School Life Section

-Illustration by Bryson Ng
Since the time in memorial, People have said
to each other: ‘Don’t judge
a book by its cover’. But
gone are those days when
people would read anything
they could find. In regards
to books literally, who
actually holds true to it? Not
many do. Unfortunately, this
means that worthy stories
hidden in plain covers get
overlooked for the pretty
ones. Picture this. You’re
browsing hurriedly through
a shelf of books in the
library, trying to find a book
quickly for SSR. Multiple
books flash through under
your hurrying fingers. Some
you’ve already read. And
some that you look at and
are unimpressed by. You
reject those. “But they
look so old”, you say. Or,
“They’re so plain looking.
How will I know if I won’t
be bored by them?”

Now in the 21st century,
books with amazing
illustrations and glossy
covers appeal so much to
everyone. Regardless of
whether the story is actually
good or not, you just wanna
pick up that book and read
it! But many books get
overlooked because of
that. Here we’ll discover
the world of books and
give you a brief review of
wonderful books that are
available to read in your
very own school library!

“OBERNEWTYN”
-ISOBELLE CARMODY

In a post-apocalyptic
world, technology is almost
non-existent and being
different is
dangerous.
Orphan,
Elspeth
Gordie, has
much to
hide. Living
in a society
controlled by
The Herders,
a fanatical
religious
organization,
Elspeth strives
to keep her
mental talents
hidden to
avoid being
denounced as
a witch. An
accident soon
brings misfortune however,
and our intrepid heroine is
sent to the imposing and
mysterious Obernewtyn,
reputed to be a home for
misfits like Elspeth. From
the perspective of Elspeth,
we see a ravaged world
outside it. Keeping her true
self hidden is even harder
and she fights to keep her
secret from the suspicious
Rushton and other misfits.
Australian author Isobelle
Carmody writes with a truly
original storyline, and an eloquent style that has us rooting for this reluctant heroine. Elspeth is realistic. She’s wary, she has common sense, and she doesn’t let her emotions control her. Quite a fresh change, from the dubious girl protagonists of other teenage novels.

**“THE HUNGER GAMES”**  
- SUZANNE COLLINS

Call it a young-adult science fiction novel or simply a remarkable work of fiction, The Hunger Games is a book you would definitely not want to miss out on! The protagonist is a sixteen-year-old girl Katniss Everdeen, who lives in a in the country of Panem where North America once existed. There is where a powerful government working in a central city called the Capitol that holds power. In the book, the Hunger Games is actually an annual televised event where the Capitol chooses one boy and one girl from each district to fight to the death. Katniss takes her younger sister’s place as one of 24 “tributes” selected every year to participate in the Hunger Games at the Capitol. In the “arena” kids selected from the districts fight to death and the survivor is awarded by the Capitol. A combination of nerve-racking tension, thrilling action, and an engaging love story that will keep you up at nights. The first book in a trilogy, it is followed by Catching Fire (book 2) and Mockingjay (book 3), and it was released in 2008 and it also won several awards and was a New York Times bestseller! The scenes are action packed and highly descriptive. It might be slightly disturbing for the very young audience but ages 16-18 should go for it! And no it is not all about bloodshed or cruel people of the capitol playing around with the lives of the kids but it has a lot more to it. Katniss constantly battles thirst, fire, hunger, wild animals, injuries, and other teenagers for survival. She makes and loses friends, but fights till the end. The Hunger Games is a fabulous and thrilling read and it is highly recommended that you all read it!

- by Shivangi Raj and Nicky LY
- Photography by Phillip Nguyen
“Wear your school shoes and take off that cap.” “Don’t run around in the corridors!” “Why are you late? Where’s your homework, how irresponsible!” “Pay more attention in class! Why can’t you make it to training?” Ah! The constant nagging and the “do this” and “don’t do that” at school! Looking up the corridor, we see this imposing figure getting ready to scare we poor students. Yep, that’s our Year 12 coordinator Mr. Aaron Hester. So, let’s follow Nicky and Shivangi into looking past the stern mask and discover some very enlightening things about one of our school leaders, shall we? And for a change, let’s tickle his brains and interrogate him like he does to us!

**Interviewing Mr. Hester**

He has been a part of our school for about a year now; Mr. Aaron Hester the year 12 co-ordinator who also teaches Physical Education admits that he truly enjoys working at Maribyrnong College. On conducting the interview, we started off with general questions about what his ambition and aspirations were during his childhood years and he casually responded by saying that initially he had never actually imagined of picking up teaching as a profession. He did mention that he had work experience as an electrician and wiring up houses that he thoroughly enjoyed. He joked around by saying it was the coldest week in 25 years that stopped him from becoming an electrician!

His sister, who is also a PE teacher herself, gave him an insight to become a teacher and one of his year 12 teachers had an important role in helping him take his career decisions. With a smile on his face he narrates his nail-bitting first time teaching experience,

“I was nervous, scared, and definitely self-conscious …”

He was monitored by a video camera in which he viewed himself later. Things became rather interesting when we shined some light on his past and asked him about his high school life. He informed us that he had quite a flexible, lenient and a non-uniform school! Well, well, well. However, in his next sentence, he goes on to
Mr. Hester Interview

say how he used his private study time efficiently and participated in school sports. A remarkable person indeed!

He laughed on being asked about how it feels to be the year 12 co-ordinator and boss kids around. He told us how much he loved it and also mentioned that the best part about being with year 12 students was that it involved more of him helping them achieve their goals and less behaviour and discipline issues. To know him better we asked him about what he does apart from his hectic high school teaching schedule. He instantly responds that his family very relaxing. He has a six year old daughter and two sons ages two and four. We learned that he’s a quite adventurous and free spirited soul who enjoys outdoor camping, hiking, scuba diving, sky diving and has himself been a freshwater cave diving instructor. He has visited all states in Australia and South Australia tops his list. His trip to Alice Springs in 2007 was a memorable one and he has also worked in Vanuatu. In a much energized voice he tells us about the exciting incident of him feeding the sharks with his mates, his eyes spark and his face lights up as he remembers tiny details of those golden days!

The question about how he sees himself in 8-10 years from now makes him think for a while. He starts “that question’s actually a good one…” and continues by telling us that there is a possibility of career change as he’s been teaching for 24 years already. He also plans to camp around Europe in 2016 with his wife and kids. The moment we ask him about his favourite sport stirs up the interview and we learn that he absolutely adores footy, supports the Blue Baggers, and likes playing and watching cricket and many other sports on the telly. As he loves sports, it becomes a hard choice for him to just mention one sport. He is thrilled and can talk about sports all-time and every-time. On being asked about music and food we find out that he likes Indian and Thai cuisines. He happens to love cooking and his best dish is ‘Jamie Oliver’s fantastic fish pie’. Pearl Jam, Pink Floyd, U2 are a few bands that appeal to his musical taste.

He had also learned the guitar for a while and can play the song “wish you were here” by Pink Floyd.

His enjoys watching the sitcom ‘How I met your mother’ and likes reading popular fiction. The novel “Power of One” by Bryce Courtenay is one of his personal favourites. We wind up by asking him to mention any special people, places or inspirations. He replies with a thoughtful face that Professor Larry Proser at his university and Sheck Exley a cave-diving pioneer have highly influenced him in multiple ways. He finishes off by saying that he’s very passionate about travelling and pauses to smile for a second, and continues saying that every place that he’s been to has taught him something spectacular and diverse, and has given him unforgettable memories to embrace forever.

-Shivangi Rajkumar and Nicky Ly.
The 2011 Principal Awards

BUCHANAN Gemma
HOWELL Augusta
DOWD Brendan
ALLAN Jack
GILL Jagmandip Singh
TRAN Nguyen Thanh
TADESSE Sisay
DO Lily
ALEMAYEHU Girum
DAVIDSON Molly
VUONG Jenn
DO Hiep
TRAN Teresa
NGUYEN Chelsea
BORKOVIC Marija
STICKLAND Lushavel
STAMATOPOULOS Zoe
DRAGOVIC Petar
GRIFFIN Kyle
FADLJEVIC Tomislav

3ULQFLSDO$ZDUGV

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The theatre was filled with the sound of the band practicing as the award winners and friends entered the big room and sat down comfortably in the seats the teachers had carefully arranged. Soon afterwards, parents, guardians and other relatives were allowed inside and when everyone had settled down, the band began to play and vocals, violin and guitar overtook the chattering of excitement. As the band was farewelled with applause, Mr Hester and Mr Scott introduced the opening of the ceremony and Ms O’Hara and Ms Seers talked about the near future. There were also lots of photos taken, some individually with Mr Scott and Ms Angelico but in the end, there was a nice group one. After the excitement had faded, the friends were sent back to their classes and some parents started to leave. But the winners celebrated with a little party that included refreshments and snacks that lasted until lunchtime. Then the bell went, and everyone went back to their normal lives. When sitting in the audience, it was nice to support the recipients and get an idea of what VCE (Victorian Curriculum of Education) is like.

-Seda Etkem
Study Tips

Studying can seem extremely tedious. You may wonder how some students are getting great marks, while you might not be. Here are some tips to try and maximise your learning technique.

The beginning
The hardest thing you might encounter is actually working up the motivation to do your work. To fight this you could:

➔ Do some exercise beforehand. This exercise could be as simple as taking a walk or doing some push ups to wake yourself up and get those all-important endorphins flowing.

➔ Clear your desk. Anything on your desk can become a distraction.

➔ Start a study group. Studying with others will be more fun and you’ll be able to ask them for help if you need to.

Asking your teacher for...

HELP!

You shouldn’t always ask questions during class.

➔ If you really need help, like with Maths questions, you should ask your teacher for help during lunch, recess or after school – you don’t want to get too behind.

How to Revise

-Photograph by Phil Nguyen
Exam Tips

▶ Write notes about what you did in class in your own words.
▶ For Maths subjects – you could do chapter summaries. These are basically summaries of what you do in each exercise with some questions in it as examples e.g., how to complete the square to worded questions that have tricky methods.
▶ For tests – you should get as much practise as you can on different types of questions and if you need help, **ASK YOUR TEACHER!**

**Think of how you learn** – are you a visual learner? Audio learner? Both?
▶ Visual learners may want to put notes or ideas into a mind map or use diagrams to explain complex concepts.
▶ Audio learners might want to read things over and over to themselves to commit it to memory or have someone talk to them about what they’re supposed to know before writing it down.

**Taking breaks**

**Note:** Taking breaks are completely different from procrastinating!

Most people can’t study for an hour straight, or in the case of year 11’s 3 hours straight. It’s healthy to take regular breaks every hour or 40 minutes. During this break, you should do something completely different from what you were doing while studying to give your brain a break so it can be ready for another round of studying.

**Exams**

▶ Eat bananas and nuts for breakfast on the day of your exam as it enhances brain activity.
▶ Get an adequate amount of sleep (8-9 hours) the night before the exam.
▶ Do lots of practise exams.
▶ During the exam, utilise your reading time. Identify the questions you can do, and do those questions first. You don’t need to do the exam in order.
▶ Read the question multiple times to minimize the chance of silly mistakes.

These are all guidelines for effective study, but you may already have your own style of studying. It’s best to try different study methods at an early age so you get accustomed to it later on when all of your teachers assign heaps of homework in a limited amount of time in order to stay on course.

**Good luck on the upcoming exams, and stay motivated!**

- by Teresa Tran
Mr. Scott Interview

OUR staff had the opportunity to ask a few questions of Mr. Scott. Find out what they discovered.

S&N: When you were young, was one of your dreams, becoming a principal or teacher?

MR SCOTT: No, I went from wanting to be an astronaut to a fighter pilot. Unfortunately I grew too tall to fit in the ejector seat!

S&N: When do you remember, as the moment you decided on becoming a teacher/principal?

MR SCOTT: I knew I wanted to be a teacher after 3rd year at University when I became involved in organising the Melbourne Uni Summer School program for disadvantaged VCE students. It was a great experience and allowed me to mix mathematics and psychology which were my major and sub-major during my science degree.

S&N: How was your journey of becoming a school principal like? Any special incidents you would like to share or life turning moments?

MR SCOTT: After working as a teacher and senior teacher for many years I finally was promoted to Assistant Principal in 2006. It did take 5 years of trying to get that promotion however, and I admit there were times when I was ready to give up. Fortunately, it was much easier to get a Principal position!

S&N: Compared to today’s high school life, how were your high school days?

MR SCOTT: Life was definitely easier then. No cyber bullying, less distraction, simpler lives. I am not sure if life is better for adolescents today, but I think it is certainly more complicated! I enjoyed my time at primary school and a co-ed lower secondary school. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to attend Melbourne Boys High School for Years 9 to 12, and believe that school contributed significantly to the person I am today. Of course now as a Principal myself, I always feel sad when students leave Maribyrnong to go to select entry schools!

S&N: How does it feel to be the top honcho a.k.a Principal? (Responsibility, fun, new experience etc.)

MR SCOTT: As I said to the parents of Maribyrnong not long after I arrived, I have wanted to be a Principal for quite a few years now. It is a job I enjoy immensely, and every day brings new experiences. The job also changes as you “grow” into it, and I am now able to enjoy the students much more than in 2009 and 2010 when there was a lot of work to be done just catering for the growth in student and staff numbers, not to mention considerable work to be done landing new classrooms and landscaping the grounds. I think I will need one more summer to renovate the school to an acceptable standard, and then I can take a break and focus on the life of the school and its students.

S&N: Apart from supervision and talking important decisions and being on a tight schedule, what does the real you like to do in his spare time?

MR SCOTT: I have two primary school boys that consume most of my time out of school. I have become very familiar with the off-side rule as I referee soccer matches for both the boys! I enjoyed travelling overseas with my family during Term 2 this year and I was able to re-ignite my old hobby of photography whilst there.

S&N: How do you see yourself in say, eight or ten years?

MR SCOTT: As the Principal of Maribyrnong College! Probably with a little less hair though!

S&N: What is your all time favourite sport(s)? Any other that you might just prefer to watch on the telly?

MR SCOTT: I am not that interested in watching sport, but I am a keen competitor. I played pennant squash to a high standard for many years, and also enjoy badminton which I am now playing again in the Friday night competition at Maribyrnong. My first love, though, is baseball – a sport I played for over 20 years when I was 11 years old. I am considering a comeback in a couple of years to the “geriatric league” – tailor made for middle aged men who still have some strength left in their arms!
S&N: Music is a very important part of being an adolescent. Back in your days, what music appealed to you? What made you rock n roll?

MR SCOTT: I could go on about this all day! In no particular order: The Smiths, Morrissey, New Order, Lloyd Cole, The The, Johnny Winter, Miles Davis, Dave Grusin, Vince Jones, The Style Council, Duran Duran – I was a child of the eighties, and I seem to be stuck in that period when it comes to musical tastes.

S&N: Are you very much of a “master chef” in the kitchen? What cuisines do you like?

MR SCOTT: I can cook, and try to cook every week for the family. I enjoy eating more than cooking though, and my repertoire is limited. I can follow recipes however and can make some yummy desserts! My favourite cuisine is French, and I also enjoy provincial Italian food. I holidayed in Tuscany recently and enjoyed lots of long lunches and scrumptious dinners.

S&N: Any place/s that you would love to travel to and why? Maybe a “Things to do list”?

MR SCOTT: My family has been lucky to holiday in the US and Europe in recent years, and we were also due to go to Japan earlier this year until the earthquake struck. I am looking forward to visiting Japan sometime in the future, along with China and South America.

S&N: What are your favourite T.V shows? (Or movies, documentaries etc)

MR SCOTT: My wife and I enjoy 30 Rock and Entourage. We are currently watching Dexter and are big fans of Mad Men and Curb Your Enthusiasm.

S&N: Any books that you love to read or have highly influenced your life?

MR SCOTT: I have recently returned to reading novels since I got Kindle for the iPad. There are no books I particularly hold in any higher regard than others, but I do have some favourite authors – David Sedaris, Jonathan Franzen, Anne Tyler, Isaac Asimov and Garrison Keilor to name a few.

S&N: Would you like to share with us any inspirations or inspiring moments? (Place, person, anything)

MR SCOTT: As cliché as it may sound, I found the birth of my children to be very inspiring, and one of the highlights of my life. There are several people who have made a significant impact on me, and I would prefer not to single any of them out here. Suffice to say that I think it is important we all have role models and mentors in life. I still have several people today I view in those terms and appreciate the guidance they provide.

-Nicky Ly and Shivangi Rajkumar