



**FOREST HILL
COLLEGE**

Term 3 2011

Deaf Facility Newsletter



MAHONEY'S ROAD, BURWOOD EAST, VIC, 3151, AUSTRALIA

TEL: 9814 9444

FAX: 9887 8126

Inside this issue:

From our coordinator	1
Our Year 12's	2
Adelaide Basketball	3
Year Level News	4
Work Experience	5
TAFE News	6
Fit to Drive	6
Screamfest	7
Deaf Sports	7
Year 10 Excursion	8
Heidi goes to WYD	8

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

Although not the end of the year, term 3 is often a time of preparing for transition. Students in Years 9 to 11 have been selecting their course of studies for next year. Year 12 students have been researching where they will be applying after they complete their secondary education and our Grade 6 students have been notified of their placement with us for 2012. We also have a new student Luke, who has transferred from another school, start with us in Year 10. We warmly welcome him and hope he enjoys completing his secondary education at Forest Hill College.

The Deaf reform is beginning to become evident in the day-to-day education of our students. We have been fortunate in purchasing two Phonak Sound Field Systems through funds received from VDEI grants which have greatly improved listening conditions for students in our newly refurbished 'H Block' as well as the Food Technology room. We are also able to offer 'live captioning' to nine classes per week. It is indeed a very exciting time to be involved in Deaf Education and it is wonderful to see our current students benefiting from these initiatives.

Amanda Purcell
Deaf Facility Coordinator

EDITORS: Merryn Philip & Tracy Lewis

m.philip@fhc.vic.edu.au
t.lewis@fhc.vic.edu.au

A note from your Editors -

Hello everyone -
At last we are seeing some warmer weather and it makes us think that it won't be long until Term 4 - and then the Christmas holidays. Again, our students have all been working very hard. This is a very busy term with lots of work in class and on top of that subject selection for our 9's, 10's & 11's and course selection for our Year 12's. We particularly wish our Year 12 students well as they prepare for the final few weeks of their schooling.
- Merryn



Important Dates

23 September - last day of Term 3

First day of Term 4

MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER

Australian Hearing Visits

Next term our audiologist will be visiting on 18 October & 8 December.



Our Wonderful Year 12's



**J
a
c
k**

Hello everyone, my name is Jack; I'm currently doing year 12. It has being a tough year, especially with the transition from my old school to Forest Hill in Year 12. Everyone has formed their own friendship groups and knew how the whole assessment tasks and studying plans work out for them. The key reason why I found this year tough was because I was totally unprepared for this year and had to relearn how to study and handle the constant SACs every week or so. What has eventually helped and kept me on track is learning organisational skills and time management and balancing studying/social and hobbies, I'd have to say this has been a really eventful year - all kinds of awesome and some prettttyyyy crazy things have happened so far this year. I've been to Open Days with my mates and looked at courses to do next year, both in TAFE and university. What really interested me, and I must admit my mum played a role in suggesting it, was nursing; not in aged care but in emergency. I asked a doctor and it is generally is the best one, despite being stressful - it's always active, seeing broken bones and blood everywhere which I'm quite use to, and it's well-paid. I've also been working hard to become a pro-freestyle motocross rider and I've worked on various tricks on BMX. It's difficult to do this due to Year 12 but once it's over, I will have more time. Over the course of this year I've broken a couple bones and been cut open and grazed all over but despite this pain I actually love it. The world's best athletes have all got to their world status by not giving up despite how many times they have lost or been hurt. They keep trying to get better and become recognised for their talents. Because of the mental attitude I have and my positive outlook to life, I believe I will become what I want to be.

It seems like yesterday that I started primary school and now I'm almost graduating in high school! School is like a second home to me and the friends and teachers at school are like a second family. I'm pretty much looking forward to graduating soon but at the same time I'm nervous because I know that I will miss school and friends terribly. This year has been a big challenge and I've tried my hardest to do the best for myself and I'm happy with myself that I've got through this after all the hard times. This year has changed my life around - I've turned 18 and I'm loving it! I've made so many friends and I've started to realise who my true friends are, who will always stick up for me. And I have this new best friend, and I have no idea what to do without her and I'm glad that I have her in my life. She has been there for me to support me through bad times and my schooling but sometimes she can be tough on me to finish Year 12, like my parents. Speaking of my parents, I don't know how to thank to them. They pushed me to get through Year 12, as I was planning to drop out in Year 11, and now I'm nearly to the end. I remember the day when my mum told me that she was told that I would not be able to pass Year 10 because of my deafness but eventually I proved them wrong - that I can do better and be successful. In the future I'm planning either to go to Victoria University or Box Hill TAFE. I'd like to study different courses to find out what is the best for my future career. I'm hoping that my future will be interesting and I'll learn different things in the adult world compared to the high school world. In 10 years time, I will remember what high school was like and laugh about the good times and the bad.

**C
o
u
r
t
e
y**



**R
o
r
y**

This year has been a wild one. I am studying four different subjects, and study for one is as essential and time-consuming as the next. However the study so far, has been worth it. Next year I plan to do a Bachelor of Forensic Science, which is done at Deakin at the Geelong campus in Waurn Ponds. I am doing Biology, Further Maths, English and Accounting. Some of my favourite memories would have to be the time spent in the facility. 6 Good years were spent at this school, and I wouldn't change a thing.



Ben, Jackson & Max go to Adelaide!!!!

Jackson, Max and I went to Melbourne Airport at 9am. We finally arrived in Adelaide and went to the hotel then we went to basketball training for 2 hours. On Saturday we started the match. The first game was Melbourne City v/s Melbourne Sharks. My team won by 19pts. After lunch Melbourne City played Adelaide A team - it was very close. We won by 10pts. We went back to the hotel for a rest for the next day. Our next game was Melbourne City v/s Adelaide B team. My team won so easily by over 40pts. After lunch we were in the Grand Final - Melbourne City v/s Melbourne Sharks. We had beaten Melbourne Sharks before - that was a good game. Melbourne City won by 16pts. We went back to Melbourne on the plane. I so enjoyed Adelaide. By Ben



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

It has been a very fast term for Max and I. We were involved in Deaf Sports Day – It was a fun day because I got to see all of my friends that attend different schools, especially the ones that live far away from me and I barely see them so it was good to see them. Max played basketball and Volleyball. He says it was fun and I had fun too. In English we are currently reading the book – 'Ties that Bind, Ties that Break'. It is a very interesting book to read and the teacher is always encouraging us to write essays, write answers in good form and try and get us to improve our English. In maths we are focusing on linear equations, fractions and gradients. Recently in science we got to cut up a sheep's brain because we were learning about human brains and we wanted to know what was INSIDE the brain so it was fun to dissect a sheep's brain! It is a fun term for us - by Tahlia

Year 10

The Year 10's have continued to work hard this term. Cengiz and John are reading Romeo and Juliet in English, while Heidi and Ben are studying a film. They have watched 'Looking for Alibrandi' which they really enjoyed. In Commerce all students are exploring career opportunities while in Food Tech Ben and Heidi have continued to show their culinary flair. Maths has been quite demanding, as our students grapple with the intricacies of Trigonometry. Cengiz and Ben have returned to TAFE one day a week. Ben is doing a trades taster and Cengiz is working in the electrical trades. Cengiz and John have finished studying Federation in History and are now looking at Australia's involvement in WW1. Heidi had a few weeks off during the term when she went overseas (see article later in this edition) – unfortunately she had quite a bit of work to catch up on when she came back!!!!

Year 11

The year eleven's have been working studiously with their Unit 2 subjects now underway and their Unit 1 subjects all completed. Forest Hill College students have been provided with a trial opportunity of having live subtitles in the classroom and this has occurred using Ai-Live technology in Yr 11 ESL, Psychology and Biology. A new soundfield system has been set up in H block benefiting scheduled classes there and it improves sound for students in general. Erin Halloran is our newest student and she played saxophone on the 2nd September competing in the Ballarat Music Competition. The Year 11's attended the Immigration Museum as part of their ESL studies on identity and have been studying the interesting Australian film series 'Marking Time' and the sad novel 'Letters from the Inside' written by John Marsden. These texts have had the benefit of challenging the student's perceptions of what 'identity' means.

Year 12

Term 3 has been a busy term for our Year 12 students as the countdown has begun toward deciding on subjects, options and pathways for 2012 and as they get closer and closer to the end of their time at Forest Hill College. They have been busy completing SACs in class and preparing their exam revision. Tertiary institutions have also had "Open Days" for students to check out campuses and their available pathways, which our students attended to help them with their decisions. In ESL Courtney and Jack have been studying the film 'On the water front' whilst in English Rory has been studying the book 'Dear America'. Courtney has been busily preparing and cooking her menu for her Food Tech class, Rory has been busy balancing books in accounting and Jack has been working hard on his art folio. The year 12's have also had a number of guest speakers this term as well, hearing about how hard work and determination can help you achieve your goals from retired Australian aerial skier Bree Munro. More recently the year 12's heard from Barry Heard, a Vietnam veteran who shared his experiences with them. This tied in with their study of the book "Dear America". It has been a stressful year that has been full of hard work. We are proud of our students' achievements so far, and we wish them the very best with their exams next term.



Year 10's Work Experience



On Tuesday 12th to Friday 15th I did work experience at DSA in Richmond. I walked 10 minutes from the station to Deaf Sports Australia.

I arrived at DSA to help Craig and Irena clean up the records from the Deaf Olympics.

The next day I helped make addresses for next year's Australian Deaf Sports at Geelong. Then I watched Videos from the Deaf Olympics in Melbourne in 2005. by Ben

In the last week of term 2, I did work experience with my step-father's friend Ben in a factory. I had to push a wheel barrow with 30 bricks (each brick weighs 3kg) 600 metres to the brick pile and back to the work shop. I then had to cut them up and had to get about 200 bricks. I had to get up at 5am and start at 6am. I finished my day at 3pm or 4pm. When I arrived it was dark and cold. I didn't mind though. It was an awesome experience working in the adult environment. There were a lot of truck drivers coming in and out so it was very busy, but there were lots of people to socialise with. I had a great time. By Cengiz



Report on my work experience at Aurora: On 27th June, I started working at Aurora for work experience. Aurora is a school for the deaf and blind, I chose the work because I like children and I have to work somewhere for a week for work experience, so I chose Aurora. I played with the kids, we did puzzles, drawings, painting, playdoh and much more. On 29th June, my class went to another kinder school for half of the day. We also watched Little Mermaid. On the last day, I worked in a different class because they didn't have enough teachers there. I enjoyed working with the children at Aurora, I might work there when I'm older. By Heidi

I worked in the Deaf Facility at Mount View Primary School for work experience. I worked with the Teachers of the Deaf. Beside photocopying and laminating, I helped out the hearing impaired students in their classroom along with the rest of the non hearing impaired children. One time I went around the school looking for the hearing impaired students for the Audiologist to check their hearing and hearing devices. Every morning I checked all the children's FM units to make sure that all devices are working. Near the end of the week, I helped out a Year Three deaf student to make gingerbread men for a movie his class was going to watch. There were eight other students doing work experience, five of them I knew. It was great meeting my old teachers again. I had a great time at Mount View Primary School. By John





Ben, Cengiz & Luke are at TAFE



Each Wednesday Ben, Cengiz and Luke head off to TAFE. Ben and Luke are at Holmesglen TAFE this semester doing a 'Trowel Trades Taster'. In this program they learn skills in plastering, bricklaying and tiling. Cengiz is attending Box Hill TAFE and is enrolled in an Electrical program with other Year 10's. These courses will provide our boys with valuable hands-on experience and training and also increase their awareness of the different pathways that are available to students.



Our Year 11's are (nearly) Fit to Drive

This term, all year 11 students had a half day program about safe driving. We played games about distractions, identifying risks and worked in groups learning about the effect of drinking or taking drugs when driving. It was interesting seeing the graphs where we realized learner drivers are actually very safe but new drivers on 'p plates' had many accidents as they didn't have enough experience for what they were doing. We really enjoyed the session. Courtney R and Pallavi



Driving Instructor

Walid Masri, a Deaf man, is a qualified driving instructor who can communicate using spoken English and is fluent in Auslan. For information on driving lessons, contact Walid on walidmasri9@gmail.com or SMS 0432849 884.

Part time Employment

Sign On Employment Services, a project of DCA, has just announced it is able to assist Deaf and Hard of Hearing students with entry into the workforce whilst they are still at school.



SCREAMFEST !!!!



As soon as we returned to school following the holidays, rehearsals were in full swing for Screampfest. Courtney R was once again involved in the opening and closing dance items. The theme of the night was centred on outer space with references to our favourite movies such as Star Wars. Courtney's dances reflected this with costumes in black and silver, including antennae. Friday night's performance was interpreted by Rae and Carolyn, and it was great to see past students, Brendan and Joan, in the audience enjoying the night with their friends.

Deaf Sports

On Thursday 11th August Deaf Sports Day was held at MSAC - Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre in Albert Park. Deaf and Hard of hearing students from all over Victoria attended and competed in sports such as: Golf, Badminton, Volleyball, Basketball, Netball, AFL Footy Clinic, Hockey, Soccer and Squash.

Six students: Max, Tahlia, Ben, Jaimilee, Jackson & Cody attended the Sports Day with Eva Hynes (TOD) and Bec Jordan (Interpreter). They day ran very smoothly and the students thoroughly enjoyed participating in the sports events but most importantly the students loved catching up with their old friends from other schools.





Year 10 excursion - Teen MFB

Our students were involved in an education program aimed at helping them make wise decisions when driving. We were addressed by a young man who had been involved in a serious accident and had to learn to walk & talk again and learn to live with brain and physical life-changing injuries.

There were three different workshops - 1. the importance of car maintenance issues, 2. First Aid at a crash site & 3. What happens when you dial 000 - what to expect and how your call can save a life. There was also a dramatic presentation on making good decisions when out partying and the importance of a plan plus an alternative plan. In the final scenario the teens made a poor decision, they mixed alcohol and driving and were involved in a crash.

The final graphic scene was outside where the emergency services had set up a crash scene. Four students had been selected to act as "first on the scene" This was truly confronting - when the wraps were removed we saw two cars which had crashed head on. There was a "body" through the windscreen and the car was full of screaming teens who were trapped. To add to the noise level, the emergency vehicles arrived with sirens blaring. It was a very sobering scene.



Heidi goes to World Youth Day !!!



I went to Italy, Spain and Germany. In Italy we mostly visited old buildings and there was a lot of walking!! I went to Rome, Assisi and Florence. The gelatos are so popular there - no matter where I went I saw gelato shops and markets. In Spain I was involved in World Youth Day (WYD). I met lots of new people, and lots of Deaf people. It was entertaining communicating with Americans. Irish sign language is similar to ours. The weather was soooo hot! We stayed in Germany overnight because we missed our flight and we got to sightsee. Everybody rides bikes over there, even old people. It was a great experience and I might go to the next World Youth Day in 2013 in Rio.

Visible & vibra-alert smoke alarm now available for the homes 13 - 18 year old deaf children.

The smoke alarm subsidy for profoundly deaf Victorians is available until June 2012.

The subsidy covers the cost of a visual & vibrating smoke alarm - usually these cost \$400.

If you are eligible, this alarm will only cost you \$50.

Contact vicdeaf, MFB, CFA or the Dept of Human Services for more details.