



# Brentwood Secondary College

## Online Newsletter Subscription

Issue No. 29

9 November 2007

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

Watsons Road  
Glen Waverley 3150  
Victoria  
Australia

Telephone 03 8545 0300  
Facsimile 03 8545 0355  
Email  
[bsc@brentwood.vic.edu.au](mailto:bsc@brentwood.vic.edu.au)  
Internet  
[www.brentwood.vic.edu.au](http://www.brentwood.vic.edu.au)

### Principal's Report

As our year 12 students head toward the middle mark of the VCE exam period and our year 11s are completing their revision programs prior to their study day next Wednesday 14 November, students and their teachers have been reflecting on the work undertaken during 2007 in preparation for this moment. Year 12 students erupt out of the exam centre at the end of each exam to discuss the exam content that has just been experienced, comparing what was good for each other and what wasn't. They talk with their teachers about their responses to questions and compare these to the preparation given in their classes. When they complete their exams they will have an opportunity to make changes to their choices for further education, and hence their possible direction in the next phase of life.

Observing these events and considering what is to come for the year 10 and 11 students and their teachers, has caused me to reflect on a significant letter to the Education Age by Professor Richard Elmore, Chair of Educational Leadership at the Harvard Graduate School of Education printed on 27 August 2007. Professor Elmore was responding to an article by Christopher Bantick written a couple of weeks earlier under the banner "Teaching is not rocket science" where Mr Bantick questioned the value of higher qualifications for teachers and in particular the requirement for teachers generally to undertake a minimum 100 hours professional development every 5 years in order to remain accredited, promulgating a view that teaching is not a highly skilled profession.

Professor Elmore responds stating:  
"Teaching as a profession is undergoing a dramatic transformation, from isolated work in self-contained classrooms to collaborative work designed around challenging problems of student learning,

from simple routine tasks to highly complex tasks that require continuous monitoring of how students learn, from the profoundly anti-intellectual, anti-professional culture of schooling represented by Bantick to one characterized by respect for the knowledge of educators."

He reflects on his studies of education systems internationally, referring to the common threads in successful systems of high entry standards for teachers in terms of knowledge and pedagogical skill linked with continuous investment in teacher improvement.

Professor Elmore says "Teaching is not rocket science. It is, in fact, far more complex and demanding work than rocket science."

*David Shelton, Assistant Principal*

### Dates and Deadlines

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

## Japan Trip 2007

### Himeji Castle

One of the highlights of our Japan Trip 2007 was visiting the Himeji Castle. It is situated in Himeji city that is located close to the sea. Himeji Castle is a well preserved building and is designated by the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO as a world heritage in Japan. The whole group was really excited about our trip to Himeji Castle. It was the first trip we were going to take as a group in Japan. So we were really energized when we boarded the bus. We finally arrived at Himeji Castle after 2 hours on the bus. The sight of the Himeji Castle was breath taking. After we went into the grounds we met our guide Masahiro Takei, who asked us to call him Hero. He was actually a school teacher but had been a tour guide for over 15 years and he kept us entertained with Japanese history and information about the castle.

We learnt that Himeji Castle's history goes back as far as 1277. However, Ikeda Terumasu, son in law of the Shogun expanded the castle in 1609 to its present extent. Himeji Castle stands on a ground that is 46m high. The castle is surrounded by 3 ranks of spiralling moats and outer, medial and interior baileys. The total area reached approximately 2,300,000 square metres, but only the interior bailey remains today enclosing an area of about 220,000 square metres. The traditional wooden architecture, the stone walls and the white plastered walls have been well maintained in original forms.

We went past the front gate called "Sakuramon" and began walking around the grounds of the massive castle, it was really cool. There were gardens and lakes and heaps of historical things as well as snakes and spiders. It is a sight where a lot of samurai films are filmed in Japan. From the outside the main tower appeared to have five stories. Somehow there were six stories and one basement inside. "Hero" said that it was built that way to mislead the enemy. The tower had two main pillars whose diametres were nearly one metre. I really wanted to climb the castle, it looked so good. So we finally started the climb up the Himeji Castle, one thing I hated was the stairs as they are the most awkward things ever to walk up. The rooms were all tiny and along the climb we stopped at every level to take pictures of the amazing view. The rooms also had little holes in the window and according to our guide "Hero", stones, missiles and arrows were released when the castle was under attack in the past. The holes for arrows were rectangular and vertical and those for firearms were square, round and triangular but all were larger opening on the interior side and telescoped down to just a small opening on the outside. At Himeji Castle, there was a hole every

3 metres in the wall and this would seem to be the fullest use of its offensive capabilities. Apparently, at this castle, boiling faeces also was used as a weapon to attack the invaders.

There were a lot of gates. We walked through about 15 different ones and they all had different meanings. The stonework was magnificent and the enormous walls within the castle were constructed using massive timbers. So after all the stairs we found ourselves in a small room with lots of windows. We all collapsed. It was such a relief to get to the top and we were totally exhausted. The view as I had expected was amazing. If you looked out the south windows you saw a cascading mountainous valley. But if you looked towards the north, you saw the bustling city full of tourists. It was one of those things that was so original in everything. At the bottom of the castle, we got our shoes back and took off the slippers we had to wear inside.

Another reason we were excited was because we were going to McDonalds. We had been western food deprived and we were craving it. Everyone was really excited about the food we were going to eat. We arrived at a two storey McDonalds and found out that the Japanese version is so much better than ours. We ate ourselves sick.

It was one of the best days in Japan and the Himeji Castle was so spectacular and amazing that it is honestly something I won't forget.

### Janie Cahill, Year 9

---

#### Sea of Hands

On 19 October, two year eleven students, Jane Hart and Bryony Bolt conducted 'The Sea of Hands' program at Brentwood.

'The Sea of Hands' is a program run by ANTAR, Australians for Aboriginal Reconciliation and Native Title to raise awareness for Aboriginal Reconciliation; little hands are provided to create a design to promote this Australian cause.

On the day we arranged over 1000 hands in an Aboriginal Flag design. At lunch time over 200 students signed the Oxfam 'Close the Gap' petition and put a hand in our flag. The petition was for the Indigenous Health issue to close the 17 year life expectancy that is between Aboriginals and Caucasian Australians.

The 'Sea of Hands' was a huge success within the Brentwood community. Many students got involved to support Aboriginal Reconciliation on the day. The day was also a casual dress day where the students wore Yellow, Black and Red, the money raised will go to Rural Health services for Indigenous communities.

We would like to thank everyone who helped out on the day setting out the hands and raising awareness and support for Aboriginal Reconciliation.

*Jane Hart, SRC*

---

## **Sports Round Up**

### **Year 8 Girls Volleyball**

On Friday 2 November V-day had arrived, after many training sessions over the terms the girls were prepared and ready for a massive volleyball battle! They had to meet at 7.45am on Friday morning, it was an early start but the girls were pumped.

Upon our arrival we knew it was going to be a great day, we had three schools to beat to make it through to the finals and we took it one game at a time. Our first school was Mooroolbark, the girls were not too sure what to expect, however, within 20 minutes the game was over, Brentwood were winners 2-0 (25-11; 25-21). The next game was against Fairhills, they looked a lot stronger and had some good servers, however, once again, our girls powered through the game and came out victorious 2-0 (25-20; 27-25).

With one more game to play, the level of confidence in the team was sky high! Our final game of the draw was against the undefeated Vermont team, we were prepared for a tough game, however, the girls made it through quite easily and defeated them 2-0 (25-14; 25-17). Once match point had been won, we knew we were into the finals, screams of joy could be heard for miles!! The convenor came over and told us that we were the first Brentwood volleyball team to make finals in at least 12 years, what an achievement! We were up against the very strong Monbulk team, they played like a well oiled machine, the girls put up a fight but were defeated 0-2 (11-25; 18-25).

Everyone that came along on the day did a fantastic job, the teamwork was excellent, the encouragement was inspirational and the sports 'woman' ship made me proud! Congratulations girls, Runners Up – Eastern Zone Finals, great work!

### **Team**

Ghadeer Elkhub	
Emily Laidlaw	
Georgia Taylor	Captain First Game
Jess Eden	Captain Second Game
Christina Kazantzidis	
Kelsey Smith	
Cecilia Faalili	Captain Third Game
Tuba Ozak	
Kat Stoop	Captain Final
Jen Elphinstone	
Jen Stepanov	

*Sarah Hately, Coach*

### **Year 8 Girls Basketball**

Last week on Thursday 1 November the year 8 girls "B" basketball team represented the school in the Eastern Zone Finals at Dandenong Basketball Stadium.

The team comprised of 8 talented and enthusiastic girls.

Simone Sierig	Kelsey Smith
Dominique Pratt	Charmaine Dale
Jessica Eden	Melyce Cavanagh
Tiffany McKenzie	Beth Alexander

The team played 3 tough marches against Lilydale, Wantirna and Vermont losing in each of the games.

The girls are to be congratulated for their enthusiastic team spirit and great effort in each of their games.

A special thank you to the team coaches, Paula Mann and Gabby Tarabolsi for giving up their lunch times to train the girls and coach on the day.

Congratulations to the girls for competing at this level! Well done!

*Tracey Stewart, Team Manager*

---

## **Community Corner**

### **Brandon Park Softball Club**

Attention girls in year 7, 8 & 9 Brandon Park Softball Club is looking for players. Games are on Saturdays 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: 9562 5624.

---

## **Canteen News**

Mon:	M Kocsis, G Feldtmann, L Shaw
Tues:	S Barber, T Robinson, J Harris

Wed: C Huebner, W Zhang, A Schaefer  
Thur: C Ryhanen, C Kirwan  
Fri: S Watts, J Knight

Thank you everyone.

*Shirley & Carol*

---

## **Second Hand Book Sale**

### **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*

---