



Brentwood Secondary College

Online Newsletter Subscription

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Principal's Report

At Brentwood Secondary College our staff uses a variety of methods to convey important information to parents regarding their child's education, such as the weekly newsletter, parent-teacher nights, work practice notices and semester reports. It has been our practice to hold parent information evenings early in term one. This year, rather than having separate evenings for each of the three sub-schools, we held a 'Meet the Year Level Co-ordinators' evening on 12 February. It was felt that this arrangement would be more convenient for parents with children in different year levels. This combined evening also gave parents the opportunity to hear from the full student management and wellbeing teams regarding their priorities for the year across all year levels. After the formalities, parents and staff had the opportunity to have a relaxed chat while enjoying refreshments. The evening was very well supported with over 65 families represented.

The Senior School evening on 19 February provided an opportunity for the Year Level Co-ordinators (YLCs) to explain to parents the specific requirements of the Victorian Certificate of Education (the VCE). Advice was given by the college educational psychologist, Maria Varelias, on how families can support their young people during these challenging years, particularly with regards to the importance of finding the balance between study, part-time jobs and their wellbeing. Margaret Stanley, the college Careers Coordinator, outlined her role in the college and the many ways in which she can support students and keep parents informed about the pathways available for their teenager into their preferred careers and into tertiary courses. Again the evening concluded with parents and staff having the opportunity to meet for informal discussions.

Yesterday afternoon the year 7 YLCs, the Home Group teachers and year 7 teachers held the annual activity afternoon and parent barbeque. This is an informal evening to give parents the opportunity to meet the staff and other parents. The year 7 afternoon is particularly valuable for parents who have children in secondary school for the first time, as they have the chance to put a face to a name, ask questions and give staff feedback about how their child is managing the transition from primary school to secondary school.

At the commencement of each year we hold a whole school assembly to welcome the new year 7 students to Brentwood. The assembly opened with two year 11 students, Angela Huang on viola and David Ho on piano, playing 'Bourree' by J. S. Bach. Angela and David are accomplished musicians and everyone in the hall appreciated their superb talent. The year 7 students were then clapped by the older students as each class was announced and their Home Group teacher led their students down the centre aisle to their seats. The final assembly of the school year is held to farewell the year 12 students on their last school day at Brentwood. The assembly concludes with the whole staff lining up in pairs along the centre aisle and forming an archway through which the graduating year 12 students proceed as they leave school to commence a new phase in their lives. There are lots of hugs and many tears as students and staff say goodbye. These two assemblies are lovely occasions and not only mark the start and end of the school year, but they also symbolize the bookends of each student's six years at Brentwood Secondary College.

Barbara Laidlaw, Assistant Principal

Dates and Deadlines

25 Feb	Year 7 Camp 1 begins, 7A,B,C,D&E Monday – Wednesday
27 Feb	Year 7 Camp 2 begins, 7F,G,H,I&J Wednesday – Friday
28 Feb	District Swimming
29 Feb	Senior Sport Round Robin
4 Mar	Year 8 Author Visit
5 Mar	District Sport – Year 8
6 Mar	Golf – Year 10-12
10 Mar	Public Holiday – Labour Day
11 Mar	Athletics Sports
12 Mar	English Test SAC 9.00am – 12.00noon
17 Mar	District Sport – Year 9-10 School Council Annual Reporting Meeting 7.00pm
21 Mar	Public Holiday – Good Friday School Holidays Commence
7 April	Term 2 begins

Student Accident Insurance

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) does not provide personal accident insurance for students.

- Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs.
- Student accident insurance policies are available through private insurance companies to cover medical expenses not met by Medicare.
- Schools and DEECD are not able to advise parents on whether to purchase such an insurance policy or which policy to purchase as individual families have differing needs.

Barbara Laidlaw, Assistant Principal

Tax File Numbers

All year 9 students who completed the three day “Getting The Edge” program at the end of 2007 also completed their Tax File Number application. To complete the form students now need to provide their piece of personal evidence.

Please bring your Birth Certificate, Overseas Passport or Australian Citizenship Certificate to the Careers Room for processing. Applications will then be sent to the Tax Office. A Tax File Number is needed for part time work.

Margaret Stanley, Careers & Pathways Manager

Education Maintenance Allowance

Holders of Centrelink pension/healthcare cards valid on 29 January 2008 may apply for EMA. EMA applications must be submitted to the school by 29 February 2008. Application forms are available from the school office. Please note late applications cannot be processed.

Claire Hutchinson, Accounts

Student Representative Council

Last Monday, 32 enthusiastic students spent the day working with David Mould on many skills to benefit the school on the many skills SRC members can develop to benefit the school. The new SRC members have been appointed and are eagerly awaiting to do their part in making our school community a better place. I would like to congratulate the following students on their willingness to become actively involved in this role:

Corinne Sanders	7B	Secretary
Luka Janicijevic	7G	
Benjamin Drinkwater	8F	
Belinda Donaldson	8J	
Deepika Gunda	8D	
Aaron Quick	8A	
Jessica Robinson	9H	
Aishwarya Kirubasankar	9E	
Dinuka Sampathie	9D	
Gunawardane		
Melanie Brown	9D	
Chris Mardiryan	9F	
Joshua Sheppard	9I	
Bruce Reardon	9H	
Paris Ballis	10A	
Dharshi Hasthanayake	10D	
Shatha Sukkar	10I	
Patrizio Briganti	10A	Vice President
David Wu	10J	
Justin Brown	10A	
Fiona Jong	11D	President
Hui Lin Ng	11F	
Ping Fang	11C	Treasurer
Christina Leong	11E	
Laura Stillitano	11H	
Ruttanunt Funchien	11C	
Jun-Wen Lim	11E	
Rosey McDonald	11F	
Kim Magor	11E	
Michelle Grant	12C	Treasurer
Jane Hart	12C	Public Relations
Carlee Mückner	12E	Vice President
Taryn Mazzarella	12E	
Caroline Lobo	12E	Secretary
Kristin Moore	12E	

Leigh Wright, SRC Coordinator

Middle School Home Group Captains

Congratulations to the 2008 Middle School Home Group Captains. The following students have been successful in their application;

Year 10

Homegroup	Captains
10A	Patrick Axford & Tayla Burns
10B	Jordan Cavanagh & Natalie DeLuca
10C	Danny Duong & Sahana Ganesh
10D	Natasha James & Casey Hare
10E	Anurag Kumar & Jordan Lee-Fraser
10F	Stelios Liousas & Larissa Mendes
10G	Pete Pennicott & Ellena Orologas
10H	Sebastian Purcell & Charlotte Rowe
10I	Gabi Tarabolsi & Nathania Tay
10J	David Wu & Evelyn Tsiambouris

Year 9

Homegroup	Captains
9A	Rachel Brian & Alex Bowden
9B	Susana Chen & Ryan Chan
9C	Marvin Delija & Jess Eden
9D	Omar El-Khub
9E	Mark Janecki & Sohaib Ishtiaq
9F	Chris Mardiryan & Samantha Larkin
9G	David Michalowsky
9H	Mak Piljevic & Michael Pegiou
9I	Vignesh Sankaran & Jennifer Stepanov
9J	Chris Viccars & Aleesha Truman
9K	Joshua Wan & Samantha Winnicki

One role of a home group captain is to form a part of the executive which focuses on their year level, organising and managing the year level events and student issues. They also support their home group teacher, and are an example to the year level in their punctuality, uniform, behaviour and attitude. Miss Katz, Mr Exton, Ms Atkins and I look forward to working with this enthusiastic group of students.

Monique Le Grove, Head of Middle School

Help Needed Urgently

German Exchange Program 2008

We now have 15 families involved in hosting German students as part of our exchange program but we desperately need one more host family for a boy. He has just turned 16, comes from a large family, likes sport, music and being with friends and has pets. He will need a place to sleep and

meals and will fit into your normal routine. Host families are offered a subsidy of \$400 to help with any cost incurred.

The German students arrive in 2 weeks and will be with us from March 5 to March 25. It can be a fabulous experience for families and I hope you will consider taking part.

Please contact Mrs Fisher as soon as possible if you can help.

School: 8545 0300
Mobile: 0459 579 529
Email: fis@brentwood.vic.edu.au

I look forward to hearing from you.

Ursula Fisher, LOTE Coordinator

Canteen News

New rosters are now being distributed and will commence on Monday 3 March.

Mon: H Paterson, G Thompson, L Creighton
Tues: S Du Bois, D Lawless
Wed: S Tighello, J Lindrea
Thur: C Williams, C Prosser
Fri: D Cragg, M Hayes

Thank you everyone.

Shirley & Carol
