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Issue 8/2006

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## Principal's Report

Dear Parents, Friends and Students

Most of you will be aware of the rigorous debate about Outcomes Based Education (OBE). Despite some of the media giving the impression that the debate is about OBE, the major concern is the implementation of OBE into Years 11 and 12, i.e. the New Courses of Study (NCoS).

The main concern is that there are many things about the NCoS and the ways in which assessment will occur, which are unclear, still to be developed or resolved. We are trying to plan for next year's courses, prepare timetables and information packages on courses we plan to offer and plan pathways for students with inadequate and changing information.

The following are some of the major concerns:

#### Structure of the courses of study

Lack of prescribed content in courses where there is an agreed body of core knowledge.

The broad nature of courses and outcomes compromising depth and rigour of study.

#### Assessment

Details of how students will be ranked for university entrance are unclear.

How examinations will be assessed and results interpreted is uncertain.

Insufficient information about the structure of exams.

Broad nature of the courses makes it difficult to see how the exams can reflect this and be valid.

How the General Aptitude Test (GAT) will be used.

#### Resourcing

The inadequacy of some course materials and still unresolved issues relating to courses to including Mathematics, Physics, Economics and History.

The complexity of planning for school management and structures when Curriculum Council policy keeps changing.

#### Students

Counselling of students for subject selection is difficult due to current uncertainties.

Concerns that the needs of lower ability students will not be met adequately.

#### Staff

Staff's resolve to implement new Courses of Study is being undermined by the pace of implementation while there are still unresolved concerns about the structure and assessment of courses.

The time demands associated with simultaneous development and implementation of Courses of Study are affecting the quality of current teaching and learning.

St Stephen's School is as well or even better prepared than many schools to implement the NCoS. However, you cannot make a silk purse from a pig's ear! We have tried many avenues to have our concerns addressed including through the Curriculum Council, the Minister for Education, other political representatives, the media and professional associations.

Unfortunately some of our leaders are brushing aside genuine concerns arguing that the issue is teachers not wanting to make changes. This is definitely not the case. Unfortunately our leaders are refusing to listen to committed and expert teachers who are gravely concerned for our students. I believe good leaders need to have the courage to admit when they are wrong rather than refusing to resolve issues.

Last year I likened the implementation of NCoS to being instructed to build an aeroplane in mid-air with no flight plan! We have been given some patches to place over gaping holes and know we have to land somewhere in 2007. There is little fuel remaining. It's likely we shall crash-land. The casualties will be our children.

God bless you and yours.

Like the horizons for breadth and the ocean for depth, the understanding of a good leader is broad and deep. *Proverbs 25*

**G Parkin, BA (Hons) Dip Ed PhD MACE MACEL, Principal**

## **Announcements**

### ***Dove Tales* To Be Emailed**

*Dove Tales* will be emailed to all families and not posted. Your email address will have been taken from the buff Information Form completed before the beginning of this term. Please ensure that you keep us informed of your latest email address. Those families without email will continue to receive a hard copy by post. A \$10 fee will cover the cost of postage. If you have received this by post and you have an email address please advise the school.

### ***Dove Tales* Helpers**

We no longer require *Dove Tales* Helpers as there is now only a small number of families who receive *Dove Tales* by post. Thank you to the wonderful group of ladies who have assisted with the mail-out in the past. Helpers on the *Dove Tales* list may be called upon to help with general office duties as required. Thanks again!

### **Please Stop!**

Students must stop at the lights when crossing Hepburn Avenue either on their bike or walking. Students please stop, look both ways and listen before proceeding across the road.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations *Lauren Berryman*, Year 10 who was selected for the U/16 State Basketball Team to travel to Ballarat for the National Championships 24th June - 1st July. Fabulous *Lauren!*

### **Class of 2005**

*Reflections 2005*, the annual school magazine, is now available for all Year 12 students from 2005. Please collect your copy from the Collinson Library.

### **Entertainment Books**

Entertainment Books are now available and can be collected from Main Administration. If you would like to purchase one please contact Dianne Loan on 9243 2410 or call into the office.

### **Canteen Help Needed**

Thank you to all our volunteer helpers in the Canteen and a special thanks to all the new Mums and Dads who have been in for the first time. We still need lots of help so any time you can spare would be very much appreciated. If you are unsure of your roster for the rest of the year, please call so that dates can be confirmed.

Thank you, *Marion Tsokas and Sheryn Aubrey*

**"Here's Looking at Your Health!"**

The Healthy Schools Committee has just been formed this term and aims to strengthen the school's "capacity as a healthy setting for living, learning and working". We will be placing nutrition and lunchbox ideas for parents and students in *Dove Tales* on a regular basis. We hope you find the information and ideas helpful.

**What are the Dietary Guidelines**

<http://dovetales.ststephens.wa.edu.au/duncraig/2006/guidelines.jpg>

**After School Care**

Any parent who is interested in after-school and vacation care for children up to Year 8 on the Duncraig campus, please phone Carolyn Wilson on 9300 4064.

**School Traffic at Main Entrance**

Parents and caregivers are reminded to use the turning circle in the mornings or the lower staff car park when dropping off children. Dropping off children at the top staff car park is not allowed as this hinders the traffic flow. Your continued support on this matter is much appreciated.

**Road Safety Committee Members Wanted**

In making the surroundings of the school community safer in terms of road safety, we want primary and secondary parents to be part of this committee. If you are interested in being part of this committee or want to find out more about this, then please make contact with Mr Glenn Chinen (Deputy Head of Secondary for Care, 9243 2135).

**Absentees In The Primary School**

It would be most appreciated by High School Office staff if you would register your Primary School child's absence on 9246 3466. If the line is busy, please leave a message. Thank you.

<b>Key Dates 2006</b>	
Mon 5 June	Foundation Day Holiday
Tues 6 June	Primary Assembly - 5CK
Tues 6 June - Fri 16 June	Years 11/12 exams
Tues 13 June	Primary Assembly - Year 7
Thurs 15 June	JSHAA Speakers' Challenge
Fri 16 June	<i>Dove Tales</i>

## Parents & Friends – President's Corner

A forum for action!

One of the questions I often hear is "So what does the P&F actually do?"

Crazy as I think it may sound, this highlights the fact that many people simply don't know what the P&F does and as a result, do not recognise the value or opportunity it provides them.

While we are looking at how to address this, for a quick example of a day in the life of the P&F, we need look no further than our recent general meeting:

- Agreed to fund the return of Graham Hyman, who, more than just a motivational speaker, will be presenting to the senior school students later during the year. For more information on Graham, go to [www.grahamhyman.com.au](http://www.grahamhyman.com.au) Details on this and a parent's session being organised by Carramar will be issued closer to the date.
- Recognised the efforts of Dianne McLaurin and her team for the highly successful Primary School Disco, which was not only immensely enjoyed by the students, but helped with our ongoing fund-raising efforts.
- Approved payment for the new Entertainment Books, providing a real benefit for both the school (more fund-raising!) and those purchasing the books.
- Received feedback from the school that the issue (raised by the P&F) of people parking all day on Doveridge Drive and then catching the train to work is being resolved with the Shire.
- Agreed to work with the school on behalf of St Stephen's parents to explore the possibility of introducing a northern bus route.

The P&F is many things. It's a fund-raiser, an events organising, and a voice for parents.

If you'd like to find out more, then come along to our next meeting. They exist for you!

Our next P&F meeting will be held on 20th June, 7:15pm in Cousins Hall.

Regards

Michael Doody-Burras  
0405 499 755  
[michael.doody@bankwest.com.au](mailto:michael.doody@bankwest.com.au)

## Parents & Friends – Upcoming Events

### PARENTS & FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING

20th June, 2006

7:15pm for 7:30pm start  
Cousins Hall

Everyone Welcome!

The P&F provides an opportunity for parents and St Stephen's staff to interact, discuss and exchange information relating to the school and the community.

### Primary Parent Needed

Is there a Primary parent who would be available to help me run the chess club after school on a Tuesday 3:30 - 4pm please? It is held in the library and I cannot always guarantee being free to take the group.

*Mrs Caryl Roberts Head of Primary*

### Primary Think.Mathletics Club

On Friday afternoons from 9 June until the end of Term 3, students can come to the Primary Library for the Think.Mathletics Club. During this time, students will be able to use the Primary Library computers to play Mathletics or access their Think.com website.

Students wishing to participate must collect a permission form to be signed by their parents from the Primary Library and return it to Mrs Stopher.

The Think.Mathletics Club - Friday afternoon 3:20 until 4 pm.

*Mrs Sue Stopher Primary Library*

## Secondary

### Year 9 Urban Adventures Term 2 (14-16, 19-20 June)

All Year 9 students have received a letter detailing the particulars of Year 9 Urban Adventures for Term 2. If your student did not receive a letter, please contact Revd Wilson, [wilsonh@ststephens.wa.edu.au](mailto:wilsonh@ststephens.wa.edu.au) for a copy.

### Sports Shorts

The annual ACC Lightning Carnivals were held for Year 8 and Year 9 students during Week 3 of this term. Students were able to play a sport of their choice for the day. The carnivals are non-competitive and provide a rare opportunity for students to try a new sport or play their favourite sport for a day. Sports included hockey, netball, rugby, touch, football and soccer. Approximately 350 students from St Stephen's School Duncraig participated in the two carnivals. Students are to be congratulated on their standard of dress, behaviour and general sportsmanship. This type of event relies on the support of a range of people. Thank you to staff, students and parents who assisted throughout the day.

### Cross Country

Interschool cross country was held at Perry Lakes Stadium on Friday 26 May. Thank you to Mr Charles Biddle and Ms Aoife Oshea who assisted with training prior to the event. *Thomas Bruins* is also commended for leading the training sessions on Thursday mornings. Well done to students who attended the training sessions. Your support was most appreciated. Special thanks to Mrs Brightwell who coordinated the team.

The following students were selected as leaders for 2006:

Captains: *Thomas Bruins* and *Danielle Stefanetti*

Vice Captains: *Morgan Dyson* and *Karla Slater*

Student participation on the day was encouraging with students running their best and then supporting other team members. Thank you in particular to Year 11 and 12 students, who juggled school commitments to ensure they attended the cross country in time for their event. Noteworthy performances include:

Year 12: *Thomas Bruins* placed 7<sup>th</sup>

Year 8: *Ashleigh Peacock* placed 14<sup>th</sup>

Students ran strongly and in many cases finished with personal best times. Overall St Stephen's Duncraig finished in fourth place. Well done to all team members!

### A reminder!

On days when the Physical Education uniform is worn students MUST ensure they comply with the dress standards as outlined in the student work record. The red or blue jumper is **NOT** part of the PE uniform. For warmth students should wear the new tracksuit top (compulsory for Year 8 students) or the rugby jumper. If students have lost their correct jumper for PE they must change into their sports uniform at school. Students who are involved in interschool sport are permitted to change into their uniform at lunchtime. Sport uniforms issued to students that are sport specific are only to be worn at interschool games not for general PE at school. Please ensure names are placed on items of clothing as this makes the return of lost items much easier. Parents are asked to assist with the correct wearing of uniform.

**Early notice! Athletics**

The House Carnival will be held at Perry Lakes on Thursday 3 August. As the format of the carnival is participation based the support of parent helpers is crucial. If you are able to assist on the day please contact me at school: 9243 2121. Students will be informed of training sessions and once again parent help is most welcome. The ACC Interschool Carnival will be held on Tuesday 26 September.

**Mouth guards**

Mouth guards are available from the PE Department for \$11.95. Students should see Mrs Cordner if they wish to purchase one.

*Mrs Nerina Cordner HOLA: Health and Physical Education*

**Duncraig Uniform Shop****Uniform Shop Hours**

Tuesdays 8:00 am – 11:00 am  
Thursdays 12:40 pm – 4:00 pm

**Community****Community Notices**

*SU HOLIDAY CAMPS* - SU camp leaders say:

'SU camps offer excitement, fun and the chance to do something different and interesting during the school holidays. You'll meet heaps of new people, make lasting friendships and have a holiday you'll never forget. Camps tend to be based around one particular activity for the week such as bushwalking, sailing or canoeing but there are also camps that do multiple activities. Put simply, we think SU Camps are fantastic!

Scripture Union (SU) is a Christian organisation, and gives students an opportunity to hear what Christianity is all about. We believe that Jesus can give hope and purpose to life, and on camp, you can find out why. The leaders on camps are volunteers, who are trained for camp and are responsible and fun people.'

Scripture Union WA has July camps for Primary and High School students. A brochure can be collected from Primary reception or from the website [www.suwa.org.au](http://www.suwa.org.au)

*NEW WINTER COMPETITION OF JUNIOR SOCCER* starting on Saturdays. \$5.50 per player per week, quality umpires supplied. Call Karen or Simon on 9447 0455 or email [karen.Roberts@stirling.wa.gov.au](mailto:karen.Roberts@stirling.wa.gov.au) to nominate your team.

*KARATE CLASSES AT ST STEPHEN'S SCHOOL* - Classes are available for students and adults. Monday and Wednesday in the gym at school. Phone Ben: 9243 3554 for information and special offer.

*STUDENT EXCHANGE AUSTRALIA* - In July 2006 students aged 15-18 years from over 15 countries will be arriving in Australia to study at local schools for 5 or 11 months. Opportunities exist to act as a host family in a volunteer/unpaid capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis. Call Student Exchange Australia on 1300 135 331 or visit website [www.studentexchange.org.au](http://www.studentexchange.org.au)

## Canteen Roster

### Date

### 8:30 am

### 11:00 am

Mon 5 June

**Foundation Day**

Steve Kaserer, R Wilson

Tues 6 June

M Turnbull, Helen Watts

B Winton, K Wright, J Jones

Wed 7 June

S Ford, E Plato

Felicity Reed, C Bridgeman

Thurs 8 June

J Hansen, Denise, Lyn Thomas

N Barron, S Laing, L Crews

Fri 9 June

C Russell, D Lealiifano,  
Melinda Mosenthal

Mon 12 June

C Lott, L Doust, V Norriss

K Billeter, C French, C Wood

Tues 13 June

K Hanson, R Pettitt

W Hatfield, S White

Wed 14 June

P Glavinias, J Diermajer

J Neale, J Stewart

Thurs 15 June

J Payne, J Brown

T Knox, B Armstrong

Fri 16 June

B Fruin, T Botica, Peter

M Adair, A Seeds

Mon 19 June

M Marneweck, M Johns, G Watson

J Wilson, L Bissell, K Stefanetti

Tues 20 June

V Dearle, Judy Hardie

S Kaserer, G Brune

Wed 21 June

D Cardinal, M Howe, S Davis

W Atkinson, S Wilkins

Thurs 22 June

D Gooch, K Cox

M Dayman, B Brown, Wendy Quick

Fri 23 June

Lee Guard, D Lealiifano, T George

Y Trotter, J Fraser

#### DUNCRAIG

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