



**FOREST HILL
COLLEGE**

Term 4 2011

Deaf Facility Newsletter

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Open Caption films

Some cinemas offer open caption films. A film listed with an 'OC' 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

Term Four has been a busy time for all as you will see as you scan through the pages of our newsletter. This has been particularly so for the staff of the Deaf Facility, who have committed themselves to many exciting new and innovative professional development projects in their quest to provide the best educational practices possible for our students.

In September, Rachel Bowen and I were fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to the United States through the generosity of VDEI project funding. The purpose of the visit was to receive training in the use of Fairview Learning, a teaching and learning method designed to improve language and literacy development in Deaf/Hard of Hearing students. It is used extensively throughout the USA and several other countries. We intend to implement the fantastic Fairview 'tool box' with our students in 2012.

Our Interpreters have also been busy participating in a mentoring/professional training course on a weekly basis with Julie Judd, a Professional Interpreter. The program involves skill development, reflective analysis and group work which have resulted in top quality interpreting and best practice support to our students who use Auslan. In fact, our initiative has been so successful; the VDEI has used the model to initiate a program that will be offered to Auslan interpreters in Educational settings across Victoria next year.

We are very excited about all our initiatives and look forward to 2012 and a new year of great education. To our returning families, we hope you have a restful and happy break. To our new families starting, we warmly welcome you and excitedly await your start at our College and to our exiting families, we have enjoyed every minute of your child's educational journey and we know they are well prepared and that they will experience success in their future endeavours.

Amanda Purcell

Deaf Facility Coordinator

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A note from your Editors -

Hello everyone -
This newsletter nearly didn't happen as my laptop was stolen recently - as well as my backup hard drive - so HUGE thanks to Carolyn & Andrew especially for making this edition of our newsletter a reality!! We hope you enjoy looking at the photos of our wonderful Year 12's at their Formal - as well as all the other 'happenings' at our College. Have a safe and happy Christmas break everyone - see you back day 1 next year - Merryn



Important Dates

First day of Term 1 (students)

WEDNESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY

Australian Hearing Visits

Our audiologist will again be visiting regularly next term
(Dates to be announced).

Who's Who



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My name is Luke McArdle. I am sixteen years old and I only came to this school this year. The reason I moved to Forest Hill College was because I think that Forest Hills has great teachers. I live in Narre Warren with my father and my brother. I like going to parties with my mates. Next year I will be doing VCAL and I hope to get an apprenticeship in bricklaying.

Hi my name is Pallavi and I'm in year 11. This year I'm studying four different VCE subjects. They are ESL, Further maths, Auslan and Psychology. All the subjects are hard and I really love art because I'm very good at photography and its fun. Recently, we got two bunnies which are 8 weeks old. My family's background is from Fiji, I have one brother and one sister. I'm not looking forward to next year because my sister will move to my school and she is in grade 7. Finally I've almost finished year 11 this year and I'm feeling like everything went too fast. All my friends will do 2 more years to finish their VCE.

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Hi everyone! My name is Dimitra. I have worked at FHC since the Deaf Facility moved here at the end of 2005. I have been a Teacher of the Deaf for over 10 years. Before becoming a TOD I taught Maths, I.T., LOTE and Legal Studies for over 12 years. I also taught ESL at my own language school in Europe for 3 years. I decided to become a TOD when a deaf student enrolled at the school I had been working at and no one knew how to teach her. Loving a challenge, two years ago I went back to uni to qualify as an ESL teacher. This year I had the opportunity to also work in the mainstream school as an English/ESL teacher. It has been a wonderful experience, but it has meant having less contact with the Facility students, which I have missed. My husband is also a teacher. He teaches Maths and I.T. at Rowville S.C. and he is also the I.T. Coordinator and Years 7, 8 and 9 Leader. We have two children. Our daughter is currently completing Year 12 and our son is in Year 8. We also have a pet sulphur crested cockatoo, Cookie, who thinks he is human and expects to have his meals at the table with us, otherwise he complains. As a family we love to travel overseas and try to do some travelling every other year. I love my work and watching my students achieve their goals.

Outdoor Ed Camp

In the last week of Term 3 Courtney (Yr 12) and Courtney (Yr 11) and Bec (interpreter) attended the Year 11 and 12 Outdoor Ed camp to the Grampians. We stayed in tents at a camping ground for 3 nights. The camp involved: rock climbing, abseiling and long walks up steep rugged mountains and observing some of the most spectacular views and landscape.

Yr 11 Courtney said, "I was the most involved in rock climbing, I tried all the different climbs,"

Yr 12 Courtney - "I enjoyed the sleeping on the bus, on the 7 hour bus trip to the Grampians".

Bec - "I can't believe I climbed 25 metres up a rock. The Grampians are just beautiful"



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

During a very busy term, we have been studying hard in English, Maths and Commerce. We have been focusing on Maths a lot because we have an exam coming up soon, which we are very nervous about. In ESL we have been watching 'Bend it like Beckham' as part of our topic and we are expected to write an essay on it. Over the past few weeks we have been learning how to dance with Mark from 'Dancing with the Stars'. Our competition against Blackburn High is coming up - wish us luck!! We have also chosen our electives for next year, and are very happy with the different subjects we will be doing. Hope you have a great Christmas! By Max & Tahlia.

Year 10

The Year 10's have had another busy term. In English we've been looking at persuasive language, and in Maths, at tax and salaries. In Food Tech we're learning about different cooking techniques, and in Commerce we're studying juries and the legal system. In Science we're learning about different types of psychology and we went to Scienceworks. We also went to Blackburn Lake and Darkzone for Healthy Lifestyles and played survival games. This term Ben and Luke have continued their Trowel Trades at TAFE, doing bricklaying and plastering. Next year Ben and Luke will do VCAL while Heidi, John and Cengiz have chosen their subjects and will start VCE. Happy Christmas everyone!! -Merryn

Year 11

Our Year 11's this term have been inundated with SACs and exams and have learnt Exam Terminology in Deaf Facility and how to prepare for exams thoroughly. They attended Chess and Biology excursions. They were required to plan and complete course selection for the next stage of their three year VCE programs. All of the students have chosen a wide range of subjects like ESL, Maths, Auslan, Health, PE, Biology, Psychology, Accounting and even applications for TAFE subjects. Hopefully, this has put each of them further along on their pathways to reach their intended goals. Also, some students have begun their preparations to achieve their Driver's Licences, by studying and having driving lessons from a Driving Instructor named Walid Masri, whom is fluent in both Auslan and English. Also, Tamara Trinder and Paula Thornton, from SignOn Employment recently visited the Deaf Facility and many of our students signed up to receive assistance in looking for part-time work, so well done and thanks to the team from Deaf Children Australia. - Rachel

Year 12

Term 4 has been a short but busy term for our Year 12 students revising and preparing for their final exams. On Thursday 27 October, the Year 12s were presented with their graduation certificates at a special assembly held for all the Year 12 students which was followed with a special morning tea. Later that evening the Year 12s had their Formal to which all of our Year 12 Facility students attended. Our students looked stunning and all grown up in their beautiful dresses or suits. The event was held at the beautiful Leonda Reception venue in Hawthorn, where the food and entertainment was superb. It was a very fitting celebration for the end of 13 years of schooling. Our students are now completing their exams, as I write this, and their sighs of relief can be seen etched on their faces as another exam is completed! We wish them the very best with their results and the courses they have chosen for 2012. Everyone in the Facility is proud of our students' achievements so far and we wish to congratulate our Year 12 students for successfully completing their VCE. - Dimitra

Year 7 Visits



Our new year 7 students have been visiting us regularly this term. They have been involved in a number of activities and information sessions at the college, aimed at making their transition to secondary school as smooth as possible. They are excited about starting at FHC and we are certainly looking forward to welcoming them to our College.

Chess

September saw 10 students from FHC competing at Box Hill Chess Club in Canterbury along with chess players from 11 schools. These schools were a mixture of Private, Selective Government colleges and regular Government secondary colleges and included state representatives. Our cohort included 2 deaf students but because of illness only one competed. Jackson completed seven 30 minutes games. All students displayed excellent knowledge of the game and conducted themselves with exemplary sportsmanship and were great representatives for our college. Jackson played extremely well and was rewarded with a silver medal as he won 6 out of 7 games. Jackson and other FHC medal winners will proceed to the next tier of competition. Congratulations to all our competitors and their after school hours chess coaches.



Our students utilising Ai- Live captioning in class.



Two of our students in a video conference with students from another facility using our new Polycom video conferencing unit.

Year 10's 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.



Dancing with the Stars

The Year 9's were lucky enough to have Mark Wilson, formerly of the hit TV show 'Dancing with the Stars', come to teach weekly sessions of various ballroom dances.

Several weeks of practice were undertaken before a competition with Blackburn Secondary College was held at Forest Hill College. The competition would see both schools dance-off in four different ballroom choreographed dances including Cha-Cha, Modern Waltz and the Progressive Jive.

Max and Stacey danced so well together that they made it through to the grand final dance-off for the Modern Waltz. Max was so awesome that he was even asked to fill in for Blackburn's shortage of boys.

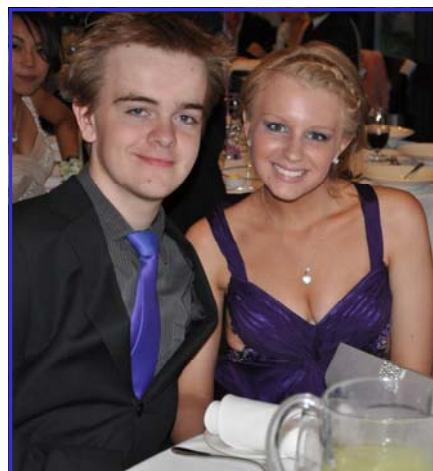
Tahlia and Tobias were dancing like the pro's and made it through to numerous Grand Finals. Tahlia was placed first in an 'Inter-school Challenge'! A Fantastic job!

The points accumulated for their respective schools were tallied up and it was announced that Forest Hill was the Trophy winner!



Year 12 Formal

The Year 12 Formal is a highlight of the student's year, & this was certainly the case for our students Courtney (one & two!!), Jack, Michael & Rory. The weather was warm, the venue was magnificent, and all the students looked amazing - and so very sophisticated - as they gathered for the event. We were also pleased to catch up with one of our past students, Joan, who also attended. A memorable night was had by all as they ate, drank and danced with friends and staff. It was a wonderful celebration for all our students.



Scienceworks

When the Year 10's visited Scienceworks we broke into smaller friendship groups to experience the "hands on" experiments and displays. The visual illusions were puzzling and interesting and showed how our eyes can trick our brains. We went into a lecture on electricity, magnets and lightening. Scienceworks has a 120 seat auditorium and the lecturer involved students with various experiments. A giant Tesla coil, which can generate 2 million volts, was switched on and we saw the impact of lightening strikes passing through a car, boat, shed and a tree. After lunch we went to the pumping station. This Victorian era building was built on the lowest point between Melbourne city and Werribee sewerage farm. It houses a huge steam driven pumping engine which was used to pump sewerage up over the hill and then the waste was moved by gravity to Werribee. The giant pump is still in working order but now the sewerage is in deep pipes underground and is sucked up the hill by the Brooklyn Plant and gravity fed to Werribee.