IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 Feb, 2015</td>
<td>MYSC Information evening – Hall 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Feb, 2015</td>
<td>Year 10 Parent Information evening – Hall 6.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Feb, 2015</td>
<td>Y11 Outdoor Ed – High ropes</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Feb, 2015</td>
<td>VCE Parent Information evening – Hall 6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Mar, 2015</td>
<td>Y12 Outdoor Ed – Surf Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Mar, 2015</td>
<td>Public Holiday – Labour Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 Mar, 2014</td>
<td>Y11 Outdoor Ed – Wilson’s Prom camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Mar, 2015</td>
<td>College Council</td>
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<td>25 Mar, 2015</td>
<td>Y12 Chemistry – VSSEC excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Mar, 2015</td>
<td>Performing Arts evening - Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Mar, 2015</td>
<td>Unit 2 Biology – Barwon Heads excursion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Mar, 2015</td>
<td>Last Day Term 1</td>
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Principal’s report

"At this school it’s not IF you are bright – It’s HOW you are bright!
Greetings to all members of the Box Hill Senior Secondary College community. I welcome back all previous students and their families and extend a special welcome to those who are joining our college for the first time in 2015.
I am delighted to return to the College after a stint with the North Eastern Victoria Regional office during 2014 where I took on the role of Senior Advisor Regional Performance and Planning (SARPP). I thank Damian Dwyer and Fiona Erwich who both completed periods of being acting Principal in my absence.
As Principal, it is my expectation that all students will strive to achieve their personal best throughout the year. One of the key features of this college is that we provide students with varied pathways for life after secondary school. Students come into the college to follow different VCE pathway options such as entry into University and TAFE, the USA college system on sporting scholarships or into key apprenticeship areas.

Whatever the post-secondary pathway a student aims to undertake, they must be prepared to accept the workload and responsibility that goes with being a senior student. There is no easy shortcut for success at VCE. It is imperative that students follow the rules and advice of classroom teachers and coordinators. With the support of parents at home and staff at school, all students are capable of achieving a realistic and sustainable post-VCE pathway.

In a senior school my opening quote is very pertinent for all our students. Remember success at VCE is NOT just measured by an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) score. Everyday students at this College show me their aptitude and skills in a variety of ways. I am constantly
amazed by the level of talent, innovation and creativity displayed by Box Hill Senior students as they prepare for a chosen pathway after completion of their studies.

Any student who is passionate about what they want to achieve this year and who will not allow themselves to be distracted by any obstacle put in their way, can and will achieve success. Students who are prepared to work as hard as they can to achieve their personal best and fulfil their pathway are less likely to surrender their goals when things get a little hard or tough. **To not give total commitment to your studies this year is not acceptable.**

**India trip**

In November 2011, I accepted an invitation from the Neerja Modi School in Jaipur, Northern India to visit their school and take part in a cultural awareness program. The purpose of my visit was to set up an educational partnership that would allow students and staff from both schools to travel to either India or Australia as part of an educational and cultural exchange program.

From my initial visit our College has set up a very successful partnership with the Neerja Modi School. In 2012, 2013 and again in 2014 staff and students have taken advantage of the opportunity to be part of the Box Hill Senior tour of India in late November / early December.

For each tour students have travelled with members of staff and were provided with a unique opportunity to work alongside their student counterparts at the Neerja Modi School, support the disadvantaged girls of Nischay (which is a special campus of Neerja Modi) and then spend time travelling to a number of places of cultural significance such as the Taj Mahal, the Red Fort, the town of Pushkar, taking part in camel riding in the Pushkar sand dunes and visit the Tiger National Satari park in Ranthambore.

Accommodation and meals while at the Neerja Modi School is provided at their halls of residence. Travel around India is by private bus and students stay in excellent hotels when they tour places of cultural significance.

In 2015 I am again seeking expressions of interest from any student who would like to be part of this approximate 10 day cultural exchange program to India after the end of year exams have been completed. It is envisaged that we will leave in late November and be back in the second week of December. At this stage I am hoping to keep the cost of the tour to around $3300 - $3500. This cost will be split between:

- Airfares – about $2000
- Meals, accommodation, bus travel – about $1030 –$1500

If any student / family are interested in being part of the tour then I would ask that you send me an Expression of Interest via my email address.

An information sheet will be distributed to students in the next week or so. An information session for interested students / families will be held on Monday March 2 in the College library starting at 6 pm.

For the Indian tour or any other matter pertaining to the education of your child at this College I can be contacted at the following email address:

scook@bhssc.vic.edu.au

**College Council Elections**

As per Department of Education and Training (DET) regulations we are required to form a new college council at the end of this term. The following Council members complete their parent representation tenure in March, 2015:

- Gina D’Ettorre
- Michael Petering
Steve Cook  
Principal  

College Council Elections 2015/16

What is a college council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a college within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a council is able to directly influence the quality of education that is provided for students.

Who is on the 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 Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s college as long as they are not employed at the college.

• **A mandated elected DET employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of council. As Principal of Box Hill Senior Secondary College I am automatically one of these members.

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

The term of office for all council members is two years. About half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for an annual college council election.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on college councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the college. Those parents who become active on council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging to the college.

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 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 this college and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the college’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
As Principal of Box Hill Senior Secondary College I am formally calling for nominations for two parent members to serve on the college council until March 2016. If there are more than the two required nominations a council election will be completed before the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election you can simply nominate yourself in the Parent category. A self-nomination form is contained in this newsletter. DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the Box Hill Senior Secondary School Council.

The closing date for nominations is Monday March 16, 2015. Once the nomination form is completed, please return it to me within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a letter of receipt in the mail following the delivery of your completed nomination.

Remember
- Please contact me for help if you would like to stand for election but are not sure what to do
- Be sure to vote in the election if required.

I look forward to working with the elected parent representatives over the next two years.

Steve Cook
Principal

Box Hill Senior Secondary College 2015 College Council Elections

The timeline for the election process is as follows:

Monday March 16 - Nominations Close

If no election required
- Tuesday March 24 - new Council / AGM

If election required
- Wednesday March 18 - distribute ballots
- Friday March 20 - ballot closes
- Tuesday March 23 - declare poll results
- Tuesday March 24 - new Council meets / AGM

Nomination forms for Parent Representatives are available in this newsletter or from the General Office.
Congratulations Class of 2014

2014 VCE results

BHSSC would like to congratulate all students who completed their secondary studies in 2014 with many students achieving their personal best. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

The following students achieved a study score of 40 and above placing them in the top 8% of students in the state for the study/subject:

Darcy Crocker, Melissa Lubbe, Jake Marler, Jake Chesson, Joshua De Lange, Mitchell Graunke & Noah Dunne Riseley

College Top 10 ATAR achievers as follows:

Joseph Arnaud, Jeremy Barmford, Charlotte Brancatisano, Darcy Crocker, Joel Dale, Mitchell Graunke, Damien Hamilton, Joshua DeLange, Connor McClelland & Oliver Winton

Congratulations also to Damien Hamilton on achieving a VCE Baccalaureate

2014 Dux and Principal's Award recipient - Darcy Crocker

Darcy enrolled at Box Hill Senior Secondary College in 2012 to undertake Year 10 studies and join the Football program. During his time at the College, Darcy has shown himself to be a highly proactive and self-motivated individual who has made the most of his educational opportunities. We have seen Darcy develop into a responsible young adult with effective interpersonal skills and a genuine interest in others. He has shown initiative in seeking additional support and has demonstrated exceptional time management skills.

As we have already recognised, Darcy has produced outstanding academic results this year and as you have already heard in the presentation of the ADF award, Darcy has been totally committed to the school football program. He has played every game the school was involved in this year. He was an integral part of the Premier League championship team and the team that were runners up in the Herald Sun Shield. The coaches have considered him to always be in their best three and describe him as popular, inspirational and humble.

Darcy is the epitome of the 21st century learner who strives to achieve yet maintains a modesty of temperament well beyond his years. Congratulations Darcy, we know you will make a difference in the world and wish you all the best for the future.

2013 Dux – Jack Fleming, speaking about BHSSC and why this school is his first choice!

“Firstly, thank you to the staff at Box Hill for having me here tonight. It’s always a pleasure to be back here, seeing so many familiar faces it’s like being home. I’m incredibly excited to be here...”
tonight, to be involved in celebrating the achievements throughout the year of Box Hill’s finest students. I’m just going to speak briefly about where I began, my experience here, what is in store for me in the future and hopefully leave something useful for kids receiving an award tonight.

In year 9, I attended a different school prior to Box Hill, and school wasn’t anything to complain about but it was simply mediocre. I got up in the morning, put on my ugly uniform, grinded through boring and unstimulated classes and raced home to get to the gym and play basketball. While I enjoyed spending time with my friends there, I just felt like another number in the system who got up everyday with a lack of enthusiasm and energy that I clearly had, but only poured it into basketball and training. Then one day I got up and thought, you either create or allow everything that happens to you. Right now I was allowing my life to be boring, and my school experience to be mediocre. I had to create an opportunity for myself and start chasing something I really wanted. That’s when I decided to move to Box Hill for the beginning of year 10.

I attended Box Hill Senior from 2011-2013 and never looked back, being a member of the basketball program including attending the USA tour in 2012 – an experience I will remember for the rest of my life. I loved getting up everyday and knowing that at some stage today at school – I got to get in the gym or train for basketball. It excited me; it fuelled my motivation to put effort in academically and in other parts of my daily life. The school has a unique atmosphere unlike anywhere I’ve been to, where everybody actually wants to be here. Every student at Box Hill has made a conscious decision to leave their previous school and come here, in an effort to get closer to their goal – whether it be to go college in the US, play AFL, kick-start an apprenticeship or improve a unique talent such as drama, music or dance. This place is one of a kind.

During my time at Box Hill I contemplated the concept of playing college basketball in the US, but made the decision to get into university in Melbourne. Moving forward I worked hard in year 12 in order to get into my intended course, which was by no means a solo effort; and I appreciate the countless hours of help I received after class from teachers lending their own time for my benefit.

I completed year 12 and was fortunate enough to get my score to get into Law and International Studies at Deakin University in Burwood. Looking to now, I have completed my first year at uni and am playing Youth Championship basketball for Diamond Valley and am about to start my certificate 3 and 4 in personal training. University is definitely an adjustment, asking of a certain level of independence that took some time to get used to. Despite that, the respect and trust I received from teachers and the way Box Hill operates – it certainly made the transition a lot smoother for me than some others. I am looking forward to the New Year where I will continue at Deakin and seek to improve constantly, while chasing new goals such as becoming a personal trainer, which I can’t wait to begin.

To all students here receiving awards tonight, firstly congratulations you should all be proud of yourselves. Please value and appreciate your time at Box Hill, the conversations at lunchtime with your close group of friends and the school events do not last forever. University lacks the family-like comfort of school, the fun team training sessions, the hands on and 1 on 1 time with teachers to receive individual help – and just the general fun you have at school! It just isn’t quite the same at uni when you’re in a lecture from 6-8pm on a Thursday night next to a 55 year old lady in a room of 400 people learning from a computer screen. Uni isn’t all-bad, but live and love every day at school like it’s your last because you’re building memories, experiences and relationships that will serve you for the rest of your life.

To those graduating and moving on next year, best of luck and don’t back off from your passions in life just because you think you have to grow up once you finish school. The indispensible first step to getting things you want out of life is to decide what you want. Everybody here wants something and that’s clear by your decision to attend Box Hill for a specific reason, don’t stop now. Figure out what you love, don’t live someone else’s dreams, don’t become numb to your own desires. The only time is right now, go out and live the life you imagined because the world is yours.

For everybody else going up to the big game of year 11 and 12, pick the subjects you love (and English) and be the best you can be at them because it will serve you in the long run. You will thank yourself when you get to term 3 when you’ve still got some motivation left instead of swearing at your book and giving it the finger. Do not be confined by the expectations of others in
year 12, if you are entirely honest with yourself you are going to do far better than you think. Take 100% responsibility for everything you do or don’t do, and you will never be disappointed. Use every day to get closer to get to your goal, and use the fantastic and willing resources around you. If you tell your teacher that you want to work on something you’re struggling with every morning or at lunchtime I can tell you they will be there. Seek out other teachers; get a different voice, in year 12 I think I sought help from every English teacher just to get different opinions. People are willing to give up their time if you show you are willing to put in the effort. Get to the end of your time here, knowing that you can look in the mirror and see that you’ve gotten closer or reached your goal – whatever it is. We all have the power within us to create the life we want, reach our goals and manifest our true destiny. But it must be claimed, so value your time, live the life you love and don’t settle for anything less than what you want. Thankyou”

COMPASS
Box Hill Senior Secondary School introduced a community portal called ‘Compass’ from the commencement of 2013. This has become an important means of communication between the college and home. Parents are able to login to Compass via Quick links which is located on the updated college website (www.bhssc.vic.edu.au).

Each family listed in the school administration database has a unique login for Compass – this was forwarded with your enrolment information.

Compass provides the school community with a range of facilities which streamlines communication and provides enhanced access to information. It has also improved many of the school’s administration processes.

Parent role:
Parents play an important role in this initiative. It is essential that parents log in via the link on the college website at least once a fortnight to access the news feed. (More often if you get an email alerting you to information that is relevant to you). It is also essential that parents monitor their son/daughter’s attendance and approve absences to ensure that the college and new State Government attendance requirements are met. Please ensure that students DO NOT have your access code and password. (They have been provided with their own)

Parent Information nights
Compass is intended to be self-explanatory and easy to use. The Compass portal will be demonstrated at the Parent Information nights to be held in early 2015. Once these evenings have been held please contact the school, if you require further assistance.

There are a number of parent modules available in Compass to make communication and payments easier for you.

1. Email address and mobile phone number - update your details through the portal. The details listed will be used to send emails and SMS alerts if a student is marked absent prior to midday.
2. Teacher email – parents can email their son or daughter’s teachers directly.
3. News Feed – the school will post news to parents to remind you about events and activities at the school. Your news feed will be customised, showing only the information relevant to you and your student.
4. Newsletter – the newsletter will be published on Compass and parents will be able to login to view it each month.
5. Attendance - view your son or daughter’s attendance online, approve absences, and indicate future absence.
6. Reports – commencing with the first GPA in Term 1, view your son or daughter’s progress reports online. This also includes end of semester reports.
7. **Parent/Student/Teacher interviews** - make appointments with teachers. **Excursions** – approve your son or daughter’s participation in excursions and other special events. You will also be able to pay for these online.

8. **Course Confirmation** – confirm your son or daughter’s subjects, and make school fee payment, for the following year.

**Special Provision – Year 11 and 12 Students**
The following VCAA and school policies are available to assist students to successfully complete their VCE. For further information, the student should consult with their year level coordinator, a member of the College Wellbeing team (Andrea Wood or Andrea Foster) or the VCE Coordinator (Fiona Erwich).

Special Provision allows all students to have the maximum opportunity to complete their VCE studies.

There are four types of Special Provision available to students:

1. **Student programs** – students may apply to Andrea Wood, Damian Dwyer or Fiona Erwich for variations to the number of subjects that students are expected to undertake.

2. **School based assessment** – students may apply to Andrea Wood, Damian Dwyer or Fiona Erwich for exemptions from the attendance requirements, extensions to deadlines, additional time to complete tasks or rescheduling of tasks.

3. **Special Examination Arrangements for external VCAA exams** – students may apply to VCAA through Andrea Wood or Fiona Erwich for special arrangements during VCAA GAT and Unit 4 examinations. Applications close at the end of Term 1 for the November exam period, except in exceptional circumstances. Please contact Andrea Wood or Fiona Erwich at the College ASAP to collect a form or to ask any questions.

4. **Derived Examination Scores** - students may apply to VCAA through the VCE Coordinator for a derived examination score for VCAA examinations.

Students eligible for special provision include:

- Those disadvantaged by a disability or impairment, including learning disabilities.
- Those significantly affected by illness or by factors relating to their personal environment
- Aboriginal students whose first language is not English.

Students wishing to apply for special provision will need up to date documentation from an appropriate professional e.g. doctor, social workers, psychologist. Students must apply in writing to the VCE Coordinator.

**College Charges**
Thank you to the many families who have made payments to the College for subject fees and voluntary contributions. To ensure the continued provision of a wide range of high quality programs and services, it is vital that parents continue to support the College with payments for the various charges.

Invoicing of families for 2015 fees and charges is currently being finalised and statements will be sent out to families in late February or early March. However, families should note that if an agreed payment plan is **not** in place then:-

- Elective fees are now due
- Instrumental music lesson fees – the first instalment was due on 3/2/15 (class lists have recently been finalised)
- Sport Development Programs – the first instalment was due on 3/2/15 and the payment for sport uniforms for new sports students should be paid as soon as possible.

**Payment Plans:** Many families have an agreed payment plan in place and if these plans are being managed by College staff, payments will be processed on the dates agreed. Please ensure that the information we use to process your payments is kept up to date and if there is a change in your credit card details, please advise staff in the College office of this change as soon as possible.
COMPASS: The COMPASS Course Confirmation and Payment Portal enables families to pay the College fees online and in some instances to establish payment plans. Information on the student subject selections is regularly updated in COMPASS and any associated subject costs will be visible on COMPASS. Many families have used this system for the payment of fees, however, it should be noted that the COMPASS portal enables the once off payment of fees and if an item has been part paid it is not possible to make additional payments through this portal. COMPASS is not the financial accounting system used by the College and it will not provide a record of the payments made to the College. Please contact staff in the general office if you would like a current statement and/or details of the transactions made on your account.

Payments can be made to the College by cash, cheque, credit card or BPAY (details available upon request) or through the COMPASS online Course Confirmation Portal.

If you have any queries regarding the College fees and/or are experiencing difficulties in making payments, please contact Karen Leeder (Business Manager) on 9895 1101 or email kleeder@bhssc.vic.edu.au.

**Payment dates to remember:**
- 28 April 2015: Sports Program 2nd Instalment
- 23 June 2015: Sports Program 3rd Instalment (Final Instalment Football)
- 4 August 2015: Sports Program 4th Instalment

**CAREERS AND PATHWAYS INFORMATION**

**Year 10 Work Experience**
Work experience is not compulsory but it is highly recommended that students have the opportunity to work in an area they are interested in for a week or two.
There are no set school dates to undertake work experience. If a student wishes to do one week at a time, we will fit in when it suits the employer, provided it is not during exam times.

**IMPORTANT** - A Work Experience Arrangement Form must be completed at least one week prior to the student starting work.
The form must be filled in by all parties then forwarded to the Principal for his signature.
If this process is not completed your son or daughter will not be covered for Workcover or any public liability insurance whilst on the job.
If a student requires a work experience form or requires any further information please see Frank De Melis in the library or ring 9895 1155.

**Yr 11 VET - Structured Workplace Learning**
Students undertaking a Yr 11 VET program in the areas listed below are expected to complete 1 week of work placement in the week of September 14 – 18, 2015.

- Electro-technology (Pre-apprenticeship)
- Building & Construction
- Plumbing
- Landscape Horticulture
- Sport and Recreation
- Hospitality
- Fashion

Work placement is strongly recommended by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority for vocational programs. Assessments are usually embedded into structured workplacements. If a student does not satisfy the assessment requirements they will not be able to complete their certificate. In addition to this, work placements are a valuable aid to gaining an apprenticeship.

**The final date to apply for a work placement is Monday September 7, 2015.**
Any student who does not undertake work placement in the week beginning Sept. 14 will be required to attend school for all their normal classes.

Parents/Guardians are requested to assist in organising a suitable work placement. Work Placement forms and assistance are available from the Careers and Pathways Coordinator (Frank DeMelis) who is located in the Library.

**Students looking for Structured Workplace Learning placements**
An organisation called Inner Melbourne VET Cluster (IMVC) are providing a free service to students that assists in finding a suitable work placement. Their primary function is for VET students seeking a work placement but they will also consider other students wishing to do work experience. The application is done online through their website [www.imvc.com.au](http://www.imvc.com.au). Select ‘Workplace Vacancies Portal’ to complete your application.

**Changes to the Secondary Schools Tax File Number Program in 2015**

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

**How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015**

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN. Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au) by searching for ‘QC27248’.

Students who are unable to visit a participating Australia Post office will need to complete the application form Tax file number - application or enquiry for individuals form (NAT 1432). More information about lodging this form can be found at [ato.gov.au](http://ato.gov.au) by searching for ‘QC22604’. If you require any further information you can phone **1300 130 282** between 8:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday.

Frank De Melis
Careers Adviser and Pathways Coordinator

**BHSSC Session Times and Hours of Operation for supervision of students.**

### 2015 Session Times

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Parents and Guardians should be aware that staff are allocated to supervise the College grounds as indicated below –

- **Monday**: 8.45am to 3.45pm
- **Tuesday**: 8.45am to 4.15pm
- **Wednesday**: 8.45am to 3.45pm
- **Thursday**: 8.45am to 3.45pm
- **Friday**: 8.45am to 2.45pm

The College library is open from 8.30am to 4.30pm each day.
The Middle Years Sports Campus provides supervision from 8.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday for students in Years 5 to 9.

**Science News**

![Science student ready to test forum](image)

**National Youth Science Forum**

In January 2015 Natasha Morey (Year 12 BHSSC) joined a select group of bright young science minds from across Australia in Canberra at the National Youth Science Forum. The abovementioned article featured in the Leader newspaper.

If you are a year 11 student, who is interested in applying for the NYSF in January 2016, then please see Louise Macfarlane in the Science office.

The NYSF helps students moving into Year 12, who wish to follow careers in science, engineering and technology by introducing them to research and researchers, by encouraging the achievement of excellence in all their undertakings, and by helping to develop their communication and interpersonal skills. It also fosters discussion of, and interest in major national and global issues and emphasises the importance of maintaining continuing active interests in sport, arts and music.

**Australian Red Cross Club Red Youth Ambassador Training**

On March 12th four BHSSC students will be attending the Australian Red Cross Club Red Youth Ambassador Training at the Victoria University Convention Centre. They will then be part of kicking off the Blood donation program at BHSSC.

**Blood Donation Program at BHSSC**

To date the students and community at BHSSC have made 61 blood donations, saving 183 lives. If
you would like to donate with the school, then please contact Louise Macfarlane in the Science office. There are places available on March 12th, April 22nd, May 20th and June 11th. You must be healthy and at least 16 years old to donate.

Sport News
2014 USA Basketball Tour.
The 2014 Basketball trip to the USA was undertaken by 44 students and 8 staff. The student’s behaviour throughout the trip was excellent as they represented their school and country both on and off the basketball court in a positive manner. The tour consisted of a variety of activities and events that could only be experienced in the USA. Two NBA games that both went into overtime and kept everybody riveted to the final siren. We watched an NCAA game that would have some students dreaming of what if I get asked? Day trips to Disneyland, visitation to the retired aircraft carrier the USS Midway, San Diego zoo where Charlie and Kayla’s group ticked of every animal seen in the zoo tour book. We watched San Diego State train in a morning session and thrilled to the rides of Knott's Berry Farm. The students had a number of host family’s over the tour and the positive feedback and regular comments from American host families of we are happy to keep them (students) or their parents must be very proud of their son or daughter was regular and always enjoyable to hear.

But our school went there for one reason and one reason only and that was to compete and showcase our young students’ basketball skills. This they did extremely well with all four teams acquitting themselves very well and all teams winning the majority of their games and beating some top USA teams along the way. The four tournaments that our school started and finished in America realised three wins for the Varsity boys and girls teams and a win for the junior boys Varsity team.

Having acknowledged how well our students behaved let me say how hard our staff worked on the tour and made this a positive and enjoyable experience for all both for staff and students.

Senior VCAL
2015 is going to be another big year for the Senior VCAL team. The students, with guidance from their teacher, Susan Connell, are currently designing their own T-shirts (see right). The T-shirts will be professionally manufactured.

The first big project the VCAL team is working towards is the Advocacy Cup. Students will be responsible for the planning and organization of the event and coordinating on the day. In preparation for such a huge task, students are...
spending time developing their teamwork skills and learning about the importance of ‘trust’ and ‘clear communication’.
Susan and I are very impressed by the attitude and application of each member of the group so far this year. We are certainly looking forward to watching them develop and grow as individuals.

Kathy Curlis

**Fashion News – 2014 student success!**

(Seri) Vathna Kol - Y12 2014 and Samantha Chong - Y12 2015 have been selected to participate in Future Runway fashion parade as part of the Virgin fashion festival held Sunday March 22nd in 2015.

![Samantha Chong 2014 BHSSC Fashion Parade](image)

(Seri) Vathna Kol 2014 BHSSC Fashion Parade now studying at RMIT – Bachelor of Fashion (Design) Honours

**Welcome to our International Students**

We would like to welcome our 23 International students to BHSSC. We have 11 new students and 12 continuing students.
India Report

At the completion of exams at the end of 2014 a group of 11 students (Maddi Wu, Jessica Davidson, Sasha Grant, Victoria Burns, Hunter Farrelly, Charlie Franzke, Amy Green, Tiahnee Louder, Adam Scobie, Katie Waugh & Niki Weibrecht) and 3 teachers (Andrea Wood, Paul Sturgess & Peter Taylor) took off on a journey to India. What an experience!

Our hosts, the Neerja Modi School in Jaipur, Rajasthan, looked after us extremely well. There certainly was no chance of going hungry. Friendships were made with the boarders over card games, volleyball and games of soccer and it was difficult to say goodbye.

A big thank you to our College Community for the assistance we received throughout 2014 with the fundraising for the Nischay Girls School. In particular we would like to extend our gratitude to the Louder and Weibrecht, Guerra and Scobie families. The funds raised allowed us to purchase and present 10 bicycles, 10 sewing machines, 253 winter school jumpers and school shoes and socks for almost 400 students. Students from our Middle Years Sports Campus along with tour group members donated stationery that was taken over and presented as well. The Head Madam and Mr Modi are extremely grateful for the contributions of Box Hill Senior Secondary College in helping under privileged girls receive an education an opportunity at a better future.

The Nischay girls entertained us with a cultural experience including traditional Rajasthani folk dancing and singing. They also demonstrated their chocolate making skills, (which we got to sample) and left their mark on us (literally) with their amazing Mendhi (henna tattoo) skills.

Our time was not spent just at the school. While in Jaipur we saw the sites: Jantar Mantar, the 17th century Archeological Observatory, the City Palace and an elephant ride to explore the Amber Palace.
We were lucky enough to travel around Rajasthan in our own air conditioned bus, visiting Pushkar, Ranthambore and Agra, before we had one last stop in Delhi on our way home. The holy city of Pushkar was a highlight for all. It was a jam packed stop over, visiting the Brahma temple (one of the few Brahma temples in the world), the Holy Lake where we encountered a Holy man who promised us good karma, shopping in the market and riding camels across the desert at sunset. It was an early start the next morning to do some sunrise yoga before heading back to the market.

On the way back to the Neerja Modi school we were taken to the new Nischay school outside of Pushkar. It is very remote and open to girls and boys. It is so remote the school has bought vehicles to pick the students up from the main road. The students are the first people in their families to have access to an education. The experience of meeting and interacting with these young students was a humbling experience for all of us.

Ranthambore Tiger Reserve did not provide us with a tiger sighting this year, but we did see plenty of wildlife, including deers, monkeys, antelopes, crocodiles and peacocks. Agra Fort provided our first glimpse of the Taj Mahal and we learnt the sad story of its creator Shah Jahan and his love Mumtaz Mahal, for whom the Taj Mahal was built as a resting place. As expected the Taj Mahal was a highlight. Such an amazing place! Plenty of photos were taken to record the memory.

Last stop on our tour was Delhi. Our accommodation was, once again amazing, with students claiming ‘OMG it is like Crown’! In Delhi we visited India Arch (the Arc de triomphe of India), and learnt that January 26 is a special day for India as well. We paid our respects to Mahatma Gandhi by visiting the eternal flame at the place of his cremation.
All of the members of the tour group have described the trip as a great experience, opening their eyes to the poverty that exists in the world and how different the way of life is for some in India. There is now an awareness of how lucky we are to be living in Australia and that what we consider to be our right is not a universal experience.

WELLBEING SECTION – February 2015

What? Me worry!? (Anxiety group)
This is a group for 12-16 year olds who would like suggestions on how to manage their anxiety and reduce the amount of time they spend worrying. It helps participants learn about anxiety, develop relaxation skills and challenge their anxious thinking. This group runs for on Thursday for 11 weeks during the school term, commencing 04/03. Each session will run for 1½ hours. For more information please see attached flyer.

PATS (Paying Attention To Self)

PATS is a FREE, peer support group for 12 to 18 year olds who have a parent with a mental illness. Topics covered include understanding your parent’s condition, dealing with people’s attitudes to mental illness and coping strategies/ looking after yourself. The group will run every Wednesday 4:30 – 6:30pm for 7 weeks commencing on the 11th February 2015 and concluding on 25th March 2015. Please note: FREE TAXIS can be provided to any young people residing in Eastern suburbs. See attached flyer for more information.