



# UPWEY HIGH NEWS

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20 February 2009

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

We have all been shocked and saddened by the bushfire tragedy this month. Members of our school community have been affected in various degrees and our thoughts and best wishes go out to them at this time. We appreciate that different individuals and groups have wanted to respond in different ways; our students raised over \$4000 through donations from their out-of-uniform day and many others have brought various goods for distribution; in fact the foyer was overflowing early this week. Thanks to everyone for their contributions.

### Insurance - a reminder

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff and visitors and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property. At the beginning of each year Principals are requested to remind students and families of this. This is one reason why we discourage students from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school. (This includes mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises).

### Emergency Management – Bushfire Threat

If Upwey High School came under direct bushfire threat we would take direction from Emergency Services. If we are given warning to move into action, the school moves into a **lockdown**:

- All students and staff are moved directly into the stadium. Rolls are checked and staff are assigned specific duties. The site is systematically checked to ensure that all buildings have been vacated.
- Students and staff are then moved into their lockdown areas: Year 7 - B Block, Year 8 - Top of B Block, Year 9 - A Block, Years 10-12 - ST Block and bottom of B Block.  
These are the buildings lining the Burwood Highway school boundary.
- Groups of students will be rotated through the stadium for exercise periods and toilet breaks etc.
- A lockdown potentially could be anything up to 6 hours.
- Students would not be dismissed - staff and students would remain on site until we have been given clearance.
- It would be unlikely to have vehicle access in the immediate vicinity, and families would not have access to the school site.
- There would not be a mass evacuation of the site.
- The school maintains its duty of care throughout. Students would be supervised until they are able to be reunited with their families. Communication with families signalling the end of the lockdown would be via emergency services broadcasts.

We have had two emergency management drills in the last two months to ensure that all members of the school community understand the process and these drills will continue throughout the year.

### Students leaving the school site during the day

There are NO pass-outs for any reason. Students are not permitted to leave the school site and return unaccompanied during the day for any reason, at any year level. The school has a duty of care for all students throughout the day.

### Late passes, uniform passes, attendance issues

Years 7-9 students report from 8:30m at the General Office to **Middle Years Officer** Ros McCrory.

Years 10-12 students report at the Senior School centre to the **Later Years Officer** Julie Pack.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

20/02	Immunisations Years 7 & 10
23-27/02	Year 11 PE Camp
23-27/02	Year 7 Camp (2 groups)
04/03	Year 7 Family Evening
09/03	Labour Day - Public Holiday
11-12/03	Year 10 Outdoor Ed Camp
14/03	Saturday Working Bee
17/03	Athletic Sports
18/03	School Council
27/03	Yr 10 Central Camp commences
02/04	Parent / Teacher interviews
03/04	End of Term

## UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Tuesdays 10:30am to 2:00pm  
Thursdays 2:30pm to 4:00pm

**Please Note: Cheque payments are to be made out to KLAD Sports.**

## 2009 SCHOOL TERMS

Term 1: 02/02/09 - 03/04/09  
Term 2: 20/04/09 - 26/06/09  
Term 3: 13/07/09 - 18/09/09  
Term 4: 05/10/09 - 18/12/09

## GENERAL OFFICE HOURS

8:00am to 4:30pm  
Monday to Thursday

8:00am to 4:00pm  
Friday

## BELL TIMES - 2009

Entry to Locker areas	8.30
Warning Bell	8.45
Period 1	8.50
Period 2	9.40
Recess	10.30
Period 3	10.50
Period 4	11.40
Lunch	12.30
Period 5	1.30
Period 6	2.20
Finish	3.10

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Cont'd)

Please expect a courtesy phone call from Ros or Julie if students are away for three days in a row, or if students are late to school a number of times.

### Early Leaver's Passes

These can be supplied on the day (or permanently for year 11/12 students). A written note must be supplied to either Ros or Julie at 8:30am.

### Working Bee

Saturday 14 March from 8:00am until midday. We will be working on renovating, replanting and landscaping various areas of the school grounds. All members of the community are invited to participate - but in particular we are asking for the support of Year 7 parents. We will be supplying morning tea, some refreshments and a sausage sizzle for lunch. More info coming soon!

### Daymap

We have installed a new learning management system called 'Daymap'. Students all have a login to this new system, which has links to class information and resources. It is a web based system that can be accessed from any place with web access. Parents, please check out this site as well. Your child's attendance record is available, as well as teacher notes detailing homework and class notes. (Later in the year we will trial parent log-ins).

Address: <http://intranet.upweyhs.vic.edu.au/>

Use name: Student ID number (as previously)

Password: Pwd77/88/1999 (where 77/88/1999 is the student birthday).

**Tom Daly - Principal**

## EMA APPLICATIONS - FINAL CALL

Applications for Education Maintenance Allowance must be submitted before 27 February 2009. It is NOT possible to process applications after this date. The criteria for submitting the allowance payment is as follows. Parent must have a valid Health Care card dated on or before 28 January 2009. Application forms are available at the general office.

If you have any questions please contact Noela Smith by phone 9754 2838 or email [smith.noela.a@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:smith.noela.a@edumail.vic.gov.au).

## EACH - Eastern Access Community Health

### Learn the 'Secrets of Happy Parenting'

A survival kit for parents of teenagers

This four week course will help you:

- to feel more positive and confident in your parenting skills
- feel less isolated and network with other parents
- gain new knowledge and strategies

Mondays March 2, 16, 23 & 30

Venue: Lifeworks (opposite Federation Estate)  
9 Greenwood Avenue  
RINGWOOD

Phone: EACH on 9871 1800

Course Fee: \$20.00

Please ring and book a place. RSVP by 26 February 2009

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL NEWS

### LOCKERS

All students should now have been allocated a locker. Students must have a padlock on their locker. It is not an option for students to carry bags into classes. There are occupational health & safety issues as well as security issues. Students need to look after their locker and report any damage to the relevant year level coordinator.

### PHOTOS

All photos should now have been completed. ID photos will be provided free of charge and should be available before the end of this month. If parents wish to purchase photos at any stage during the year they need to go through National School Photography on 9428 9420 for orders and payment. Any student who has missed their photo will get an individual shot taken at school and the school will organise an ID photo.

**Mick Sheehy**

### COLLECTION OF MONEY, BOOKS & SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

- Have you collected your money for books sold at the Book Sale? Envelopes available from the General Office. There is still some money to be finalised from late sales made this year.
- Any unsold books can be collected from Mrs. Doyle's office. Those not collected by the end of February will be donated to the Student Wellbeing team or the relevant faculty.
- If you applied for a School Council Scholarship last year, your applications can also be collected from Mrs Doyle's office
- Concept Books back orders are filtering through and will be distributed to the students as they arrive. **Val Doyle**

## IMMUNISATION PROGRAM 2009

### 20 FEBRUARY 2009

#### Year 7 Girls

Gardasil 1st dose  
Hepatitis B 1st dose

#### Year 10 Girls & Boys

Tetanus

#### Year 7 Boys

Hepatitis B 1st dose  
Chicken Pox

### 22 APRIL 2009

#### Year 7 Girls

Gardasil 2nd dose  
Chicken Pox

### 26 AUGUST 2009

#### Year 7 Girls

Gardasil 3rd dose  
Hepatitis B 2nd dose

#### Year 7 Boys

Hepatitis B 2nd dose

If you have any queries regarding immunisation, contact Rose Thompson via e-mail at: [r.thompson@yarraranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:r.thompson@yarraranges.vic.gov.au)

### GIANT POOL PARTY - BUSHFIRE FUNDRAISER

In the wake of recent devastating bushfires we would like to offer the community the opportunity to come together in an effort to raise funds for the victims of this tragedy that has touched so many of us.

In order to do this we will be holding a giant pool party on **Saturday 21 February from 1:00pm to 5:00pm at the Belgrave Outdoor Pool, 69 Best Street, Belgrave.**

All YMCA staff present on this day will be doing so on a voluntary basis allowing all monies raised to be directed to the Red Cross.  
**Entry is a \$5 donation.**

## HEAD LICE

An instance of head lice has been confirmed at school. It is important parents notify the school of all cases of head lice to assist us in informing parents of other students. The only way to stop a head lice 'plague' is for all parents to be vigilant and responsive in the detection and eradication of the lice and eggs. Carefully check your child's hair and if lice or nits are detected carry out prompt treatment with medicated lotions available at chemists and use the specific comb to remove all traces of infestation.

Follow up treatment may be necessary after a week to ensure all lice and nits have been removed. Talk to your child and reassure him/her there is no shame if lice or nits are found and try to stress the importance of not touching heads with other students to minimise the risk of the cycle starting all over again.

**Pauline Cram - First Aid Officer**

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S DESK

Welcome back to everyone to Upwey High for 2009 and a special welcome to those new families to our wonderful school community. The last couple of weeks have been marked by devastation on a scale none of us have witnessed before so close to home. The fires has affected many of us in significant ways. Many of our community may have lost loved ones, lost property, or know people who have been directly affected in some way. I personally had a friend whose two daughters died in Kinglake, as well as many friends who lost their homes. Some may have been fighting the fires - a heartfelt thank you to you. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Many from our school community were evacuated over the weekend as a fire blazed in Belgrave and Tecoma, these experiences affect us all. Feeling numb or shellshocked can be normal during catastrophes like we are experiencing now. I would encourage you to not dismiss any feelings in relation to what you are witnessing - any and all feelings, no matter how irrational, are valid. It's good to find others you can talk to about your experiences.

There are ways you can support those most affected by the fires. Here at Upwey we are collecting books and games to take to the relief centres. Last week our Free Dress day raised over \$4000 towards the Red Cross Appeal and you can still donate to the Red Cross via banks.

You may like to give blood. Blood is much needed for those who have been burnt or injured. If you have not given blood before, now would be a great time to consider contributing. Go to [www.donateblood.com.au/](http://www.donateblood.com.au/), or phone 13 14 95 for more information.

I hope and pray that you remain safe.

Blessings,

**Stephen Barrington - Chaplain**

## UPWEY HIGH SCHOOL HELPS FIGHT WORLD POVERTY

Have you ever thought that you would like to live in a just world without poverty, and contribute to that world in a positive way? Well here is your chance. Upwey High has entered a team in the annual Oxfam TRAILWALKER. This is an endurance event where teams of four complete a 100km trail from Wheelers Hill to Wesburn Park (Yarra Valley) in less than 48 hours with minimal rest stops and (hopefully) no sleep breaks. The event takes place Friday 27 March to Sunday

29 March 2009. Money raised will help the world's poor through Oxfam's great work

Who are the people at Upwey HS crazy enough to try this? The Wellbeing team of course! The team members undertaking the walk are Emily Sheppard (Wellbeing leader) Anna Wood (Social Worker), Mick Sheehy (AP) and Stephen Barrington (Chaplain) who have been in training since last year and will attempt to walk this distance in around 24 hours and hope to raise at least \$2000.00

We need your support and you may be able to help in one of the following ways:

- donate online to the cause and check our progress at <http://www2.oxfam.org.au/trailwalker/Melbourne/team/718>
- donate via a corporate sponsorship
- support the free dress day on Tuesday 3 March
- support the Trailwalker Fun evening at the new Presentation Centre on a date to be advised in early March
- tangible donations of food, poweraide, sports clothing for the event

You may have another suggestion of how to support, feel free to contact any of the team at the school or email [barrington.stephen.j@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:barrington.stephen.j@edumail.vic.gov.au) and thanks for your fantastic support not only of this event but what it is contributing to in terms of helping some of the world's poor help themselves.

**Stephen Barrington**

[barrington.stephen.j@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:barrington.stephen.j@edumail.vic.gov.au)

**Chaplain**



## INTERSCHOOL DEBATING

Interschool debating is on again this year. All Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students who are interested in competing should see Bernie McDermott in the main staffroom asap or attend the meeting on Wednesday 25 February in B5 at lunchtime.

Last year we had a lot of success with our Year 10 team missing out on winning the final against Mater Christi by a hairs breath. We compete against Monbulk SC, Emerald SC, St Josephs and Mater Christi College. The commitment is for three (possibly five) evenings at St Josephs Ferntree Gully, 25/3, 28/4, 26/5 - semi-finals 21/7 and final 4/8. Students usually get together at lunchtimes to prepare. Year 11s may also attend adjudication training 18/3.

Debating helps develop confidence in public speaking, clear thinking and reasoning skills and persuasive speaking techniques. It is also fun. I have had a great time coordinating the program and look forward to seeing many new faces as well as the participants from last year.

**Bernie McDermott**

**Teacher**

## YEAR 12 CAMP 2009

What a start to the year! Year twelve camp had something for everyone and was a fantastic experience overall. It was hard to say goodbye to the holidays, but this year's Yr 12 camp was something to look forward to, especially because it was our last. It was a great mix of gearing up for the year, helpful talks, bonding and heaps of fun activities, we all had a ball!



The seminars that we had were really interesting and relevant to us. We had a motivational speaker come to the camp to talk about having motivation this year and goal setting for our future. He was a bit of a laugh and everyone got something out of what he had to say. He really opened our eyes to different careers and work options and helped us work out what we were passionate about. He really did leave us feeling motivated for the year and excited for our future. We also heard from a group called Reach who scared us out of our comfort zones and got us talking about our relationships with each other and the close knit support we need from each other throughout this tough year. Many people took the opportunity at the end to thank their friends and re-connect with other people in the year level. It was a really special moment, with things shared that were really personal and open.

We also had the police come to speak to us about being responsible and safe on the road and short sessions on study skills, memory techniques, learning from ex students, stress management, careers and Year 12 basics. We even watched our English study film "Look Both Ways".

As well as the seminars and talks we also did a few activities around the camp like bike riding, rafting, yabbing and mucking around in the pool.

It was a camp like no other with some truly memorable moments. It really set us up for the year and made us feel unified and supported. Thanks to all the staff that came – Deidre Cross, Iain Balmer, Michael Flynn, Bruce Eager, Emily Shepherd, Ric Dooley - especially Grant Nichol for organising it and for Mike Hilt and Keryn McDuffie from Careers that really helped all of us with kick starting the year.

**Alice Watson - School Captain**

**Here are a few of the comments students wrote on their evaluation forms.**

- The camp was a fantastic way of starting the year. It has

really opened up my eyes to my future. It was a real wake up call and it made me look at everyone in a different light.

- I had a fantabulous time and it is a great introduction to year 12 – a necessity!!
- I had a great experience and learnt a lot about myself, friends and my future
- I am thoroughly motivated for year 12 now - thanks for organising the camp.
- It was so much more than a camp. It was a such a worthwhile experience and it really offered me great opportunities
- The camp is incredibly worthwhile and will help and motivate me through year 12. It is an eye opening experience and makes you ready for Year 12.
- The content of the camp shouldn't be changed – it was fantastic. Just make it longer.
- I got so much out of this camp and will try my hardest this year. Therefore it was awesome. I learnt so many valuable lifelong lessons.
- I learnt about myself and defined my career options. This camp has inspired me to achieve my goals and do well in year 12 to achieve my desired enter score to get into my course and do well in life. Thank you to all the staff involved.
- It was a very motivating camp. I honestly feel that this year is going to be so much better because of this camp.



## 'AURORA CENTRE' MURAL

Hopefully you will all take the opportunity to check out the wonderful piece of Public Art decorating the northern wall of our new Year 9 Aurora Centre. This is the result of great work from last year's Ceramics class, taught by Natalie Vranjes.

Under very difficult circumstances, (with all Art rooms out of action due to the building program) the class designed the six panels, created the mosaic tile materials from scratch (much bashing and smashing of whole tiles) and sorted and graded the colours and sizes. Working in groups, the students spent all of Term 2 assembling the mural which is based on the design inspired from their City Experience program. The links between "The Hills" and the City have been beautifully depicted, with so many key elements of our environment being clearly presented.

Special congratulations go to Natalie for her inspired project and also to the team of students who got so involved and whose work will be around for all to see for a long time. Make sure you check it out!!

Well done to: D. Ashfield, J Barrington, A Brillman, S Colborne -Veel, G Diprose, R Ealding, J Eastwood, S Geoghegan, B Howell, T Jones, C King, A Knight, D Magnay, S McGrane, C Mills, E Nyari, S Polistena, J Smith, J Van Hoorn, R Vears, A Vlatkovic, S Walton, R Wotherspoon, H Wuethrich

## Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Upwey High School.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4 pm on Thursday 26 February 2009.

**The ballot will close at 4 pm on Wednesday 11 March 2009.**

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2009 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2011.	4
DEECD employee member		2

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

### **Building works and disruptions to phone services and email/website**

The building program is nearing completion, but we have had a number of delays with the installation of our communication technologies, that is our phone services have been interrupted and disconnected internally, voicemail has not been always working correctly and the installation of our new computer infrastructure has been delayed, which has meant that staff have not had full access to email. This has also affected our access to our website (which is why we are still displaying 2008 documents).

Added to this, many of our key coordinators are not yet set up in their new offices, and are unable to access their normal files etc.

So, my apologies if you have had difficulties contacting the school thus far this year. We have assurances from the relevant contractors that we'll be up and running (totally) in the next few days.

**Tom Daly**

**Principal**

## EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE INFORMATION

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; **and**
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004* **or** be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner **or** be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (**28 January 2009** which is the first day for teaching staff) and Term 3 (**13 July 2009**).

The EMA application must be submitted to the school by **27 February 2009** for the first instalment and **7 August 2009** for the second instalment.

The EMA provides an annual amount of **\$443** for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

Students turning 16 years in 2009 will be paid on a pro rata basis.

### **New EMA payment option for 2009**

Commencing in 2009, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development will introduce a new payment option for the payment of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) to parents.

Under the new system, eligible parents will have the option to receive the 50% 'parent portion' of the EMA payment directly into the parent's nominated bank account, **or** as a cheque payment.

The 2009 EMA application form includes a section for you to nominate whether you would like your EMA payment to be made to your own bank account or to receive your payment as a cheque (which is the current arrangement). The banking details required will include the BSB code and the account number.

### **Payment Amounts**

<b>Instalment</b>	<b>Portion</b>	<b>Primary school*</b>	<b>Secondary school*</b>
<b>One</b>	<b>Parent</b>	<b>\$ 77.35</b>	<b>\$ 155.05</b>
	<b>School</b>	<b>\$ 77.35</b>	<b>\$ 155.05</b>
<b>Two</b>	<b>Parent</b>	<b>\$ 33.15</b>	<b>\$ 66.45</b>
	<b>School</b>	<b>\$ 33.15</b>	<b>\$ 66.45</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 221</b>	<b>\$ 443</b>

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of **2009** through this school will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment. Parents who transfer children to another school after **27 February 2009** and prior to or on **7 August 2009**, must reapply at the new school for the second instalment.

**EMA application forms are available from the school office.**