



Brentwood Secondary College

Online Newsletter Subscription

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23 May 2008

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
Internet
www.brentwood.vic.edu.au

Principal's Report

Late last year McKinsey & Company published a report entitled: *How do the world's best performing systems come out on top?* The report aims to identify what it is that the world's top-performing education systems do, and how differences in what is happening at the level of the system impacts on what is happening in the classroom. Despite significant variations in culture and context, the report identifies a common element in each of the top performing systems – they maintain an unrelenting focus on the continuous improvement of instruction. To do this they consistently do three things well.

1. They get the right people to become teachers and the factors that influence this include:
 - the perceived status of teachers
 - policy effects on the status of teachers
 - effective selection for teacher training courses
 - good starting salaries.
2. They develop them into effective classroom instructors through a focus on:
 - rigorous standards and assessment
 - clear expectations
 - enabling teachers to learn from each other
 - differentiated support for teachers, especially in the first five years.
3. They ensure that the system is able to deliver the best possible instruction for each and every child by:
 - setting high expectations
 - monitoring the progress of every child and intervening when necessary
 - funding schools on a needs based model
 - constructing a rigorous accountability framework for all schools.

Recently I attended an education summit hosted by the Minister for Education,

Bronwyn Pyke, and the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development, Maxine Morand. The summit was organised to provide feedback on the proposed reform agenda outlined in the Blueprint for Early Childhood Development and School Reform discussion papers. Feedback from the summit and other stakeholder group meetings will inform the development of a new Blueprint which will set out the government's reform agenda for the next five years. It is apparent that many of the findings reported by McKinsey & Company have been acknowledged in these discussion papers. They can be downloaded from the Department's website at

www.education.vic.gov.au/blueprint.

Vicki Forbes, Principal

Parents Victoria Online Conference

The Office for Government School Education has sponsored the second Parents Victoria online conference, which will provide a forum for online discussions via the internet.

This online conference provides a valuable opportunity for all parents with children in Victorian government schools to discuss key parent issues including the Ultranet, bullying and childcare. Parents may join in the online discussions at any time and only require an internet-connected computer with a browser.

The online conference will be held from 6.00am on 26 May until midnight on 1 June 2008. Register for the conference at www.cybertext.net.au/pv08.htm. Parents Victoria may also be contacted to obtain further information at <http://www.parentsvictoria.asn.au/>.

Dates and Deadlines

26 May	School Council 7.00pm
27 May	Succeeding at Year 7, 7.00pm
28 May	Year 12 TIS Event Periods 3-5 VCE Alternate Pathways 7.00pm
29 May	Science Competition
30 May	Year 11 Study Day
02 June	Unit 1 Exams Commence Building Cooperative AGM 7.00pm
03 June	Year 9 Semester 2 Sign-up Year 10 VCE Parent Information 7.00pm
09 June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
10 June	Unit 1 Exams Finish Year 10 Exams Commence Year 8 Semester 2 Sign-up Education Sub-committee 6.00pm Resources Sub-committee 7.10pm
11 June	Unit 3 Exams Commence
12 June	District Sport – Year 9
13 June	Year 12 GAT Report Writing Day
16 June	Year 10 Camp
17 June	District Sport – Year 7
23 June	Year 11 Central Trip School Council Meeting 7.00pm
25 June	Year 10 VCE Information Session Periods 1 & 2 District Sport – Junior
27 June	End of Term 2 Reports distributed, School ends 2.15pm

Semester 2 Sign-Up for Year 8 and 9 Students

In the coming week, all current year 8 and 9 students will receive information regarding enrolment (or sign-up) into their subjects for Semester 2.

Students will need to make reference to their Middle School Handbook for information regarding the various subjects offered. The Handbook was distributed to all students at the end of last year.

If students have lost their copy, they can access the Handbook via the College website. Spare copies are available to be read at school.

Important dates for the sign-up process are:

Friday 30 May: Year 9 students must submit Course Selection Sheets to Home Group teachers by this date.

Tuesday 3 June: Year 9 Semester 2 Sign-Up

Friday 6 June: Year 8 students must submit Course Selection Sheets to Home Group teachers by this date.

Tuesday 10 June: Year 8 Semester 2 Sign-Up

Year 10 students have already been signed into their Semester 2 subjects, based on the preferences they submitted last year. Students will be given information in the coming week reminding them of the subjects they are enrolled in.

If there are any queries regarding the Sign-Up process, please contact Mark Oudshoorn on 8545 0354 or oud@brentwood.vic.edu.au.

Mark Oudshoorn, Sign-Up Co-ordinator

The Environment and Brentwood

The Brentwood Green Team would like to encourage everyone to become environmentally friendly. With these small actions anyone can take, we can all help create a cleaner environment for everyone to enjoy.

1. Recycle everything! There are ways to recycle more than just your old newspapers, cans and bottles. Check out the “How Can I Recycle This” website for lots of great tips on things to recycle: www.recyclethis.co.uk.
2. Search the “Recycling Near You” website before you throw anything away. You might find somewhere near you that will recycle it instead: www.recyclingnearyou.com.au.
3. Start a worm farm. Worms produce castings, which can be used as fertilizer on indoor or outdoor plants, or even your school lawn.

Brentwood Green Team

Science Opportunity for Year 9 Students

The Siemens Science Experience, a three day hands on science, engineering and technology program, will be conducted again in Australian universities in 2008/2009 for students who will be entering year 10 in 2008. Each program includes a wide variety of practical activities, together with interesting presentations by leading scientists and engineers.

It is a Rotary Youth Services Project and fully supported by the Australian Science Teachers Association. The cost of the three day program is \$105 (includes GST). Local Rotary clubs are often willing to pay this fee.

Further information and application forms are available from the school's Science Department and Rotary clubs for more information www.scienceexperience.com.au.

Early application is advised.

Any year 9 student is welcome to attend.

Gary Hayes, Head of Science

Presentation Ball

Viewing of the 2008 Presentation Ball photos will occur on Thursday 29 May. Girls with the surnames A-K and their partners will be between 5.00pm and 6.00pm, L-Z between 6.00pm and 7.00pm in the Senior Learning Centre. Boys are advised to attend at the same time as their partner.

Narelle Wood, Presentation Ball Coordinator

Canteen News

Mon: H Paterson, G Thompson, L Creighton, S Williams
Tues: D Lawless, M Yegorian
Wed: S Tighello, L Bult, M Hollingworth
Thur: M Kalvarachchi, C Prosser
Fri: M Hayes

Thank you everyone.

Shirley & Carol

Ono High School Visit

1 August – 12 August 2008

Thank you to the families who already responded with offers to host our visitors in August. It will be a wonderful experience to all involved.

To make this year's experience a success, we need your support. **We are desperate for host families.** We need to find host families for each of the 20 students who are coming. They speak some English and are very excited about their first trip overseas. They would like to experience a typical Australian way of life.

If you can offer a place in your homes for one of these students, the rewards can be great. They do not require a private room or special treatment – a spare bed, a host student of similar age and gender, and a warm welcome are the main requirements.

A subsidy of \$200 per host family is available to help with expenses.

Students who are currently learning Japanese or who would like to be part of next year's visit to Japan are particularly encouraged to participate. The opportunity to make friends and lasting ties with people of other cultures can be rewarding.

If you would like to support this great program, please complete and return the attached form to Mrs Weeraratne by Tuesday, 27 May 2008. For more information please call the school on 8545 0300.

*Lakshmi Weeraratne, Japanese Teacher/
Overseas Student Coordinator*

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Offer to host a student from Ono Senior High School

We are interested in hosting a student from Ono Senior High School.

Name and Home group of the hosting student

Parent(s) Name(s)

Names and ages of brothers

& sisters

Address

Telephone No
