a huge amount of excitement and enthusiasm as they leapt into new learning experiences in Design Technology, Food Technology, Art & Drama. Our Year 9s and 10s have begun their electives choosing from a range of specialist options. Our VCE Art and Visual Communication students have been working hard on developing concepts for their folios. Year 12 Media students have been studying narrative in the Films Donnie Darko and Brick and busily working away their scripts for their own films. Year 12 Design Technology students have been exploring ideas for the products they will construct. In Term 2 students can look forward to excursions to Top Arts, Top Design & Top Screen next term. All in all, a great start to the year!

Rachel Bowen
Arts & Design Technology

Auburn High School has hosted a number of grade 6 groups from local primary schools this term, running a series of workshops designed to assist students in the transition from primary to secondary school, to develop curriculum partnerships between AHS and our local primary schools and to give grade 6 students and teachers the chance to experience the excellent facilities and programs AHS has to offer.

Richmond West and Abbotsford Primary School experienced our Mandarin immersion program with Mr Lin and Ms Zhang, working on History and Science activities. Malvern Valley Primary School worked in our Food Technology room with Ms Stambolziev, cooking up a delicious batch of raspberry muffins. Students from Stonnington Primary School experienced our Science Discovery Centre, participating in an exciting demonstration and hands-on activities with Mr Shrimpton and Ms Sobey.

All the groups were welcomed by our School Captains Louise and Gadiel, who shared their experiences of Auburn High School and discussed their appointment and role as Captains, meeting and chatting with their primary school counterparts. Each of the visits was a great success, ably assisted by a number of student helpers.

Such visits will continue to be a feature of the Auburn High School Transition and Promotions programs and we look forward to welcoming more local grade 6 students to our school.

Kristie Satilmis
Promotions Coordinator

Overseas Students Program

The Overseas Student Program at Auburn High School is looking for good homestays for overseas students. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please contact Bernadette Caruana on 9804 6344 or caruana.bernadette.m@edumail.vic.gov.au to discuss remuneration and conditions.
French and fresh news

Our new French library!

On Monday 24th March 2014, Mr. Yann Decourt gave to our school 91 French books, thrilling, exciting classics and contemporary novels. Thank you Mr. Decourt for your generous donation which inaugurates our brand new French library and Ms Ch’ing for cataloguing them!

We are always looking for more resources to support our French program here at Auburn High, please get in touch if you have anything to share.

The Auburn High Time Capsule

On Tuesday 25th, students from 7F buried a time capsule in the courtyard in front of the school. Mr. Culkin and a French delegation participated in the ceremony. In their letters, students from the 7F and 7S presented themselves wrote messages for the future. But what did they wrote to their future’s reader? Shhh! That is a secret! To be revealed in 10 or more years!

Introducing the white knight...

As part as our Humanities program, we dubbed a knight in 7F. Under watchful eyes of parents, squires, damsels and Dame Eloise, Loup, a future valiant knight was dubbed by Laurent, the feudal lord.
The 2014 French Film Festival

On Wednesday 26th, students from the French bi-national 7F class and French language students from Years 7 and 8 went on an excursion to the Kino Cinema. They watched the emotional French movie, *Ma Maman est en Amérique, elle a rencontré Buffalo Bill*. Set in a small provincial town in the 1970s, the story follows the boy’s everyday life at school, his friends and his hijinks. A subtle character study, it offers a finely nuanced look at how children and adults find different ways to deal with loss.

In class, we discussed how the students perceived the movie and how it may differ to the type of cinema they are generally used to. It was also a great foundation to learn to present in French one’s family.

Thanks to all students who participated in this excursion and to Mr Kimonides for his wonderful support!

Discovering “La Francophonie”, the French-speaking world

What a busy week! On Monday 24th, French beginners and advanced students from Year 7 also had the opportunity to come together to cook. We thank the Food Tech team for allowing us to use their room. The students followed Ms Abel’s grand-mother traditional recipe and cooked some yummy crêpes themselves. We used toppings from around the world to celebrate the diversity of culture of French-speaking countries such as Canada, Morocco and New Caledonia.

We are very grateful for the canteen, Gael and Stephany, who prepared a traditional Canadian dish from Québec called “la poutine” for students to enjoy at lunch time.

La recette des crêpes

**Ingredients (pour environ 15 crêpes)**

- 250g de farine
- 3 œufs
- 1/2 L de lait
- environ 25g de beurre
- 1 pincée de sel

optionnel :
- 1 à 3 cuillères à soupe de sucre
- 1 à 2 cuillères à café d’essence de

Congratulations to Emily, Georgina and Ariana from the French beginner class for their research about a dessert from a French speaking country: we can’t wait to try the French Paris-Brest and Swiss Carac recipes at home!
THE DEAD I KNOW
SCOT GARDNER

Mental illness - dementia

Mum is obviously suffering from some sort of illness. Aaron is caring for her as best he can, but now that he has work, it has become more difficult. He has cared for her himself for such a long time, fooling himself that she will get better and shielding her from prying eyes. It isn’t until some way into the novel that her condition is put into words.

- Refine vocabulary choices to discriminate between shades of meaning, with deliberate attention to the effect on audiences
- Create texts that respond to issues, interpreting and integrating ideas from other texts (the novel, online research, documentaries/ clips)

1. What is dementia? Describe the stages, behaviours and treatments.

2. Imagine you have a loved one suffering with dementia. Write a creative piece that shows how the person was before dementia, the changes to their personality and way of life as the disease progressed.

By Taylor Tebbutt, Year 9A

I didn’t understand. I had been watching my Auntie switch the TV off and on for the past 20 minutes. She had arrived at our house weeks before and I had never thought anything of it, but it was almost like a routine for her. She seemed upset that she couldn’t remember how to change the screen from static, but decided to turn it off again for the possibility of the static changing.

Mum said she was fine, and that she’ll get over it. I don’t think she will. I know there’s something wrong, something different from when she was here last time. I had only been young, but I remember her being outgoing and happy all the time. She would play games with me, and teach me to cook things.

I could slowly see her forget different things, some were more casual things, but others were large and old, like her own name, or even mine at times. She would come up to you and ask where the bathroom is, even though it’s just up the hall.

Cathy, my sister, said she might have dementia. I thought dementia was too far-fetched, but I still took it into consideration. In the back of my mind I know it could be real, that her mind is slowly leaving her body. I also noticed that she shuffle now; she used to take long strides, like a gymnast, toes pointed and back straight, but not anymore. Small cautious steps now and her back strained and hunched, as if she was going to step on a bomb, or get in trouble for something. She seemed nervous all the time.

She talks to herself now, too. She might even yell at something, I’m not too sure what, but she thinks it’s there. It’s almost as if she’s being mugged, she shies away into herself, or cringes into a wall nearby and presses her hands to her ears.

I remember last week, she was in the bathroom, and I walked in to find her cleaning her teeth. I thought everything was normal, but when I was going to do the same, she swallowed the paste in her mouth. I screamed at her to spit it out, she didn’t understand what I meant; she began getting frustrated with me, which ended with her having a breakdown in the corner of the bathroom. She backed away from me with tears ready to spill over, her hand protectively stretched out in front of her body; it was as if she thought I would hurt her. When I stopped, she had turned the shower on and sat in the joined bathtub, with the drops of cool water sending jolts through her thin, bony body every time they fell. She sobbed violently for about 10 minutes before I snapped out of it and tried to calm her.

I was worried. I knew it would only get worse, and she’d forget me. She might wake up and forget what she looks like, but when she sees her reflection she will scream at it until her throat is hoarse.

The one thing I don’t think I could handle would be her forgetting her family, the ones who loved her, or the ones who care for her.

I don’t know what to do, but the dementia is slowly taking over.
Year 7 Science—Thursday, 27 March

A rainy day in Smelbourne...

On Thursday 27 March, after focusing on mixtures and solutions in class and in particular the treatment of water, Year 7 students went on a science excursion to the Eastern Treatment Plant. There they learned all about what happens to sewage after it leaves their house before it ends up in Bass Strait. The students were grateful for some rain – apparently it makes the odours less unpleasant.
Year 7 Humanities—Thursday, 3 April

A visiting Archaeologist: Mr Aaron Chettle

This term our Year 7 students have been considering the question, “How do we know what life was really like in ancient times?”

Our Year 7s have been learning about the types of people who investigate the past, different types of historical evidence, methods for dating the evidence, and how the evidence may be interpreted. Our guest archaeologist described and explained how the theory covered in class relates to what an archaeologist does in real life. It was a most interesting and interactive presentation that challenged our students to think more deeply about the context of evidence. Mr Chettle will be working for Museum Victoria in its upcoming exhibition “Aztecs” which runs from 9 April to 10 August 2014.
On Friday, the 21 March, six of our student leaders along with Ms Doumas visited Balwyn High School to attend a conference held by YGAP, or the Y-Generation Against Poverty. There, they listened to motivational speakers who gave talks about their personal stories. One of these speakers is Emily Paulo, who talked about the difficulties she faced in her life—including the loss of her family—and how she fought and rose above them. We also formed groups with other students from other schools and spoke about our initiatives in our respective communities. This allowed us to share our ideas and gain inspiration from our neighbouring schools, which would help us in our role as leaders in Auburn High. It was an extremely valuable experience and we had lots of fun too!

Michael Le, Year 12

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Students’ News

Seniors—Leadership Day

Last week, we, the senior student leaders of Auburn High School, took part in a Leadership Day together with Australia’s most renowned youth motivational speaker and teen coach, Nathan Hulls. Nathan Hulls speaks to young people all over Australia, teaching needed lessons and advice which are valuable to life within and beyond school.

Nathan specifically talked about our role as leaders in our school, focusing primarily on turning our boundless and enthusiastic visions into reality. He made us realise our role in forming our school into a community that we could be more proud of, especially because we are the very first student leaders of our new school.

He taught us the importance of having a vision of what we want to achieve, breaking it down into realistic objectives in order to ensure successful results. We also learned what type of leader each of us are, encouraging us to make use of our strengths and help each other to compensate for our individual weaknesses to become a strong and effective team. But most of all, we learned the value of cooperation first hand through various activities, which made us realise that nothing is impossible if we are united as one.

We would like to thank Mr Nathan Hulls and Ms Doumas for this valuable experience.
Leadership Week 2014

Thanks to the collaboration of the Boorondara Youth Services Group and 4 different schools, two weeks ago Libbi Dieck, Gabe Taylor, Paige Millard and I (Harry Holden) were lucky enough to be able to have some of the best times we’ve all had in a long time. The leadership week also called tomorrow makers lasted 4 days with 28 different kids from Kew High School, Camberwell High School, Alia College and Auburn High School.

The first day of the leadership week started out quite slowly with everyone being a tad nervous about meeting all these new people and being in a place none of us had ever been before. The first thing we did was a game to get to know each other, to break the ice and make everyone a little more comfortable. After that we did a couple of little games like goal setting, we also wrote a letter to ourselves for the end of the week where we started what we wanted to achieve by the time it was over. Once we had all completed that we has recess and Mayor Correl Ross came in with Cr Phillip Malice, they spoke to us about leadership, how they got to be where they are today and what made them want to be who they are, in the position they are in.

The next few days went by like a breeze, I began to get to know some very nice people, it was just so great meeting, talking and getting to know all these other like minded people. Over the remaining three days we had 2 speakers come it that really stood out to me and everyone there; Glenn who spoke to us all as equals and about the hardships he has been through, how much he has grown from them and how even though things get really bad for him at times, he still continues to help others, always putting those in need before himself. Hugh the other speaker that really stood out to me, told us how children who have almost nothing, no food, no money and no home are always so happy, happier than most people in the western world. The fourth and final day of the leadership week was fun, but sad, we finished our little speeches that we were to present to Mayor Correl Ross. Played a last leadership game that taught us the qualities of a great leader then went home, came back later for the presentation evening where every student involved was given an award and said our farewells to each other. I still see the people I met there regularly thanks to that week I now have friends that will last an age. It was great fun, my only complaint is that it couldn't go for longer, it was such a great time.

Harry Holden, Year 11

AHS oval needs improvement

The AHS oval is used for many different sports, especially soccer and athletics. Local high schools and primary schools use it for sports, as well as community groups. The oval needs to be improved by fixing the ground and creating the lines, as well as installing a set of goals.

According to Mr Boots, the Head of PE, the school is small and doesn’t receive as much funding as other schools. To solve this problem the school needs to do fundraising. An example of fundraising is asking for donations or doing fundraising activities in the school. Some of this funding could be used to develop new programs and to fix the grounds.

Many students at AHS are passionate about their sport, especially the youngest students. However, it is difficult to compete with private schools because they have more money and they get to buy more items. Private school students also get to train with a special coach and improve their skills. It is important for the students at AHS to be able to pursue their goals and dreams. To help the students in this situation, they need to be given the right equipment and the right training.

Mohammed, Year 8A
Pastoral News

Onpsych Program

Auburn High School continues to offer the OnPsych Program. This program is designed to address the psychological and emotional needs of young people through psychological support.

The OnPsych program is accessed by a referral from a General Practitioner through a Mental Health Care Plan or by referral from a Paediatrician or Psychiatrist. Individuals may be eligible for up to ten individual sessions per calendar year (up to eighteen in exceptional circumstances) and twelve group sessions per calendar year. This service will be bulk billed by OnPsych psychologists so there will be no cost to young people, their families or the school. A young person may be eligible for support from the OnPsych program psychologist if they have problems which significantly impact on their emotions, thoughts, social skills and decision making. This includes students who may be experiencing difficulties because:

• They have trouble making and keeping friends
• They are being bullied
• They are depressed or excessively anxious
• They have unresolved issues with grief or loss
• They have behaviour problems such as difficulty managing their anger
• They have been identified with Attention Deficit Disorder

Student Wellbeing Coordinator

Tahlia, Student Wellbeing, Auburn High School will be available by phone on 0437 533 251 during the school holiday period. If you have any worries or concerns during the school holiday period you are able to contact the above number between 9:00am and 4:30pm each weekday.

For anytime, twenty-four seven, during the school holiday break you are also able to contact the Kids Help Line on 1800 55 1800 for any issues or concerns.

Anglicare - Breaking the Cycle is a group for mothers, fathers, partners, step-parents, carers whose adolescent is abusive and / or violent at home.

Wednesday 5 Feb – 26 March (Evening) 8 weeks 6.30 – 8.30
Thursday 31 July – 18 Sept (Daytime) 8 weeks 10.00 – 12.00
Wednesday 8 Oct – 26 Nov (Evening) 8 weeks 6.30 – 8.30
Cost $50.00 an individual or $80 couple. Flyer attached

For further information and registrations please contact Meridian Intake at Anglicare on 9896 6322

Eating Disorders Victoria

Do you care for someone with an eating disorder? EDV are conducting a series of focus groups to discuss how EDV’s services fit with carers needs.

EDV have a number of events coming up including
Building Hope a 7 week recovery program for parents, partners and carers.
Stories of Recovery presentations by recovered speakers
Community Awareness Seminars workshops for the general public
Should I say Something an introductory workshop for people who work with those at risk of an eating disorder such as teachers, sport and fitness professionals, youth / community / welfare workers.

Please visit www.eatingdisorders.org.au/events for further details and to book online.

Headspace Collingwood

This walking group is open to both clients and non clients of Headspace. A walking group will run weekly on Thursdays leaving at 11.00am. For more information please contact Laura Buerckner 9417 0150 lbuerckner@collingwoodheadspace.org.au.
National Youth Week 4th-13th April

There are some fantastic events happening during youth week at the Boroondara Youth Services. All events will be held at the Boroondara Youth Resource Centre. Level 1, 360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn.

BULLYZERO – Parent Information evening

When: Wednesday 28 May
Time: 6pm
Where: Auburn High School – VCE Learning Common, 2nd Floor

Bully Zero Australia Foundation is dedicated and committed to raising awareness of bullying and its devastating consequences through schools, workplaces and the broader Community. They aim to provide young people with education to prevent bullying and work with bullies and their families to help create positive behavioural changes.

"Every day across Australia, thousands of adults, children and adolescents are suffering the pain and humiliation of being bullied. The effects of bullying can be devastating not just for the victims, but also for their families. The Internet has now made it possible for bullies to continue hounding their targets twenty-four hours a day, providing no reprieve for the victims: It is fast spreading like an epidemic amongst today’s generation."

It has been suggested that almost 80% of youth suicides are due to mental illness caused by issues related to bullying, especially cyber bullying. A week does not pass where we don’t hear about the loss of a beautiful young person who has tragically taken his or her life after enduring unbearable, persistent and callous bullying at school, in the workplace or on social media.

"In recent months a group of energetic, passionate and committed individuals have formed a committee to lead the way towards a new, bully-free Australia. The committee consists of families of bullied victims, politicians, senior members of the Police Force and professionals from various backgrounds who have united to form the Bully Zero Australia Foundation. They have worked tirelessly to establish a dynamic Anti-Bullying Foundation determined to “make a difference” in Australia in regards to this unacceptable anti-social disease."

Some of these members will be coming to speak at the school to help address bullying and we encourage all Auburn High School Families to participate in this evening. Please note, that each year level will be participating in a session with BullyZero early in Term 2 as a part of the pastoral care program. If you have any concerns regarding your child attendance to this presentation, please feel free to contact Tahlia Pastor, Student Welfare Coordinator on 9804 6314 or 0437 533 251.
BREAKING THE CYCLE - MAKING CHANGES

A group for mothers, fathers, partners, step-parents, carers whose adolescent is abusive and/or violent at home

Do you feel threatened, frightened or controlled by your son/daughter? Do other family members, particularly younger siblings feel scared? Do you feel that you are walking on eggshells? Do you feel that you are no longer in charge? Do you feel isolated and alone? Would you like to find ways to help your son/daughter become more responsible and respectful? If any of these questions apply to you, this group may be for you.

GROUPS FOR 2014 → Wed 5th Feb – 26th March (Evening)  
                   → Thurs 31st July – 18th Sept (Daytime)  
                   → Wed 8th Oct – 26th Nov (Evening)

Parents often ask - what will I do if my son/daughter:
• Pushes, hits or threatens me?
• Verbally abuses me and puts me down?
• Follows me around and won’t let me leave the situation?
• Puts holes in walls or damages things?
• Runs away or threatens to leave?

We have been running these groups for 15 years. The groups have been developed with parents and we have received very positive feedback. Previous participants say that the group has provided them with ideas for change, ways of managing their situation differently in a supportive, informative and affirming environment.

*****BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL*****

VENUE: 7 – 11 Shipley St, Box Hill
TIME: Evening 6:30 – 8:30pm, Daytime 10 – 12pm
COST: $50.00 individual or $80.00 couple (negotiable)
CONTACT: Meridian Intake at Anglicare on 9396 6322