I am frequently asked what it is like being a principal. My answer is always a rephrasing of a response I heard many years ago. ‘Being a principal is the best job possible with some of the most challenging days imaginable. Fortunately the challenging days are rare while the rewarding ones are many. Below I share just a few examples of the many wonderful opportunities my role has provided in just this past fortnight.

The importance of student voice
Recently four of our year 10 students participated in the national Student Principal for a Day Program. Each brought fresh eyes and ideas to the topic being considered. Emily, Parrisah, Gus and Alex intelligently shared their points of view on a diverse range of immediate and longer term proposals, taking into account the broad interests of the school community not only their own. Sharing my work with the students on this day reinforced my belief in the benefit of providing genuine and significant opportunities for students to contribute to school change and improvement.

Faure Requiem – Singing with pride and passion
While not a school event, I recently attended a performance of Faure’s Requiem at St Paul’s Cathedral. The conductor was Kathleen McGuire, our Acting Head of Music. Our group was surprised to discover that Kathleen was a former teacher at our school. The conductor was Kathleen McGuire, our Acting Head of Music. Our group was surprised to discover that Kathleen attended Brunswick SC over a decade ago now. The performance of Faure’s Requiem at St Paul’s Cathedral was heart-warming to talk about the joy she finds in singing and the importance of the community choirs she belongs to in her life.

Learning teams - Maximising teacher impact on student learning
The most important meeting on our school calendar is the weekly Professional Learning Team. Its purpose is to provide opportunities for teachers to work in small groups on the teaching strategies and approaches they know will make the most difference to student learning. Classroom observation, where teachers visit one another’s classrooms to give feedback on what students are doing, learning or producing is a critical ingredient of these teams.

I am encouraged to walk past one of the PLT meetings the other week as the teachers were discussing the feedback students had given individually or on small groups to the questions below.

1. What are you learning?
2. How will you know you have been successful?
3. What things does your teacher do to help you learn and remember?
4. What are the best ways for you to learn?

Here is the briefest selection of student responses to the question about the best ways for you to learn.

“Principal for a Day was a great experience that I really enjoyed. My favourite part of the day was being able to participate in a meeting and be able to share my ideas and opinions.”

Parrisah Ebrahimi Rerakis
Yr 10

“Principal for a Day was a great experience that I really enjoyed. I particularly enjoyed learning how different decisions impacted on the school and the principal directly.”

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Gus Cox
Yr 10

Student Principal for a Day Schedule

• Daily Staff Announcements
• Discussion on Assistant Principal /Principal roles with Ms Alison Sanza
• Pro and cons of uniform trousers samples supplied by Uniform Shop
• Impromptu meeting with Timetabler, Mr Arayne, about Semester 2 Specialist Subjects
• Chamber Concert check in
• Presentation of new features in the Compass Portal with company owner
• Finalising articles and photos for the Brunswick Star
• Meeting with Ms Goss on lifting work practices of students in the 3-3.8 band

We participated in a national program called “Student Principal for a Day” which consisted of the four of us shadowing our Principal, Vivienne Tellefson, for a day. It was a very interesting day; we learnt heaps about both the major decisions and tiny little problems that can arise in relation to running a school. Ms Sanza also talked about the role of Assistant Principals and other leadership positions in the school. My favourite part of the day was probably talking about the new things that will be happening at our school soon.

Emily Wood Trounce
Yr 10

Having the chance to observe Mrs Tellefson doing her job was an excellent opportunity. I thoroughly enjoyed learning about all the steps and precautions a principal makes before allowing changes to the school. Almost everything that the principal discusses is heavily debated by the staff. This usually leads to the best outcome due to the increased demographic allowed to participate in the issues. I learnt that it is important to discuss key ideas with more than one person if you wish to get a greater understanding and come to an agreeable conclusion. All these skills are important to run a school and be a principal for the day.

Alex Luksetto
Yr 10

I particularly enjoyed learning how different decisions impacted on the school and the principal directly.”

Vivienne Tellefson
Principal

Opera singer Deborah Cheetham’s “Pie Jesu” was exquisite. It was also a great privilege to hear Sarah singing with such passion and pride.

Our ultimate goal at Brunswick is for our students to live fulfilling lives beyond their time at school. It was heart-warming to talk to Sarah about the performance about the joy she finds in singing and the importance of the community choirs she belongs to in her life.

Student Principal for a Day

Vivienne Tellefson
Principal
Year 7 COGS
Hi I’m Ellie Constantinou from 7N. I have just started school at Brunswick Secondary College. Every second Friday all of the Year 7 students meet at the Auditorium for a COGS session. We talk about expectations with behaviour and personal responsibility. The last COGS session we had was a presentation session where Year 7 students received many positive comments from a number of their teachers. We were also rewarded with special certificates. There were lots of students who have done extremely well in their work practices and they also received rewards. I received four awards and an envelope with an iTunes voucher in it. I was so grateful that my teachers had been impressed with the work I had been doing this year. I like meeting together for COGS and I look forward to attending them for the rest of the year and when I am in future year levels too.
Ellie Constantinou  Yr 7

Year 8 COGS
COGS is a group assembly where students can share their achievements and triumphs with each other and their teachers. We have been talking about how to organise and prepare ourselves, as well as all the benefits and rewards that come with having excellent work practices. We also play some games with the older students which is a great interactive addition to COGS.
Sasha Gillies – Lekakis  Yr 8

Year 9 COGS
Here students share their reflections and experience of COGS

Year 10 COGS
One Tuesday we tripped off to COGS, thinking it was just going to be the same as every week, but all of a sudden we realised what was happening: Work Experience! COGS was very helpful in preparing me for Work Experience, and it taught me a lot about what to do in certain situations and how it all works. We covered things like you rights at work, resumes, applications and job searching and the like. That was especially helpful when we were looking for our placements as I personally didn’t really know how to go about it until we covered this. It was all interesting and I’m sure will come in handy when we leave school and attempt to get real jobs. Ms Kyle and Ms Jones were drilling their advice into us, and the days it seemed like it was too much, but it was because they wanted us to enjoy the experience and to get the most out of it. In the weeks leading up to Work Experience there was so much information jammed into each COGS session that I felt like I was dripping out of my ears, but it was all very useful and insightful. We learned about what we can expect at work experience and what to expect and OHS & protocol. The highlight of the whole program was me trying the play which was put on about peoples experiences at work experience. The days seemed to fly until it was the big week, but I felt like I was well prepared thanks to all of the activities and support we had received from COGS. My Work Experience week wasn’t like I expected it to be, but it was an experience, which is what matters in the end, and it wouldn’t have been as useful if it wasn’t for all the help we received in COGS.
Matthew Blair  Yr 10

Year 11 COGS
Yesterday during our Year 11 COGS session a group of guest speakers from Elevate education came into talk to us about useful study skills to maximise or VCE scores. This program was beneficial for all of us as we learnt about simple techniques which could help us effectively use our time and the most beneficial ways to study. Our presenter was young and had just starting uni, meaning he could relate to what we were going to experience in year 12 and told us of his own personal experiences and achievements. The most useful tip that I gained from this presentation was to use study designs off the VCAA website to know exactly what needs to be covered for each SAC and exam.
Louise Fisher  Yr 11

Year 12 COGS
Hi my name is Nikki Davis and I’m a Year 12 student. Within our Year 12 community every second Thursday we are involved in a group activity called team building. We are separated into smaller groups and then have to solve a task as we work together. I find that these activities really help us interact with other students from different social groups and really encourage us to forget about our studies for a while and relax. I really enjoy these sessions as they are usually hands on or make you think in a different sort of way that you do during your everyday classes.
Nikki Davis  Yr 12
During terms 1 and 2, students taking part in the Year 10 Geography elective visited CERES, a not-for-profit community environmental park and educational organisation located on 4 hectares of rehabilitated landfill in East Brunswick. The aim of the exercise was to apply our in-class focus on environmental change, the roles humans are playing, and ways of positively transforming human lifestyles to a local space renowned for its progressive and alternative sustainability practices.

During their time at CERES, students were exposed to an interesting array of sustainable practices, which are facilitated by volunteers from the local community, including organic gardening for the CERES on-site market. Another initiative is their community-led Bike Shed, where members of the public are able to build a bike using parts from donated used bikes, or learn to fix or maintain their own bike, with the help of skilled volunteer bike mechanics. The park also boasts a wide variety of energy saving innovations, including electric vehicles, environmentally-friendly buildings, an energy efficient house, and a number of renewable energy technologies, such as a small biogas plant, a variety of wind turbines and solar energy converters.

Keen geographer, Zac Coverdale “really enjoyed the CERES excursion and thought the organic gardens and all of the solar panels around the site were great!” Jack Vincent, on the other hand, was most impressed with “getting driven around in an electric car and having a ride on an electric bicycle.” Reflecting on the experience, Chris Kostoulas said “CERES is a very different place to where [he] would normally be. Everything is naturally grown, it is a place where they really care about the environment. They are very good with recycling used items and even make their own fertilizer from visitors’ organic waste.” Rasikh Najam summed up a key benefit of having an environmental park such as CERES in the local area, stating: “Everyone always understands environmental problems, but they don’t know what to do about them. After visiting CERES, I understand how we can contribute. I would like to thank the staff over at CERES for being so nice and welcoming.” Many more students were surprised an area such as CERES existed in our local surroundings and were enthusiastic about the array of community projects, events and facilities the organisation has on offer.

CERES is a public space which is open most days, has a popular organic café and regularly hosts a range of community events which are often free-of-charge and family-friendly! For more information, visit their website at www.ceres.org.au.
As part of the Year 7 English Curriculum students researched people from the past and present who have had a notable effect on society. Students recorded their information in the form of a biography and then gave an oral presentation in the first person (autobiography genre). On Tuesday 24th April 2013, Year 7 students transformed the Learning Centre into a Hall of Fame. BSC buzzed with excitement as Year 7 students shared their learning with parents, friends and their teachers.

Many famous and some not so famous people from the past and present, were represented and came to life via the students. Helen Keller and her teacher Anne Sullivan, Marilyn Monroe, Abraham Lincoln and Steve Jobs were amongst the first to arrive to this amazing evening. Madame Curie was proud to share her work in the area of Science and continue experiments to show her learning. Although a very busy woman, Oprah attended and talked about her philanthropy and generosity as well as her film career.

Leonardo da Vinci came along with his paint and easel and showed off some of his famous works of art. Prior to the evening many students were excited and nervous. At the end of the night I spoke to several students and asked them how they had felt at the end of the night. Many students said they thought ‘it was a great night’ and they ‘had fun’. 

I thank all Year 7 teachers for their work towards the Images of Greatness twilight event. I also thank the parents and staff for supporting this event, Your presence made it extra special and added to the success of the evening. I also thank the following students for agreeing to share their comments with me and the school community.

Muhammad Aziz 7M [ARCHIMEDES]:
During the Images of Greatness evening I was Archimedes, a famous mathematician. I found out about Archimedes when I was reading about horror films a few years ago. I chose Archimedes because of his contribution to society and because of the great problems he faced and solved. On the night we had to become our character and act like our character would have acted. This is what made the Images of Greatness evening a big success. I was quite nervous before the night started, but once on stage I was calm and relaxed. It was wonderful to see everyone’s creative work display as a ballroom and it was good to learn about ballet as I do ballet. I learnt about the people my class mates researched because they shared their work. After the night I felt proud of myself. I was asked many difficult questions and I am ashamed with confidence. I believe the night was a big success, the night I was nervous and anxious but also really excited. I thought it was funny seeing my peers dressed up as their ‘Images of Greatness’ person. I was surprised that I remembered all the information and every detail. I am glad we did this because it was great fun, and it will be one of the highlights for this year. I think this will be good for future Year 7 students. I thought it was a fun night.

Riley Skazos 7B [FERDINAND VAN ZEPPLEIN]:
Before the night I was nervous and anxious but I was also very excited. I thought it was funny seeing my peers dressed up as their ‘Images of Greatness’ person. I was surprised that I remembered all the questions I was asked and that I could answer all the questions. I am glad I was part of this great experience.

Long [Kyle] Tran 7K [CATHY FREEMAN]:
For Images of Greatness I was Cathy Freeman a female Olympians Champion. She was so great. To learn about her life and her story was so emotional. I felt great after the night because I introduced her life and her story to people who might not have known her. At first I was a bit nervous but I managed to get over it and I actually had fun. I loved answering the questions and joking around with the parents. I would love to do it again.

Meg Vincent 7U [NELSON MANDELA]:
The Images of Greatness night was an extraordinary experience for all the year 7 students to participate in. Students dressed up as the person they did their project on. Parents, teachers and SEAL students and interviewed the characters. Some used question prompts. Doing the Images of Greatness has helped me with public speaking. I liked because I have not done anything like this before and I love talking to people about a great person in the world.

Isabel Weaver 7R [MARILYN MONROE]:
I was Marilyn Monroe. Some of you may know about this but others do not. On Wednesday 24th April, we had the Images of Greatness event when every Year 7 students had to dress up as the famous person they look up to. I was Marilyn Monroe and I chose her because even though she did not have a good beginning, she made such a big impact on people’s lives. We had a lot of preparing for this. We had to make a poster, a timeline, a bio-riddle and we had to organise our props. I brought toiles to share. On the night I was very confident and excited. I think everyone looked nice and we all did a good job.

Angus Coverdale 7R [Ghandi]:
Before the night I was nervous but excited at the same time. It was hilarious seeing everyone turn up in funny clothes looking so different. Students dressed as the characters they studied. During the night parents were lovely as they went around asking questions, smiling and having a laugh when facts they found out were funny and interesting. When the night ended I wished we could keep going. I loved the night and it ran smoothly with no dramas. I loved it so much I wanted to keep going and mum had to drag me out.

James Kharma 7N [CONFUCIUS]:
The build up to the night was very rushed and I just managed to get my costume on time. When it was time to start, my stress levels went up. My stress levels fell as the night went on and I became more relaxed. I prayed that Confucius would do well.

At the end of the night when everyone had packed up, I was relieved that I had gone through with the presentation. I learnt a lot about Confucius and other great people from the past and the present.

Lewis Kimpson Drake 7R [ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER]:
On the evening of ‘Images of Greatness’ I was really tense. I was not sure if people would like my presentation. Getting asked questions was fun and not knowing some of the answers was embarrassing. Being Arnold Schwarzenegger was quite hard because he has done a lot with his life. I dressed as the Terminator, a character from one of his movies. The evening was really fun and exciting.

Clara Martin 7W [MARIE CURIE]:
For Images of Greatness I was Marie Curie, a Polish scientist who discovered Polonium and Radium which are two radioactive elements. Marie Curie was awarded a Nobel Prize and she was the first person to be awarded two Nobel Prizes. I chose Marie Curie because although she faced discrimination for being a woman, she was determined to go to University. In her lifetime only men went to University. I do not think that girls would be going to school today if it had not been for her. Images of Greatness was a fun night which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Emma Moustafa 7N [OPRAH WINFREY]:
Before the night I was really nervous but when I got to school I became excited. A lot of parents asked me questions and I answered them all. Sometimes some parents helped with answering the questions. I saw what other students did and I thought their presentations were amazing. I really had fun. It was a good night and I would do it again very confident and excited. I think everyone looked nice and we all did a good job.
Year 10
Work Experience

Work Experience Week ran from Mon 29th April to Friday 3rd May with over 180 placements in the working world and more than 25 teachers visiting or contacting students at their workplace during that time. Students are often anxious and nervous at the beginning of their work experience but by the end of the week they relax and become more confident individuals as they accomplish tasks, learn new things and understand the workplace a little better. It is a great opportunity for students to improve their communication skills because they are dealing with new colleagues and customers/clients all the time and need to adapt both their verbal and written communication accordingly.

Some students were lucky enough to gain part-time work or paid holiday work out of their placement. Many students found a focus for their future whilst others have identified what they don’t want to do. Teachers and employer feedback from the workplace has been overwhelmingly positive with many impressed by the maturity shown by the students and how well the students easily became part of the working staff.

The students should be very proud of the way they conducted themselves because the teachers here at Brunswick are extremely proud of them. Congratulations on a job well done!

Catherine Jones, Careers Counsellor

Here we share some of the students’ experiences and photos:

Timothy Giannitsis 10K (car mechanic)
It was a very enjoyable experience, I changed an oil filter, changed a gear box and manifold, it was fun. I learnt a lot of things there like how to service vehicles and I gained a lot of experience.

Rubayat Amin 10W (State Library)
I think my work experience at the State Library of Victoria was pretty good. I was with other students and we had a great time working together with the supervisors. We did tours and activities which were amazing and fun like “baby bouncing” where we sang and did activities with kids. We also had to deliver books and mail to people who work in the library.

Gary Mao 10U (Vic Roads)
Choosing Vic Roads for my work experience is probably my best decision I ever made. During the 5 days of work experience I’ve been in a rotation and trying all different things like learning about road structures, landscapes etc. I’ve been into several important meetings. Also, I have been getting to know a lot of engineering things.
I had a great time in Vic Roads because I’m not just blindly following what I need to do, I’m also getting to know why I’m doing it and what it is used for. It was great to work at Vic Roads, I recommend people who are interested in engineering to apply to Vic Roads for their work experience.

Suha Amani 10R (library)
I did my work experience at the Collingwood library. It was bit far from my house and I had to take 2 trains. It was nice to work at the library, there were a lot of good books about almost everything and there were also magazines and newspapers and in lots of different languages.
The library arranged some activities for the pre-school kids which was interesting and fun because I love kids. The activities were listening to stories, singing and doing craftwork. The children were cute and nice to me. I also had to find books that people have requested to read and have them ready for people to come and collect.

Bishrelt Otgonchimeg 10U (café)
I did work experience in a café called “Two Monks”. It was a great experience to meet a wonderful boss and team and to be an employee. I really enjoyed my work placement and was very happy about making my first coffee (cappuccino) and also to know more about waiter’s work and meet friendly customers.

Raja Mahmud 10U (KMART)
On my first day I was really excited and happy because it was my first time working. My first job they gave me was to fold jeans and to put things up. I really enjoyed it because the staff were helping me and showing me how things were done. I was really hungry the first day because I had lunch at 1pm and that was late but then the other days I had morning tea early so that was good.

Celeste Biancofiore 10S (primary school)
Chelsie Rowe 10S and I went to a primary school to help the teachers in their classrooms. We alternated between prep/1/2 classes and 3/4 classes and assisted with their reading, spelling and maths. It was really rewarding knowing that you have helped someone do something that they couldn’t previously do. It was overall a great experience and we both really miss it.
Year 10 Work Experience

Adrina Lim 10C [textiles boutique]
Work experience for me was absolutely incredible. I loved every bit of it! My work was at a textile boutique and I went with Evie Dunbridge 10N and the studio there was so inspiring and relaxed – not at all what I thought it would be like. The people were so much fun as well and the general vibe of the workplace in all honesty, made me want to stay longer than one week. We made a bunch of craft things about biology and more. I also had in-depth interesting activities. I also had an excellent time.

Madeleine Borg 10U [vet clinic]
Work experience exceeded all of my expectations. I got to work beside fantastic people who really put in effort to teach me about their job. I got to stand beside them as they operated on animals and talked me through what they were doing whilst checking out and identifying certain things for me. I got shown different vaccines and their purposes and how they are injected into the animal. I was also allowed to witness consultations which taught me more than observing surgery could have. Overall, an exceptional experience that I am eternally grateful for.

Amy Lee 10S [animal welfare]
I really enjoyed my placement at an animal shelter at Coldstream even though the average temperature when I got up was 6 degrees Celsius. The most interesting thing was the huge variety of the staff, customers and animals. My first day I worked on patching in to a VM cluster. The next day we did testing and it was great, I enjoyed it a lot. There were a lot of machines used for specific sections of the shoe. This work experience was interesting to me because I did not know anything in particular about shoe repair.

Emily Wood-Trounce 10R [primary school]
I went to a primary school and I helped to run some classes and supervised the kids at lunch. It was lots of fun, the kids loved me so much! I made heaps of friends in the grade 1-2A, because those were the classes I worked with. One girl was almost crying when we left. I learned a lot about teaching and handling kids. My favourite thing about the placement was how they all loved my handwriting and colouring in skills – INSIDE THE LINES! In all, it was a wonderful experience and I was very sad to leave.

Kelly Tran 10C [law firm]
I did my work experience at a law firm with Jackie Constantinou 10U and it was one of the most enjoyable things I’ve experienced. I was able to visit all the courts in Melbourne (from Magistrate’s Court to County Court and Supreme Court to the Children’s Court and to the Court of Appeals). During my work experience I got to meet different people from lawyers to a Supreme Court Judge. I got to sit in on different cases at all the different courts. Overall, it was an enjoyable week and I owe that all to the people who worked at the law firm.

Efelia Katiforos [city of Moreland]
I worked at the Moreland City for my year 10 work experience. When I first arrived my supervisor Sally assigned me to work on the Youth Centre opening in Coburg Gaffney Street. The Oxygen team had been trying to get the building funded for close to 5 years, and now it was finally being made. I was put in charge of surveying some of my peers in order to get an idea of what people would want us to put inside of the facility, and after getting about 50 or so surveys I moved on to being in charge of hosting some of the events. It’s going to be opened around July 13th so I have a lot of time to plan things even after I finish my week. So all in all it has been a positive week and I’m going to continue helping the charity and the great people who I worked with.

Mathew Blair 10S [warehousing]
I arrived at my work experience excited but nervous and not knowing what to expect. I started working in the office but quickly moved into the warehouse. There I was in for non-stop tapeing, packing, unpacking and loading. It was exhausting work which I quickly grew tired of. The biggest part of the job was unloading a 6x3x3m shipping container full of spoons and toothpicks. At the end of the week, I realised that this kind of work didn’t suit me and I’d rather do something more creative.

Helen Gumela 10C [medical centre]
–It has made me think about going into this field because I learnt a lot and I have the stomach to look at wounds and not freak out. I enjoyed work experience and would like it if I could have had another week.

Dylan Silke 10S [IT/IT]
I went to work in the IT department of a health insurance company. The first day I worked on patching in to a VM cluster. The next day we did testing on new laptops and discovered errors in the GPO. I really enjoyed seeing that my interest has a job attached and I really enjoyed the problem solving aspect of it and it was challenging work.

Joshua Suarez 10N [shoe repairs] – work experience for me was interesting and an amazing experience. The shoe repair store I worked at was full of surprises because I did not know anything in particular about shoe repair. The people were very friendly and learnt all the process of repairing shoes and how difficult it was. There were a lot of machines used for specific sections of the shoe. This work experience was great, I enjoyed it a lot.

Helena Gumela 10C [medical centre]
–It has made me think about going into this field because I learnt a lot and I have the stomach to look at wounds and not freak out. I enjoyed work experience and would like it if I could have had another week.

Melanie Lasslett 10S [aeronautical engineering] I did work experience at Gipps Aero and it was awesome. Everyday was in a part doing something different. The days that I was with the aeronautical engineers were really cool because they taught me a whole lot of things about their jobs and what they have to do. One day I worked on a plane that came in for maintenance and it was fun taking apart the inside of the plane and seeing underneath the floor panels.
Medieval Day

Brunswick Secondary College’s Medieval Day for year 8 students was yet again a fabulous day of engagement in learning and history. This annual event is a great opportunity for students to experience different aspects of medieval culture first hand. Students are currently studying Medieval History in Humanities and they developed their understanding of life in medieval times, while trying on medieval clothing, creating a shield wall and playing a game of Viking Kubb. Students participated in a range of activities including; Music and Dance, Arms and Armoury, Costumes and Lifestyle and Games.

Year 8 students joined in a barbecue at lunch time and spoke positively about what they had learnt. Thank you to the wonderful student helpers: Amelia, Elise, Brigitte, Bronwyn, Wendy, Sam and Joseph.

Katherine Houston, Humanities Co-ordinator

During Term 2, the Year 8s enjoyed the excitement and activities of medieval day. This day allowed us to experience different activities from medieval times such as wearing knight’s armour and forming a shield out of Bayeux tapestry. We learnt how to throw axes and about different kinds of medieval weaponry. We also learnt about what it was like to live in the medieval times and all about the feudal system. We experienced different kinds of music and what it would be like to live without technology. These were all really rewarding and resourceful experiences that will greatly assist in our humanities classes. Thank you to History up Close for coming and teaching us all about the medieval times and our teachers for following up this learning in our classes.

Catherine Farah, Year 8

Chamber Concert

Brunswick Secondary College’s annual Chamber Concert was a great success! After a long day of rehearsals and many hours of organisation, the school community, family and friends, enjoyed a wonderful night of musical talent from students from year 7-12. The items showcased included: the College’s Concert Band, Jazz Combo, Brunswick Voice, string ensemble, percussion ensembles, the newly formed Brunswick English Learning Centre Drummers and our VCE soloists and bands.

Everything ran smoothly and students were engaged in and respectful of one another’s performances. This was the first time that we have held a music event in our school Gym rather than the Performing Arts Room. It was exciting, and a relief to see that this was embraced, leaving us with the best turn out ever! On behalf of all the students, I would like to thank all the Instrumental Music Teachers for their hard work, dedication and patience together with other supporting staff for their behind the scenes work.

A special thank you to Dr Kathleen McGuire, our acting music coordinator while Ms Suzanne Kurick is on leave. Kathleen had the primary role in organising and running the Chamber Concert. It was a fantastic evening for all. We hope that you will all come to our school’s first Production of FAME (8.00pm Thursday and Friday 20/21st June) and our Annual Bands Night (7.30pm Tuesday 25th June) later this term!

Lanissa Li, Music Captain
Day

On Tuesday the 7th of May, Brunswick Secondary held a breakfast in honour of the upcoming Mother’s Day. In years past, Brunswick has held the event for International Women’s Day, but unfortunately this year that wasn’t possible, so instead we decided to celebrate Mother’s Day.

This worked really well because it meant that instead of just celebrating women’s achievements throughout history, we could focus on the really immense effects that our mothers have on us personally and the amazing effort they put in. This was reflected in the song written just for the occasion by Blake Everett in Year 10, and the three speeches by Mallory, Hai and Younis, in which each spoke about their love and admiration for their own mums. We were pleased to have a great turnout of both students and mothers alike, and it was great to be able to hold an event that really brought together the school community.

Maggie O’Shea Debating Captain, Year 11

The LaTrobe University Mooting Competition is in its second year and this year eight schools participated. Brunswick Secondary College entered two teams from the Year 11 Legal Studies class.

These students were:
Ella Fusca
Xavier Dupe
Semhal Gebremedhin
Joey Conroy
Jana Kerr

Students were presented with a legal case for which they had to prepare arguments for both the accused and the prosecution. They were also required to observe correct court protocol and make their submissions before a judge (a senior law lecturer from the university). Teams were scored on a range of criteria including legal research, teamwork, understanding of the relevant legislation and case law and their oral presentation skills.

For the second year in a row, Brunswick teams did extremely well. Team 1 won one of their moots, while Team 2 won both heats and moved into the finals. The final moot took place on Thursday 30th April, at 6 pm at the Federal Court in the city. Our opponents came from Templestowe College. Family and friends watched as Jana, Joey and Semhal faced a panel of three judges and presented their submissions confidently and clearly.

It was with quiet confidence and much anticipation that we waited to hear the result. We are proud to announce that Brunswick Secondary College were judged the winners of the 2013 competition. Students were presented with LaTrobe University hoodies, book vouchers and the school has been awarded with a trophy that will soon be displayed.

Students gain an enormous amount from involvement in enrichment and extension programs such as this competition, and we look forward to offering this opportunity to Legal Studies students again next year.

Student Reflection

The mooting experience was so rewarding and an overall great experience. In the lead up to the competition, preparing for it by regularly meeting up with the group was so much fun and looking back on it, I’m really going to miss it. The hard work in preparing for this competition definitely paid off! I would most certainly recommend year 10 students to enter this competition if they choose to pick Legal Studies as a VCE subject in 2014. I would like to thank our teacher Rosalie Fourniotis for supporting us to do our best. We have all learned so much!

Semhal Gebremedhin Year 11
Personal Glimpses

Year 10 Health Simulated Babies Program
This term in Health class we have been learning about teenage pregnancies. Because of the subject of teen pregnancies Ms Goss gave us the opportunity to take home a simulated baby. At the start I was very excited, the baby seemed so cute and interesting to observe. It would giggle when it was happy and cry when in need have a nappy change, feed or when it needed its mum or dad's comfort.

This was a great chance for me to see for myself what looking after a child would be like. However, it was also a bit of an interference with school. I couldn't focus in class and when it took a long time to calm the baby down it made me very tired. It was also disturbing at night. My baby woke up on three separate occasions.

You can't just want to have a baby because it is cute and cuddly. You actually have to willing and able to fulfill all its needs.

Meron Merles, Year 10

Year 10 and 11 Drama students enjoyed the opportunity to have a combined excursion. We had lunch at Southgate and then saw the production "Beached" at Melbourne Theatre Company.

The play satirised reality television and incorporated some creative multimedia. For many students, this was their first time attending the theatre. Back at school the Year 10 students are writing reviews of the play, and VCE students are completing a SAC analysing various elements of the production.

Sarina Barkho, Year 11

Beached

Legal Studies and Australian Politics
In term two Victoria University held a law workshop called Legal Studies and Australian Politics program (LSAP) at the beautiful Vic Uni campus located off Little Collins Street in the city.

Students from a variety of different schools are put into mixed teams and participate in a range of activities including mock trials, mock UN Security Council, debating, film-making etc. The programme went from 9.00am-5.00pm over three Saturdays and allowed students to develop their appreciation and understanding of the law and its formal procedures.

The workshop also pushed students to step out of their comfort zones and improve their public speaking ability. Younis Yehia (pictured left) and I are glad to have been given the opportunity to attend the programme. We definitely recommend it to future Legal Studies and Politics students.

Belal Hassoun, Year 12

Global Citizen Finalist – Rashi Singh
Congratulations to Rashi Singh, year 12, a finalist in the International School Student Awards presented by the Hon. Martin Dixon MP, Minister for Education, at Parliament House on 21 May. Rashi was nominated for the Global Citizenship Award based on her work in last year's Cultural Diversity week and her general friendliness and inclusiveness to all students. Rashi, who has a very positive view of Australia and Australian education, was later interviewed by SBS Punjabi and SBS Hindi radio.

Vic Roads Scholarship Awardee
I applied for a scholarship through Vic Roads, I had to get my parents to write something, I had to write something and I got Ms Sanza to write something about how I am going in school. I had to explain how the scholarship would help me at school.

This scholarship will help pay for school books and materials like drum lessons and text books. Chase from Vic Roads came last term and explained how the scholarship works and asked me send a copy of my reports to prove that I was doing well in school. This term Chase came to school and awarded me the scholarship.

Jordan Hood-Murphy, Year 10
Concert Band PS Tour
The Brunswick SC Concert Band had the wonderful opportunity to play at three of our feeder primary schools on Thursday the 9th of May. The students were a little nervous, but ultimately excited to play for the primary school students in their mini tour. There was a special excitement and reunion when some of the band members had previously attended the particular primary school. The Concert Band played a set of six songs accompanied by individual instrumental demonstrations, allowing each student to perform to their full potential.

Although tired and exhausted, all the members of the Concert Band were proud of what they had achieved. On behalf of all the students, we would like to thank Lyndal McLean, our energetic and enthusiastic conductor and Marc Matthews, our brass teacher who played the Tuba on the day. The tour was a wonderful learning and developing experience for the students, and as Music Captain, I am very proud of every student for playing so well and working as a team!

Larissa Li - Music Captain 2013

Year 10 Exams
The transition from year 9 to year 10 has been an interesting experience. With the change came a bigger workload, more complicated work and this has required me to have better organisational skills to achieve the best I can. One of the other major changes has been the inclusion of VCE style exams into our curriculum. This past week has required me to use these organisational skills to help me get the best out of my exams. Having the VCE style exams allows us to gain experience of what VCE exam conditions are like.

Although this week has been challenging, it has helped me gain an understanding of what VCE exams are like, which will help me in the coming years.
Owen Kittelty Year 10

Bullying is a very common problem amongst schools in Victoria. We at BSC believe that it is very important that everyone, especially school students, should be aware of the dangers involved in bullying and its terrible consequences. I wanted to enter our school into the Bullying ‘Stoppers’ competition that the Department of Education conducted because, as a Peer Support Captain, I wanted to show some initiative in tackling the issue. For the competition, the Peer Support Leaders and Blake Everett (Year 10) created an advertisement focused on anti-bullying concepts from the Bully Stoppers’ website.

The advertisement we submitted to the judges was in the form of a song with original lyrics and music. The message we wanted to deliver in our song provided helpful information for young people including where people can get support. Hopefully our song will contribute towards stamping out bullying.

As Peer Support Captain, it’s my duty to promote a positive and safe environment at Brunswick Secondary College where each member of our diverse community is valued. We had the pleasure to perform our song at the recent school assembly and it was a big hit!

To listen to our song, visit: http://www.brunswick.vic.edu.au/News/Latest%20News/Pages/Bully-Stoppers-Make-a-Stand%20Broadcast.aspx

“Make a stand, lend a hand!”
Helena Kakoliris, Peer Support Captain, Year 11
On Tuesday 7th May, 7S went on an excursion around the Melbourne CBD. We had to find our way to 26 places on our Map. They were spread all around Melbourne and we took many twists and turns to get to them. We ended up travelling about 14 KM as we travelled 11 KM by foot and 3 by tram. We had a lot of fun walking from one place to another but the best part of the day was eating jam doughnuts at the Queen Victoria Market. We managed to visit all places and meet all the other groups back at Federation Square by two o’clock. It was an extremely fun day but also extremely tiring. We walked very long distance and enjoyed the day very much. Thank you to Ms Hardy for organising this event and to all the parents who came along with us. The day wouldn’t have been possible without them.

Aaron Petsios, Yr 7.
Graeme Clark is a renowned scientist, well known for his invention of the bionic ear, giving hearing to the deaf and impaired worldwide.

Casey Goodman and I, together with Science Coor-dinator, Anna Madden, had the privilege of being VIP guests at the ‘Graeme Clark Oration and Dinner’ on the evening of Monday the 29th of April. The Oration is an award night consisting of a one hour talk by the Graeme Clark award recipient. The winner this year, Geoffrey Lamb, was chosen due to his work with the reduction of poverty worldwide through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Geoffrey Lamb’s talk was titled “Global Health, Economic Growth and the End of Absolute Poverty: helpful evidence and hard challenges”.

Mr Lamb described the wonderful work of his and many other foundations on the issue of poverty and health, and the link between the two. He outlined that 35 million had been spent in Australia alone on HIV, Vaccines and education since 2000. However, he also stated to the shock of Casey and I that one in six Australian children still live in absolute poverty, proving there is still much more to do even in our country.

Other information he shared included the fact that in 1981, 1.9 Billion people lived in absolute poverty. This was dramatically reduced to 1.2 billion people in 2008. In 1960 20 million children were dying a year. In 2001 was reduced to 6.9 million a year.

His message was that there is amazing progress throughout the world in reducing poverty. However, this does not mean we can become complacent, we must still continue to act to reduce poverty!

After the inspiring talk, we were lucky enough to get a photo with Mr Geoffrey Lamb before sitting down for a delicious three-course meal that demonstrates just how blessed we are in Australia. After the oration, we appreciated the meal even more than usual. During the dinner many doctors and scientist approached us curious about the new generation, asking about our aspirations and goals. We were also able to learn about them.

For example, we met Dr Honeyman, who has worked in the biology research sector discovering a connection within the body to aid people with type 1 diabetes. Professor Len Harrison works at the Glen Institute, doing research on the immune system. His research is based on attempting to aid in the treatment of diseases that cause immune system to attack your own tissue. Both Scientists are very inspiring and intelligent people. Overall our time was educational and motivating. We were proud to represent the school. We just hope the students of the future can ask themselves as we did “What will we do to impact positively on global change?”

Rachel Biazzo, Year 12
Visiting the Werribee Zoo was a unique and unforgettable experience. The most important highlight for me was definitely the safari, in which I and my friends were completely astonished by the flawless imitation of African beautiful, wild scenery of the savannah.

Observing a wide range of animals in their natural habitat and knowing several of them were endangered species also helped me gain a deeper awareness towards the everchanging nature of our life.

On a side note, I was essentially pleased to see international students from different countries and age groups wholeheartedly enjoying the trip. They sat with local EAL (English as an Additional Language) students, made new friends and captured every moment of shared joyfulness.

During lunchtime, the initially unfamiliar vast plain of grassland facilitated many great conversations that brought everyone together closer than ever before. This excursion was undeniably a worthwhile practical substitute for the lessons we had been taught at school.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Ms Conley and Ms Fourniotis for their energetic involvement to the development of international students and EAL community at BSC.

Thank for everyone who took part in this excursion and look forwards to many more exciting events for the rest of 2013.

Hai Nguyen, International Student Captain
Successful school work is all about the work ethic you bring to your class. Students are being recognised for their hard work and dedication.

**Anthony Thomas**
Year 10
Anthony has made a huge improvement this year in the work ethic he brings to our class. Fantastic work Anthony - keep it up!
Tim James

During the past two years I've made a real improvement with my behaviour in class. I no longer get distracted in class by my friends and get on with my school work. This will help me in the future.

**Anthony Thomas**
Year 10

**Kadia Radeck**
Year 11
Kadia has shown great improvement through her persistence and effort in year 11 Media. Kadia took a result from a practice SAC and through her hard work, seeking help and study made a drastic improvement in her final result. She was able to take on the challenge of a difficult task and not let it defeat or overwhelm her. Instead she did everything in her power to ensure that she set herself up to reach her full potential.

**Lara Alexander**

This term before a SAC I have been going to before school media classes that have really helped me to improve. I was determined after getting below 50% in the practice SAC, but with hard work and help from Ms Alexander I am enjoying media and looking forward to next year.

**Kadia Radeck**
Year 11

**Huseyin Bator**
Year 9
Huseyin has displayed a growing commitment to his studies and learning. In English, Huseyin has made a concerted effort to focus on work in class plus submit homework tasks. His recent persuasive assignment was evidence of his increasing responsibility and work ethic, as his writing and grades have improved.

Good on you Huseyin!

**Shannon Widdeson**

This term I have made a real effort to listen and pay attention in class. This makes keeping on task and focussing easy. I have also improved with my homework – getting things in on time.

**Dilara Sahin**
Year 8
Dilara has displayed great dedication and focus in her work this term. She is a highly self-motivated student who has achieved some very good results. Well done Dilara!

I think I have improved in class because I try not to get distracted and don’t talk to my friends if it is not about class work. I also try to be early for my classes.

**Dilara Sahin**
Year 8

The Year 8 Creating Success class has just finished a group work unit creating a chocolate bar for which they designed an advertisement and a wrapper. They drew on techniques used by some of the big multinational companies, including Cadbury, Unilever, Holden, Apple, Black and Decker. Students analysed the use of language, visuals, colour, font and recognised the importance of identifying the target audience.

**Some student reflections**

We did an assignment on persuasive language. We selected ingredients to design our own chocolate, made a wrapper and an advertisement. It was a great learning experience for all of us and we all enjoyed it.

**Jordan Crowley**
Year 8C

On the 4th of June 2013, we made chocolates in our Year 8 Creating Success class. We had to decide on our own ingredients, make an advertisement and a wrapper. We successfully did all these things after looking at other advertisements, analysing them and tasting many different chocolates.

It was a great experience.

**Mohamoud Ahmed**
Year 8W

The Advertising Assignment was very enjoyable. We had the opportunity to create our own chocolates and to work in groups. We also got to choose all the ingredients we wanted.

**Rory Groves**
Year 8K
On Wednesday, 24th May 2013, 82 excited Year 7 students accompanied by 9 enthusiastic staff, gathered at school in preparation for their eagerly awaited 3-day adventure at the Kinglake Wilderness Ranges Camp. With goodbyes to family and friends marked, they climbed into the buses and departed. They arrived at their destination to sunny, clear skies and the promise of memorable experiences. The activities challenged them both mentally and physically - teamwork, responsibility and strategy were required for the giant seesaw activity, courage, determination and trust for the high ropes course, the leap of faith and the water course and finally persistence and fortitude for the bush walk. They returned on Friday afternoon exhausted but fulfilled and I’m sure, with stories that will filter through conversations over the next few weeks and years.

Alison Sanza, Assistant Principal

Camp was a wonderful experience. There were so many great activities and awesome life lessons. I met so many wonderful people who I never knew before camp. The people at the camp were very nice, they helped me overcome my fears. I did many things that I never knew I could ever do. My favourite activity was the water course. It was a few wires and ropes spread across a lake. We had to get to the other side, it was hard, everyone fell in. It was an awesome camp, I would definitely go again.

Angus Coverdale

Leap of Faith – After watching 15 brave Year 7s climb the 10 metre high telegraph pole for the Leap of Faith, I knew I had to have a go. The climb took much longer than I thought, and though I was securely strapped into a harness and belayed my entire group (go Group 1!) as I reached the top my arms were beginning to shake from fear. . .it was so much higher than it seemed from the ground! I sat perched on the top for a few terrifying moments before yelling out “Please catch me!” as I launched myself off. It was one of the scariest things I’ve ever done, and I felt amazing afterwards for facing that fear.

After me, Mr Tranter climbed gracefully to the top and stood one-legged in the ‘crane’ pose before his nimble leap, the only one of us to hit the red ball. He made it look so easy!

Simone Vukotic Teacher

I really enjoyed the camp this year and I thought it was the best camp I’ve had. We did six different activities and a special 7th one at the end on Friday. My favourite activity was the water course, we had to climb across 4 different rope courses and when we fell, we fell in to very cold water. I actually lost my shoe in the water and I never got it back. We did a lot of great activities including the leap of faith, high ropes course and the giant see-saw. The food was very nice and the service at the camp was very good. The leader of my group was very good and helped us a lot. I really enjoyed camp and I would love to be able to go again next year.

Thomas Johnstone

At camp I had a really good time. I was in a cabin with some of my friends which was exciting. One of my big highlights was the water course. The water course was the first activity I did at Kinglake. I fell in the muddy water 4 times. The water was all green and murky and there was mud all over the bottom. I was very cold when I fell in. Ms Nadia thought I would turn purple because I was so cold.

Angel Volpe
At year 9 bushwhacked this year we travelled to Bogong Outdoor Education Centre. We arrived at school at quarter to seven to wait for the bus and waited a long time and eventually went and picked up the other school, Diamond Creek Valley. As soon as we got there we met all of the Bogong instructors and played some get to know you games. They told us to call them by their first names to instil in us a sense of maturity, which I think everyone appreciated. That night we were plunged into the world of camping where our helper, Marty, told us what the weather conditions on Mount Beauty were we supposed to be camping the night and they weren’t great. Marty asked us to seriously think about whether we wanted to go camping there and we all took a vote on going up.

Everyone was so bright eyed and excited about being on the camp that everyone said a strong yes. The instructors were a bit sceptical about us going up but they appreciated our intent and dedication to camp. Squeezing those sleeping bags into the tiny holders was an experience no one will forget for a long time. In the morning we woke up and did our morning walk which was supposed to prepare us for the day. After that our group was sent to meet Russ our camp leader. We all had to take turns collecting stuff from the communal pile of things that were essential for the campout. The dreaded poo tube was amongst those things. This tube was used to transport the ‘waste’ from the camp spot back to the centre hygienically.

Everyone was disgusted and vowed that they wouldn’t use the tube. Russ laughed and basically said it was better out than in!

We took a small bus to the drop off point and put on our gear ready for the long walk. That was the first time most of us had seen snow, so it can’t be denied a snowball fight started after a few friendly selfies! Russ let us do as we pleased as we walked as long as it was safe. He said self management was important and that it was crucial that we started learning to tough things out and decide what was a good idea or not. Everyone hated the hike but when we got to the spot no one could have been happier. We plonked down and started eating snow; a soon to be common occurrence.

Bronwyn- my camp buddy- and my tent was set up as an example for everyone else, so that was a score for us. The teachers said we had one more hike before we settled in. I was not amused.

We got to the top of a peak on the mountain and the view was absolutely beautiful. We set up pretty quickly and got settled. From there we started thinking about dinner and cooked our first snow meal in the snow. It became apparent very quickly that it wasn’t getting any warmer and the sun was setting soon. Soon after dinner we went straight to bed. Later on I found out we had gone to bed at 7:30pm!!! The next morning we took a hike on a different part of the mountain and came across many native animals like wombats and the not so native rabbit and hare. It was so beautiful but extremely bright so everyone was constantly in sunglasses. We headed back to camp and packed up whilst we had lunch. Everyone had enjoyed the trip but it was good to be getting back to the centre and a real bed.

During the rest of the week we completed many other activities like the overnight hike, rock climbing, abseiling (something exciting for me) and canoeing. We all had the best time doing all these new outdoor experiences.

The other school was really fun to be around and we had a great time together. This camp was the most fun of all the camps I have been to. I recommend Bushwhacked to all year nines for the future years.

Adrienne Awad Year 9
Day 1 Beijing
Today will be a memorable one. My earlier plane fear has evaporated and will be a good pretest for future events. The group took a bus to central Beijing and I was interested in the way Western culture has integrated itself into Eastern ways. We also travelled to places that have kept their ancient traditions like the Temple of Heaven and the tea house that we had the pleasure to visit.

Dominic Year 9

Day 2 Beijing
The highlight of the day was definitely visiting the Great Wall of China, I have seen many pictures but nothing compares to seeing it in real life. The drive was very long we passed the countryside of Beijing. There were many mountains and forests. It was so cold, certain areas were covered with patches of snow. We took a chairlift up to the wall, and it was extremely high off the ground! So the view was simply magnificent. There were many clusters of wonky stairs leading to all sorts of different hidden areas of the wall. The way down the wall was great fun as we took toboggans down the mountain. It was an incredible experience and an overall perfect day.

Gracie Year 8

Day 3 Beijing
Today we went to the zoo and the pandas were awesome. Then we went to the summer palace and heard the story of an emperor. Then we took pictures of where the Olympic were held. After lunch we went to the market, then to a show and then had dinner.

Albert Year 8
Day 4
Today we went to Tiananmen Square. It’s the biggest city square in the world according to Tony, our guide. It was full of people and very crowded but fascinating to see what attracted people to tourist sites. Then we went to the Forbidden City, which is huge. It was where the Beijing emperor used to live and it was very grand. Finally, we went to the market and we got to practise our bargaining which was the highlight of the day.

Iris Year 8

Day 5
We went on the sleep train to Xi’an and I felt like I was in Harry Potter. When we arrived in Xi’an we went to the terra-cotta warriors. They were pretty cool. We went to a hot spring were one of the emperors used to have baths. I tried some of the water and it tasted like rice, no really it did. After that we went back to the hotel where we had dinner.

Angus Year 8

Day 6
Today was the groups’ last day in Xi’an before we took an overnight train to Shanghai. We visited the big wild goose pagoda, which included lots of buddha statues. We then went to a square and flew kites. I particularly enjoyed this. Then we went and rode around the city wall in Xi’an, which was about 16 kilometres long. Today was an exciting and fun day.

Ben Year 9

Day 7
Today we arrived in Shanghai at about 1.00 in the afternoon. We then proceeded to lunch, which was a nice Chinese meal at a place not far from the railway station. We then were allowed to go the 100th floor observation deck on the Shanghai financial building. The views were amazing and you would get shocked from the static electricity. We went to a nice garden square and bought a few things and looked around at the cool gardens. We then enjoyed a lovely dinner before going to bed ready for a big day tomorrow.

Ben Year 9

Day 8 Shanghai
When we visited the school in Shanghai I had a great time making an ink brush painting with one of the students there, Lily. I really liked making lots of friends. We exchanged email addresses. It was also interesting to compare the different way the school is run from ours. I liked giving out presents and receiving some from the students there. My favourite part of the visit to Shanghai was visiting Mr Xu’s parents. They were really lovely hosts. We had a wonderful dinner together and they showed us Mr Xu’s wedding video. They also gave us presents.

Kostas Year 8

Day 9 Shanghai
After we visited the Coca-Cola factory, we greatly enjoyed going to Zhou Zhuang and visiting the water town. The place which is known as the Venice of Asia, was a lot of fun. I had been on a gondola in Venice in Italy and really liked it. The boat we took a ride on was very different. The canals were a lot wider compared to Venice. I liked buying things from the shops on the sides of the canals.

Kostas Year 8

Day 10 Shanghai
After visiting a Buddhist temple in the morning and burning incense as well as looking around the temple we took a train to Singapore airport. The train could travel at 431 kilometres an hour but only travelled at 300 kilometres an hour for us because it was not peak hour. I really enjoyed the train ride as it was amazingly fast and only took 6 minutes to get to Shanghai airport. This train showed how China’s transport was very advanced.

Oscar Year 8

I can’t write too much here because most of the day is being spent on a plane. But I can say we visited a Buddhist temple before we left. The temple was similar to the one at the wild goose temple. This is the last day, a good conclusion to a fantastic trip.

Dominic Year 9
Year 7 Ed Science Excursion

On Friday the 10th of May a very hot and bothered 7B and 7S travelled by bus to the Earth Education Science Centre just outside Ballarat.

There we met Matt, who showed us a power-point about renewable sources of energy and in particular, wind farming. Soon after the power-point we drove to the Acciona-owned Waubra wind farm. At the control centre the site manager Mel showed us the computer program that shows her all the information about each wind turbine.

We drove to one of the turbines, where, on the way we saw a turbine that had been hit by a sheet of lightning.

We went inside the base of one of the turbines and when I looked up it looked so tall. One of the engineers told us that the lift could carry 2 people at a time but I thought it could only hold one person though because it was so small.

James Donner
Year 7

Selina Moir-Wilson
Yr 9

Last week (30th May) the B.S.C book club had an excursion to the Melbourne Writer’s Centre to see a variety of authors speak on a panel for the centre’s student day, ‘Reading Matters’.

Some of the authors we saw speak included Libba Bray, John Flanagan, Raina Telgemeier and Myke Bartlett. They spoke to us about the writing process, their books, story ideas and some had prepared interactive games or activities which were very fun and engaging.

After the authors had all spoken there were free signing and photo opportunities from those who spoke and some additional writers as well. The excursion was very enjoyable and I think all of book club learnt or gained something useful from the experience.

Selina Moir-Wilson
Yr 9

Hi Selina-
I’m scaring stars!
David Ten
Finn
Libby Bray

Hi Finn
Libby Bray
David Ten

Hi Selina

Hi James! 
Makaidha
S. Gibson

Hi James!
S. Gibson
Makaidha

Hi! James
S. Gibson
Makaidha
Co-curricula
Kendo at Brunswick

Kendo has been running as a co-curricula subject since the beginning of the year. Students come after school on a Wednesday and start getting ready as soon as they arrive. Everyone wears the traditional uniform of pleated culottes (hakama) and thickly-woven top (kendoji). After several weeks of training they are eligible to start wearing the armour (bogu), starting with the protective apron (tare) and the breastplate (do). Training starts with warm-ups and basic cutting drills. Then there is meditation and bowing to the training hall (dojo) and the teacher (sensei).

After that we put on the helmet (men) and gauntlets (kote) and start training in earnest. We practice striking the basic target areas of head, wrist and body in turn against our training partners, then move on to more complex techniques and competition strategy. Finally the most experienced people do free-sparing (ji-geiko) which is a one-on-one duel using everything we know. We finish as we started, with meditation and bowing.

On Tuesday 30th April the Year 11 Legal Studies class attended an excursion to Loddon Prison in Castlemaine. Loddon Prison is a medium security men’s prison which currently holds almost 500 inmates. Students were briefed about Victoria’s prison system by two wardens, and were then introduced to four inmates who are carefully selected to participate in the court’s school program.

Students are invited to ask the prisoners questions about their crime, the experience of being in prison and their plans for the future. Students’ perceptions and preconceived ideas about prisons, and the type of people who end up there were challenged by this experience. This excursion, and students’ interviews with prisoners were then used as part of the research for an assessment task on Criminal Sanctions in Victoria.

Student feedback on the excursion included the following comments:

“The excursion to Loddon Prison changed my opinion on prisoners. I thought they would be scary, rude and mean, but that wasn’t the case. There are some nice people in prison who completely understand that what they did is wrong”

“The stories and experiences shared with us were very educational. It’s a great way to make people aware of prison life”

“This is one of the best excursions I have been on in a long time. It has changed the way I think about prisons and prisoners”

“A very good experience. I think that this is a great program for students and for the prisoners, who get to give something back to society while serving their sentence.”

Kendo has been an amazing experience for me. So far I have been doing Kendo for 2 years and have enjoyed every minute of it. It’s good to see that we are getting many more younger kids involved. Instead of having five people attend every week we now have a full class.

Daniel Belia 9N

I think that Kendo is amazing to do because it is fun and we learn the ways of the Samurai of Japan. We learn a little bit of history of Japan and what Japanese warriors were like. We learn that Kundo is a journey and anyone of any age and gender can join.

Muhammad Aziz 7W

I do Kendo because it is both a great way to experience a unique martial art and is a link to Japanese culture. Kendo opens up a new way of thinking and a mindset, and it is more entertaining than playing video games.

Sage O’Donnell 9N

I like Kendo because it is a fun hitting people and it builds my confidence and strength.

Hesham Elbahrawi 7B

Kendo is fun because I get to compete with the teacher and I get to learn a new culture.

Antonio Cowell 7U

I like Kendo because it helps me know Japanese history and to know what they were thinking when they were fighting.

Harry Li 7W

The thing that I like about Kendo is that you learn how to control your movements and you can get more accuracy.

Sam Cooper 9W

I have enjoyed Kendo thoroughly and even though it is only my third lesson, I feel I have learnt about a whole new world. It is one of the subjects I most look forward to!

Sidney Rees 7K

Student Reflections
As part of the Year 7 music program we watched a short YouTube video called ‘Landfill’ which shows a very special group of people who against all odds, have come together as a community and shown the world what can be achieved with much determination and commitment. The video is about a group of children living in a landfill in Paraguay who have made their own instruments from recycled materials found in this dump. Over time they have learnt how to play these instruments and put together a world standard orchestra worthy of worldwide recognition and performances. After watching this I felt very humbled and inspired to perform well in our music project that entails putting together an instrument from recycled materials. This was fun but very difficult. I also felt inspired to do well and appreciate the unique opportunities we all have living in this privileged country. I am very grateful to BSC and to my teacher Kathleen McGuire for exposing us to this wonderful learning experience. To read more about the Paraguayan Orchestra, visit http://youtu.be/yiYFcuIkBjU

Amy Edgar Year 7

Congratulations to Kelly Turnor, a recent graduate of the University of Ballarat, who joined our teaching staff at the start of this year. At the University Graduation Ceremony earlier this term, Kelly was surprised and delighted to receive two awards. Kelly was joint recipient of the Peter Fryar Award. The major award of the ceremony, the Peter Fryar Award recognises academic and professional excellence, together with outstanding contribution to the University of Ballarat and wider community. The second award, The Peter and Judy Swan Award, is granted to a fourth year Physical Education student who has displayed outstanding academic and professional qualities throughout the fourth year of the program. Recipients need also have received a high distinction grade for the School Experience Course together with a very strong record of academic excellence.

Kelly certainly had an enjoyable and busy time during her four years at the University of Ballarat, graduating with a Bachelor of Education (PE) Honours (first class) and Graduate Diploma of Outdoor and Environmental Education. Kelly’s Honours thesis was titled ‘The Educational Outcomes of Bushwalking: A comparison of reported outcomes from teacher(s) and students.’ She recently presented her findings at the Outdoor Victoria conference at Summers on Friday 31st June and to BSC staff earlier in the week. Kelly, pictured here with some students from her Year 7 Science class, has already made a positive difference to student learning at Brunswick Secondary College. We congratulate her warmly on all the above achievements and her day to day work supporting Brunswick SC to achieve the best possible outcomes.
Chinese Bridge Competition

On Friday, the 24th of May, Aidan from 10S and Marcia from Year 11 participated in the HanyuQiao Competition for 2013, which was held at Melbourne Grammar from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. There were a total of 15 contestants in the finals, with 1 being absent.

As this is our first year entering into the competition, it was a great experience for competing Brunswick students to develop/progress their Chinese language and culture skills. For Aidan, his speech was on the Spring Festival and his performance was on Chinese Paper-cutting. Marcia’s speech was on the 56 different ethnic groups in China and she performed a fantastic Chinese Dance in front of the judges and audience. It was a great night, as it showed we have some very talented/skilful and full of potential Chinese studying students. 

Yr11 Chinese Captain, Year 10

On the 8th of May, BSC held their first ever Brunswick Gift.

A 100m Sprint on the hockey field, officiated and spurred on my many students along the sidelines. The event was very exciting and there was a great turn out. Mr Nolan pulled a heart muscle and was unable to dominate in this event.

There was around 10 participants including a few teachers and the mysterious purple morphsuit (*coughcough MR TIPPING) and students from all years. The No 1 Sport Captain represented Nolan but unfortunately also had a heart problem. The winner was Adam “Steel Biceps” Saad from Year 12, who some people may know as the footy player from Coburg Tigers. It was a great race and was very popular!

BSC X-Country Carnival: Wednesday 29th May at Princess Park

With a new venue and track this year the excitement was built up for the 2013 BSC X-Country Carnival. Year 7, 8 and 9 students competed and raced around the scenic track that follows the outside of the Princess Park surrounds. The weather was again kind to us and it made the day all the more enjoyable as the students walked, jogged and ran the course which was just under 3km for all age groups. Well done to all those who competed and participated on the day. Also a big mention to CAAGAR house who has again taken the honours of winning the Brunswick Bell this year against the other house colours. 

A 100m dash for all age groups was the first running event held and contained one of the highlights of the day as Murray Leonard sprinted to victory in the 15yr Boys race. The times couldn’t believe the stopwatch, as Murray ran one of the fastest times for a 100m at school ever in 12 seconds flat. Throughout the day there were many great results (too many to mention) and congratulations to all those that attended for trying their best in every event they participated in.

There was a lot of excitement about who the winning house colour would be. After collating the results from the Athletics the traditional “Brunswick Bell” was awarded to ABYAD house and with tradition the Bell was rung at school assembly in the following days.

Year 9/10 Footy

Last Wednesday a select group of year 9 and 10 boys headed out for a day full of sweaty men, stinky change rooms and gut busting hard work. I’m obviously talking about working in illegal sweatshops... I mean school football.

Having a couple of Tuesday training sessions leading up to the day meant that we were somewhat prepared to play a hard game of football and this was evident in the final score. All the boys played really hard and gave it all they had, and it paid off.

We won both of the games we played and though the opposition teams put up a good fight, they couldn’t compete with the mighty wrath that Brunswick brought down upon them.

Congratulations to all the boys who played, see you in the next round!

Blake Everett Year 10

SPORTSTerm2

BSC Athletics Carnival: Tues 30th April at Melbourne University Aths Track

A large number of students from Year 7, 8 and 9 competed at the 2013 Brunswick Secondary Athletics Carnival. The weather was great and the competitions were hot as running and jumping events were contested throughout the day. We ventured to a new location this year at the Melbourne University Athletics track.

The 100m dash for all age groups was the first running event held and contained one of the highlights of the day as Murray Leonard sprinted to victory in the 15yr Boys race. The times couldn’t believe the stopwatches, as Murray ran one of the fastest times for a 100m at school ever in 12 seconds flat. Throughout the day there were many great results (too many to mention) and congratulations to all those that attended for trying their best in every event they participated in.

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I bet all CAAGAR house students and teachers are very excited to ring the bell at assembly.

William Zahgis Sports Captain

Our new Gym

Since the start of this year I've been going up to our new lunchtime gym at least once a week. I've really enjoyed being able to go up to the gym at lunchtime; it's great to be able to do different exercise to that of my sporting commitments without the cost of gym membership!

We've got some great equipment now for both cardio and resistance training – spin bikes, cross-trainers, free weights – so I can do a good variety of stuff every time I go. I think it's really important to work exercise into your week, so I hope more people will start coming in to take advantage of the great facilities we have.

Maggie O'Shea yr11

Awesome stuff by everyone who participated!

Sports Captain

Yr11

William Zahgis
Rehearsals for Brunswick Secondary College’s production, Fame the Musical are stepping up even more now that we are only literally days away from the performances.

Earlier this month at the Fame Camp held at school, the backstage crew worked industriously on the sets in the gym while performers and musicians practised and timed the first full run through of the show. We’re all really excited to be performing and hope to see you in the audience.

Tickets can only be purchased through The Clock Tower Centre:
Phone 9243 9191
Email www.clocktowercentre.com.au
Performances are on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st June at 8.00pm.
Don’t miss out!

Amelia Constable,
Performing Arts Captain