



**FOREST HILL  
COLLEGE**

Term 1 2011

# Deaf Facility Newsletter



MAHONEYS ROAD, BURWOOD EAST, VIC, 3151, AUSTRALIA

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### Open Caption films

Some cinemas offer open caption films. A film listed with an 'OC' before it is Open Captioned. For more information check with your cinema.

### **Note -**

Forest Hill Cinema, which has a hearing loop, has recently undergone major renovations and is now open with even more cinemas!!.

## From our Coordinator

Forest Hill Deaf Facility has started the year with sixteen students, all of which are between Years 9 and 12. We have a very strong commitment to access and equity and encourage all our students to follow their own pathway through their senior years of secondary school and beyond. However, affording our students the opportunity to choose whatever subjects they wish to pursue, including VCE, VET, VCAL and TAFE options, has meant we have had to approach DEECD to support us in providing more interpreters and notetakers. We were thrilled when DEECD in recognition of the importance of a high level of support for deaf/hearing impaired students at senior years gave us an additional \$140,000 in funds. Consequently, we have two new Auslan interpreters on board, Charmain Borg and Rebecca Jordan as well as being lucky enough to have Eva Hynes back as a teacher on a part time basis. Our dynamic team has worked tirelessly this term to get the year off to a great start and the fantastic commitment and positive attitude to school shown by our students have ensured we are set for a great year.

Amanda Purcell  
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### **A note from your Editors -**

Welcome back everyone - we hope you had a happy Christmas break. Another busy term is drawing to an end at FHC and we've been delighted to welcome some new staff and students to our Facility. Many thanks to Carolyn for being such a HUGE help in putting this newsletter together. Have a great holiday everyone and we'll see you back in Term 2.

- Merryn



### Important Dates

8 April - last day of Term 1

First day of Term 2

**WEDNESDAY, 27 APRIL**

### **Australian Hearing Visits**

Our audiologist will be visiting FHC again next term on May 5th & June 16th



# Who's Who?



**S  
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I was very happy when I was offered a job here in our Deaf Facility as an Interpreter. Last year I was here for a few days as a relief TOD and absolutely loved it. So being here full-time has not changed that. The students are wonderful and the staff fabulous. I feel like we are a real team trying to work our best for each and every student in the Facility. I first learnt Auslan several years ago and worked as an Interpreter at Ballarat School of Mines. I've spent quite a few years overseas but came back to Melbourne last year and was working at Banksia Deaf Facility. I love the expression and honesty of Auslan. I love languages, even the language of chemistry and maths. I also like basketball, walking, jogging, meeting interesting people and trying to enjoy everything I do.

I live in Mooroolbark with my beautiful family, Paul my partner and my three children: Jai who is 16, Taylah who is 9 and Kayli who is 7. I enjoy walking our dog Roxy who is a Cavoodle and completing puzzles. My family love getting away in our caravan, we love going to Bright, and the Murray River and finding new places in Victoria. Both my parents are deaf so I have been raised within the deaf community and have grown up bi-lingual using AUSLAN and English. I have just begun working at Forest Hill College in the Deaf Facility and love my job. The students and staff have been very accepting and welcoming of me and are a lovely group of people. I am looking forward to working with the students and staff throughout 2011.



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## Leadership - Sports Captain



A big congratulations to Max for being made Junior Sports Captain for 2011. He had applied for the position last year, and was told the good news just before the day of our swimming sports. Max loves sport and is looking forward to his leadership role this year.



# Who's Who?



**J  
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My name is Jack, I've just recently moved to Forest Hill College. I'm into freestyle motocross and BMX. I turned 18 at the beginning of the year, so as everyone does, I got my P's and have started going out partying and going to clubs on the weekend. Everyone at FHC has been really welcoming and I'm studying ESL, Further Maths, Studio Art and PE/Human Development. I really love Studio because I can pursue my love of photography.

My name is Jaimilee and I'm in Year 11. The reason why I moved from Queensland to Forest Hill Secondary College is because of the better interpreters and also because some of my family live in Melbourne. Accounting is a very important subject for my work in the future. When I arrived at Forest Hill College, I felt so happy and I got lots of support from people and I've made friends at this school.

**J  
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Our  
wonderful  
staff....



Rachel Bowen



Charmain Borg



Rae Hynes



Eva Hynes



Bec Jordan



Tracy Lewis



Carolyn Montague



Andrew Mountford



Merryn Philip



Amanda Purcell



Dimitra Sanetsis



# Year Level News

## Year Level News

### Year 9

This term has been very busy for us. In ESL we have learnt how to write proper essays using the TEEL method. Our essay topic was "My Family", and we enjoyed researching our family background. In Maths we have looked at Pythagoras and Measurement. In Science we have been learning all about atoms and the elements of the Periodic Table. In Commerce we began by looking at work and leisure, and finished the term by making a wish list of what we would like and why. In Sports we have been learning all about volleyball and all about our breathing and heart beat rates and in Geography we have been studying earthquakes, volcanoes and tectonic plates. Very fascinating stuff! Max and Tahlia 9A

### Year 10

The Year 10's have been busy this term with the swimming carnival and the Basketball Marathon is coming up. In ESL we looked at Australian Culture and now we're studying 'Strictly Ballroom'. Cengiz studied 'Strictly Ballroom' too while John's class looked at 'To Kill a Mockingbird'. In maths we're doing angles. We took photos of different angles and then we labelled them. In Timbers, Cengiz is making a kennel, Heidi is making a DVD cupboard and I'm making a TV table. By Ben

### Year 11

Hello, my name is Michael and I'm in year 12 this year, and I'm studying VCE over three years. I have been keeping busy with AUSLAN 3+4, Further Maths 3+4, IT 1+2 and ESL 1+2. I have found ESL so hard at times, but Rachel helps me a lot in Deaf Facility. Hi, I'm Jackson and recently I was involved in the interschool chess competition, the Biology excursion and also the interschool sports. I had to learn how to play chess for the competition and how to set up and conduct a Biology experiment all by myself. I also enjoyed playing sports against all the different schools. I've had such a great time this term. All six Year 11 students are learning the importance of being organised and studying in order to manage their SAC's.

### Year 12

This term has been a busy one for the year 12's as they enter their final year of schooling. They started the year with 3 days at Deakin University in Burwood. There they listened to motivational speakers, did workshops on study and relaxation techniques, heard from recent high school graduates and also did some team building activities. Our year 12's have been busy studying hard as they have been faced with their SAC's as well as all of their coursework for their subjects that include PE, Health, Outdoor Ed, Maths, ESL, Biology and Foods. In addition to this Courtney has gone on her first Outdoor Ed camp, Rory has started studying History Revolutions through Distance Ed, Jack has successfully passed his driving test and Josh has added two snakes to his collection.



## 2011 Swimming Carnival

Just a few weeks into the new school year and we were already competing for our tribes at the FHC swimming carnival. Everyone got dressed in their coloured gear, painted faces, nails and bodies, as they cheered and encouraged each other in the pool. Courtney R, Jackson, Ben and Max competed in many events, earning lots of points for their tribes. Thankfully we had a warm, sunny day- only one downpour of rain which wasn't enough to dampen our spirits. The end tally saw Yellow Tribe come first, followed by Green, Red, and Blue Tribes - a fun day for all.



## District Swimming

On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> we went to Balwyn pool for the District Swimming Sports. As Sports Captain I had to find people when their race was coming and tell them. I looked at a sheet and saw the time to get them. I was also a Marshall and I let staff know who came first, second and third. All of the FHC swimmers were good and we came third out of seven different schools. By Max





## Ben at Box Hill TAFE

Andrew has been supporting Ben at TAFE - he writes - Ben has been getting his hands dirty this term at Box Hill TAFE in a 'trade-taster' course. This term the students have learnt the basics in automotive engineering and servicing. Tasks have included replacing brake pads & callipers, dismantling an exhaust system, removing the front suspension and even stripping an engine right back down to the block. Amongst all these hands-on activities there have been some intense theory sessions, but they have learnt a lot about how a motor car operates. Ben has become a real 'grease monkey' and absolutely loves the hands on activities and jumps at every opportunity to pull something apart... And even putting it back together correctly, with only a few bolts missing. Next term... Carpentry!



## Year 12 Stay Calm sessions

This term the Year 12's are participating in a course of Stay Calm sessions. These sessions are run by an outside organisation and are aimed at supporting the Year 12's through a busy and stressful year. The students are taught strategies such as calm relaxation, meditation and learning about the relationship between their body and their mind. - by Charmain





## Year 11 & 12 Outdoor Education Camp

I went on the outdoor education camp for three days on 22<sup>nd</sup> February til 25<sup>th</sup> February with year 11 and 12. It was a small group of 7 people that went on the camp. First we went to Healesville Sanctuary and we learnt about how Aborigines used to live before the early settlers came and how they used weapons to kill possums and plants to make basket. Then we went caving and I was scared at the start but I had to face the fear so I went into the cave and I was so brave and I had fun. We stayed the night somewhere that had no facilities in Healesville. Next day we went on a road trip to Inverloch. We went surfing at Inverloch Beach and we had to run and stretch before we started and Mr Webb taught us how to stand while surfing. We stayed two nights at Inverloch. Next day, we woke up early for more surfing. I wasn't keen to surf again as I was so tired but we had to and we went surfing at Kitty Miller Bay and it was terrible! It had so many reefs and coral everywhere and the cord went around my ankle and dragged us into the water. Then we went to Shipwreck Cove for scuba diving and it was fun! The one thing that frightened me was when I saw the huge stingray and I freaked out for a bit. But it was a great experience to see the stingray below you. Then we went to Smiths Beach for more surfing - we couldn't be bothered doing it but we still had to as it was part of the camp. Our hair was like dead straw and it was breaking off. Later we went to Phillip Island to meet the Ranger who spoke to us about the Aborigines and early settlers. It was cold and we had to finish before we froze to death. On the last night of camp we went to Inverloch and went to a restaurant for dinner. It was delicious. On the last day, we went back to Phillip Island for kayaking. It was a good experience as it is kind of like surfing and after that we went back home. I was so tired!!!! By Courtney O.





# 2011 Basketball Marathon



The last week of term saw many of our students participating in the annual Basketball Marathon. This is a yearly event that raises money for several nominated charities. Students start playing at 9 am on Tuesday and teams play continuously for 24 hours until 9 am Wednesday morning. Apart from basketball, the highlight for many is staying overnight in the gym. There is a party atmosphere with lots of live music and fun to be had. This year's theme was 'Angels versus Demons' and all students (and staff) dressed accordingly. Congratulations to all of our students who participated and to the staff who supported them.



## And also ....

Cathy Stamos our speech pathologist is available each Friday fortnight to work with students on aspects of their speech.

Forest Hill Deaf Facility has been announced as one of the pilot schools for the Victorian Deaf Education Institutes' trial of live captioning in class.

All students now have the option of wearing a pager at school to alert them to bell times and emergency evacuations.

**Don't forget the Deaf Facility SMS mobile number as a quick way of letting us know if your child will be late or absent from school. 0409 335 245**