Trafalgar High School Newsletter

Integrity ~ Collaboration ~ Aspiration ~ Excellence

Trafalgar High School, Locked Bag 1 TRAFALGAR, 3824
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Volume 8, June

COMING EVENTS & ADVANCE NOTICE

COMING EVENTS	
MONDAY 13TH JULY	FIRST DAY TERM 1
TUESDAY 18TH AUGUST	ONLINE SENIOR PATHWAYS INFORMATION SESSION

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

As this week commenced and today as the final day of our term was on the near horizon, we all collectively breathed a sigh of relief that we have made through this unprecedented term. Who would have thought at the commencement of the year that we would have and are still experiencing the magnitude of disruptions that we have.

The adjustments of remote learning for students, families and staff were challenging at times but also have provided some opportunities to learn about our practices and even ourselves along the way. Then the re-adjustment back into on-site learning has probably thrown some different challenges for us to resolve and work through. As we move into the holidays, students and staff alike are saying how tired (both physically and emotionally) they are and are very much looking forward to the break. I have included the letter and information from the Victorian Chief Health Officer, Brett Sutton, who has some salient reminders for us to remember over the school holiday period.

I would like to thank the members of our wider community whom have been very supportive in terms of following the guidelines and health regulations to assist in keeping us all safe and well. In keeping unwell students at home and also collecting students whom have become unwell during the day it has assisted us in our efforts.

Yesterday our year 12 students had a bit of light relief by having a 'pyjama' dress day. As a gesture of goodwill and kindness, money they raised from this event is being donated to Beyond Blue in recognition of the services they provide and the current need of members of our community. I am not surprised by this act of kindness by this group of students, we often see them acting to support each other and the more junior members of our school community.

Next term we are welcoming three new staff members to our school: Nathan McMillan will be teaching English/ humanities, Lisa Tullett P.E. and VCAL and Ashley Bannister mathematics and science. Nathan and Lisa are not completely new to the school as they are respectively a former student and pre-service teacher and a regular relief teacher. Ashley will be commencing in an ongoing position after 11 ½ years' experience at Vermont SC. We are pleased to be welcoming them all to our Trafalgar HS community.

Lee Jinks will also be returning next term as our substantive Assistant Principal for years 7 – 9 with Jack Brown returning to his role of Year 7 sub-school leader.

On behalf of the Principal team, Jimi Hopkins, Amanda McQualter and Jack Brown I'd like to wish you all a safe and happy break and look forward to the students returning on Monday 13th July.

Jane Mersey

Principal

VICTORIAN CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER MESSAGE TO PARENTS

I am writing to Victorian parents, carers and students today to seek every family's support in slowing the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in Victoria.

As the school holidays approach, we can't ease up on looking after ourselves and our families. The only thing between us and a second wave is what we do next.

Wherever you go, please be mindful of the risks. Be aware others may be carrying the virus and practice physical distancing.

We are currently experiencing the highest case numbers we've seen in more than two months. Current evidence suggests that the rise in case numbers in Victoria is being driven by families having get-togethers and not following advice around physical distancing and hygiene.

Unfortunately, we are still in a pandemic and people's lives are still at risk. As we've seen across the world, this virus has the ability to turn a small number of cases into hundreds in a matter of days.

This is not where we want to be and we must all act now – while we can.

This is why we've had to implement a number of revised restrictions. The number of visitors you can have at your home is now reduced to five. Outside the home, families and friends can meet in groups up to ten.

This is how each and every member of the community can help:

- Stay safe while out in the community.
- Stay safe at home. And that means only seeing those you need to. Don't have big family gatherings and remember to keep your distance and maintain good hygiene.
- Don't share food or drinks.
- If you, or anyone in your family is feeling unwell – stay at home. Don't visit friends and family. Don't go on holiday if you are unwell and don't go to work. Don't send your kids to school, childcare or kindergarten if they are unwell - stay home.
- And if you have symptoms, get tested.

The vast majority of Victorians are doing the right thing, but this is a wake-up call and we cannot be complacent.

It's up to all of us to keep our friends and families safe.

For current information and updates on coronavirus (COVID-19) visit the Victorian Government's coronavirus website. (external link)

If anyone in your family has any of the symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), however mild, they should stay at home, seek advice and get tested. These symptoms include fever, chills or sweats, a cough, a sore throat, shortness of breath or runny nose, or loss of sense of smell or taste. For more information about where to get tested visit the getting tested for coronavirus web page. (external link)

If you're concerned yourself or a family member has contracted the virus and need more information, please call the 24-hour coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398.

Adj Clin Prof Brett Sutton

Victorian Chief Health Officer

HEADSTART CAREERS PROGRAM

Congratulations Matt on starting your head start program with employers Travis & Katherine Conrad at Samba Metal Works.

HOMEWORK CLUB

Supervised Homework Program in a relaxed environment.

WHEN? Every Monday starting 20th July

WHERE? E7

TIME 3:30pm – 4:45pm

For further details see Ms Wald

Homework Club is available to All students.

Forms can be collected from Mrs. Niki Wald (NWA) in the Junior Co-Ordinator office, opposite the IT Department or from the General Office. Forms must be signed and returned prior to attending Homework Club.

YEAR 7 DRAMA

In Ms. Marshall's year 7 A & C Drama classes the students had a task of building their own hat as part of their block 5 learning.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS—EMPATHY DAY

In the UK, the June 9th is referred to as #EmpathyDay, a date to focus on understanding and listening to each other. Empathy is a vital human force, creating happier children, stronger communities and a better world. In the period from the last newsletter this date past and gave us a moment to reflect on Empathy as a skill needed for Respectful Relationships with our friends, family and partners. Its not a skill we just have, but one that we develop, and as a School who participates in Respectful Relationships and Positive Education Program, we want to help young people not only develop the skill, but apply it within their classes, friendships and relationships as well as the wider community.

The diversity we celebrate in our school community, the welcoming environment of Trafalgar High School that allows all youth to learn at our school helps create an environment where empathy can be developed through whole school life. For example our reflective practices in the MPP program give opportunity for youth to have open discussion of feelings and strengthen their listening skills, recently students have reflected on the remote learning. Listening to the experiences, the challenges and success of their peers.

Our teachers praise our students for their empathetic behavior as much as for their achievements. The role of staff in the school role includes challenging any uncaring behavior and exploring how they could have done things differently when things didn't go right. This makes our staff empathetic role models and lets our students witness empathy in real life situations.

In a range of key learning areas and their curriculum we give students the opportunity to walk in other people's shoes, it helps them explore empathy and like all skills, the more our young people get to apply it, the stronger it gets. Trafalgar High School is bringing students and staff from different cultures, faith, and economic backgrounds together and as their learning, exploring, collaborating, creating and socialising together, getting to know people different from themselves, they gain a deeper understanding of others.

Our students will become the empathetic leaders of their community in the future: "Empathy is a quality of character that can change the world." Barack Obama

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Beleza SCHOOL UNIFORMS

9/05/2020

Dear School Community,

We would like to advise you that we are extending our operating hours for our Warragul store. As of **Tuesday the 9th of June**, we will now be opening during the following days and hours:

- Monday to Friday from **9am to 5pm**
- Saturday and Sunday **CLOSED**

Please note that the changes here include an earlier opening time, as well as being open for trading on Wednesdays, when we were formerly closed.

We are excited to be able to offer you more opportunities to organise your uniform needs and look forward to seeing you in store.

All the best,

Beleza School Uniforms

A reminder that our fortnightly newsletter may be accessed via the Trafalgar High School home page on **www.trafalgarhs.vic.edu.au**

Our email address to communicate with administration staff is **generaloffice@trafalgarhs.vic.edu.au**