



# Standing Tall

*A School Based Mentoring Program*

TERM 4 | Edition 8 | December 2013



Welcome to our final newsletter for 2013... Another year of Standing Tall, and term 4 has gone so quickly, so here we are at Christmas... We hope you enjoy reading about what we've been up to this term...

## TERM FOUR BIRTHDAYS!!!

### OCTOBER

- 1st - Harley Addinsall (Student)
- 2nd - Brooke Brabham (Student)
- 3rd - Lynette Binney (Mentor)
- 7th - Min Youngman (Mentor)
- 27th - Jane Crowe (Staff)
- 29th - Yasmine Turner-Sumner (Student)

### NOVEMBER

- 4th - Liam Whitfield (Student)
- 10th - Alan McConachie (Mentor)
- 26th - Chantelle Chace (Student)
- 26th - Mark James (Mentor)
- 27th - Dylan Breban (Student)

### DECEMBER

- 4th - Nea Gordon (Student)
- 6th - Dan Spencer (Mentor and COM)

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## Important Dates for Term 1 2014...

*We hope you have your new diaries ready...*

**28th January** - Staff are back at the office

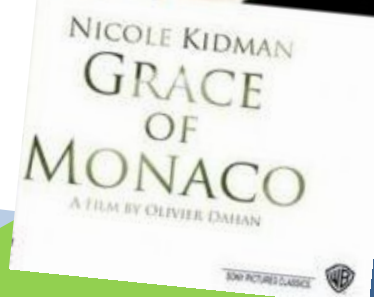
**17th February** - First week of Mentoring

**20th March** - Inner Wheel Movie Night

*The lovely ladies at Inner Wheel are once again holding a fundraiser for the Standing Tall program. We are looking forward to another fantastic evening,*

*watching Grace of Monaco, starring Nicole Kidman.*

*Tickets will be available from the office in Term 1.*



From everyone at Standing Tall! We hope you and your loved ones have a safe and happy Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

## Thank you & Farewell...

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thanks and farewell to Dan Spencer... Dan joined the program last year as a mentor and more recently was nominated as the Chair of our Committee of Management. Unfortunately we have lost Dan to warmer parts of Victoria. His input and support of our program will be greatly missed. **All the best Dan!**



## National Youth Mentoring Week 20th—26th October

On Thursday, 24th October a number of our mentoring family from Hamilton and guests from Heywood, as well as a number of our local supporters gathered together to celebrate the power of Mentoring over a beautiful dinner at Roxburgh House.



It was a fantastic opportunity for mentors to share their experiences with each other. We were joined by graduate of the program, Shanai, who shared her story of what mentoring has meant to her and her future, and she answered lots of questions from her audience. Without this program, Shanai was likely to disengage from education. She now is active in her community in volunteering and hopes to come back and train as a mentor.

A fun and meaningful night was had by all. Many thanks to our Ambassador Bruach Colliton and his staff at Roxburgh House for making it such an enjoyable evening.



Mentors enjoying an evening at Roxburgh House

### Christmas breakup BBQ...

November 28th brought about the last day of Mentoring for the year, followed by a BBQ for all families and friends of our program.

Special thanks to the members of the Rotary Club of Hamilton who kindly donated their time providing and cooking for us a spectacular BBQ dinner. Your kindness was greatly appreciated. THANK YOU!!

The evening included the graduation of our students and mentors who are finishing up this year, we were delighted to have Mayor Calvano there to present our certificates.

We also witnessed the handing over of the Peer

## MENTOR TRAINING

Seven new mentors (below) spent two days in late November in training for next year. We are looking forward to matching them with young people on our waiting list early in the new year.

It is great to have a number of our local police joining our mentors for next year, cementing our partnership with Victoria Police.

It was also wonderful to have some of our existing mentors come along and refresh their knowledge and share some of their experiences in mentoring with our new folks.

Many thanks to Gilly at the HSCD for providing our training venue.



New Mentors for 2014

Mentoring role. Last year began the tradition of having a peer mentor. A peer mentor is an older mentee, who has shown initiative as a role model to our younger mentees, and is able to assist staff with duties. Last year saw our first peer mentor, Shanai Smith, hand over the reigns to Sarah Cross for 2013. Sarah has been a wonderful peer mentor this year, and we thank her for all her help and support. Big shoes to fill, Good luck! Together we have elected Amba Chace to take on that role in 2014. The girls are pictured here with Tracey.

It was great to see so many of our Committee Members, Mentors, Mentees and their families and our supporters come and celebrate a successful year.



Shanai, Tracey, Sarah & Amba  
Our peer mentors, past, present and future



## From the Coordinator...

### Standing Tall reaches an international audience...

Standing Tall was approached earlier this year by the Australian Council for Educational Research to submit a case-study of the Standing Tall Program for consideration to publish in a book recommending best practice between school and community. The case-study made it to publication along with a small selection of mentoring programs across Australia displaying best practice within a school and community partnership. The book was launched in November and is titled "Partnering for School Improvement".

It is great recognition for the Award Winning Program Standing Tall and credit to the school and community in which it sits. A copy of the book is available at the Standing Tall offices or can be viewed on the internet by googling the title.

In 1990, Search Institute released a framework of 40 Developmental Assets, which identifies a set of skills, experiences, relationships, and behaviors that enable young people to develop into successful and contributing adults. Over the following two decades, the Developmental Assets framework and approach to youth development became the most frequently cited and widely utilized in the world, creating what Stanford University's William Damon described as a "sea change" in adolescent development.

Data collected from Search Institute surveys of more than 4 million children and youth from all backgrounds and situations has consistently demonstrated that the more Developmental Assets young people acquire, the better their chances of succeeding in school and becoming happy, healthy, and contributing members of their communities and society.

It is refreshing to know that our mentoring program has the capacity to effect change and bolster 80% of the listed Assets allowing for greater individual life success for our students. Many of the positive effects reaped from mentoring may not be seen for many years but this research tells us we are making a difference.



## Exciting new ventures...

Some of our mentees and mentors have been joined by ladies from the Hamilton Wool and Craft Guild this term, learning to knit... Some were even fortunate enough to learn how to card fleece.

We look forward to seeing more of the ladies next year as we commence a knitting project. Thanks for volunteering your time ladies!



## Condolences

Our sympathies go to Margy and the Stevenson family on the passing of their dad and grand-dad during November.



## FEEDBACK

Feedback is vital to us running a successful program. If you have been sent a feedback form for your young person, please complete it and return it to the school by **Thursday, 30th January, 2014.**

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# THANKS TO OUR Supporters...

The Standing Tall program in Hamilton is supported by the Victorian Government through the Engage! program.