



# Brentwood Secondary College

## Online Newsletter Subscription

Issue No. 11

11 May 2007

Principal  
Ms Vicki Forbes  
Assistant Principals  
Mr Steve Cook  
Mrs Barbara Laidlaw  
Mr David Shelton

### Principal's Report

This is Education Week and schools throughout the state have been celebrating the wonderful learning that takes place both in the classroom and in the co-curricular life of every school. At Brentwood our program this week has truly reflected both the formal and informal dimensions of college life from formal exams, to the Presentation Ball, the Fun Run, Open Night and a visit from a Member of Parliament!

Last Friday evening many staff and school families had the pleasure of attending the annual Presentation Ball for year 11 students. This year we moved to a new venue and the evening was a resounding success. The girls looked graceful in their stunning gowns and beautiful coiffure, and the boys were handsome in their suits and waistcoats. It was lovely to see the smiles on their faces as they danced together and were so obviously enjoying the evening. The Presentation Ball is a wonderful occasion for families to celebrate together and many students thanked their extended families for making the evening possible. Congratulations to the staff, students and parents who contributed to this fabulous evening.

Maxinne Morand,

Vicki Forbes

Tuesday was 'Back to School' day which is organised by the Education Foundation. We were honoured to have the Hon. Maxine Morand the State Member for Mount Waverley and former student of Brentwood

visiting with us for the morning. It was an informal visit and Maxine spent time speaking with students in the refurbished G Block Maths and Science Centre.

Tuesday was also our annual Footy Fun Run. The predicted thunderstorms did not eventuate and we spent a very enjoyable time in superb sunshine at Jells Park.

Students completed the course by running, walking or ambling through the parkland. There were many variations on the footy theme with fans wearing AFL, rugby league and soccer colours. The bravest of all were those of us who are Tigers fans and showed our loyalty to the club despite this season's performance!

### Congratulations To Vicki Forbes

The Eastern Metropolitan Region (EMR) held a breakfast on Wednesday to celebrate Education Week and to recognise the contribution of principals, teachers and school councillors to State Education. Our college principal, Vicki Forbes, received the award for the Outstanding Secondary Principal for the eastern region. The award was presented by the Regional Director, Dr Jim Watterston. This synopsis of Vicki's time at Brentwood was read to the gathering on Wednesday and is testimony to her worthiness for this award.



Vicki Forbes and Jim Watterston

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*The student enrolment at Brentwood was 800 in April 2000 when Vicki was appointed as principal. Under Vicki's leadership the student enrolment has increased to 1350 and the College now enjoys an excellent local, national and international reputation. All performance indicators, most importantly student achievement, have demonstrated significant improvement (School Level Report 2006). Brentwood was one of the first four secondary schools in the state to gain accreditation as a Performance and Development Culture school and the first secondary school in the EMR to be accredited. Brentwood is a recipient of the Leading Schools Fund. This grant of \$1.2million is funding the construction of the new the year 7 Thinking, Learning and Creativity Centre and three extra teachers for three years to work in this innovative program.*

*Vicki's counsel is widely sought and generously shared with others. She brings depth of experience, personal integrity and insight to the advice she offers which gives colleagues a valuable perspective on educational issues. Vicki is committed to supporting the professional development of educational leaders particularly those aspiring to the principalship. She has been a mentor in the Eleanor Davis program and she continues to be a mentor to new principals. Vicki has also sat on principal selection panels and has presented papers at DoE and EMR conferences and forums. Vicki was awarded a Centenary Medal for service to education and in keeping with her expressed commitment to life-long learning, in 2004 she completed a Master of Educational Management at the University of Melbourne. Vicki was a successful applicant in the first round of the DoE's Development Program for High Performing Principals and thus in 2006 participated in a summer institute for school principals at Harvard University.*

***Barbara Laidlaw, Assistant Principal***

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## **Deutschland / Germany 2006**

Our adventure started on November 26 - we were 5 students and 2 teachers eagerly but nervously taking part in the first Brentwood exchange trip with Erasmus Gymnasium in Denzlingen in the south-west of Germany. The flight was long and the in-flight entertainment kept us distracted, but we all had a few moments of anxiety. Would we know enough German to understand what was going on? What would our host families really be like? Did they speak any English? Would there be snow? What would the German school and the teachers be like? Any concerns we had

disappeared quickly when we arrived in Freiburg and met our host families at the school.

Our school experience began the next day and took some getting used to. Classes started bright and early at 7:30. Lessons were 45 minutes long followed by 5 minute breaks. There were two "long" breaks of 15 minutes to allow students to have a snack and keep energy levels up. We attended classes with our hosts, visited some of the Junior English classes to speak about Australia and ourselves. We also attended some special classes in local history, geography, music and art which teachers from the Erasmus Gymnasium had prepared for us. It was sometimes a relief when we had meetings with Mr Shelton and Mrs Fisher and could communicate in English. It can be tiring to be surrounded by another language all the time and try to understand what is happening.

In addition to attending school we were involved in a numbers of special activities and excursions. We completed a rally around Freiburg, had an over-night trip to Lake Constance with some of the host students, Frau Maier, Mr. Shelton and Mrs Fisher, and day trips to Europark and into the Black Forest. Our host families also took us to various places including trips to France and Switzerland. It was amazing to be able to go to another country so easily - 30 minutes by car to the Alsace region in France and 60 minutes to Switzerland.

A highlight was our 3 day road trip to Munich and southern Bavaria. We visited the historic centre of Munich, the concentration camp at Dachau, took a cable car to the top of the Zugspitze (the highest mountain in Germany). Here we watched the sunset over the Alps, played in the snow, border hopped between Germany and Austria numerous times (just because we could!) and visited Neuschwanstein castle.

It is easy to describe what we saw and did on this trip - it is much harder to convey what we got out of it. We made friends with our host families which we hope will last. We experienced aspects of German life which a tourist would not experience and which showed us how different and yet how similar our ways of life are. Our understanding of German did improve a bit and some of us were brave enough to speak a little. We had a chance to be independent, to learn about the process of travelling and how to get about a country where English is not spoken everywhere. We had the chance to travel outside Australia which is sometimes hard to imagine. In all it was a great experience and one which we would highly recommend to other students in future.

Thank you to Mr. Shelton and Mrs. Fisher for accompanying our trip.

*Jessica Sexton, Jackie Leggatt, Courtney France, Chloe Felmingham and Luke Selleck.*

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## **Exchange Trip to Germany – December 2008**

### **Attention students in Year 8, 9, and 10**

In 2008 Brentwood Secondary College hopes to send its second group of students to Germany, as part of an on-going exchange program, similar to the one we have with Ono High School in Japan.

Our students stay with host families and visit Erasmus Gymnasium in Denzlingen, a town in the Black Forest region in the southern part of Germany. The ideal group would be 15 students accompanied by 2 staff members, at least one of whom will be fluent in German.

**Proposed Dates** - late November to  
approximately 19 December  
(3 weeks)

### **Cost:**

- ⇒ approximately \$4300 (depending upon increases in travel costs and breadth of itinerary)
  
- ⇒ Includes: airfares & taxes, travel insurance, in-country travel by rail and accommodation (youth hostel style), some sight-seeing excursions, some meals while travelling.

### **Homestay**

Brentwood students would be hosted by students from Erasmus Gymnasium and attend school and classes with their hosts.

### **Extra activities:**

- ◆ some special classes are also offered eg. in geography, history and art using German at a level suited to our students.
- ◆ day excursions to the Black Forest, Lake Constance and the Europark.
- ◆ 3-4 days in Munich and southern Bavaria
- ◆ Berlin (pending costs)

### **Are you interested?**

**More information will be published in the Brentwood newsletters next term and Expressions of Interest will be sought in Semester 2.**

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## **Brentwood/Erasmus Exchange Program April 2008**

### **HOST FAMILIES NEEDED!**

### **Attention students in Year 8, 9, 10 and 11**

In April 2008 we will again host a group of 15 students from Erasmus Gymnasium, our partner school in the German Exchange Program. They plan to come during the Easter period but exact dates are yet to be finalised.

The first visit in 2006 was a great success, thanks to the fantastic families who hosted the group. The German students had a great time at our school, but our host families also gained a lot from the experience and several have formed on-going friendships with their guest student and their families.

### **Please consider becoming involved!**

The German students want to experience our way of life and will fit in with your routines and plans. They will attend school with their host brother or sister, be involved in some excursions and a 3-day camp to Port Campbell. Host brothers and sisters are welcome to take part in some of these activities.

The students are keen to come and would like to get to know their host family by email or phone as soon as possible.

If you would like more information or would like to be involved, please contact Mrs Fisher on the school number: 8545 0300.

*Ursula Fisher, Head of LOTE*

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## **Community Corner**

### **Surviving the Teen Years**

Do you want to add to your bag of parenting tricks, ensure your adolescent keeps talking to you, confidently deal with those tricky adolescent situations, get into the mind of your adolescent and find the positives and focus on them then this program is for you!

When: Wednesday 6 June 2007 (for 4 weeks)  
6.30pm – 9.00pm  
Where: Connections – Eastern Family Services, Glackburn  
Cost: \$20 single/\$30 couple  
\$10 single/\$15 couple concession

Bookings essential as places strictly limited. Call Donna on 9724 2222.

## Glen Waverley Junior Soccer Club

Come and play the world game with a friendly, family oriented club. Vacancies currently exist in the following boys and girls teams Boys – Under 9 and Girls – Under 12, 13 & 14. Contact Peter Heyn on 0419 349 170 or Bill Orogas on 0407 541 354.

23 May Education Policy Meeting 7.45pm  
District Sport Year 9 & 10  
Year 12 Seminar Periods 1 & 2  
Parents Evening 7.00pm:  
Succeeding at Year 7

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## Canteen News

### Available Now

Dim Sims 50¢  
Spring Rolls \$1.50

Mon: M Kocsis, G Feldtmann, L Shaw  
Tues: M Levey, D Lawless  
Wed: J Lindrea, C Brown  
Thur: C Ryhanen, C Kirwan  
Fri: R Attwood, J Knight

Thank you everyone.

*Shirley & Carol*

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## Dates and Deadlines

11 May Year 9 AIM – Maths  
Senior Girls Netball  
14 May Senior Girls Football  
Inter/Senior Boys Football  
15 May Year 9 AIM – English  
Central Australia Camp Information  
Night  
16 May TIS Event Year 12 Periods 1 – 3  
Year 12 Theatre Studies  
Performance 7.00pm  
Keys Please – Year 10 Parents  
7.00pm  
17 May Year 12 Theatre Studies  
Performance 7.00pm  
VCAA Chemistry Seminar  
18 May Year 12 Theatre Studies  
Performance 7.00pm  
22 May Resource Meeting 6.30pm