



# Brentwood Secondary College

## Online Newsletter Subscription

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### Principal's Report

With two weeks of Term 3 left it seems as if 2008 has simply flown by. Students studying VCE unit 4 subjects have just seventeen days of timetabled classes left in addition to the October test program that will run early in Term 4. Many of our VCE teachers are offering extra classes for students during the term break and I hope that you encourage your son or daughter to make the most of the opportunities available to them in order that they might achieve their best in the final exams.

Perseverance, commitment and determination come to mind as the parent/teacher interviews have taken place this week. This form of communication allows the parent, teacher and student to gain a clearer understanding of a student's progress - academically, socially and attitudinally. The beaming smiles on students' faces as they departed interviews, gave a clear indication of their levels of achievement gained through perseverance with and commitment to their studies. In most cases both student and parent were present at the interview providing a forum for clear communication and teamwork to consider improvement. One of the issues identified by teachers is that some students and parents who could benefit from discussing strategies for improvement in academic progress did not book an interview.

Litter is one of the problems faced on a daily basis by the College. I never cease to be amazed by the amount of paper, plastic, food scraps and often whole lunches (probably prepared by yourselves), that are thrown on the ground on a daily basis by students. Food scraps are one of the worst elements of litter as they help the spread of vermin, in particular rats and mice. Currently we roster six students each afternoon to undertake yard duty, where they are required to clean up the litter dropped by their fellow students.

While there has been an increase in the number of bins placed around the College, the most heavily littered spaces seem to be close to the bins, where it appears that 'near enough is good enough' is being applied. I ask the support of parents to encourage their children to place their waste in a bin rather than dropping on the ground for someone else to pick up. Please encourage your children to take pride in their school and their environment.

Encouragement for students to take pride in their school, in their school environment and in the way they present themselves is a continuous exercise. It would assist greatly if students arrived at school in full school uniform, thus removing many negative interactions between students and staff. I encourage you to consider the following words in conversation with your son or daughter.

*Watch your thoughts; they become words  
Watch your words; they become actions  
Watch your actions; they become habits  
Watch your habits; they become character  
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny*  
(Anon)

*David Shelton, Assistant Principal*

### Dates and Deadlines

9 Sept	District Sport – Year 7
12 Sept	VTAC Choices Due
19 Sept	School finishes at 2.30pm

## **Junior School**

The students have settled in well this term to their subjects and many students recently achieved pleasing Interim Reports. We also appreciated the feedback parents gave that was related to our mid term reports.

Congratulations to the students who were involved in the recent school production 'The Wiz' and our Interschool sporting teams.

A reminder that all year 7 and 8 students should have a Brentwood school bag as this is part of our uniform requirements for all students in Junior School. Also we ask your assistance in ensuring that your daughters T Bar shoes are in good repair and fastened prior to coming to school. A number of girls are wearing T bar school shoes that are either broken or not fastened properly and this creates an occupational health and safety issue if an injury results from poorly secured footwear.

A big thank you to parents for providing absence notes when their son/daughter has been ill/away. Such notes also help keep track of student attendance data. Students requiring uniform passes need to bring a note from home when seeing the Coordinators before school.

### **Study Skills**

A select number of year 8 students recently participated in a study skills session organised by Ms Plant (Year 8 Coordinator) and the Peer Support Leaders with Ms Wright. The students honed their skills on managing their study time and being better organised for their subjects. We hope these students gain the benefits of being involved in this process.

### **Yr 8 Camp, 2008**

We have almost 100 students who have applied for camp this year. It is not too late for your child to participate! Contact the year 8 coordinators to register your child's name and make the necessary payments at the Main Office. Don't forget, if you receive the Educational Maintenance for your child, this can be used to pay for the camp. Contact the Business Manager for further details.

A further reminder to camp participants, the last instalment of \$120.00 is due on Friday 19 September at the end of this term.

### ***Junior School Team***

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## **Middle School News**

As Term 3 is nearly at an end, here are some friendly reminders from Middle School.

The next payment is due for year 9 camp. Please pay at the main office.

Year 10 students are reminded that they need to organise their Work Experience Placement (running 24 to 28 November). Please see the Careers/Pathways team to get the required forms.

Year 9 students need to start thinking about their Work Experience Placement for 2009 now! There are a number of popular venues that are already filling for next year, so start looking into Work Experience opportunities now.

A reminder that if you are seeking employment or have just started a new job you need to get a Tax File Number form from the Careers/Pathways team.

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

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## **A Unique Experience**

Imagine the sun prickling your skin, blue skies, the smell of eucalyptus trees and black boys, the long-wide roads with no end, a film of dirt constantly covering your skin and cold showers.

A place where everything slows down and time stands still. A place where people gather, celebrate and share the knowledge of the land, its people, customs and culture and learn the different ways of indigenous and non-indigenous people.

This place is the home of the Garma Festival of Traditional Culture. It is the annual celebration of the Yolngu people (Aboriginal people of North East Arnhem Land). This festival was held on the 7-12 August 2008 where indigenous and non-indigenous came to participate in forums, workshops and the Cultural Tourism Program.

The forums looked at real issues like climate change and land use management, economic development and how to revitalize remote Australia. The festival also provided indigenous people with the opportunity to develop their skills in linocuts, music, recording and multimedia.

The Cultural Tourism Program is a popular activity among festival participants. It provides a unique experience to learn about the Yolngu people and visit remote areas where a permit is required. The program is divided into male and female programs. While I was there, the men made their own spears and hunted fish whereas women learnt about bush foods, bush medicine and made their own baskets.

As night fell, participants gathered to watch the traditional bunguul performances. Aboriginal men, women and children from the region and

other remote locations wore bright colours and decorated their bodies with white clay to perform traditional dances.

For me, I will always remember how generous the Yolngu people were and how they have opened their arms to non-indigenous people. Through regular involvement in the festival participants are continuing to build stronger relationships with the Yolngu people. I will never forget how this relationship makes both indigenous and non-indigenous people feel.

*Raquel Woods, Teacher*

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## **'Battle for Australia' Commemoration Excursion**

This year is the first time that the Battle for Australia has been acknowledged as an event to be formally recognised throughout Australia. The battle for Australia is a commemoration to honour the courage, sacrifice and service of Australians and their Allies who repulsed Japanese attacks on Australia, on the Kokoda Track, at Milne Bay, on the Coral Sea, and in other fiercely fought actions during the perilous days of the Pacific War (WWII).

Year 10 history and ESL students who have been studying this war were lucky enough to attend this ceremony on 3 September and were honoured to be able to lay down a wreath that the school generously donated on their behalf. It was a great opportunity for students to hear a wide variety of speakers including Nathan Buckley and the Federal Minister for Veteran's Affairs, Alan Griffin. There were flyovers from the RAAF and the naval guard was also there. It was a moving event and all students had a fantastic experience.

*Sarah Burrows, History Teacher*

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## **Sports Round-Up**

### **Year 8 Girls Basketball**

Two very competitive girls' basketball teams participated in the Waverley District competition at Dandenong Stadium on Friday 22 August.

Our 'A' team finished the day with 4 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss only being beaten by the powerful Mt Waverley side.

Our 'B' team won 4 matches by huge amounts and had 1 loss again to Mt Waverley Secondary College.

Both teams finished second in their competitions and all of the girls should be congratulated for their endeavour and the great sportsmanship they showed when they were thrashing other teams.

Often the referees would ask them to play half court defence to give the other team a chance to score.

Well done to all players and a big thank you to our wonderful student coaches Brianna Smith and Ashlee Rind and our scorer Georgia Byron.

### **'A' Team**

Lauren Cruse	Meg Wrench-Joseph
Cassie Rowe	Soraya Owens
Adele Fox	Leila Durrant
Alison Knight	Mel Stone

### **'B' Team**

Lesina Lalotoa	Aisha Jammeh
Mia Piljencic	Kristy Bourdakis
Sarah Bigg	Phianna Canning
Caitlin Cross	Georgia Harkness
Chloe Nanscawen	

*Suzanne Plant, Coach*

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## **Community Corner**

### **Glen Waverley Cricket Club**

The Glen Waverley Cricket Club is a powerhouse in the Southern Cricket League, and the perfect place to start, or continue your cricket career. Registration day will be this Sunday, between 10.00am – 12.00 noon at Brentwood Reserve, Maylands Crescent, Glen Waverley.

### **Ultimate Tennis Melbourne @ Wheelers Hill Tennis Club**

Enrol now and receive a free tennis racquet to the value of \$45. For more information contact Karen on 9802 8170 or 0403 454 554

### **Glen Waverley Uniting Church Annual Fete**

Corner Bogong Ave & Kingsway Glen Waverley  
Saturday 18 October 8.30am – 2.00pm. Pedal cars, arts & crafts, animal farm, treasure stall, pre-loved clothes, great food, live band, books, paintings, collectables, all things Christmas, Waverley Calisthenics, Highvale Primary School Choir and much, much more!!!

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## **Canteen News**

Mon: V Sullivan, L Shaw  
Tues: J Stebbing  
Wed: C Huebner  
Thur: S Remmington, I Wilmott  
Fri: L Smith, M Tyler, M Williams (L)

Thanks everyone

*Shirley & Carol*

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