



Brentwood Secondary College

Online Newsletter Subscription

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Principal's Report

As I have been preparing the Annual Report to the Brentwood School Community, I have had a growing feeling of pride in the students and staff of Brentwood Secondary College arising from the outstanding achievements in 2008. Brentwood is not a select entry school. We take students from our neighbourhood and as many students who live further away as we can physically accommodate.

Our Dux of 2008, David Wang, achieved an ENTER of 99.75, one of three scores above 99.0, putting these three students in the top 1% of all VCE students in Victoria. As previously reported, our five top VCE students had an ENTER ranging from 98.55 to 99.75 compared to the maximum possible ENTER of 99.95. Fifteen percent of our 2008 VCE cohort achieved an ENTER above 90 while 40% of our students were placed in the top 20% of the state with an ENTER above 80. These are excellent results by any measure. Our Further Mathematics results continue to be our best with Brentwood students performing very close to the top of the range when compared with like schools. Similarly great results were achieved in Geography, Japanese, Maths Methods and Specialist Maths.

Another indicator of the success of our college is demonstrated by an analysis of the destination data for the Class of 2008. Students receive a great deal of assistance in planning for this phase of the transition from secondary school to adult life with a team of staff from Careers & Pathways and Senior School. The round of offers for tertiary places for our Year 12 Class of 2008 is now complete with the data showing that over 90% of students received an offer for further study. Of the students who received an offer, 114 students or 66% were offered a university place, 50 or 29% were offered a TAFE place and a further 9 or 5% were offered a place with a private tertiary provider. It is pleasing to note that 48% of Year 12 students received their first choice of course.

The most popular university for the 2008 cohort Monash (35) followed by Deakin (24), RMIT University (17) and Swinburne University of Technology (13). The most popular TAFE is Holmesglen (16).

Today I had pleasure in formally welcoming our overseas students to their 2009 study year. For most it was a renewal of our welcome, but for seven students this was the first formal welcome to study at Brentwood. This relatively small group of students add to the richness of life and culture at Brentwood while studying in a language that is not their own and normally separated from all of their normal support of family and friends. It is no easy task but they were given a broad range of advice from one the overseas student elders, Tianqi (Boris) Wang about how to study, how to survive as an overseas student and the benefits of speaking and listening in English as often as possible. Tianqi achieved great results in his 2008 studies.

Finally, I would like to let you know about a public seminar being held at Monash University on Sunday 15 March at 2:30pm. The seminar is part of Brain Awareness Week and is entitled "Tips for a Healthier Brain". The speaker is Stephen Robinson, Chair of Brain Foundation Victoria and one of the parent members of the Brentwood Secondary College Council. Stephen is an Associate Professor in the School of Psychology, Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine at Monash University and has been researching the ways in which brain cells interact with each other and how these interactions change with the onset of dementia, stroke and other diseases. I will be there and hope that you will consider attending also.

David Shelton, Assistant Principal

Dates and Deadlines

12 Mar	Succeeding at Year 7 TLC 7.00pm
16 Mar	Year 8 Sport
17 Mar	Athletics Sports
19 Mar	Year 7 Injections
23 Mar	Year 8 Study Skills (Periods 2 & 3) School Council Annual Reporting Manual
24 Mar	Active Life Challenge 6.30pm
26 Mar	Year 12 English – Guest Speaker VCE Afternoon
27 Mar	Year 7 Sport
2 April	State Swimming Parent/Teacher Interviews 4.30- 7.30pm Families A-L
3 April	School Ends 2.30pm

Parent/Guardian/Teacher Interviews

Communication between teachers and parents/guardians is a critical factor in promoting student success at school. Student and parent/guardian/teacher interviews have for a long time been a core element of this process. The intent of this article is to outline changes to our student and parent/guardian/teacher conferences process for 2009 and the background to those changes.

As a result of significant changes to Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) policy with respect to ‘Student-free Days’, the common practice most secondary schools adopted in the past of giving students a day at home to conduct six and half hours of parent/guardian/teacher interviews throughout the afternoon and into the evening is no longer permitted. As a consequence of this and other industrial changes, the College will be conducting student and parent/teacher interviews between 4.30pm and 7.30pm only. We understand the restriction that this places on the capacity of parents to meet and speak with their child’s teachers – particularly in a large school such as ours, but the policy change is beyond the College’s control.

Our first parent-teacher interviews for this year will take place on Thursday 2 April 2009 for students with the surname A-M and Thursday 23 April 2009 for students with the surname N-Z.

The interviews will begin at 4.30pm and run through to 7.30pm.

We understand that despite the mitigating strategies being implemented, many parents/guardians in secondary colleges across the State may not get an opportunity to speak with all the teachers they wish. We trust parents/guardians will understand that this situation is beyond the control of the College as the policy is driven from the highest levels of the Department and Government.

Leon Lilly, Assistant Principal

Junior School News

Term one has been flying past with so much happening that the Christmas holidays are but a distant memory as students have immersed themselves fully into college life. Our year 7 students have adapted quickly to the challenges of secondary school and the year 8 students have made the transition well to their new timetable, this year with elements of both a vertical and horizontal curriculum. They need to ensure that they are well organised for their seven different subjects as well as their Sport Education block on a Wednesday afternoon. The year 9 students are ‘old hands’ at managing the greater number of subjects and classrooms, having experienced this last year, and are involving themselves in many aspects of the extra-curricular program such as sport, music, SRC and Rock Eisteddfod meetings.

The staff have enjoyed the opportunities to get to know the students and new families in less formal settings at our ‘Meet the Student Managers’ night and Year 7 Activities afternoon. An information session for year 7 families – ‘Succeeding at Year 7’ was also held this week. The first of two Study Skills sessions was held for our year 8 students last week, with the second half of the cohort to participate on March 23. This combined with Swimming sports and preparations for Summer team sports underway, it has been an eventful start to the year.

Most of our year 8 and 9 students will be aware of the camps program offered at Brentwood. In Week 8 of Term 4 both year level camps are run. The year 9’s have the opportunity to join the exciting Tasmania tour and the year 8 camp will again be lots of fun at Roses Gap in the

Grampians. Students will be given important details at their next year level assembly and parent information letters will be given to the students to take home along with requests for deposits to secure their places on the camps.

We are very excited to announce that we have been able to reschedule the year 7 camp at Forest Edge. As parents are aware the Orientation camp was cancelled due to the risk presented by the bushfires. Fortunately the campsite had a vacancy in October that we were able to take up. The camp will run in a similar format to what was previously planned, with 7A –E on Camp 1, Monday 19 – Wednesday 21 and 7F – 7J on Camp 2, Wednesday 21 – Friday 23.

Interim reports are to be written by all teachers over this week in preparation to send home to parents in week 7.

A reminder for all students to ensure that their lockers are locked with a secure padlock and that their spare key is given to their home group teacher.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to call your relevant student managers.

Year 9 - Mrs Judy Anderson (Assistant Head of Junior School) and Ms Victoria Gallucci

Year 8 – Mr Bill Exton and Ms Tracey Campion

Year 7 – Mrs Sonja Ardley and Mr Shane Hunt
Head of Junior School - Ms Suzanne Plant

Junior School Team

Sporting Achievements

Over the summer holidays and during the beginning of this term Brentwood has had many students excelling in their chosen sports.

James Ke

James, a year 11 student, represented Victoria at the 2009 Australian Speed Skating Championships. He won 3 Gold medals in the senior men's 1000m, 3000m, & 5000m; a Silver medal in the senior men's 500m; and a Bronze medal in the Senior men's 200m. Outstanding achievements!

Sam Kassianou, Jake Matchett & Alex Tapanes

All 3 boys were part of the Victorian Softball team that competed at the National Softball Championships in Perth earlier this year. The

team won 11 out of 13 games qualifying them for the Grand final where they demolished the ACT 7-0. Awesome effort!

Beth Alexander

Beth, a year 10 student, was invited up to the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra for a week of intensive walk training during January. She was training twice a day, lounging around famous athletes such as Jared Tallent (Olympic Silver & Bronze medallist), Jana Rawlinson (Commonwealth Gold medallist), Robbie Crowther (long jumper). Beth also had an inspirational one on one motivational chat with Nathan Deeks.

Marko Ivosev

Marko, a year 10 student, has recently competed in Penrith at the Australian Open Water Nationals. He was placed 4th in the U/15 10km event and 5th in the U/15 5km event, swimming PBs in both events. An amazing effort especially competing in two long distance events in such a short period of time!

If you have excelled in your sport we would love to hear about it!

Kim Nash, Sport Coordinator

Brentwood Athletics Carnival

The Brentwood Athletics Carnival is being held on Tuesday March 17 at Duncan Mackinnon Reserve, Murrumbidgee. All students will be bussed to and from the track and are encouraged to wear house colours. If your child would like to be dismissed from the track they will have needed to complete a pink dismissal form that has been available from the main office.

Also if you (the parent) were planning on attending the carnival to cheer on your child, you will need to notify me (Miss Nash) by Monday 16 March, at the latest, to organise an entrance pass. On the carnival day you will need to produce the entrance pass to be allowed to enter the grounds – if you cannot produce it, you will not be allowed to enter.

It is also highly recommended that students be aware of the weather conditions on the day. Students should remember to slip, slop, slap, and drink plenty of fluids throughout the day. There is NO canteen available. Please bring enough snacks, lunch and water for the entire day.

Kim Nash, Sports Coordinator

Community Corner

Waverley Victory Football Club

Under 14 Girl & Under 13 Boy Soccer players wanted. Enquiries please contact Leo Bevacqua 0418 332 783.

Canteen News

Mon: S Newsom, J Smith, M Yegorian (L)

Tues: Athletics Day

Wed: J Stebbing, D Harper

Thur: C Kirwan, C Williamson, M Yegorian
(L)

Fri: H Chui, J Knight, M Cheng

Carol & Liz
