

THE PHOENIX

Term 1,
1st Semester ,
2014



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BERENGARRA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Invergowrie Foundation
Thanks for your continued support.

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. When reviewing the term there have been many achievements and successes with the students, but unfortunately there have been some setbacks to our expansion plans, the latter testing the patience of staff and School Council members.

First the positives.

At the Box Hill campus we welcomed nine new students to the program, increasing the total number there to 36 students, six more than last year and a sensible intermediary step towards having 40 students on the program once we obtain some extra rooms from the Parish. This number of new students presented the staff with a huge challenge and after an “interesting” first six weeks of term, the students started to settle into the normal rhythm of the school, responding to our processes and focussing on learning. It was a testament to both the staff’s character and our robust behaviour management processes.

Other highlights over the term were the Martial Arts Therapy program, and an Adventure Bound elective that was able to offer some very challenging activities courtesy of a special grant by the Commonwealth Bank Community Grants Program

At Pathways, 19 students started the year and quickly settled into the program, and nearly all have made significant inroads into their VCAL work requirements. The retail students are eager to test their skills at the new cafe, so the sooner we open the doors the better it will be for all.

Expansion Plan

At the end of last year I was hoping this first newsletter would be reporting on the opening of Cafeducation, but unfortunately there has been a major delay in the planning process. We are working through all the complications and will tentatively set an opening date of mid 2nd term.

The expansion plans of the Box Hill campus have also experienced the pause button. Just before Xmas the Franciscan Order informed us that they would be handing over the Box Hill Parish to the Catholic Diocese and therefore, any changes to our existing agreement would have to wait until a new parish priest is appointed. Happily I can report that the appointment has been made, and when the new parish priest takes up his post in May we will work with him to resolve the issue.

New Staff

This term we welcomed three new members of staff. Mitch Musilin, who previously taught at Berengarra for six years, returns to the school after a four year sojourn teaching in the Northern Territory. Mitch is a recycled teacher ! He is teaching



Principal's report con't...

English, humanities and some elective subjects. Daniel Handler takes over from Katina Astles at Pathways teaching VCAL English and personal development, and Okan Husnu is a new appointment as a youth worker. We welcome all three to the school.

Another change to the staff will happen by the end of May. I am delighted for Marianne, our school councillor, who will be taking maternity leave for 12 months, and although she will be missed, we have great confidence in her replacement who has just been appointed.

Time for a break.....see you next term!

Peter Heffernan

DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 2, commences

Staff return—Tuesday 22nd April

Students return—Wednesday 23rd April

Staff Development Day—Wednesday May 14th

Anzac Day—Friday 25th April.

Students finish—June 20th

TERM 3 COMMENCES

Staff Return—Monday 14th July

Students Return—Wednesday 16th July

