DIARY DATES

Thursday, 24th November  
- Years 10/11 Exams start  
- Boat Club Trots Night Fundraiser at Bray Raceway

Monday, 28th November  
- VTAC change of preference opens

Thursday, 1st December  
- Years 10/11 Exams finish

Monday, 5th - 9th December  
- Unit 3/4 Orientation Week  
  (all students undertaking a Unit 3/4 study in 2012 are required to attend this week).

Tuesday, 6th December  
- Music Support Group Meeting

Wednesday, 7th December  
- Boat Club Meeting

Thursday, 8th December  
- Year 7 Music Concert, 7.30 pm

SWANNIE AWARDS

Ester (left) and Remi (right) receive their Swannie awards, from (left) Amit Golder (DAV Vice-President) and (right) Michael Cieselski (DAV Schools Administrator)

Recently the DAV Regional Swannie Awards were presented in Melbourne. These Awards recognise the debater in each grade who has achieved the highest average score over the debating regional season. In other words, a Swannie Award Winner is the Best Debater in each grade.

We are proud to announce that two of our DAV squad have received this honour. Congratulations to Remi Bilson, who is the Swannie winner for D Grade (Year 9) and Ester Koelle-Mays, who is the Swannie winner for A Grade (Year 12). For Remi, this is the second consecutive year in which she has won this award, and for Ester it follows her second place in the individual awards at South Street.

Both girls are obviously champion debaters!
Ballarat Youth Awards

Congratulations to the Smartanswers Task Force that won the group section of the Ballarat Youth Awards. The Task Force is composed of students from Ballarat High, Ballarat Grammar and Mt Clear College. Ballarat High School students involved in the Task Force were Rachael Morrow, Holly Morrison, Gabi Ruvg, with added input from Molly Baxter, Tess Fraumano and Chanelle Linane.

Staff involved were Mrs Heather Kearle and Ms Phoebe Hall, who were impressed with the confidence and dedication displayed by these young women.

This Conference is aimed at Year 9 and 10 students about being safe(r) around drugs and alcohol, providing students with information and strategies to use and share with their friends. The two day conference is attended by students from all secondary schools within Ballarat. Students worked together with the Ballarat City Council to develop a program and organise the 2011 Smartanswers Conference. This involved running workshops for other students in Ballarat, collating information, planning the sessions, and then acting as MC’s during the Conference.

Peer Support at the Great Big Gardens Day

On Wednesday, October 26th, many of the Year 9 Peer Support Leaders volunteered at the Great Big Gardens Play Day in the Ballarat Botanic Gardens. The Friends of the Botanic Gardens Group had organised a day where young children and their families could come and experience playing in the outdoors. The weather was perfect for people to come and play. Our students assisted with the running of activities like mud pies, bubble blowing, gloopy gloop, science experiments, cubby making, outdoor games, discovering bugs and the toddlers play area. Our Year 9’s did a sterling job of engaging with the children and their parents and teachers.

Over 300 kids attended the day in the gardens and many of the Ballarat High Peer Support Leaders were seen covered in hay, bubble mix, and clay by the end of the day, but they were also sporting very big grins.

The feedback from both the organisers of the event and those attending was very positive towards our students. They did themselves, the Peer Support Program and Ballarat High School proud.

Mr Cox - Chaplain / Peer Support

This year, the community agency Anglicare will need to provide up to 1200 hampers of festive food and gifts for people in the Ballarat Community. Ballarat High School is helping to achieve this.

For the remainder of November, staff and students can either contribute a small gift (unwrapped for a teenager) or non-perishable Christmas food items like puddings, tinned ham, canned veggies, chocolates and even accessories like bonbons for the table on Christmas Day. We would suggest that you don’t need to spend over $10.

Items can be brought to school and placed in collection points around the school until November 30th.

The items will then be collected by Anglicare and used in their hampers for those who are struggling or lonely this Christmas. It doesn’t need to be big or a lot, but your gift will help make Christmas a little better for those who need it.

Merry Christmas.

Mr Cox - Chaplain/Px Peer Support
A Tale of Biology and the Seals

The weather gods smiled on a small group of twenty students and teachers as they gathered in the early hours of October 21st; at just 0630, it was reasonably warm with a blue sky, and it was easy to see who were morning people, and who needed an extra shot of caffeine! An uneventful, even eerily quiet, bus trip later, we arrived at Queenscliff ready to enjoy a relaxing boat trip around Port Phillip Bay and an encounter with a herd of seals, and hopefully a pod of dolphins – but first came the awkward ‘struggling into a full-length wetsuit’ part of the day, along with meeting our awesome guides from Sea All Dolphin Swims.

Half an hour later, we arrived at our first snorkel location – Pope’s Eye Marine National Park – a ring of rocks forming an artificial reef supporting incredible biodiversity. A few ‘brain freezes’ ensued as we experienced the lovely (cold) water, but the underwater sights more than compensated. Back on the boat, we enjoyed a nice warm cup of hot chocolate and some biscuits as we made our way towards the seals (every bit of sunshine was fought for as we tried to return feeling to icy fingers and toes – including the net off the side of the boat).

On arriving at the Chinaman’s Hat seal platform, we once again braved the (icy) water and experienced the playful ‘puppy’ behaviour of some bachelor Australian Fur Seals. Unfortunately, we saw the first signs of negative human impact, with several of the seals sporting ‘fishing line necklaces’. Back on the boat it was time for some adventures as we searched for the elusive pod of dolphins: hanging off some tow lines. The call ‘overboard’ was heard as people lost their grip and were left behind – we did manage to pick everyone up, so the bus was just as full on the way back.

We also visited Portsea to look at the impact of the dredging (increasing toxicity of the water, and whole beaches moving), as well as discuss the potential harm of chemical runoff and bioaccumulation – we humans have made quite an impact on this marine ecosystem. The dolphins remained elusive, so we finished the day with some more adventure: jumping off the top of the boat (quite a bit higher than it looks!). We made our way back to the wharf to relax and enjoy the sun with some yummy fish and chips (after the awkward ‘getting out of the wetsuit’ part of the day).

A big thank you to Mrs Benson for booking us in, Mr Sordello for driving us there and Mrs MacGregor for taking us – an awesome time was had by all!

The German Exchange Trip

The following is an excerpt from Amber Nuttall’s travel journal on Friday, 7th October, 2011.

Neuschwanstein Castle:

Got up at 6am. Packed up my bed and went to breakfast and had a traditional German breakfast of a fresh roll with cheese. We then met at 7.30am to go into town and up into Nuebaswanstein. We caught the bus from the train station to the base of the mountain in Hohenscnagan. Then we walked in the cold and rain up to the castle. We walked up to the bridge Marien Bruecke to see an awesome view over the castle and town. We had an English tour through the castle. Some interesting facts about the castle; in just one room, over one million tiles were used in a floor mosaic; the castle was never finished because of the mysterious death of King Ludwig; King Ludwig only lived in the castle for 127 days; only two floors of the castle are completed.
Ballarat High School had nine students from Years 7 & 8 enter the Australasian Problem Solving Maths Olympiad (APSMO). This involved students sitting problem solving tasks each month for 5 months. Students have had the opportunity to gain practice during lunchtime sessions and develop deeper skills in number, measurement, chance and data, in particular.

Participation certificates were awarded to:
Nicole Overall, James Coomans, Tomislav Cielicki, Emma Fowkes, Sarah Wynen, Jake Hopkins and Dannielle Lowson.

“Top 25% Achiever” award - Michalea Slattery (7I) was placed in the top 25% of individual entrants.

“Top 10% Achiever” award - Maddi Hansford (7I) was placed in the top 10% of individual entrants.

These students are to be congratulated on their excellent achievement and consistency in Mathematics.

Back: Dannielle Lowson, Sarah Wynen, Michalea Slattery
Front: Maddi Hansford, Tom Cielicki, Emma Fowkes
Absent: James Coomans, Nicole Overall, Jake Hopkins

Ms Delwyn Oliver - Maths Coordinator

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School Library Month Celebrations

Book Clubbers celebrated School Library Month (October) in style this year. On Monday, October 24th, both Junior and Senior Book Club members held a Readathon, where we enjoyed reading **ALL** afternoon! To make this activity even more special, Book Clubbers brought pillows, slippers and even sleeping bags.

Two days later, we held an early Halloween celebration. Creativity and flair were the order of the day as Book Clubbers dressed up as their favourite character from a horror book or film. Awards went to a range of students including the following:

Six (from *I am Number Four*), Evil Stepmother (from *Snow White*) and a Slytherin student (from *The Harry Potter* series).

For non-Book Clubbers, the library also gave away pre-loved books, which was greatly appreciated.

Mrs Deborah Marshall
Book Club Co-Ordinator
2012 SPORT EXCURSIONS
- ADVANCE NOTICE OF PRICE INCREASE

Following a review of actual costs in 2011 and expected costs in 2012, we anticipate that parents will be asked to contribute a higher amount for all Sport activities and excursions from 2012.

Individual calculations will be made prior to each event, and you will be advised in advance as per School Policy. Costs vary depending upon location, number of students attending, type of transport used etc.

As a reminder, please pay all amounts to the General Office prior to the day of the event, where a receipt can be issued promptly. Teaching staff/coaches are not able to issue receipts.

Ballarat High School is proud to be a competitive sporting school and wishes to give all students every opportunity to participate in these extra-curricular activities, so please be assured that we will keep all costs as low as possible.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school on 5338-9000.

Robert Simmonds - Director of Sport
Lesley Thorpe - Business Manager

Uniform and General Appearance of Students

The school uniform reflects our School Community values of Pride, Respect, and Responsibility. The School Council has the authority to create and implement a dress code for students. The expectation is that all students will wear the correct uniform at all times to, at, and from school. The uniform policy has again been ratified by School Council.

ALL students are required to be in full uniform during the school day, including travelling to and from school and on excursions, unless otherwise specified.

Key points to note in regards to our uniform.

- Black leather, lace-up shoes (traditional style) must be worn and should be regularly cleaned. Ballet shoes, slip-ons, T bars, sneakers and boots are NOT permitted.
- Students with pierced ears are permitted one small stud per ear. No other piercings are permitted.
- No jewellery is permitted apart from a watch and/or an SOS pendant.
- School jumpers and/or school jackets/blazers are to be worn to, at, and from school. No other tops are permitted.

Parents are asked to support the School in the full implementation of our school uniform. 100% compliance to the uniform policy is expected by the School Community.

A full copy of the policy can be found at www.ballaraths.vic.edu.au in the parent section.

Thanks.
Gary Palmer - Principal
Ballarat High School Boat Club Fundraiser
Trots Night
Thursday, 24th November, 2011

Ballarat High School Boat Club is inviting you, your family and friends to join us for a GREAT night out at the Harness Racing Meeting, at Bray Raceway Ballarat, on Thursday, 24th November. This could be an opportunity for you and friends to have an early end of the year celebration.

Tickets for this event are $40 per head. This fantastic package includes admittance to the track, Racebook, three course meal in the Terrace Restaurant overlooking the track, waiter service, reserved table and drinks available at bar prices.

This is a wonderful opportunity to support the Boat Club through enjoying a GREAT night out with family and friends.

To purchase your tickets, contact the Ballarat High School General Office on 5338 9000.

Free Homework Help
In Creswick

Creswick Neighbourhood House is offering free homework assistance to students of any age, each Wednesday afternoon from 4:00pm – 6:00pm. Qualified staff will assist you with any work which you are finding difficult. All you need to do is turn up with the work with which you would like some help.

For further information, please contact:
The Creswick Neighbourhood House, 19-21 Victoria Street, Creswick, on 5345 2356.

Win $5,000 worth of sporting equipment for your school with the Melbourne Renegades!

The Renegades are offering your school the chance to win $5,000 worth of sporting equipment or one of five coaching sessions with their super-coach Simon Helmot. To enter, students are asked to email info@melbournerenegades.com.au and tell us in 25 words or less about their favourite moment or experience with their school sports team. Competition closes midnight on Wednesday, 30th November, 2011 and the lucky winners will be announced on Friday, 2nd December, 2011. The five runners up will each win a coaching session.