



# Brentwood Secondary College

## Online Newsletter Subscription

Issue No. 28

2 November 2007

Principal  
Ms Vicki Forbes  
Assistant Principals  
Mrs Barbara Laidlaw  
Mr Leon Lilly  
Mr David Shelton

### Principal's Report

This week Brentwood Secondary College farewelled the Year 12 class of 2007 with a highly entertaining and emotional final assembly. The school was treated to some wonderful performances by year 12 students and were addressed by the School Captains, Joshua Farragher and Stephanie Hammond.

That evening students, parents and teachers had the privilege of attending the Valedictory Dinner at Princess Court Receptions. All year 12 students received their Year 12 Certificate and a Brentwood Secondary College souvenir pen. Some students also received class awards in recognition of their commitment to their studies. The School Captains addressed the gathering, reflecting on their year as leaders and sharing anecdotal stories of their years at Brentwood.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate Fiona Erwich, Fiona O'Connor, Joel Batalha and Margaret Junor for their organisation of such a large and successful evening.

On Thursday and Friday, the school community had the opportunity to attend the year 11 theatre studies production of "Parlez Vous Francais" based on the Pink Panther series. The production, successfully directed by Mr Batalha, provided a lucky audience with two hours of hilarious entertainment. Approximately 500 people attended the two performances. I would guarantee that no-one went home disappointed. Congratulations to Mr Batalha and the year 11 students. Well done!

This is an opportune time to make sure that all year 12 students remain focussed. Study regimes need to be efficient and meaningful. Make sure you give yourselves study breaks, undertake exercise and gain plenty of sleep during

this period. Remember: you will achieve what you deserve.

Congratulations and well done to the class of 2007.

*Leon Lilly, Assistant Principal*

### Dates and Deadlines

05 Nov	Curriculum Day
06 Nov	Melbourne Cup Day
14 Nov	Year 11 Study Day Year 7 Music Night
15 Nov	Unit 4 VCE exams end Unit 2 Exams begin
19 Nov	Unit 2 Exams continue Year 10 Exams begin Education Policy Sub-committee meeting 6.30pm Resources Sub-committee meeting 7.45pm
20 Nov	Year 12 Formal
22 Nov	Year 10 to 11 Orientation
23 Nov	Year 10 to 11 Orientation Year 10 Graduation Dinner

### Last Day Arrangements

Due to bus restrictions all students will be dismissed from school at 2.15pm on 19 December (last day) NOT the previously advertised 1.15pm.

Please note that NO reports will be distributed before 2.00pm. Please do not ask the office staff or Year Level Coordinators for reports before 2.30pm.

*Leon Lilly, Assistant Principal*

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## Valedictory Speech

John Dewey once said “Education is a social process: education is growth: education is not a preparation for life but is life itself.” And over the past 6 years we have truly experienced a wonderful and varied education which has helped us to develop into the young adults you see before you tonight.

This, right now, is a moment many of us have been looking forward to for most of our schooling life, but now that it's here we're not so sure. The thought of tackling the big bad world as early as next year is as daunting as when we were in grade 6 and knew we would be moving on to high school. Those first steps on Brentwood soil way back in 2002 invoked mixed emotions of fear and excitement, similar to those we feel tonight. Thankfully we were greeted by possibly the best group of teachers who were as committed to making us learn as salmon are to swimming upstream, despite the strong current. Not that we didn't want to learn in those younger years of high school, but purely we were more interested in the simple aspects of life, such as, would white-out really brighten your smile, and what would Mr. Exton look like if he were a woman? But the wonderful teachers kept us on track and by year 10 many of us were taking on the challenge of a year 11 subject, whilst David and Su held up their reputations as 'brainiacs' by completing their first year 12 exams.

Once we hit VCE and slipped in to our glorious maroon jumpers, the end seemed close in sight. What we didn't know then was how much we were going to grow, as a group and as individuals over the next 2 years. Nor did we really believe the older kids when they told us the teachers would become our best friends: we just thought they were suck ups. However the VCE journey we embarked on in 2006 was soon filled with wonderful memories such as the Central Australia trip, a camp which will be undoubtedly reminisced during a Gamblers Anonymous meeting in about 15 years time, and the incredible development of the Hestons who dominated Friday lunchtime music sessions and Music madness.

Through the journey of our life at Brentwood we faced many challenging times. In 2004 we sadly farewelled the beautiful Britney Purser and the cricket-legend Daniel Draper, their memories bringing us closer as a year level and making us appreciate the true value of friendship and strength of character.

In 2006 and onwards, the stress of VCE took its toll and some of us almost broke under the pressure, but thanks to some seriously mothering co-ordinators and supportive well-being team we've made it through. More specifically I don't think methods would have been bearable if it wasn't for Mrs. Erwich's indulgent chocolate chip muffins.

Having looked up to the years 12's during our previous years at Brentwood, and having worked so hard to take over their position as the leaders of the school, the achievement seems somewhat short lived as we are so quickly moving on to face our next challenge. But I guess that's what life is about – stepping up and taking on new challenges, showing the world what we're capable of – and with the strong foundation Brentwood has given us all, I am confident we will all be able to face the challenges that will be confronting us throughout our lives.

Now we'd like to take a moment to thank those that help build the foundation on which we now stand. We deeply thank our co-ordinators through the years – Mr Rhodes, Ms LeGrove, Mrs Brangsch, Mr Watts, Mr Exton, Mr Lilly, Mr Kenneday, Mrs Erwich and Ms O'Connor – and thank you to all the teachers who have passed on their wisdom and praise over the years and who have left their mark on each and everyone of us – in particular Mrs Stanley, Mr Batahla and Ms Junor. We'd also like to thank the principal class Ms Forbes, Mr Cook, Mr Shelton, Ms Laidlaw and Mr Lilly.

Throughout this year both of us have struggled with illness and for constantly helping us out we'd like to thank our Vice Captains Steph Mourad and Jason Stoop, as well as the year 12 executive, so on behalf of all the students we would like to say thank you. To the parents and the families who have not only supported us through high school but our whole lives, both the hard times and the good, we are eternally grateful, for it is because of you that we're all here today.

As Thomas Edison once said “I have friends in overalls whose friendship I would not swap for the favour of the kings of the world.” The friendships we have formed throughout the Brentwood journey are irreplaceable and there are no other people we would've rather experienced it with.

So finally, thank you to the class of 2007, for you are not only what makes this event special, but you've made the last six years the most memorable years of our life. We wish you all the best of luck with your future endeavours. Go confidently in the direction of your dreams and live the life you have imagined. Goodnight and good luck.

*Josh Farragher & Stefanie Hammond, School Captains*



## **Year 7 Window**

We're back to term four and already it has been a busy few weeks. Last Thursday on October 25 all the year 7's attended a program called "Red Rider".

Lauren Parsons who is a professional Motocross rider from Honda came out to talk to us about goal setting, healthy living and safety in sport. She taught us how important goal setting is if you want to do well in life. One of Lauren's goals was to become a professional Motocross Rider and through healthy living and determination, she has achieved her goal.

Lauren explained that Motocross is a very dangerous sport and she discussed the need for a lot of safety gear. Lauren let year 7 students try on her safety equipment such as her helmet, chest protector, neck brace, boots and knee braces.

It was really interesting to see her bike up close because now we have a better understanding about how difficult it is to ride.

At the end of the visit Honda was nice enough to give out free posters which Lauren then signed for us. It was a great incursion! As many year 7 students have ambitions to become professional athletes this program gave us a better understanding about what it actually takes. We were extremely lucky and thankful that the Red Rider program came to Brentwood.

Year 7 is coming to an end and the activity week is coming up fast. They are now choosing the activities they want to do. The activities are in school and out of school. Some of the out of school activities are Werribee Zoo, shopping at Chadstone, Ice Skating, Ten Pin Bowling and Indoor rock climbing.

It's been a privilege to be Year Level Captains for 2007. We wish everyone the best for their end of year reports and hope year 8 is a success.

*Benjamin Drinkwater & Cassie Rowe, Year 7 Captains 2007*

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## **Japanese Language Certificate Test**

19 students who are studying year 11 Japanese participated in the Australian Language Certificate Test, Level 3, conducted by Australian Council for Education Research on the 9 August 2007. Our students achieved excellent results including 5 High Distinctions, 5 Distinctions and 9 Credits.

High Distinctions were awarded to students who received 94% or above and the following students received High Distinctions:

Jeremy Cole, Lisa Dang, Rebecca Huang, Ling Ma and Michiko Suhara.

Rebecca Huang, Ling Ma and Michiko Suhara received 100% for listening.

Distinctions were achieved by:

Carl Chung, Natalie Ear, Michelle Grant, Aaron Keum and Joel Yong

Credits were achieved by:

Joanne Borg, Daphne Dung, Rachael Grant, Jun-Wen Lim, Taryn Mazzarella, Casey Muckner, Kevin Quan, Annie Sim and Mary yang

According to the summary statistics, Brentwood students performed extremely well compared to all the other students who participated in this Language Certificate Test in Australia.

Congratulations to all those students on their excellent results.

*Lakshmi Weeraratne , Japanese Teacher / Overseas Student Coordinator*

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## **Year 10 PEP day (Personal enrichment program)**

On 26 October, year 10 students participated in PEP day (personal enrichment program). The program consisted of many work shops conducted by teachers and the Wellbeing crew. The day started off with a speech by Rod, inspiring us to make a change to the world, followed with some clips from movies all relaying different messages.

Students were then split into groups for the day. One of the workshops was entirely about relaxing and slowing down. We found our own space on

the floor where we were taken through breathing steps and releasing muscle tension while listening to soothing music.

The next workshop involved looking at healthy emotions. The emotions: Happy, Angry, Sad and Scared were laid out on the floor pointing to different corners of the room. We were given different situations where we had to decide how we would feel and walk to the appropriate emotion.

The final work shop involved writing down your response to many different situations that are very relevant to teenagers and listen to other student's interpretations of the same situation. This lesson was conducted by the Wellbeing crew and some teachers.

The day was followed up with a great play which addressed many issues relating to teenagers. The performance titled "Love Drunk" told the story of 3 teenagers experiencing different problems in their life and how they overcame them in their own way.

Overall, PEP day was a great way to reflect on yourself, , learn new things and have fun.

*Natascha Amend, Year 10*

The Wellbeing Team would like to thank the students for their cooperation and participation on the day.

We would also like to thank the following staff for volunteering to lead sessions . Ms. Syler, Ms. Pollock, Ms. Katz, Mr. Hose, Mr. Wright, Ms. Bishop and Ms. Saliba, Mr. Zacharopoulos.

*Wellbeing Team*

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## **Himeji to Tokyo – The Amazing Race**

We began our journey from Himeji to Tokyo, at Hakari Station. Mrs Weeraratne and the Brentwood students arrived at the station at 9:30, believing that we were to board the Nozomi Shinkansen (a new, extremely fast bullet train) and take it all the way to Tokyo. However this plan vanished soon after Mrs Weeraratne went to the ticket booth to check what platform the Nozomi Shinkansen was departing from. She was informed that because we were using our Japan Rail Passes (a pre-paid train pass), we could not travel on this train as it is unavailable to Rail Pass holders. This was extremely confusing as the people who issued us with the tickets a few days earlier had mentioned nothing about this!

After a 10 minute conversation with the railway line officers, they agreed to book us tickets for a less expensive bullet train. During the further 10 minutes it took for them to arrange these tickets, Mrs Weeraratne rang Mrs Laidlaw as she was waiting at the next stop to join us on the Nozomi Shinkansen. She was able to speak to the Shin Kobe officers, to organise the alteration of her ticket.

So the tickets were now arranged and everyone knew what was happening, but there was one problem...our train left at 10:25, we only had 5 minutes to get to our platform! Luckily, with great team work and Mrs Weeraratne's great sense of direction, we were able to board our train. Our main problem was that we all had our luggage with us, so we didn't have enough room to store all of luggage in the same compartment.

So now, with our baggage spread throughout 3 compartments, we realised our next difficulty. The train we were on took us to Shin Osaka, where we had only 10 minutes to board another bullet train which would take us the rest of the way to Tokyo. After the help of the train officials, we realised just how hard this would be; we had to get off our train at platform 20, and go to platform 26 to catch our next train. This included descending 2 levels and then climbing back up one level, with only one elevator or the stairs!

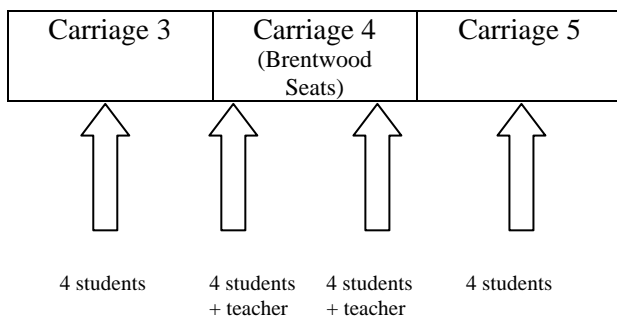
At the next stop (Shin Kobe), Mrs Laidlaw joined us in our planning for our '10 minute dash'. Mrs Weeraratne was able to organise with the help of the train officials for someone to be at Shin Osaka to direct us to the lift.

Soon after, the bullet train slowed to stop and we all got our luggage, ready to exit. Once the doors opened, the boys went straight to work, unloading all of our bags on to the platform – we've never seen them move so fast! Once we were all off the train, we seized our luggage and met up with the group again, we then followed the Chief Station Master to the elevator; we felt honored that such an important person had taken the time to show us the elevator! The elevator was much too small and slow to get us all down in time, so we decided to split up; Mrs Weeraratne's group took the two flights of stairs and Mrs Laidlaw's group took the elevator.

"See you on platform 26!" Mrs Weeraratne shouted at us, and then took off towards the stairs. Whilst we were waiting for the elevator to come back up again, Mrs Weeraratne's group slid their bags down the stairs. We were able to join the long line of Brentwood students once we made it to the bottom, leading to platform 26. We were delighted to find that there was an escalator up to the platform. Mrs Laidlaw and I were the last two

to arrive, and once we got to the top, Mrs Weeraratne shot off towards carriage 4 (the escalator came up at carriage 10) and shouted “Move it, move it!” By this time, the bullet train was slowing down to stop, from which point we only had one minute until it took off again.

We all felt like idiots running past all of the Japanese businessmen and women who had been waiting patiently for the train to come. Mrs Weeraratne later described it as a herd of horses cantering down the platform. The bullet train had stopped, and people were now boarding, we had less than a minute! Once Mrs Weeraratne quickly checked we were all there, she shouted for us to board the bullet train. Since we all still had our luggage to store, we entered either carriage 3, 4 or 5, where the boys piled the bags at the ends of the carriages.



At last we were able to rest! We had 3 hours on the bullet train to wind down from our amazing race. Although it was a very stressful part of our trip, it taught us independence and team work at the same time. Mrs Weeraratne was so proud of us, it was the highlight of her whole trip. We can now look back on that day and be proud of ourselves; it’s a day that we’ll never forget! We were a sensational team and it was an amazing race!

*Stephanie Edwards, Year 9C*

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## Department of Education and Early Childhood Development – Information for Parents – Mathematics Tutorial Software

### Be wary of maths tutorial software

You may have heard advertisements on the radio or seen people in shopping centres selling maths tutoring software.

Mostly the sales person will ask you to sign up for a “free demonstration” or a “free aptitude test”. What this means is that they will arrange a time to visit you in your house to sell their product.

Consumer Affairs Victoria has had many complaints from parents who have been pressured into signing on the spot agreements with these maths software companies. Some parents were told that they would harm their child’s future, others that their child would not win a scholarship if they did not buy the program. Some parents signed a contract to purchase this software simply because the salesman would not leave.

Even if you do allow the sales representative into your house, you should not feel pressured into signing any contracts. Under the Fair Trading Act 1999, the sales representative must:

- not stay in your house any longer than an hour, unless you give them written permission to do so;
- provide you with a contract that is clear;
- give you a written 10 day cooling off period, during which you can change your mind and cancel the contract. Make sure you cancel in writing. If they do not give you this cooling off period, or do not use the prescribed form, you have 6 months within which you can cancel both the purchase and the credit contract and get your money back;
- not pressure you in any way; and
- leave if you ask them to.

The software they are selling generally costs \$5,000 - \$6,000. If the sales representative offers a credit contract to finance the sale, it will cost a lot more – often between \$8,000 and \$10,000 when you add in the interest payments.

This is a major purchase, so:

- Do not sign anything on the spot. Take the time to make sure this purchase will suit your child. Talk to your child’s maths teacher first to see what your child may need and whether the program can provide it.

- Be sure that you can afford it. If you sign a credit contract it will cost you much, much more.
- Be aware that price is no guide to quality, whatever the sales person may say. There are many other considerably cheaper products on the market.

Remember, if you have second thoughts you can cancel the contract within the 10 day cooling off period and get your money back. Make sure you cancel in writing.

*If you feel you have been pressured into buying one of these maths tutoring programs, contact Consumer Affairs Victoria on 1300 558181.*

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## **Rugby Jumper Replacements**

The first delivery of Brentwood rugby jumpers was faulty – this was because they were not properly colourfast. The original stock has been returned to the suppliers and the uniform shop has had a small replacement delivered.

All rugby jumpers that have been purchased prior 1 August need to be returned, and the uniform shop will replace it with a brand new one. Currently the sizes available are 2XS to Medium. The Large to 2XL will arrive shortly.

The uniform shop is open on Wednesday's in the hall from 12.00 noon to 4.00pm.

*Victorian Schoolwear Company*

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## **Sports Round Up**

### **Year 8 Hockey**

The year 8 boy's hockey team trained really hard in the lead up to their Eastern Zone competition. After winning at the district level in extra time and two sets of penalty shots the boys were excited to play at the next level. Our first match was a 0-0 draw against Lilydale Heights, our second match was another draw 3-3 against Rowville, and we lost our third match against Vermont 2-1. We were the only school to score against Vermont in our pool! Congratulations boys on your determination and dedication on improving your skills.

Team Members:

Adam Liew	Alex Castricum
Ashaan Patel	Chris Barber
Eddie Luo	George Deng
Henry Chhen	Hilton Hua
Jason Zhao	Jeremiah Cheong
Johny Theos	Luke Cooney
Matthew Grant	Matthew Scott

Seungkyum Kim

*Miss Nash, Team Manager*

## **Year 8 Girls Squash Eastern Zone Finals**

Last week on Tuesday 30 October our squash team played extremely well to come third in the Eastern Zone Finals. The team made up of Katrina Stoop 8I, India Donaldson 8C, Cleone Tan 8J, Jordan Peach 8H were a fantastic team showing great effort and team spirit in the games played.

Cleone was also a late inclusion to the team, filling in for Amelia Thompson 8J who was out injured.

The girls won against Healesville 3-1 and Fairhills 4-0, but lost by an incredible 8 points to a very strong Camberwell in the semi finals.

A big thank you to the parents who supported the training sessions, to Amelia for helping out on the day and to Mr Attard for his assistance. I'm sure the girls will have gained great confidence for playing squash at this higher standard and will be well prepared for next year.

*Tony Watts, Coach*

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## **Community Corner**

### **Brandon Park Softball Club**

#### **Attention Girls in year 7, 8 & 9**

Brandon Park Softball Club is looking for players. Games are held on Saturday at 11.00am-12.15pm. Come down with your friends and have a go and get fit at the same time. Contact Glenis for further details on 9562 5624.

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## **Canteen News**

Mon: Pupil Free  
 Tues: Melbourne Cup  
 Wed: S Williams, R Sumner  
 Thur: H Yooh, S Remington  
 Fri: L Smith, M Tyler, M Williams (L)

Thank you everyone.

*Shirley & Carol*

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## Second Hand Book Sale

The secondhand book sale will take place on **Monday, 3 December** for **Year 7** from 5.00pm – 6.00 pm in **C3 & 4** and **Tuesday 4 December** for **Years 8 – 12** from 3.00 pm – 5.30 pm in **C3 & 4**.

Books will be collected from:

Thursday November 22

Year 10 recess and lunchtime room to be advised.

Tuesday November 27

Years 9, 11 & 12 from 9.30 am – 1.30 pm in C3 & 4.

Wednesday November 28

Years 7, 8 from 9.30 am – 2.00 pm in C3 & 4.

Books that are in **excellent condition** and purchased new in 2007 may be sold for **two thirds of the 2007** retail price. Please take this into account when pricing your books. Unsold books tend to be books in indifferent condition for which the maximum price is asked. Payment for books purchased at the sale is by cash/cheque only. We **do not** have VISA available at the book sale. The commission charged will be 20% for each book. Payment for books sold will be forwarded to the student home address by **8 February 2008**. Unsold books may be collected in **March 2008** (date to be advised). In previous years a lot of books were sold after the actual book sale day to new families moving into the area.

### Volunteers:

If you would like to volunteer to help with the collection and sale of the books, please fill in the return slip below. This should be returned to the General Office by Friday, 9 November 2007

✂.....

Parent Name:

.....

Student Name:

.....

Telephone No: .....

I am available to help please tick the appropriate box.

Tuesday	November 27, 9.30 am – 1.30 pm
	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wednesday	November 28, 9.30 am – 2.00 pm
	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monday	December 3, 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm
	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tuesday	December 4, 3.00 pm – 5.30 pm
	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Jan Smith, Second Hand Book Co-Ordinator**

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