As the first half of the year draws to a close I can report on a very productive semester. We have welcomed 16 new students to the school, 11 at Box Hill and 5 at Pathways, and nearly all of them have settled into the program. We have also received 4 applications for next year.

Expansion of the Pathways Program

At the end of 1st term we were approached by the Port Phillip Housing Group with an offer of two rooms to run an extension of our Pathways School Based Apprenticeship program. The rooms are in the centre of a new public/private housing development and they would give us a shop front to deliver our retail program more effectively, and also allow us to increase the number of students at Pathways from 24 to 34. The School Council has given Graeme Barwise and myself the go ahead to explore the proposal. There are a lot of bridges to cross before it can go ahead, but with the support of Gateway LLEN and Monash City Council I am hopeful we can open the new annex by the start of 2014.

Severe Language Disorder Workshops

At the end of 2012 we successfully applied for a $7200 grant from the Federal Government to develop curriculum practices to better meet the needs of students who present with severe language disorders. Since we have been at Box Hill the number of these students have doubled, and so this Grant came at an opportune time. The school engaged a language consultant, Louise Rowland, and this term she has spent five days observing all staff teaching their subjects, and also conducting two half day workshops explaining in detail the intricacies of teaching a child with SLD. Her input has been invaluable. Even a crusty old hand like myself was given some great new tips! She will complete the consultancy with another workshop at the staff conference and further teacher observation sessions next term.

Phones and Personal Electronic Devices

In the last newsletter I mentioned the staff were working on a policy concerning the use of mobile phones and other electronic devices. It has been completed and is included in this mail out.
Staff Conference

Every 2nd year during the mid year break the staff go away to a 2 day live in conference. The focus of the conference will be on teaching and learning, with sessions on severe language disorders, teacher quality, staff welfare, strategic planning on teaching and learning, and schools based apprenticehips.

Our last conference in 2011 resulted in several significant changes to our program, including creating a special program for students with school refusal issues, alterations to our camping and elective programs, curriculum, and improving teachers’ counselling skills. I am confident we will get some great outcomes from the conference.

Finally
I would like to thank Jenny Langford for filling in for Lyn Perry, who has been enjoying some long service leave this term. Jenny has been a regular CRT at Berengarra for the past 12 months and jumped at the chance to be at the school for a full term. Unfortunately she is off to New Zealand next month, but if she gets another working visa later in the year we will gladly have her back.

Time for a break........

Pete
In partnership with Family Planning Victoria (FPV), Berengarra was fortunate to gain a grant from the City of Whitehorse School-Focused Youth Services to run a sexuality education program across the Box Hill campus. School-based sexuality education is seen as an important addition to information young people receive within their family. Sexuality education aims to give students the knowledge required to inform their sexual decision making and in the long-term hopefully prevent unplanned pregnancy, the spread of sexually transmissible infections and reduce the number of sexual partners over the lifespan.

Each home group received three sessions from an expert sexuality educator from FPV. The content was tailored to each home group. Effective sexuality education is much broader just covering the ‘birds and bees’. While particularly for the younger Berengarra students reproductive anatomy, puberty and conception were covered during the program, relationships, dating and intimacy, consent and the law, sexual decision making, contraception, condom use and sexually transmissible infections (STIs) were also covered.

A secondary outcome of the project has been the building of links between Berengarra and FPV so hopefully in the future more work can be done to ensure Berengarra students continue to receive high quality, efficacious and meaningful sexuality education.

The FPV website (www.fpv.org.au) is a great resource for parents and young people. Their clinic at 901 Whitehorse Road Box Hill is free for young people up to 25 years. They have a drop in service from 1-5pm Monday to Friday where young people can see a sexual health nurse or GP about any concerns they may have around their sexual health.
Here are a few of the student’s recounts of some of the activities.

Wrestling —
Shayne’s recount-Who:- Nick S, Jesse, Ado, Kade, Murray, Kade and Jarrod and the wrestlers were Orlando Jordan and Paul London. Where – Brooklyn – just over West-gate bridge.

Events – On the first day we met Paul London and went for a run, then got in the ring and did some wrestling stuff.

Murray’s recount- ‘The rolls were fun, we did front, back, quarter and diving rolls. We also did bumping which is like getting a bump and landing backwards.

Girls Camp
On the 5th of June all the girls of Berengarra pathways school went to Rye for a school camp until the 7th of June. When we got into Rye we went shopping for all the food that we needed. We then made our way to the house we were staying in, we all put our bags in the rooms and had a look around the house there was a games room with a pool table, air hocky table and table tennis. There were also heaps of board games and play station games. That night we went out for dinner to a pizza restaurant and after that we went to the hot springs, we stayed at the hot springs for a few hours it was really nice.
When we got home we all had a shower and then each of us got a full body spray tan from our teacher Catrina, she did a really good job! Some of us then went down into the games room and played pool. The next day we went down the street and did some of our own shopping clothes beanies etc... – Ebony.

Coffee expo
On the 24th of May 2013 I went to the coffee expo as a part of my retail course. This coffee expo was held at Flemington Showgrounds and it cost us $20 to get in. We collected brochures and walked around trying new hot drinks and various foods that they had as samples, we were there for about 3 hours and then went to maccas and then went back to school and talked about the project we had to do about this coffee expo. I did have a good time, it wasn’t boring and it helped me with my assignment. - Claire

Market project
The Cafeducation group, as part of their work and retail certificate, helped pack and deliver fruit and vegetables. These were for individual clients and a local market at Amaroo neighbourhood house. This happens every Wednesday and it takes us a couple of hours to pack and deliver all the produce. Graeme now brings the produce and with the help of Emma and Catrina we weigh and pack the bags with our logo on it. We also get fruit and veg from the Eastern Food Alliance for free, which is also placed into the bags as free stuff.
ASTHMA INFORMATION.

New TRIGGERS booklet
This booklet was launched at the conference and informs people with asthma and their caregivers about how to recognise their asthma triggers and what can be done to avoid them. Asthma triggers could be something that people with asthma:

- Breathe in (smoke, cool air)
- Catch (cold, flu)
- Feel (emotions, stress)
- Do (exercise)
- Eat or drink, take (medications)

The booklet is available online at the Asthma Australia website via Latest News. This may help you understand about your student’s asthma triggers, or to inform parents and careers.

Exercise: a trigger not to avoid
Students with asthma should participate in sports and other physical activity as a component of a healthy lifestyle.
When a student’s asthma interferes with physical activity, they may need to review their use of preventer medication or seek their doctor’s advice about asthma medication they use prior to exercise.
The images here show Petrina Price, an Olympic high jump athlete, and Maddie, Issy and Eddie, active young people who manage their asthma and participate in a variety of sports, at the Australian Institute of Sport during filming for Asthma Australia.
View the promo at:
http://asthmaaustralia.org.au/assist/yourasthma/asthma-sport/
The “Man V’s Wild” students have been going to a number of adventurous destinations and taking on many tasks.

Each of the students has enjoyed them all very much.

This elective, we have been giving students the opportunity to learn, experience and appreciate different outdoor environments and activities. These activities included bushwalks, fishing, 1000 Steps, setting up tents and cooking using camping stoves.

The above photograph was taken at the top of Mount Dandenong. We walked a very long way and everyone made the extra effort to achieve their goal.

Well done to all the students, a great term. You have worked as a team on all activities.

Have a great holiday.

See you next term.....Julio
Julio and Bec decided to combine their All Sports and Man Vs Wild elective so that they could give the students an opportunity to participate in a rock climbing and belaying session. In pairs. The students were introduced to the activity and given a demonstration on the safety precautions that are required when rock climbing. Each pair was taught how to put on their harnesses, work the carabiners, attach the ropes, climb up the wall and belay their partners down. The importance of safety was reiterated to all students when belaying their partners up and down the wall. It was great to see ALL students have a go even if it was a bit daunting to them at first. They started at the beginner wall, progressing onto intermediate walls and even attempted a ladder climb. It was a very successful day...... have a great holiday.
FROM THE ART ROOM WITH ANNE

Our Art teacher Anne, ably assisted by Fran has once again encouraged students to experience art with a variety of materials. Students have worked long and hard making a variety of vehicles out of Balsa Wood.

Lino cutting was a particular favourite. Students were given a vinyl tile and encouraged to create their own design. Persistence paid off......

Students have been very creative during a series of lessons doing “Lino cutting” Thank you to the students for taking on this challenge.

Cutting, lino with a sharp utensil requires persistence, and a great deal of Patience. Well done everyone
Chinese calligraphy on rice paper was a little daunting for some students at first. Once they understood what was required they produced, beautiful calligraphy As you can see.

Take care. Enjoy enjoy the holidays....Anne
GOODIES FROM THE KITCHEN

During the past term I have taken over Lyn’s role in food technology whilst she has been on Long Service leave.

I decided to do a ‘British theme’ in cooking. This included cooking traditional dishes including British classics such as toad in the hole and Victoria Sponge.

The idea was for them to experience a little bit of British culture. The students enjoyed the theme and the food! I have been very pleased with their progress and have really enjoyed teaching the students. I hope you have wonderful holidays.

When I return to Australia I will be sure to call in and say hello.

Anzac biscuits were “yummy”. They were made just before Anzac Day so how and why they came about was very topical.

Best wishes Jenny
IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 3, 2013 commences

Staff conference—2 days in the week 10th—11th July incl. No students during that week.
Staff return—Monday 15th July
Teacher/parent interviews—Tuesday 16th July
Students return—Wednesday 17th July
Students finish—Friday 20th September

TERM 4 COMMENCES
Staff return—Monday 7th October
Students return—Tuesday 8th October
Whole school camp Box Hill—Wed 20/11, Thurs.21/11 return Fri22/11
Monday & Tuesday—4th-5th November—Pupil free day (Melb Cup day)
Pathways program—graduation day and last day of school 29/11/2013
Students finish- Box Hill Fri. December 6th @ 12.30 p.m.
Staff finish—Friday December 13/12/2013