



# Brentwood Secondary College

## Online Newsletter Subscription

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### Principal's Report

During week five the school community were treated to lively performances of the school production of 'The Wiz'. All shows were played to a packed house and appreciative audiences. The effort and teamwork required for such a production cannot be underestimated. Past students, parents, friends, staff and of course, Brentwood students were all involved in something that was very special. A huge thank you must go out to Danielle Binaisse and Joel Batalha for their leadership of a large group of performers and helpers; they were inspirational throughout the many weeks of rehearsal and planning that go into making a show like this. Well done to all people associated with this fine production.

September 2<sup>nd</sup> is our second parent teacher interview day for 2008. All students should make appointments with their teacher as feedback at this time of the year is extremely beneficial. Students are expected to attend with their parents. It is also a chance for parents to discuss their concerns and form a partnership with the teachers so that the opportunity for learning is maximised.

During week 6, the Parent Opinion Survey was posted home to randomly selected families. Could all parents who received a survey please complete them and return them to school as soon as possible. This is a powerful diagnostic tool for the school community so it is imperative that we receive an honest appraisal of parent opinions.

In June last year, all schools and community groups across Australia were sent information regarding the Healthy Active Australia Community and Schools Grants Program. The aim of the grants program was to encourage community groups and schools to design programs that promote physical activity and healthy

eating. David Hose (Head of Physical Education and Health) spent many long hours designing a program and completing the lengthy application form. The project he designed, with the assistance of Suzanne Plant and Kerry Bainbridge, was called Fit-4-Life. This project aims to encourage all students at both Brentwood Secondary College and Glen Waverley South Primary School to participate in physical activity and adopt healthy approaches to eating through the following activities: physical activity classes for target groups; parent information sessions; professional learning for teachers; creation of a supportive environment for physical activity; and evaluation of the project.

Since the application was submitted, fourteen months have passed and in that period we have also had a change of government. Last week Brentwood received a letter advising us that our school has been selected to receive \$117,939.79 for the Fit-4-Life project. The money will be used to employ an additional Physical Education teacher (on a part-time basis) and purchase additional health and fitness equipment for the school and our students to utilise.

Congratulations to David, Suzanne and Kerry for their commitment to the program. Well done.

*Leon Lilly, Assistant Principal*

### Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher interviews will be held on Tuesday 2 September from 12.00 noon – 5.00pm and 6.00pm – 8.15pm. There are no formal classes on this day as students are expected to attend these interviews with their parents.

## **Dates and Deadlines**

2 Sept	Parent/Teacher Interviews – No formal classes
3 Sept	Tuesday's Timetable Year 11 Seminar Periods 3 & 4
4 Sept	District Athletics
9 Sept	District Sport – Year 7
12 Sept	VTAC Choices Due
19 Sept	School finishes at 2.30pm

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## **Middle School Report**

Our middle school students are enjoying the use of the kitchen facilities - particularly on those cold winter days. We are all enjoying the opportunity to chat to a range of students on a regular basis.

A reminder to all parents that next Tuesday is Parent-Teacher Interview Day. Interviews can be made for times between 12.00 noon and 2.45pm, 3.00pm and 5.00pm, and 6.00pm to 8.00pm. Students will not be required at school for classes, however we encourage all students to attend the interviews with their parents. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet the teachers and discuss your child's progress so far this semester, so please ensure your child approaches their teachers to book interview times.

A big thank you to parents who have continued to make payments towards their child's place on the year 9 camp to Tasmania. A reminder that the medical information and consent forms must be returned for a student to take their place on camp. If you have queries or concerns about the camp, please contact the school.

Year 10 students should have all but finalised their work experience for this year. A reminder that Work Experience Forms must be returned to Mrs. Stanley in the Careers and Pathways Office as soon as possible.

### ***Middle School Team***

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## **Debating at Brentwood**

As some of you will be aware this year Brentwood had three teams participating in the Debating Association of Victoria's Schools Debating Competition. This is a state-wide competition involving many schools and thousands of participants, and the competition is of an extremely high standard. Unfortunately, our teams did not make it through to the finals this year, but we did have some exceptional results along the way. The following students were all

awarded Best Speaker in at least one of their debates:

Amy Hutchison (Year 12)  
Natalie Ramselaar (Year 12)  
Jordan Lee (Year 10)  
Josh Sheppard (Year 9)

In addition, Jordan Lee has been awarded a Swannie Award, recognising her as the Best Speaker for the Glen Waverley Region in C Grade. Swannies are awarded to speakers with the highest average speaker score having completed at least three debates. Of the thousands of students who participate in the competition, only about one hundred are awarded a Swannie. This is definitely something to be proud of!

We congratulate all our debaters on their participation this year, and encourage interested students to think about becoming a Brentwood debater in 2009.

***Katharine Seyler, Debating Co-ordinator***

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## **Subject Charges – Year 8, 9 and 10 Electives**

All students in years 8, 9 and 10 have this week, received an invoice at school. This invoice details the costs of the various subjects that the students study.

Subject charges are used to cover part of the costs of materials used in the subject and other various expenses.

If your son or daughter is enrolled in a subject/s which incurs a charge, please pay this amount at the General Office as soon as possible.

***Mark Oudshoorn, Sign Up Co-ordinator***

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## **Sayonara Ono Senior High School**

It was time to bid sayonara to Mr Yuji Minamitani, Mr Atsushi Kimura, Ms Keiko Asada and the group of 20 students from Ono Senior High School on 12 August 2008. The host families, Brentwood staff and students who were involved in this year's exchange gathered with our visitors in the C Block on the previous night to celebrate and reflect on the fun and excitement of 11 busy days. The evening culminated with farewell speeches and exchange of gifts between the two schools. The load of tissues provided by Mr Shelton was not enough to dry the tears shed by all those present.

Our two schools have continued the tradition of making friends – friends on the staff and friends amongst families and students. The visit – our sixth – was possible because of the generous support of our very kind and far-sighted Brentwood families. All the Japanese students regarded the home stay as the most wonderful experience of the entire visit.

I would like to extend the school's sincere gratitude to the following students and their families who hosted the Japanese students.

Kane Au	Jessie Mah
Melissa Bebonis	Taryn Mazzarella
Jessica Bond	Erica Purcell
Stephanie Edwards	Corinne Raditsis
Alec Farragher	Nalanda Robson
Jordan Lee-Fraser	Amelia Thompson
Rachael Grant	Emma Tyler
David Ho	Emily Wood
Matthew Julius	Mary Yang
Ling Ma	Carisse Yap

***Lakshmi Weeraratne, Japanese Teacher / Overseas Student Coordinator***

**A Unique Experience**

On Friday 1 August we welcomed 20 students from Ono Senior High School in Japan to Brentwood. They arrived on one of the coldest days that we had experienced all year, a dramatic difference from the heat and humidity of Japan. On the weekend the students were amazed at the many similarities and **many** differences between the two cultures. Some students visited Healesville Sanctuary, Phillip Island and the MCG where they were able to have a hands on experience with many Australian animals and traditions, this experience all topped off with their first taste of vegemite. The following Saturday the host students as well as the exchange students took a trip to Sovereign Hill again on one of the coldest days all year. At Sovereign Hill we were able to see a live gold pour as well as taste testing some freshly made lollies! The students were also able to learn about Australia's gold rush history with a tour down the Red Hill Mine, and a have first hand look at the largest gold nugget in recorded history. The day was an experience neither the Ono nor Brentwood Students would ever forget and everyone enjoyed a well deserved sleep in the next day.

On Monday 11 August, we sadly began our farewells with the traditional 'Sayonara' party. Two of the Ono students hosted the evening, which began with speeches from teachers of Brentwood, and Ono. Next, some of the Ono students played a quiz game, in English, asking us about various Japanese traditions, words and random trivia. Another group of students had

organized for everyone attending to play what we know as 'Paper, Scissors, Rock', and ended with one lucky winner who managed to beat everyone else in the room. A song was performed by their year 10 students in Japanese, and then in English, while their equivalent of year 11 students performed a dance, which had many of them in giggles. Then, each student stood at the front of the room and read out a speech thanking their host families and talking about how much they would miss Australia. There was not one dry eye left in the room during the emotional speeches. After their readings, host and exchange students, who were almost all still crying, came together to sing 'Waltzing Matilda', and the exchange of gifts between Brentwood and Ono took place. Then everyone spent the rest of the evening enjoying some supper, and taking last minute photos.

The next morning we all arrived at school bright and early for a 7.30am departure. Letters and hugs were exchanged and, of course, promises to keep in touch. Then, the Ono students and teachers piled onto the bus and they were homeward bound. After the night before, some people were all cried out, but others didn't hold back the misery they felt at the departure of our 'sisters' and 'brothers' of the past 12 days.

Overall, a great time was had by all. The Japanese students got to experience life in Australia, the Brentwood students and their families got to learn more about life in Japan and everyone made friends and memories they will cherish forever. It was a truly worthwhile experience and we would recommend anyone who has the chance to undertake this rewarding program to go for it. Thank-you to everyone who made this time as fulfilling as it was.

***Jessica Bond and Jordan Lee, Year 10***

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**Brentwood's 2008 Musical, 'The Wiz'**

The staff, students and parents of the Brentwood community produced another amazing musical this year, 'The Wiz,' a 1970's adaptation of the well-known classic, 'The Wizard of Oz'.

Firstly, I would like to thank the amazing performers in this year's production. The cast and crew have worked tirelessly since February to create this fantastic show. The acting, singing and dancing was of the highest standard and each and every student should be extremely proud of their efforts and achievements.

What can I say about our Director Joel? He is an amazingly talented and devoted teacher who gives one hundred per cent at all times. He has been

performing and directing productions for years and his talent and experience is evident. He knows what he wants to achieve and he will not settle for anything less than the best. Joel is the backbone of the Performing Arts team at Brentwood and this show wouldn't have been possible without him. A big thank you to Bill Exton for his role as Assistant Director and to Jane Pollock and David Wright for being our Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager. Such roles are integral to the running of a successful show.

What would a musical be without the music? I would like to thank Darren Wright and all members of the orchestra for the countless hours they spent rehearsing. We really appreciate their amazing contribution. I would also like to thank our very talented vocal directors Glenda Hanslow and Ursula Cettolin who guided our students in developing fantastic vocals.

The choreography team has been larger than in previous years. The Performing Arts team have been lucky enough to welcome Jessica Murray, Victoria Galluci, Michelle Luckman and Sophie McClusky to this year's project. As always, the design and execution of choreography is a huge job and I appreciate the hard work and dedication all staff put into making the dancing spectacular.

Gary Sanford and Daniel Mackay have also contributed to the production of an outstanding set which goes above and beyond. These sets make our cast look even better and we thank them for their fantastic efforts.

The costume team have, once again, proved to be an efficient and hard-working team. Many thanks go to Jessica Oliver, Jo Marveggio, Margaret Brudenell, Sandra Edwards, Miriam Levey, Marie Rizzo, Suzanne Morris, Melissa Antoniuk and Mrs Leach. I'm sure you would all agree that the students looked amazing in their costumes.

Thank-you to Robin Gamble for being in charge of sound and lighting, to Mark Oudshoorn for taking on the huge roll of ticketing and to the staff who assisted with the running of the canteen and application of make-up.

To all staff who participated in the staff dance and to those who helped out in any way, shape or form, whether it be offering to supervise students backstage, or simply asking if there was anything they could do to help, your contributions were much appreciated.

In addition to those mentioned above, this production was made possible thanks to the support of many businesses who we value as key contributors to Performing Arts at Brentwood:

- Musicorp is a proud sponsor of the Brentwood Secondary College production and they offer a wide range of musical instruments for lease. See Ms Presa for more details.
- Timber Panel Productions for supplying the ply for our sets and supporting our productions over the last few years.
- Outlook Communications for installing and running our sound system so professionally, adding to the quality of the production.
- Videocraft for the use and hire of their professional video equipment to assist us with our visual needs.
- Resolution X for the use and hire of their lighting equipment.
- Buxwear for our team t-shirts.
- GRV Printers for always supporting us in making professional souvenir programs.

Without their support, this production would not have been a success and we look forward to working with them again in the future.

Last, but certainly not least, a big thank-you goes out to all parents. The time and commitment required from family members when a student is involved in such a project is huge. I'm sure you realise what a great experience this has been for your child.

Without all these wonderful people, 'The Wiz' would not have been possible. This has been a fantastic experience for all involved and I have enjoyed watching the growth of our talented performers. Now we look ahead to our next journey, the 2009 Rock Eisteddfod Challenge and I encourage all those within the Brentwood community to support the Performing Arts team by becoming involved in our next exciting endeavour.

*Danielle Binaisse, Performing Arts Co-ordinator*

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## **Year 10 Magistrates' Court Excursion Report**

On Tuesday 26 August, students from the year 10 Commerce class "You and the Law" participated in an excursion to the Ringwood Magistrates' Court.

We split into groups to observe the different kinds of cases that are held there to develop a better understanding of how the legal system of Victoria works. Some of the types of cases we saw were drink driving, intervention orders and drug trafficking cases, to name a few.

Learning about court from textbooks was nothing compared to actually being there in the courtrooms, watching the prosecution and the defendant present their cases to the Magistrate.

The experience was remarkable, many students commented how interesting it was to hear the way the Magistrates' communicated to the people that they sentenced. If only we had more time there!!

We would like to thank everyone at the Ringwood Magistrates' Court for allowing us an opportunity to learn about the legal system, as well as Mrs Oliver and Mr Wright for supervising us on the day.

*Micah Ropata and Sandra Thong, Year 10*

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## Off to the Olympics

Madeleine Hogan (year 12 2006) is off to the Beijing Paralympics and she'll be competing in the Javelin after only taking up the event three years ago. Madeleine has already thrown an Australian record (F46 classification) at the 2008 Australian Track & Field Championships. Madeleine is competing on Monday September 8 at 11.00am and should be broadcast on ABC.

Brentwood wishes her good luck for this amazing opportunity to represent Australia. Messages of support / Hero messages can be sent via <http://hero.telstra.com/paralympics/> from September 1.



*Kim Nash, Sport Coordinator*

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## Sports Round-Up

### Year 8 Boys Basketball

Last Friday two teams of year 8 boys competed in district competition at the Dandenong Stadium.

The 'A' team played top class basketball and lost only 2 matches by very narrow margins.

#### 'A' Team

Kieran Kennedy	Alex Tapanes
Andrew Madder	Tom Yeung
Callan Burns	Dane Rhind
Peter Rozanitis	

The 'B' team played well as a team and displayed outstanding sportsmanship on the day. They won two of their six matches against Wellington and Wheelers Hill.

#### 'B' Team

Bradley Mills	Chris Brunton
Kyle Binzer	Mitch Ryan
Matt Newsom	Terrence Nicol
Trevor Smith	Dylan Frankland

A special thank you must be extended to coaches Nathan Madder and Leo Lyimo of year 11. Their coaching of the teams was fantastic and they acted as fine role models to the younger boys. It was a pleasure to accompany and supervise the boys on the day.

*Tracey Stewart, Team Manager*

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## **Community Corner**

### **Guide Dog Puppies Need Homes**

Guide Dogs Victoria is urgently seeking new Puppy Raisers to begin caring for a Guide Dog puppy.

To take on the fulfilling role of Puppy Raiser you need to:

- Live in metropolitan Melbourne or the Geelong or Ballarat areas and have your own transport.
- Not leave the pup for more than 3 hours.
- Have a securely fenced yard.
- Not have children under school age.
- Allow pups to sleep inside the home overnight.

To register to become a Puppy Raiser please call Guide Dogs Victoria on (03) 9854 4444. For more information [www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au](http://www.guidedogsvictoria.com.au).

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## **Canteen News**

Mon: M Yegorian, J Hadaway  
Tues: Parent Teacher Interviews  
Wed: J Lindrea, A Pygall, L Mossenton  
Thur: L Airey, J Stebbing, H Fox-Harrison  
Fri: B Seracino, N Whitfield, M Kocsis

Thanks everyone

*Shirley & Carol*

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