As we take a look around Kew High we see so many opportunities for students to be involved in a range of activities outside the classroom. What have they been up to?

• Each year we host a group of students from Soja City, Japan and again this term our students played willing hosts to our visitors. We are so fortunate to have welcoming families who provide homestay and entertainment. The farewells at the bus stop at the end of the visit saw students shedding a tear, a sign that indeed friendships had been forged. Such visits and school programs allow for two way learning and provide the opportunity for increased cultural understanding. Now students are looking forward to the return visit in September.

• We sent 13 teams to the Victorian Schools Cup tournament and brought home seven medals! A marvellous result of training, rigour and commitment. Ten staff and three students were coaches and deserve praise for their success. The three gold medals are especially sweet.

• It has become part of our program that a group of volleyballers head off to New Zealand to play in a school tournament in November. To raise funds the team again organised a successful trivia evening at the school.

• Our House and Sports Captains organised our mini-Olympics, festooned the school with flags and streamers and handed out medals to worthy winners. Events were diverse, from skipping to goal shoot outs. During the Olympics, it was not uncommon to see a huge cohort watching events on the screen and demonstrating their enthusiasm in the Resource Centre.

• A large group of students from all levels, guided by Phillip Naughton, our maintenance manager, worked hard to plant out some gardens that had been cleared of trees, as well as weeding around the VCE centre. The grounds look so much better as a result.

• Students studying French took part in the Alliance Francais competition. This is a great way for them to practise the language and improve their competence.

• At the end of August an enthusiastic group headed off to the slopes for our annual Ski day. It’s always a very early morning start and they arrived back exhausted but exhilarated.

• Year 7 students have been involved in their camp at Phillip Island. They split into two groups based on their Houses rather than friendship groups. The camp activities, rosters and bunkhouse allocations were according to House groups as well.

• The World Challenge group in 2013 will head off to Ecuador. Those wishing to be part of the trek and journey needed to apply in writing. Selected students were then involved in an interview with four staff. As there were more students expressing interest than can attend, the selection process was rigorous but fair.

• Once again there was a real energy at the school as students in the Production, Little Shop of Horrors prepared for their moment on stage. So many students revelled in this opportunity to be involved and performing.

• EXO day has become part of the calendar. This year the celebration of life again involved students in rides, a BBQ and musical activities. The theme of the day was that life is excellent.

• Add in The Battle of the Bands and Debating activities and there is a smorgasbord of events and opportunities for involvement.

All in all it has been a busy term.

Clare Entwisle
This year Kew High school students had the opportunity to face the challenge of the Kokoda trail, one of the world’s greatest treks! This 96 kilometre experience ventures out to the southern and northern coast of Papua New Guinea and is suitable to be enjoyed only by the fittest bushwalker.

Four months before the big trek, the participants were expected to undergo intensive training to prepare their physical and mental states.

We had to learn about the history of the trail and had many theory lessons. To make sure we were ready we also had to go to the Kew Recreational Centre to train every Thursday and go on a hike every Sunday. We explored many places such as Ferntree Gully and Dandenong, said Danielle Sagnelli of 10E.

For eleven days, this program allowed participants to learn survival skills and appreciate living in ways you have not imagined. After a hard day of trekking that began from the early morning till 5-6 in the evening, the group were met in a different village each night and had the opportunity to observe the lifestyle and culture of the people in Papua New Guinea. The group of trekkers were encouraged to try a variety of different types of seasonal fruits and vegetables that the villagers had to offer, always with smiling faces.

Of course, this isn’t all the Kokoda trail had for us. This particular trail was directly linked to the early days of World War II which added extra touches of reverence when travelling the mountainous terrain. This very trail was Australia’s most significant campaign during the Second World War.

The highlight of the trail for the participants was the satisfaction of finishing the strenuous trek and knowing that they had experienced an adventure of a lifetime and gained knowledge of our history.

Nicole Surgijati, Year 10 Journalism

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**SCIENCE WEEK**

To celebrate Science week our Physics teacher Mr Shane McLean delivered a very informative presentation explaining the Large Hadron Collider and the discovery of the Higgs Boson sub atomic particle, to the Science staff and guests.

Wednesday lunchtime saw the Science staff put on a Science show for the students showcasing exciting Physics and Chemistry experiments. It culminated with liquid nitrogen being used to produce ice cream for the audience.

On Friday the Science faculty provided a Science morning tea for the staff. Food delicacies such as brain pate, periodic table cup cakes, a food pyramid, sperm and egg cake and Einstein cookies were eagerly consumed.

Mark Brentnall, Science Coordinator

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**WHAT NOT TO WEAR**

In August, the Year 10 students were treated to a presentation on what not to wear at an interview. The Fashionista Sistas (style expert twin sisters) chose three students to model outfits which clearly demonstrated to the girls and boys the contrast between correct and extremely inappropriate apparel. The hints offered were practical and sensible, and concerned footwear, hairstyles, colours, clothing and general demeanour – a very worthwhile and fun experience.

Laura Walsh, Careers Counsellor
2012 is the sixth year of our Japanese sister school program. Earlier this term sixteen Kew High School families hosted the students and teachers from Soja City, Japan, over ten days. The Soja students were integrated into regular classes at school and lived their days just like an Australian student. From all reports, the Japanese students and their Aussie buddies and friends gained a lot from the interactions, the conversations, the cultural differences/similarities and sometimes the misunderstandings. We said tearful farewells as the group departed but fifteen of our students, accompanied by Ms Smith and Mr Cerini, will have the pleasure of visiting Soja first hand during the September holidays. For those who missed out this time, expect greater opportunities for longer study abroad programs to Japan in the near future.

Term 2 and 3 saw the introduction of Language Perfect, an adaptive vocabulary building software. Our students blitzed the World Championships, clocking up 750,000 questions answered and dozens of certificates for high scores, earning Kew High School a spot near the top of world rankings. Congratulations to all students who participated.

The introduction of laptops at Year 9 and 10 allowed easy access to the site and staff could see who was online at any time – many were spotted on the weekends! The site trial has been deemed a massive success and next year Language Perfect looks set to be integrated into the Languages curriculum.

In Term 3, students of French from year 7 to year 12 participated in the Alliance Française Berthe Mouchette Competition. The examiners all noticed how clear their pronunciation was and we have many finalists who will be competing against other schools in Victoria very soon. Well done to all students who participated.

VCE year 11 French students have also visited the NGV Napoleon exhibition and the year 12 students went to a Matinee du Français where they were able to ask many questions about the end of year oral and written examination.

Andrew Cerini, Languages Coordinator

We went on-line and I joined the competition. I worked really hard and never stopped translating words from French to English and English to French.

It was fun and interesting and I have learnt a lot of new words.

Nialla Riazi 10E

IT CAREERS FOR WOMEN

On 24 July, Catherine Lang of Swinburne University and Julie Sheward of Thoughtworks visited Kew High School to speak with Year 10 girls about careers involving IT.

While also promoting courses at Swinburne and speaking about the additional support provided to girls studying IT, the crux of the talk revolved around the chronic shortage of women with IT skills working in industry. They spoke about the benefits of including some study of IT irrespective of what your chosen field may be and how this can place you at an advantage against other people when applying for jobs.

This idea was supported at a recent IT teachers’ conference when a panel discussion about the IT needs in the Health industry highlighted the need for a combination of IT professionals with knowledge of the Health industry as well as Health professionals with knowledge of IT. This is especially important with the roll-out of the National Broadband Network and the increased opportunities for telemedicine and domestic health monitoring systems.

For more information about studying IT as a VCE subject, please contact Mr. Paragreen at the school.

Chris Paragreen, IT teacher
Year nine camp was a blast! It tested us mentally and physically. With the encouragement from class teachers, group leaders and peers we were able to step out of our comfort zone and experience new activities that we may not have the chance to do again. The activities that we participated in at the wilderness camp in Kings Lake were: the Leap of Faith, the Giant Seesaw, the Ropes Course, African drumming exercises and lastly Wilder-Gaining orienteering course.

We were split up into groups to partake in fun team-building exercises which tested us in an enjoyable and an exciting environment. We were in these groups for the whole camp. We had a tight schedule; getting up early we had breakfast which was deliciously prepared by the staff at Kings Lake camp, then we were whizzed off to a relaxation/mediation session which set us up mentally for the further activities to come.

We enjoyed a cultural aspect of the camp because an Aboriginal speaker and African drumming teacher came to give us an experience of a lifetime, by telling us interesting stories and teaching us new skills.

This camp taught us many things that we could not learn in a classroom. It taught us to use our strengths and work on our weaknesses. This was by far one of the best camps I’ve ever been to, not just because of the activities, but because it gave us so many wonderful experiences. The skills we learnt will help us later in life.

My favourite thing about year 9 camp was the Wilder-Gaining challenge because we played to our team’s strengths to try to find all the numbered cubes first so we could win. Our team did a pretty good job; we tied second with another team. But for us, it wasn’t about winning; it was about having fun and working together to do our best.

This was a camp I will treasure forever. Overall, camp was interesting, exciting, a new experience and most of all FUN!

Monique Peeters 9F

RAISING THE BAR FOR THE REAL CHALLENGE

In 2013, just over 20 Kew High students will have the chance to travel to Ecuador, through the World Challenge program. Kew has partnered with the World Challenge organisation before, with previous students having the chance to make expeditions to Vietnam, Thailand, Costa Rica and most recently Nepal.

The World Challenge is an international organisation that gives high school students the chance to create, organise and complete their own once-in-a-lifetime experience. With expeditions all around the world, challengers have to complete four components in each trip: Acclimatisation, Challenge, Project and Rest & Relaxation.

The trip encourages team members to raise the required amount- over $7,000- on their own, through fundraising and part time work. Parents are discouraged from financing the trip, as it reduces the significance for the participants. This has ideas flowing thick and fast from hopeful students.

Serina Wong, a year 10 applicant, is planning to set up stands in the Camberwell market to help finance her experience. In terms of fundraising, I’m planning on setting up some stalls… Also, getting together with the team to organise trivia nights, raffles, etc. to try and fund the expedition.

In terms of fitness, I would do anything it would take. So if that was daily runs and weekly boot camp sessions, or day hikes with the team to become physically capable… she says, showing just one example of the determination and perseverance that is a necessity in such a program.

Angus Oakley, another applicant, has been preparing for this chance even before his brother Campbell travelled to Costa Rica four years ago, through the program.

If I get through I will probably have a heart attack, he says, World Challenge is everything to me!

Joe Post, Year 10 Journalism
The inaugural Junior Public Speaking competition was held late last term to encourage Junior students to take part in public speaking, giving them an opportunity to develop and practise their skills of speech writing and speech delivery. Students took this on as a co-curricular activity and participated in speech skills development sessions leading up to the event. We were treated to a high quality of speeches with a tie for the winners Josephine Lake and Aidan Hurst. The first four place getters went on to compete at the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Competition. Josephine Lake, Aidan Hurst, Tiger Hongmung and Julia Truong gave exceptional speeches, but the icing on the cake was Aidan, equal winner with a student from Balwyn High. Congratulations Aidan.

The Thant Evatt Trophy is a Model United Nations style debate run by UN Youth Victoria. Our team of two Year 9 students Rohan Hurst and Kolya Haisken-De New represented Germany and debated three resolutions against 16 teams from other schools representing other countries in the United Nations. Our students had lots of fun and did a great job in this dynamic style of debating against a group of senior students from the other schools.

In the final rounds of the 2012 DAV competition Kew High won two and there were many close debates. This year's competition has strengthened the skills of our existing debaters and developed skills in new members of the team. Leadership and team work is a quality that our team has shown many times. One example was when one of our Year 9 students, Kolya Haisken-De New offered to help our Year 11 team prepare for a secret debate, then stepped in as a speaker when one of the team was ill, then raced off at the end of this debate to compete in his D grade debate which won that night. What a tremendous effort all in one night after a full day of school.

The Teachers versus Students debate took place during lunchtime late in Term 2. The topic was English should not be a compulsory VCE subject. It was a lively and entertaining debate with the teachers on the affirmative and students the negative.

Elaine Doyle, Debating Coordinator

A MOVING TALE OF COURAGE AND TENACITY

On Wednesday 25 July Kew High School was honoured with the presence of a charismatic and courageous man, Najaf Mazari, a refugee whose story *The Rugmaker of Mazar-E-Sharif* is the focus of the Year 12 English context study. His personal journey from Afghanistan to Australia is documented by Robert Hillman in a moving tale of courage and tenacity. The talk, which encompassed the conflicts he had overcome in order to reach peace, provided students with an insight into the ever increasing debate surrounding Australia’s handling of refugees. In a gentle and often humorous tone, Najaf allowed students to ask questions and told of some of his more memorable moments, elaborating on the book, after students participated in reading passages. Robert Hillman also provided students with a valuable opening that highlighted the way in which Najaf’s journey could be approached by analyzing the conflicts involved within the text.

Ella Alvarez, Year 12
Melbourne Spring Fashion Week is a yearly event involving some of the city’s most popular brands and designers. This year Kew High School’s own Andy Du will be showcasing his designs in his own show.

Andy has been interested in sewing and making dresses since he was six years old. When he was in Year Eight he began selling his own custom-made dresses to staff and students. It was a stepping stone, he says, I really liked it.

From there, he moved into making collections for his own brand, Andy Truong Designs. He did photo shoots which were posted on his Facebook page and entered into design competitions.

It was a Wednesday after school, sometime in June, he recalls, thinking back to when he first found out he had a place in Fashion Week. I was ecstatic.

Since then, he has been working hard to organise his show, from model fittings to looking for venues, to choosing music, to booking hair and make-up artists. He has also been designing and creating the costumes for the school production, Little Shop of Horrors. Andy’s show was part of MSFW’s Look. Stop. Shop. event.

If Andy becomes as successful as he dreams to be, it will be the first show of many to come.

Vanja Kitanovic, Year 10 Journalism
YEAR 11 FORMAL

The Year 11 Formal, held at San Remo Ballroom was a wonderful night. Everyone waltzed into the Ballroom looking spectacular. The girls entered with their outstanding dresses and perfect up-dos with the boys looking very dashing. The night was full of fun, with awards such as Best Couple, Best Dressed, Most Outrageous and Least Likely to Make it Home. The night was also filled with a great three course meal and photos with all our friends and teachers. The dance floor was put to great use, with everyone showing off their own special moves and dancing non-stop. It was incredible to spend a night out with friends and teachers and to make new memories!

*Samantha Bishara, Year 11*

OLYMPICS FEVER HITS KEW HIGH SCHOOL!

During the second week of the London 2012 Olympics, the House Captains and the SRC reps ran lunchtime activities for all students.

The quadrangle was ablaze with colour and Aussie pride, as students participated in a range of events. Skipping, dodge ball and soccer penalty shoot outs were amongst the favourites, as the students (and teachers alike!) tested their skills against others.

Many thanks to the House Captains, Sport Captains and the Year level SRC reps who facilitated the event.

*Penelope Cleghorn*