



# Brentwood Secondary College

## Online Newsletter Subscription

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### Principal's Report

Semester one was the first time the teachers at Brentwood Secondary College reported under the federally mandated A-E Report Card and the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). In the parent opinion survey for 2006, 83% of parents rated the Brentwood Secondary College reports as excellent. This placed Brentwood at the 89<sup>th</sup> percentile compared with all secondary schools in the state. This level of parent satisfaction was an important consideration in planning for the introduction of the A-E Report Card this year and in reporting to the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). To ensure that all parents had the opportunity to give feedback on the reports, a short survey was included on the green parent reply slip and over the past fortnight each of these responses to the new report format have been recorded onto spreadsheets.

In general parents' comments were very positive regarding the Brentwood report format and the amount of detail that has been included regarding their child's progress, academic performance and learning practices. The majority of parents find the most useful part of the report to be the teachers' comments with positive reactions to the division of the comment section into two parts which now highlights the specific '*Areas For Improvement/Future Learning*' for each student. There were also positive reactions to the section on Assessment Tasks and the inserts that were included with the reports.

This is an opportunity to address some of the concerns that were raised by parents:

- The Brentwood Assessment Grades of High Distinction, Distinction, Credit, Merit, Pass and Not Satisfactory are consistent with the terminology used at universities and in national academic competitions such as the English competition and the Maths competition.

This grading scheme provides for a maximum spread of marks across ten grades and is used by teachers when assessing students' work from year 7 to year 11. The grades students receive for their Assessment Tasks and the Global Grade give students and their parents the best indication of the quality of academic performance. This change has been necessary because the more familiar A-E is reserved for the rating of students within the VELs.

- It is a federal government requirement that student progress is rated against state wide standards (VELS) using an A-E rating, with C being the grade given to students who are at the expected level for a particular semester and at their year level. The A-E rating gives an indication of where a student is positioned on a learning continuum from Prep (VELS Level 1) to Year 10 (VELS Level 6).
- In most subjects or Domains, the curriculum Standard that is being taught each semester relates directly to the content or the class-work that is being delivered to students within that semester. For example, in Mathematics specific topics within the syllabus are taught each term and often in sequential order. This ensures that students have sufficient grounding before they undertake more complex concepts. Students are given a C for the VELs rating as they are '*at the expected standard for this time of year*' and the Brentwood Assessment Grade indicates the quality of work that they are producing within the VELs level. Thus, unless a student is enrolled in a class where they are being accelerated, they will expect to receive a 'C' rating within the VELs. Acceleration means that a class is undertaking a syllabus

that is above the VELS level that would normally be taught to their year level and at that time of year. Enrolment in accelerated subjects is by selected entry and invitation only.

- In some subjects at Brentwood, students may be undertaking a more ‘advanced’ syllabus in which they cover content in greater depth and/or study topics with more complex themes. This work can be undertaken within the expected VELS level rather than being an accelerated subject.

Many parents included words of appreciation to their child’s teachers regarding the quality of the reports and there has been positive feedback from colleagues in other schools about the Brentwood report format. As parents and students will remember, the school experienced power outages for two full days in the week leading up to the reports. It was a huge team effort on behalf of all staff who all put in very long hours to get the reports out on the last day of term.

*Barbara Laidlaw, Assistant Principal*

### Rock Eisteddfod

Good luck to the team of students, staff and parents who are rehearsing all day and then competing next Monday evening 6 August in the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge at the Vodafone arena. This is the college’s Performing Arts event for 2007 and the theme is ‘What a year!’ depicting a year in the life of a typical student. There will be a big contingent of Brentwood supporters there on the night to cheer you on. Go for it and have lots of fun!

### Sick Bay

The winter chills have struck at Brentwood and demands on the first-aid staff member have rocketed. Students who are unwell and report to sick bay have their parents contacted and arrangements are made for them to go home. The college cannot accommodate the needs of students who are not well and the problem of sick students spreading illness to others in our school is a big concern. Parents are asked to please not send their child to school when they are unwell.

*Barbara Laidlaw, Assistant Principal*

### Dates and Deadlines

6 Aug	Rock Eisteddfod Heat
8 Aug	Year 11-12 Parent Information 3.30pm – 5.30pm Music Soiree 7.00pm
9 Aug	Year 8 District Sport Japanese Competition
15 Aug	Year 7 Author Visit VCE Alternate Pathways Information Night 7.30pm
21 Aug	District Sport Year 9 & 10 Presentation Ball Information Night 7.00pm Education Policy Meeting 6.30pm Resources Meeting 7.45pm
22 Aug	Year 12 English SAC Periods 3 & 4 Year 12 Parent VTAC Information Meeting 7.30pm

### Year 11 ESL

Heartfelt thanks to Victoria Chen of 10B for an engaging presentation in both year 11 ESL classes. She shared her father’s experiences under the rule of the cruel Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. Victoria also displayed precious pictures of her family during their reign.

Although the hurt goes deep, she was brave and willing to recount her father’s painful memories.

The presentation gave us solid background knowledge on the life of civilians in Cambodia and complemented our understanding of the novel ‘First they killed my father’. Finally, we would like to thank you, Victoria Chen, for all your time and effort.

*Esther Wan and Joanna Ho, Year 11 Students*

### Author Visits for August 2007

At Brentwood we are celebrating BOOKWEEK in August with authors to speak to year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students. The program for 2007 is:

August 15	Year 7 Students - Archie Fusillo - 2 sessions – 9.15am and 11.00am.
August 23	Year 10 Students - Simon Higgins - 1 session – 9.15am
August 24	Year 8 Students – Barry Jonsberg - 1 session – 9.15am
August 29	Year 9 Students - Markus Zusak - 2 sessions – 11.30am and 1.30pm

Venue: Library.

Cost: \$3.00 per student, to be paid to Home Group teachers. (The Library will subsidize each student for rest of the cost.)

### **Books and Websites**

Archie Fusillo – ‘Sparring With Shadows’, ‘The Dons’, ‘An Earful of Static’ and ‘Damien Parer: Putting the War on Film’ and ‘Bruises’. He has also written stories for younger readers in the *Aussie Bites* series..

[http://www.penguin.com.au/authors/f\\_authors.cfm](http://www.penguin.com.au/authors/f_authors.cfm)

Markus Zusak – ‘The Underdog’, ‘Fighting Ruben Wolfe’, ‘When Dogs Cry’, ‘Getting the Girl’, ‘The Messenger’ and ‘The Book Thief’.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/features/markuszusak/>

<http://www.teenreads.com/authors/au-zusak-markus.asp>

Simon Higgins – ‘Beyond the Shaking Time’, ‘Cybercage’, ‘Doctor Id’, ‘In the Jaws of the Sea’, ‘The Stalking Zone’, ‘Thunderfish’ and ‘Under No Flag’ (The Dream Web Files is an omnibus of the three novels: ‘Doctor Id’, ‘Cybercage’ & ‘The Stalking Zone’.)

<http://users.qld.chariot.net.au/~doctoid/>

Barry Jonsberg – ‘The whole business with Kiffo and the Pitbull’, ‘It’s not all about you’, ‘Calma!, Dreamrider’.

<http://biography.jrank.org/pages/2137/Jonsberg-Barry-1951.html>

*Margaret Brudenell, Librarian*

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## **Education Foundation Scholarships and Grants**

The Education Foundation is offering more than 100 Opportunity Scholarships for individuals and up to four Opportunity Grants for groups of students attending government schools. For information and applications go to [www.educationfoundation.org.au](http://www.educationfoundation.org.au) or 9650 4277. Closing date 20 August 2007.

*General Office*

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## **World Vision Global Leadership Convention**

On Wednesday 20 June we participated in the World Vision Global Leadership Convention (GLC) in the Swanston Street Convention Centre. The GLC is held around Australia for both upper primary and upper secondary students in every state capital and also in some regional areas. The Convention invites students to learn the skills

necessary to change the world for the better and to find a way to do something for the millions who are affected by poverty and injustice.

Each year World Vision chooses a different focus country, this year’s is Laos. Laos is a country landlocked between Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, China and Burma. It is one of the least developed countries in the world and many of its citizens live in poverty.

On arrival we each received a World Vision Paul Frank t-shirt and were assigned to the tribe that we would be working with in the activities throughout the day. There were six tribes in total. We were in the black tribe, unfortunately we can’t remember the official name of that tribe, only that it started with an ‘H’ and was difficult to pronounce.

During the course of the day we participated in several workshops designed to inform us about the issues going on in the world and how we could make a positive difference. All the workshops were really fun to take part in and were lead by people who actually worked with and helped people who suffered from severe poverty. We participated in aid, trade debt and famine workshops. Essentially the aid workshop taught us about humanitarian and development aid, how much aid Australia gives and why we should give aid. The trade workshop showed us, through an interactive simulation, the unfairness of free trade in relation to less developed countries and the importance of fair trade in allowing these developing countries to grow and evolve. The debt workshop informed us of the debt that some countries were subject to and how that debt prevented them from looking after their own people. The famine workshop was all about the 40 Hour Famine and how the money raised from it would go to help the people of Laos.

The 40 Hour Famine Weekend will take place on the 17-19 August. If you want to get involved you can pick up a booklet at the Welfare office and start collecting donations. Remember, it’s not all about going without food. You can choose what you go without as long as it’s something that’s important to you. In this way you can experience what it’s like for people who live in extreme poverty.

We would also like to thank the Wellbeing team for allowing us to participate in the convention and the GLC team for organising the day.

*Mason Chang, Year 9*  
*Ruttanunt Funchien, Fiona Jong and Hui Lin Ng, Year 10*

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## Child Care Industry Tour

On 23 July Daisy Cox, Alisha Ladd and Natascha James attended a half day visit to the Lady Gowrie Child Care Centre in Carlton. They had a conducted tour of the centre, visiting the Babies Room, the Pre-schoolers Room and the Kindergarten Room. The girls all enjoyed their visit and discovered what was expected of child care workers. This excursion was organised by the local Gateway LLEN.

*Margaret Stanley, Careers Coordinator*

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## School Absenteeism

Statistics suggest that almost one million school days are lost to asthma each year indicating that asthma is a major health issue for young people in Australia today. Asthma continues to be the most common reason for admission to hospital for those under the age of 12 and can often be the cause of lethargy and disruption in the classroom. When asthma is well managed, quality of life improves and students can participate fully in all school activities.

Tips for good asthma management - help your child to achieve good asthma control.

- It is recommended that in consultation with their GP all students with asthma have an Asthma Action Plan. A copy should be given to the school.
- Asthma Action Plans should be updated regularly.
- If a student is experiencing asthma symptoms and taking their reliever medication excessively they should consult their GP.
- Students should know and avoid their triggers.
- Students should take additional reliever medication before and after exercise. Warming up prior to exercise and a cooling down period is also recommended.
- All students with asthma should be encouraged to recognise their own asthma symptoms and take their blue reliever medication as soon as symptoms develop.
- Parents should ensure that their children have an adequate supply of appropriate medication at school.

- It is recommended that students use a spacer when taking medication.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss asthma further, please call the Asthma Helpline on 1800 645 130 or visit The Asthma Foundation of Victoria's website [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au)

*Kerie Small, First Aid Officer*

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## Sports Round Up

### Year 7 Girls Soccer

In Term 2 Georgia Delithodoris and Jessica Simpson (both year 10) approached me and asked whether I would be willing to take the year 7 girls soccer team to their competition on Friday 22 June. At first I was hesitant as I was already coaching the year 8 girl's soccer team. They said, however, that they would coach the girls during lunchtimes and after school, so I agreed. After all soccer, or "Fußball" as we call it in Germany, is probably my favourite sport and in my opinion it is the only team game that is actually played worldwide. Therefore I was not surprised when I read the following "According to a survey conducted by FIFA and published in the spring of 2001, over 240 million people regularly play football [soccer] in more than 200 countries in every part of the world" (source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football\\_%28soccer%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Football_%28soccer%29), 25/06/2007). Before our actual competition day I had only seen the team train a couple of times, but I was confident that they would be well-prepared and ready for the games ahead of them.

On Friday morning we left Brentwood Secondary College shortly after 9 o'clock. The bus drive to Caloola Reserve in Oakleigh went smoothly. The girls were cheerful and Jessica and Georgia went through the rules for day with the team. The competition had changed on short notice and we were now playing a full round robin. Our opponents for the day were Wheelers Hill, Glen Waverley, Highvale, and Mount Waverley.

Our first game started at 10 o'clock when we had to play Wheelers Hill. Georgia told the girls their positions and they were ready to play. The Brentwood team was well-organized and controlled the match from the first to the last minute. We won this game easily; scoring one goal after the other. However, Cassie was a bit frustrated. Even though she had many well deserved chances to score, she missed the goal often only by centimeters. I said to her she should not worry, nor give up and that the next game (against Glen Waverley) was the team to score against...

Only five minutes after our first match, we were playing against Glen Waverley. This was a tough game and both sides were playing very well. Our goalkeeper Sarah L. was resolute and our defense was too good to let the Glen Waverley players past them and score any goals. The midfielders and our two strikers were communicating well and showed their skills once more. Cassie did not give up and she was finally rewarded; maneuvering the ball past Glen Waverley's goalie! In the end Cassie kicked both goals to see us win 2:0.

After this successful game, we had a long lunch break (50 minutes) as the girls did not have to play in round 3. This gave us the opportunity to have a proper rest and to eat our sandwiches and the many lollies... I found out that Highvale had won their first two games, too. This meant they were the team to beat and we would be playing against them after lunch.

There were some slight changes after lunch. Sophie took on the position as goalie as Sarah said that she wanted to have a go as a player in midfield. Hayley took Sophie's position as sweeper and filled her shoes successfully. The match against Highvale was after all not that challenging for the Brentwood girls. We won 4:0. The goal scorers were Mary, Cassie, Jan and Nicole.

Our final match of day was about to happen. It was against Mt Waverley. Jessica, Georgia and I worked out that a draw would get us through to Zone. We had won all our games so far which meant we had 9 points, Glen Waverley had 6 points, but they were playing Wheelers Hill, which meant they would most likely win and then have 9 points, too. Towards the end of the first half, the organiser for the day approached us and congratulated us on our overall win of the day's competition. She said even if Glen Waverley wins and we lose, our team had more goals and would thus go through to the next round. I was not so convinced as Glen Waverley was playing Wheelers Hill and there was still more than half of the game to play – a lot of time for them to score goals...

At half time our score was 0:0. Jessica and Georgia told their team that they had to win this game in order to go through to Zone. The girls were determined to beat Mount Waverley... and we did! The final score was Mount Waverley 0: Brentwood 2.

We made it! The girls played awesomely! They showed fine skills on the field, never gave up and were always positive, showing great team spirit. Soccer is after all a team sport. From the first minute in the first game until the last minute of

our last match at the end of the day, the girls were playing as a team. They were outplaying their opponents by communicating with each other and passing the ball quickly to each other. They were manoeuvring the ball successfully past the other team's defense and goalie. They respected each other, helped and encouraged each other - the key to success. Thank you. It was a pleasure to take you out for the day to play my much-loved game. Thank you to Georgia and Jessica too. They did a fantastic job!

#### **Team members:**

Mary Papastergiou (Captain)	Jessica Amend
Nicole Balodimos	Sarah Bigg
Kristy Bourdakos	Leila Durrant
Hayley Fowler	Jacinta Gray
Christina Huang	Sarah Luu
Jan Mustac	Cassie Rowe
Sophie Tarabolsi	Elle Tiganis
Christina Vukanovic	Victoria Vukelic

#### **Student Coaches:**

Georgia Delithodoris & Jessica Simpson (both Year 10)

#### ***Tina Exton, Team Manager***

#### **Senior Girls' Squash**

On Monday 23 July, Brentwood senior girls took part in the Eastern Zone finals. After a close match against Wantirna the team played Maroondah Secondary College, convincingly defeating them to win through to the deciding game against Koonung.

This was a very closely fought match and Brentwood were winners by a margin of 18 points!

The team members are to be congratulated on their performance and most of all their effort to meet for regular training sessions despite a heavy workload during their VCE studies.

#### **Team members:**

Selena Shaikh	Jasmine Chan (Captain)
Carlee Mückner	Michell Grant

It has been a privilege to coach such motivated players. I will be on leave for the State final next month but look forward to hearing all about it on my return next term.

Good luck ladies, you deserve it.

#### ***David Newcombe, Coach***

#### **Senior Boys Netball**

Our motto on Monday was 'all the way to state'; we were playing in the Eastern Zone finals for netball and were planning on winning! The day began on a high with 3 wins against the teams in our pool.

Brentwood v Lilydale Heights 20 – 12  
Brentwood v Wantirna 21 - 11  
Brentwood v Blackburn 15 – 3

We were then into the semi final against Camberwell, they capitalised on small mistakes we made and unfortunately we were unable to win going down 22 – 16.

The team from Brentwood were amazing, they intercepted passes at great heights, shot goals from all over the ring and were hungry for any loose ball on the ground. A huge thank you also to the parents and friends who supported us on the day.

#### **Team**

Ryan Hallett	Aaron Conlon
David Bedggood	Blake Roberts
Jason Stoop	Ben Bult
James Black	Patrick Owen
Nick Hallett	

*Monique Le Grove, Coach*

#### **Senior Girls Netball Report:**

After successfully qualifying to compete in the annual school zone competition, on Thursday 26 July, the two senior girls netball 'A' and 'B' teams headed to Waverley Netball Centre at Jells Park to compete against schools such as: Wantirna, Lilydale High and Vermont.

Both Brentwood teams competed admirably against our competition, however the opposition proved too strong on the day. It was pleasing however, to see the girls train so hard in the lead up to the competition, and create some exciting passages of play on the day. As can be seen by the "action shots", a great day was enjoyed by all!

Our two teams comprised of the following students:

#### **A Team**

Siobhan Kircher	Emily Alexander
Kimberly Roe	Kasey Fredericks
Samantha Karakinos	Rachel Manning

Kady Howell  
Amy Vaudeau

Jennifer Hazeltine

#### **B Team**

Maritza Constantinou	Kate Lloyd-Smith
Brodie Giles	Samantha Sauer
Melissa Hallett	Elise Ludlow
Jaime Burrow	Cassandra Magor
Crystal Boers	

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the girls very much for their hard work and for their 'sportswomanship' on the day. Special thanks must also be extended to Miss Nash and the parents who came and supported the girls. Thank you! It was a pleasure to work with such dedicated netballers and I wish those players who are approaching finals in their "out of school" netball competitions all the very best!

*Jessica Oliver, Coach.*

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#### **Canteen News**

Now Available:

Vegetarian Lasagne  
Ricotta & Spinach Cannelloni  
\$3.00

Mon: I Wilmott, M Yegorian  
Tues: J Hovenden  
Wed: C Huebner, W Zhang, A Schaefer  
Thur: H Yoon, S Remmington  
Fri: L Smith, M Tyler, M Williams

Thank you everyone.

*Shirley & Carol*

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