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The Australian Council of Educational Leaders Conference in Canberra during the holidays was an opportunity to step away from Brunswick and Victoria for a few days to connect with interstate colleagues and engage with current and future national and international education agendas.

The Conference was well-timed, given the introduction of the Australian Curriculum and Australian Teaching Standards into Victoria next year and more locally, that our four year School Self-Evaluation is set for 2014. While we definitely share far more in common with other educational jurisdictions than there are differences, it is always intriguing and valuable to learn from the variations. I would like to share a few reflections and themes from the conference with you.

Finland is frequently highlighted within education and the media as a country that achieves high performance in relation to both educational excellence and equity. Outside of education, Finland has strong societal support structures and little child poverty. Within education, schools are resourced to identify and remedy learning issues as early as possible. In Australia, both the Federal and Victorian governments have highlighted their wish for Australia to be in the top tier of educational performance internationally. To achieve this outcome, there needs to be a long term commitment to invest solidly in preventative and intervention work and an adequately funded recognition that students will require different levels of resourcing to achieve the same result. It will be interesting to see the final distribution and level of targeting that accompanies the National School Improvement (Gonski) funding.

Keynote speaker and retired journalist, Michelle Grattan, referred to Australia ending up with ‘Gonski on a diet’ because all schools had to be winners and it is now a 4 not a 6 year plan. She also recited the number of different federal education ministers we have had in the past decade and outlined some of the ‘political footballing’ around the purposes and shape of education that has accompanied such changes federally and at state level. There are countries where political parties give a bi-partisan commitment to keep a distance from the particulars around education in order to provide stability and continuity of reform, agreeing to leave policy and changes to the educational experts. Equity in education is also a priority for New Zealand. Professor Vivienne Robinson in her keynote provocation “Too much change and not enough improvement, stressed there were no silver bullets to school improvement and cautioned against the lure of innovation.

Oration given by Professor Barry McGaw from Melbourne. Of the many areas he covered, I will mention only two. Professor McGaw questioned the current use of the term twenty first century skills, asking for example if communication is any more important now than it was in the 16th century. While he agreed the impact of technology rich environments requires new and adaptive communication skills, we perhaps need to exercise caution in labelling them as unique. It was also reassuring to hear Professor McGaw assert the essential place of content in learning and the centrality of the disciplines that are the result of several millennia of human effort and to know that Science, Mathematics, History and other disciplines are not threatened by being subsumed into more generic studies.

The conference was called The Future is Now, acknowledging the many education and societal changes to which schools need to adapt in the immediate future. For me, the strength of the conference was also in acknowledging the past, the role of teachers and school leadership is one of hearing retired education ministers we have had in the past and need to continue to do so as we meet the challenges of the future.

Vivienne Tellefson
Principal

Important Events for your Calendar

Night Market and Car boot Sale, Friday 17th October 4.30-7.30-pm
Brunswick Senior Theatre Company’s Much Ado, Friday 17th October 7.30-pm
Year 12 Graduation, Friday 25th October

Please note that I have not included the Victorian presentations from the conference as this will be a separate piece in the December Brunswick Star, the final edition for the year.
Brunswick Secondary College’s Annual Clocktower Music Concert was a raging success, complete with sombreros, glow in the dark drum sticks and the combined talent of the students who performed on the night! The audience were treated to various styles of music presented by a large range of ensembles and small groups. The night featured the likes of Brunswick’s Concert Band, String Ensemble, Brunswick Voice, Jazz Combo, Saxophone Quintet and Percussion Ensemble, performing songs which had the audience clapping, bobbing and tapping along all night.

The new A Cappella Ensemble also made its debut performance, stunning the audience with 3 part harmonies. It was also an important performance for our VCE bands and VCE soloist as it was the final official performance before the year 12 exams, which are only a few short weeks away. I personally found the opportunity to perform one of my solo pieces very valuable towards my exam preparations as it helped me gain confidence.

The night ran smoothly and was exciting and enjoyable for both performers and the audience. I’d like to congratulate and thank the students for their good behaviour throughout the technical/dress rehearsal during the day and for their wonderful performances in the evening. As music captain, it was very rewarding to see students overcome their nerves and perform to the best of their abilities.

Even though it was wet and windy outside, it was really good to see family and friends coming along and supporting their loved ones who were on stage; the true Brunswick spirit coming alive.

In future years, I would like to see even more friends and family come along as it really is a wonderful night of music! I’d like to thank the instrumental music teachers for their hard work and dedication, especially over the last few months, preparing, arranging and rehearsing the pieces that were presented on the night. Without Suzanne Kurick, our hard-working music coordinator and the instrumental music teachers, there would be no show!

As my term as music captain draws to an end, I’d like to reflect on what an amazing music program we have at Brunswick Secondary College. Our team of teachers work tirelessly and passionately to pass on their vast knowledge and life experiences. Our facilities, including the multiple rehearsal rooms, large selection of instruments, computer lab and the sound house room all contribute to the success of our teaching and learning environment.

Performance opportunities such as the Clocktower Concert are beneficial to the growth of each student and it is wonderful to have the support of the school and its community. Congratulations on the success of the music department this year, and we hope for further growth and development in the years to come.

Larissa Li, Year 11 Music Captain
I enjoyed filming the Clocktower Concert because it was really great to see how talented the performers were; especially the younger students who I haven’t seen perform before.

Eliza Wood Year 11

I enjoyed being in the concert as I had the feeling of being a part of something and my family thoroughly enjoyed the concert. My Dad considered it a birthday present as it was his birthday!

Aiden Taylor Year 8

I love any chance I am given to perform. I got to sing in groups which I am not as experienced with. This was a great opportunity to expand my skills further and I’m very thankful for that opportunity. I enjoyed taking part in watching the other performers. Often I have to stay backstage until my cue, but at this concert, I got to watch some items from the wings and the dress circle. It was really great to watch the display of talent that this school has to offer. I was nervous whilst I was preparing myself in the wings but as soon as I entered the stage, those nerves disappeared and turned into joy. Nothing compares to the profound feeling of walking off stage to the sound of applause and it’s great that I was given the chance to share that feeling with so many amazing people.

Gracie Tointon Year 8
I liked setting up equipment for the Clocktower because it gave me a sense of achievement and satisfaction. I also got a backstage performance and the best seat. I got the opportunity to work in a team and perform in my own way.

Jai Calafiore Year 11

My experience with setting up the gear at the Clocktower has taught me that it is better to work as a team instead of doing everything myself.

Robert McMillan Year 10

It was an honour to play at the Clocktower Centre and it felt really good being on stage. It was a bit nerve-wracking at first but I eased into it as the concert went on and it was exciting to be on stage.

Henry Stockfeld Year 8

I enjoyed performing at Clocktower Concert this year! The night had a variety of different styles and my highlight was performing as part of the A Cappella group.

Indu Mulligan Year 9

The 2013 BSC annual Clocktower Concert was a fantastic experience. The students were all excited, enthusiastic and dedicated in bringing a memorable performance. I hope to see more of this BSC spirit in future concerts. My personal highlight would have to be the Fame item “Like a Prayer”. As someone who was a part of the Fame production, the reunion brought a sense of nostalgia; the song was also top notch - accompanied with singing and brilliant piano playing.

Wendy Jia Year 9

The Clocktower was fun! I enjoyed getting to show everyone the pieces we had been working on. My parents said that they liked all the performances especially the ones that I was in. It was a really nice night and everyone seemed to really enjoy it.

Melanie Lasslett Year 10
On 6 August 2013, 73 students from Brunswick Secondary College (mostly from year 7) attended a workshop for school children at The Edge Theatre at Federation Square, presented by the African Children’s Choir (ACC) Number 40 from Uganda on their inaugural tour to Australia. Our students participated in African games, singing, dancing and drumming, and learned about culture in Uganda. In 1984, in the midst of Uganda’s civil war, human rights activist Ray Barnett was called upon to help the many thousands of orphaned and starving children who were abandoned and helpless to feed and protect themselves. Inspired by the singing of one small boy, the ACC was created to show the world that Africa’s most vulnerable children have beauty, dignity and unlimited ability. ACC’s first tour, to North America in 1984, funded the building of an orphanage in Kampala from which a second African Children’s Choir was selected. There are now 40 choirs in 8 African countries. To date over a thousand vulnerable children have been through the Choir program and the funds they have generated have provided the opportunity of education and hope for many thousands like them in some of the most desperate and needy areas of Africa.

Below are some reflections from attending the workshop or to watch a video about the African Children’s Choir. To learn more, visit: www.africanchildrenschoir.com

Quotes From Year 7

“At the workshop we were taught by the children aged 5 – 12 how to dance African style. They taught us songs and showed us their dancing. I enjoyed watching and comparing our dancing to theirs. I learnt that the African Children’s Choir has helped hundreds of children.”

Lilly Clumpner-Dyson 7W

“Visiting the African Children’s Choir was a wonderful experience. They taught us their unique style of singing and dancing. They told us about the food they eat and games they play. Their spirit is amazing, considering they have lost one or both parents. They gather at school to get an education and they raise money for Africa by performing for people.”

Ellie Constantinou 7N

“Africa is a continent enveloped in poverty. Many families do not have enough money to pay for education or food. Many of Africa’s citizens have no education. Schools have been built by charity organisations, such as the African Children’s Choir, so the people of Africa have access to education for themselves and their children. The children in the African Children’s Choir all have one or no parents due to war, poverty or illness such as HIV and AIDS. The African Children’s Choirs sing, dance and perform to raise money for the poor citizens of rural Uganda. With the money raised, schools in Uganda have been able to open several schools allowing citizens of Uganda to have education.”

Gabriel Taburet 7

“I learned that in Africa they have different cultures in different places and they wear beautiful dresses. It was lovely. The activities we did were dancing, singing, played games, and learnt about the culture of different places in Africa. I learned that they go to different places to perform, support themselves and do good teamwork. I enjoyed dancing and singing because it felt like all of our hearts were connected into one.”

Priyansha 7N

“The activity I enjoyed most was that we got the chance to learn amazing songs and we got to sing.”

Sylvie Zhang 7K

“They were all so talented! It was amazing to learn about another culture like Africa because they are very different to us. Their music was very catchy and they sang and danced so passionately. Not only did we just sit down to watch the performance, we also got active by singing and dancing!”

Saskia Arangapa 7U

“I didn’t go to the African Children’s Choir but I watched a video about it. I think it is a great opportunity for sick or orphaned children to get an education and learn a lot about their own culture. In the video, the children said that they loved to sing and it gave them hope and joy in Uganda; there is not much money and parents cannot afford to send their children to school and sometimes can’t even buy food. The African Children’s Choir is also a school for the children; they are fed and get to travel the world and perform in many different countries.”

Alice Osomprasoph 7S

“When we went to the Choir we got to do different activities. There was a game that we played and also dancing and singing. I enjoyed meeting the kids because they were so nice.”

Tahlia De Vito 7U
On Wednesday the 28th of August Brunswick once again held its annual public speaking competition, the Brunswick Chatterbox. We had fifteen students enter with at least one from every year level which was fantastic. Each and every speech was amazing – as a judge I can tell you the decision was not easily made! All the students should be congratulated for speeches that ranged from touching to funny, intelligent to inspiring. In the junior school, it was Sasha Gillies-Lekakis who took out the win, giving a fascinating speech on the life of his great grandfather who shares his name.

Also in the junior section, Antonio Cowell won the junior encouragement award for his speech about his beloved dog Jazzy, and Sophie O’Connel was voted audience favourite for sharing a deeply personal story about loss and grief. In the senior section, the decision was so tough that we judges picked out and announced a draw between Khoder Raad’s intelligent speech about the Syrian conflict and Alannah Blah’s hilarious commentary on the not-so-lovely side of love. Congratulations once again to all competitors for having the bravery to stand up and deliver what were brilliant speeches. Thank you also to local MP Jane Garrett for co-judging and the Rotary Club of Brunswick for their generous donation of the prizes.

Maggie O’Shea
Year 11, Debating and Public Speaking Captain

The Dante Alighieri Society was founded in Rome in 1889. With over 400 branches worldwide, the main objective of the Society was and still remains, the promotion and study of the Italian language and culture. The Melbourne branch of the Society was established in 1896. This year marks its 117th anniversary.

For over 15 years, students at Brunswick Secondary College have participated in a range of competitions and activities conducted by the Dante Alighieri Society. This year, our Year 9 students participated in the Recitation Competition and our Year 7 students participated in the Original Poetry Competition. These competitions attract hundreds of students of Italian from both government and non-government schools throughout Victoria.

The results for the Poetry Competitions have been officially published by the Dante Alighieri Society and it gives me great pleasure to announce that one of our Year 7 students has been awarded 2nd place in the non-Italian section of the Original Poetry Competition.

On behalf of the LOTE Learning Area, I would like to thank Ms Stefania De Meo for helping to guide and assist her students in the Recitation Competition. Special congratulations to the following student for her outstanding effort in the Original Poetry Competition:

2nd place: Elena Caffrey Year 7

Pina Mazzeo Head of LOTE
Year 8 Portsea Camp
On the 4th of September, 44 enthusiastic Year 8 students, and five enthusiastic teachers, boarded a bus to take them to the 2013 Year 8 Portsea Camp. The weather was kind and the promise of activities such as the flying fox, high ropes, a giant swing, canoeing, snorkelling, oceanography tours and beach activities meant the bus was abuzz with excited chatter.

There were several highlights, such as Mr Brannan and Joey Buyukoz sharing a birthday on the Thursday; Mr Martinson kicking off the giant swing blindfolded; Oscar Summers Dixon, Kathleen Campion and Huw Porter making it all the way to the tyre on the flying fox; epic games of beach cricket; the Portsea 2013 Trivia night and the fantastic number of students who challenged themselves and participated in all of the activities available. However, on the way home, all teachers agreed that the best thing about Year 8 Portsea Camp was the opportunity to interact with such a hilarious, respectful group of students.

‘My favourite part of the camp was definitely the students. They were a polite, enthusiastic, and entertaining group of kids. I enjoyed getting to know the new faces, and enjoyed spending time with my students outside of the classroom.’
Grace McCulloch Year 8 English teacher

‘I challenged myself and pushed my limits. I even went on the giant swing. It was so much fun!’
Christos Zintilis Year 8

‘I got really good at playing trenchers on the beach. It was funny when the waves came too close and washed us out.’
Nick Harrap Year 8

‘I got to race Ms McCulloch on the flying fox, and I beat her!’
Taylor Duggan Year 8

‘It was a really great way to spend my birthday, actually. I lost count of the amount of times the students sang “Happy Birthday” to me.’
Mitchell Brannan Year 8 VCD teacher
BSC Co-curricular Kendo trip to Melb Uni term 3
We learnt a lot at the University of Melbourne. We learnt kirikaeshi ("cutting and returning", a complex technical drill) and several warming-up techniques.

John Webber
At Melbourne Uni Kendo Club we learnt kirikaeshi and it was fun. We learnt other fighting techniques.
We also learned what it is like to do quite advanced Kendo

Adam Cooper
Going to Melbourne University Kendo training gave me a very different experience from doing Kendo at school. It tested my strength and athletic ability to the limit as well as my accuracy. Working with different Kendoists taught me different things and that would probably be the highlight of my trip there.

Veronica Varol
At Melbourne Uni we did lots of activities. We did several warm-ups, some of them new to us. We also did some drills, mostly basic ones, and also free-sparing.

Lewis Stefos
We did Kendo training with Melbourne Uni and we were very tired at the end. We learned to do drills and exercise and we had fun.

Hesham El Bahrawi

Outside Trinity College, University of Melbourne, after catching the tram with all our dogu (Kendo equipment)

Getting ready in the West Stadium

Veronica receiving instruction from one of the experienced Melb Uni kenshi.

Brunswick Secondary College students taking part in training at MUKEN - the Melbourne University Kendo Club.

The instructor demonstrates a particular technique while everyone gathers in a circle to watch.

The class then practices what they have been shown with their partner/opponent

The proof of Hesham’s comment; tired but happy after a very hard training!

The members of MUKEN and BSC Kendo Club.

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7S Art Excursion

Within year 7 the art classes have been studying Aboriginal art.
On Wednesday the 18th of September 7S went on an excursion to the Ian Potter Centre in Federation Square.

“I learnt a lot about the interesting history of Aboriginal art, and how their artworks tell stories.”
Alice Osornprasoph 7S

“During initiation boys had a pattern painted on them, and the initiation would start at a funeral. When the initiated person died their flesh would decompose and the bones would be put in a burial pole with the person’s pattern it.”
William Mott 7S

“I learnt that the elders of the tribe are allowed to view things that other people can’t.”
Benjamin Freeman 7S

“Michael Nelson Tjakamarra is a Pupunya artist and has a similar name to me.”
Nelson Walker 7S

“The dots that are on Aboriginal paintings are used to cover/hide sacred designs.”
Hannah Harms 7S

“I learnt about William Barak; he walked straight to the court himself and demanded that his land would not keep being taken away from him and his community. I learnt about the legacy that he left behind.”
Mia Lantieri-Bartley 7S

“I learnt that artwork is different in different areas.”
Matilda Reading 7S
As part of Appreciative Inquiry, Year 7 and 12 students were asked to complete their own legacy statement. The question posed to them was “When you leave Brunswick Secondary College, how would you like to be remembered?”

Year 7 students completed these as the newest members of our school community. Year 12 students, on the other hand, have been with us for the past 6 years and are about to leave our school to embark on new and exciting challenges.

The Year 7 Legacies appeared in the previous Brunswick Star.

Sally Goss, Junior School Leader and Craig O’Bree Senior School Leader

The legacy that I will leave with Brunswick is to inspire international students to be active, enthusiastic and never give up. Rashi Singh

A trustworthy friend that is always here to help and make Brunswick Secondary College a better place. Robbie Mockbel

My legacy is that of supporting school sports through coaching junior school soccer teams to state finals – We Won! Josh Ring

My legacy will be continued through the school productions. I leave a positive influence on the schools performing arts area ... Henry D’Oliveira

Making sure the Brunswick spirit stays alive and the love for food. Laura King

Never Give Up! Try your hardest and succeed. Need to check name

That nothing worth having comes easy. Need to check name
The Brunswick Clocktower

I found my transition to Brunswick Secondary College quite easy. I have made many friends since starting at this school. Brunswick has a lot of students from different cultures, making the school really diverse. The students and teachers here are friendly, nice and welcoming people. Coming to Brunswick was a good decision.

India Murray-Smith (Year 8)

I felt nervous when I was backstage with the rest of the choir while we were getting ready to perform because it was my first time performing at the Clocktower. The performance helped me with my stage fright. My family thought the performance was good and that it was presented well. The part I liked best was the end when the drummers performed. They were really cool with their drumsticks glowing in the dark and the sound was really catchy.

Tarini Dhavala Year 7, Brunswick Voice

Clocktower

On September 3rd the year 10 Kitchen Garden class visited Joost Bakker’s completely waste free café called “Silo.” It is a sustainable café where we were able to look at a composter that turns all organic material into garden ready fertilizer within 24 hours. We were given sandwiches, muesli bars and organic coffee made onsite from local produce. Joost told us about how he gets all his food in reusable crates and how they make their own soy milk. We also visited a roof top garden that was located on top of a car park. People rent their own garden bed and grow tomatoes, basil and more. It was a good idea and promoted self-sufficiency. The students of kitchen garden would also like to fundraise for a mini composter like the one at Silo for our school.

Ashleigh Sherriff

New Student

I found my transition to Brunswick Secondary College quite easy. I have made many friends since starting at this school. Brunswick has a lot of students from different cultures, making the school really diverse. The students and teachers here are friendly, nice and welcoming people. Coming to Brunswick was a good decision.

India Murray-Smith (Year 8)

Principals for a day

On the 14th of August I was delighted to participate in the annual Principal for a Day program at Brunswick Secondary School. Brunswick is a terrific school and it was a great privilege to be able to spend the day with the students and staff. I was really impressed with the breadth of the school curriculum and the extra-curricular activities offered. Amongst the days activities I spoke to media students who are making a video about the battle to preserve an important part of Brunswick’s built heritage - its bluestone lanes. I loved attending the two assemblies and seeing the great talent coming through in our community.

Jane Garrett, State Member for Brunswick

International Students’ Appreciation Breakfast

On Friday 16th August International Students hosted a breakfast to acknowledge all the hard work parents, guardians, home stays, teachers and the school community do to support International Students during their studies at Brunswick Secondary College. Our International Students come from a variety of countries and are living in different circumstances; sometimes with only one parent, a home stay or with relatives. Whether students are here with their families or not, the support the school community provides is absolutely essential to their transition and success.

The breakfast was an opportunity to not only thank everyone for their support, but also for International Students to share some of their culture and experiences. We had a great array of food from our many contributors that made for a varied and delicious breakfast.

Anushka Gaire Year 9, also performed a traditional Nepalese dance with great energy. We were also pleased to welcome Sue Christophers, Executive Director of the International Education Division. Ms Christophers presented an award to the school for our participation in the inaugural International Student Awards (where Rashi Singh, year 12, was awarded a commendation for her work promoting global citizenship at the school, see following article).

We would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the breakfast. A special thank you to Rashi Singh and Hai Nguyen, our International Student Captains, for the fantastic initiative to organise the breakfast.

Megan Conley, International Student Coordinator
Book Review
When We Wake - Karen Healy
4.5 stars

When We Wake was a really interesting YA novel, it explored some very interesting scientific ideas in a way which made them very accessible to the reader. It also explored the theme of alienation and being in a new world, something becoming increasingly relevant in modern times. I thought it was great and would recommend it to lovers of sci-fi.

Year 9 and 10 Football Finals

On the date of August 15th the year 9 and 10s played the district football finals against St Helena's SC. The Brunswick boys fought a hard game but unfortunately we came short by 8 goals. With the good help of Abby and Shaddy who coached and pushed our team to do the best that they could, we were thrilled to make the finals and become the intermediate runners up. From the first bounce, Brunswick went in hard. The players of the match were Moe Saad, Bradley Cox and Murray Leonard. big thanks to Mr Nolan to dedicating himself to us and also helping us perform at our best. Deon Fulgaro and Riven Keating-Stamp, Year 9

Chinese Competition

Congratulations to Ellie Constantinous (7 N) and Sheika (Naifi) Badres (8W) who participated in the junior school Chinese reading competition on 30 August. Ellie won a merit medallion for placing in the top 10 participants. We are proud of both girls' preparation for and participation in this challenge.

Jiwei Xu Chinese Teacher

Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia

The Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia Education Team visited Brunswick SC to teach the Year 11 History class about a wide range of events that happened to the soldiers during the Vietnam War. The stories about personal experiences and conflict were real and relevant to the subject we were learning and it was a privilege to have them visit our class.

Student feedback to the veterans

"The information session was amazing, I learnt so much from your first hand experiences, far more than I could have ever learned from a textbook."

Really interesting and the guys were so nice. Would have liked to have learned more about their personal feelings about being in Vietnam.

I really liked getting dressed up in all the gear and loved a first hand story from someone who was there.

I came out of the session with a growth in knowledge of the subject. I would recommend the experience to anyone.

The guys who presented were great, amusing and genuinely wanted to be there.

I loved it and found it really interesting, especially learning about the attitudes toward the US army. Thanks so much for coming.
Earlier this year Rashi Singh was a finalist in the International Student Awards and received a commendation for her work promoting global citizenship.

The Global Citizenship Award acknowledges students who work towards ‘bridging the gap’ between local and international students. Rashi was recognised because she is an outstanding role model for other students in this field. She is a vibrant, articulate and thoughtful student who exemplifies the school’s values of respect, teamwork and responsibility. In a school with students from over 48 different cultural backgrounds she has been an outstanding role model to other students.

She has helped promote connections between students from diverse backgrounds and been involved in many activities which promote diversity such as Harmony Day and the Cultural Diversity Week BBQ. Not only has Rashi been involved in these projects, but she has also encouraged other International Students to be involved too.

Rashi received a commendation because she not only has the confidence to represent International Students, but also to encourage others to be more engaged as global citizens.

Congratulations Rashi!

Megan Conley
International Student Coordinator

If you have recently walked into FS (the art room) you may or may not have noticed in the far corner the black and white portraits of some of the Year 9 students. I have created them for an art project which had to be inspired by a famous artist and I did those photos in honour of my favourite artist JR.

He is a French photographer who takes pictures of people’s faces and then he posts them on the walls of buildings. To further advance my artwork I am hoping that I will be able to do the same with my artwork around the school community.

This would be a great opportunity to showcase some of Brunswick’s fantastic artwork and also liven up a few areas of the school with range of expressions and emotions shown in these photos. Jack Sambell Year 9

As a way of contributing to the College Community and as a part of our Numeracy Measurement and Design Outcomes, the Year 11 VCAL class participated in the design and construction of gardens within Brunswick Secondary College.

We worked in groups behind the auditorium and at the front of the school, mulching, digging and planting. We developed and used many different life and work skills such as Teamwork, Organisation, Creativity and Communication to complete the given tasks. We completed this work over several weeks and it was fun and a great opportunity to work together as the Year 11 VCAL Team.
An evening presentation for parents, was hosted by students from varying year levels. It provided the opportunity for parents to hear about the pros and cons of technology, and all that is associated with it - limitless knowledge available at the touch of a button, social networking, cyber bullying, the impact on the social lives of adolescents, sleep deprivation and online games. During the evening, compered by members of the Student Representative Council, parents listened to a presentation, prepared and delivered by Chris Villarosa (Year 8). They then watched a skit by the senior drama students, about the complex interactions and emotions that result from online chat.

I world: teenagers and technology

Creating Success students each did a presentation about the effects of technology on the world of teenagers. Parents attended a nice night where students shared their stories about how complicated life can be when dealing with online social networking. I was really pumped to come to the evening and I was really happy that my mum and dad came to see the work that I have been doing.

Sebastien Kowlessur 8K

This is the first time I have come to a school event, with my mum and my sister. It felt really good to present my work to such a large group of parents and to feel so involved with the school community. It was also great to meet new parents and to mix with other students after school hours.

Lauren McLachlan 8N

The year 8 Creating Success class was given 2 weeks to think about and to come up with a presentation around the issues of social networking. I did a poster about Facebook - about the positives and negatives of technology. I chose not to use technology to do my presentation to show that we don’t always need it and that it is always best to think about when it is most useful.

I was really happy that my mum came to the evening as she has never been to meet the teachers before and has never had the chance to socialise with other parents at the school.

Petrula Saroukos 8W

There were also interactive presentations by individual year 8 students. Finally parents participated in a world café conversation facilitated by other parents, members of the local police and community support services. Parents Association members contributed to a sumptuous supper. The atmosphere was dynamic – students and parents were engaged and excited about sharing their questions, fears and concerns. The session appeared to open the opportunity for communication between the adolescent and the adult. These conversations must continue…Our next session will be advertised early in Term 4.

I attended the I-World, Teenagers and Technology Information Session at BSC on Monday 9th September. As a parent of two teenage boys I felt I needed to update myself with their "I world" as it is changing so rapidly and I am struggling to keep up with it all!! It was a great evening, very well planned and delivered and the student presentations were especially informative. [I didn’t know about the new smart phone messenger called KiK ] and entertaining- Chris did a fabulous presentation. The world café conversations worked brilliantly as it enabled us to mingle with other parents, the students and a number of external professionals eg a police officer, and a Merri Community Health worker etc to share ideas and experiences and learn from each other. Thank you to the Cyber-safety Parent and Student Working Group for putting this together and for the delicious food and I look forward to future information evenings at our school.

Maria Varkopoulos

It was a great night. It was so wonderful to hear the buzz of all the conversations in the room. I know one family at least has made some new actions as a result of the evening. Brilliant organisation of the night.

Jenny Taaffe
Samantha has made an excellent start to semester two and has continued to maintain her improved work ethic. She has made a concerted effort to come to class on time, with equipment and remains on task. In doing so, Samantha has improved the quality of her work and use of class time. Fantastic work Samantha.

Shannon Widdeson

The influence on the change of my work and behaviour in class is due to the encouragement of my teachers and parents. I feel more confident with the handing in of work because I know I am focussed.

Samantha Gilmour Year 7

Throughout the year Sophie hasn’t been confident in her own ability however after hard work and extra effort in coming to see me for help she has seen her results reflect her work ethic. This last term she has been more positive and is starting to establish strong understandings of what she can do in VCE English.

Kate Allibon

Throughout this year my confidence was very low in most of my classes as I thought I just couldn’t do the work and what I was doing was not of a high standard. I started to see Ms. Allibon to get help with an exam we had coming up for help and advice. I studied hard and asked lots of questions – which has paid off! I now feel I have the ability to do work of a high standard.

Sophie Van Dartel Year 10

I taught Ali woodwork in Year 8 and now have him again in my Year 9 woodwork class. It is fantastic to see the improvement in his focus and work practices since Year 8. Ali sets a high standard for himself, often completing additional design tasks or re-working a drawing after I have made suggestions for improvement. He has put a strong effort into the written and research work, as well as the practical tasks, and is a consistently helpful student in the wood room.

Karen Ferguson

I have improved this year in most of my subjects as I am more focussed. This is because my teachers have said I have to start working a bit harder for senior school. Because I get the work done in class I feel more confident and proud of myself.

Ali Taha Year 9

Daniel has made an amazing improvement in his work practices this term. Fantastic work Daniel.

Karen Ferguson

I made the decision if I wanted to be the person as I get older I have to improve my work at school. It’s probably the best time to do it.

Daniel Trikilis Year 9

C. What’s a typical day at your VET course?
M. A lot of power points and exams!
C. How did you go with your exams?
M. I went very well by getting 97% for two of them out of three, which puts me in the top results of the class.
C. How does this course help you with joining the Defence Force?
M. This course gets me one step closer to joining the Defence Force and also gives an advantage over other applicants.
C. Does this course match the expectations that you had before joining?
M. I thought it would be really hard and that I would struggle but since I’ve been here I’ve been able to maintain a good work habit and keep focused.
C. Why did you choose VCAL over VCE?
M. VCAL is more about hands on work, which I prefer to sitting in classrooms all day studying text books.
C. Does being in VCAL give you a disadvantage or advantage against people who did VCE that want to join the defence force?
M. No you’re both looked at equally and all you need education wise is to have completed year 10 English and Maths which can both be done doing VCAL and VCE.
C. Would you recommend this course to anyone that wants to join the Defence Force?
M. Yes definitely!
Excursions in the Art and Design Subjects

If you have visited an art gallery and seen an artwork you had previously only known from a photograph, you will know that there is nothing like encountering 'the real thing'. This is an opportunity we aim to give our Art and Design students at BSC whenever possible. BSC students in a range of year levels and subjects participate in a fantastic variety of art and design excursions. This year, Year 7 students are visiting the National Gallery of Victoria for education sessions on the gallery’s Indigenous collection. The NGV educators are an excellent resource, doing much more than just delivering a ‘lecture’. Plus they always seem to like students from Brunswick! Students sit on special folding stools directly in front of the art works while the educator prompts them to discuss their own responses to the work.

These sessions are very rewarding and enjoyable for the classroom teacher as they hear students using vocabulary and concepts they have been building in the classroom all year. The excursions link directly to work our Year 7 students are undertaking in the classroom, looking at Aboriginal art, its use of symbols, and interpretation of the landscape. Year 7 students work on developing their own personal symbols and use them in artworks they will be making this semester.

At the senior end of the school, excursions are also a vital part of the curriculum. VCE Product Design and Technology, Visual Communication Design, and Studio Arts students all visit Top Design and Top Arts each year to see the high quality work produced by VCE students from across the state. Although somewhat intimidating at first (the students usually emerge awestruck by the experience) they are inevitably inspired and a little challenged by the quality of the work they see. They also have the opportunity to look at student folios and work books, which is invaluable as they gain some understanding of how the student developed their product or artwork. It’s this insight into the process, and the creative sparks that it generates, that makes the excursions so worthwhile.
Excursions in the Art and design Subjects (cont).

Studio Art students in both Year 11 and 12 attended the NGV Winter Masterpiece show Monet’s Garden and were amazed to see the difference between Monet’s paintings when viewed up close, compared to the reproductions they were more familiar with. Year 12 students are required to visit at least two exhibitions as part of their Art Industry unit, and were lucky enough to attend a Q&A session on Monet’s Garden with key NGV personnel including the curator of the exhibition, Sophie Matthiesson.

At the other end of the gallery spectrum they also visited West Space, an artist-run space which exhibits more experimental and contemporary work. Here they encountered ‘Some Thing’, a seemingly living and breathing giant piece of meat! It was the installation by artist Ian Halg. It was very instructive to hear from gallery director Danny Lacy about the role and methods of such a different art space, and highly relevant to their studies.

Year 11 students had a similarly challenging experience when visiting New13 at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art. In addition to viewing the work by innovative and cutting edge Australian artists, they participated in a philosophical discussion about the nature of art itself, led by the ACCA educator.

Year 11 & 12 PDT Textiles students attended a fashion drawing workshop at the Whitehouse Design Institute, timed to fit in with design development drawing for their folios. Year 11 PDT Textiles students also visited the fantastic Hollywood Costumes exhibition at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) where they saw iconic costumes from a century of cinema, including Dorothy’s dress from The Wizard of Oz, and the famous ‘curtain’ dress from Gone with the Wind.

Karen Ferguson Curriculum Leader and Art Teacher

Year 12 VCAL holds a Year 10 Fun Run

Our VCAL Program focuses on the development of our life and work skills, often through our contributions to the broader community. With our Personal Development teacher, Chris Tipping, our class therefore decided to apply these skills to the organisation of an event for Year 10 students.

The 17th of September was the day of the Year 10 Fun Run at Gilpin Park. The event started at midday and fortunately the weather improved as the day progressed. Thanks to a lot of preparation and planning, everything went smoothly, with a BBQ and prizes at the end.

There were two options for the year 10’s, you either got to run seriously for three laps or you could walk for two. It was great to see all students participate at their chosen challenge. The winners of the boys’ race were Connor Martin in 1st place, Massimo Pesce in 2nd place and Reed Cathcart in 3rd place. For the girls race the winners were Sophie Van Dartel in 1st place, Greta Duff in 2nd place and Harley-Rose Byrne in 3rd place. All the teachers present were very helpful in supporting both the participants and the year 12 VCAL students who organised the event.

Zac Simmons and George De Ciero Year 12 VCAL students who organised the event.
On the 9th of August 2013, our bush wacked class (currently completing our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award) was lucky enough to go on a Le Tour De Le Tan Fun Run.

Le Tour de Le Tan is a one lap sponsored race (walk or run!) around the Tan Track. In brief, it’s about Award Participants celebrating DUKES WEEK, raising awareness for the program in a fun and active way and fundraising for FLARE – a program which subsidises the cost of the Awards for young people who would otherwise not be able to afford to participate due to social and economic disadvantage.

Although, it was a very windy cold day, we still managed to have a go at the fun run, and we all had heaps of fun. As a reward, we got free yummy food and we got a bag full of different things.

We all thought of it as a day out of school, participating in physical activity with our friends. There were people taking lots of photos, throughout the race and especially when crossing the finish line. One of the best things about the fun run was the fact that it wasn’t a competition, and you could just have fun. We also managed to raise over $200 for the FLARE program!

Kaitlyn Duggan and Paige Palmieri, Year 9

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This year we have introduced a new Performing Arts elective at Year 9 called Stagecraft, in which students study the principles of design in theatre. We have been learning about how set designers draw ground plans and front elevations to scale, and create miniature models to help the builders and scenic painters create the set. The class recently attended a backstage tour of Melbourne Theatre Company’s production headquarters in Southbank, one of the largest theatre companies in the world, and got to see where all the magic happens!

Here are some reflections from the day:

On 20th August 2013, Year 9 stagecraft was fortunate enough to visit the MTC (Melbourne Theatre Company) in Southbank. It was great day out except that it was raining.

Mattie, the Education Coordinator at MTC, took us for the tour of the company after explaining to us the history of the establishment. She took us to different departments and workshops within the company, such as the wig department, costume store (where they stored all the costumes from their previous productions), and costume workshop (where makers were working on costumes for their next production). The set workshop, where many set builders were in the process of making sets and props for their upcoming production, amazed me the most because it was massive. In the end, because we were lucky, we went into one of the rehearsal rooms and got to peek into a rehearsal for one of MTC’s upcoming productions.

Isbah Najam 9B

Our Stagecraft class went to the city to attend a backstage tour of MTC, where we saw all the sets they make and costumes. My favourite part was when we saw the props: they were working on three connected televisions, which I was really interested in as it was very creative. I was also interested in the amount of shows they have, twelve a year, so that is a lot of work but in the end it’s worth it. I loved the whole tour because I learnt a few new things and also I got to see new and creative stuff. I also made a new friend called Anthony (a mannequin in the props department), we created a strong friendship. When I first saw Anthony he looked very realistic, which I was impressed by, and that was one of the highlights of the tour.

Muhammad Saad 9B
Primary school Mid-Autumn Festival visit:

On Thursday 19 September, 30 year 6 students who will be attending Brunswick Secondary College next year visited our school to enjoy an annual mid-autumn festival event. They were involved in dancing, lantern making and each also baked a moon cake to take home. Thank you to food teacher, Ms Esta Ganci, dance teacher, Ms Tracie Eastwood, Assistant Principal, Alison Sanza and Chinese teacher, Mr Jiwei Xu for all their help and organisation. They day was fun and students learned about Chinese culture. Last but not least, thank you to the student helpers assisted too. They loved teaching and meeting some of our 2014 Year 7 students, and sharing their love of Chinese language and culture.

Yi Jie Xu Chinese Captain

On Friday August 23rd the VCE Unit 2 Drama class was treated to a master class with Tom Holloway, an award-winning playwright whose work has been staged extensively throughout Australia and internationally. Tom had just returned from the opening of his most recent production, an adaptation of Storm Boy, at Sydney Theatre Company.

Our students are currently writing scripts for their solo performances, and the workshop with Tom was timely and appreciated.

Nick Tranter Drama Teacher

"Tom Holloway’s visit was interesting and informative. We learnt about some ways to develop a script in a workshop he took us through."

Cassie Baker 11R

"It was really interesting talking to someone who writes to make a living. I learnt a lot from Tom, like the fact that every story has four points: the character is in an environment, the character wants something, someone/thing gets in the way and then the character gets what they want, and if they don’t they learn something.

Discussing all of this really helps me with my solo performance, as I have now established life events for my character and know where I am going with the character, as well as the basic skeleton of my character which I need to stretch out for eight minutes."

Ellen Campion 11R

"The visit from Tom Holloway was interesting and fun! We learnt a lot of things from him and he answered my bucket load of questions. (Sorry, Tom!) Either way, it was an excellent time and I really did learn quite a lot. Hopefully, his helpful answers will support my script and give it more depth!"

Sarina Barkho 11N

"During Tom’s visit I learnt a great deal about building my solo character. The most important thing Tom told us, and the thing I will try to implement immediately, is that to connect with an audience, a character must always be ‘in the moment’. Even when talking about past events (or their history), the actor still needs to understand what feelings or actions that character would be having at the moment of telling."

Lucy Payne 11R
Brunswick go to MIFF!
Year 10/11 Media Excursion – Melbourne International Film Festival
On August 9th 2013, the Year 10/11 Media class went on an excursion to the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF).

The classes saw two fascinating and interesting films entitled *Foxfire* (a French/Canadian film which takes place during the 1950s), and *Capturing Dad* (a Japanese Black Comedy).

We also got to spend some quality time in the excellent Screen Worlds exhibition at ACMI. The purpose of this excursion was to build skills for narrative deconstruction analysis in class, as well as expose students to cinema from different cultures outside of classical Hollywood cinema. So all in all, the excursion was a success, everyone had a blast, and it was DEFINITELY an unforgettable experience!

Massimo Lantieri-Bartley Year 10

Film Reviews by Liam Jenkins Year 11

**Foxfire**
143 mins, Canada/France, dir. Laurent Carnet

Set in the 1950s upstate New York, director Laurent Carnet presents a teenage girl’s perspective on the then sexist society. In an attempt to show the powerful men of their time that they aren’t the helpless little girls they are made out to be, six teenaged girls form a gang and take their revenge on anyone who puts them in harm’s way. However, what starts as justified revenge, quickly escalates to careless and aggressive rebellion.

In a nutshell, *Foxfire* has loads of potential. The plot is derived from Joyce Carol Oates’ novel of the same name; a story of feminism in a male-dominated world. The film shines in its presentation of 1950s life, but falls short in the character development department. Carnet delves into the characters’ psyches, yet not nearly as deep enough as would be liked, much to the frustration of his audience. In a plot that relies so heavily on its characters, ignoring the importance of them is unforgivable.

Clocking in at a whopping 143 minutes (2.5 hours), it’s a wonder that Carnet wasted so much time on irrelevant and unnecessary scenes rather than on his characters with high-potential. In hindsight, *Foxfire* is far from perfect, but its compelling storyline, gorgeous naturalistic cinematography and overall atmosphere demands a must-watch status.

**Capturing Dad** (2013) 6/10
74 mins, Japan, dir. Ryota Nakano

Imagine your mother asking you to visit your estranged father on his deathbed. Imagine finding out that whilst on your way, he had already passed. This is the situation two young sisters get into in Nakano’s (supposed) drama, *Capturing Dad*.

This Japanese language film is interesting, to say the least. It’s full of several surprises, so much so that it is not the film this reviewer originally thought it to be.

The plot is strong, for a 40 minute film, but not-so-much for a 90 minute film. Full of utter randomness, albeit some to a hilarious comic effect, I left the cinema not knowing how to feel about what I had just watched. Some parts of the film used pure stupidity where the drama was at its most intense – wasting the chance to be, well, dramatic.

All in all, the supposed drama felt more like a parody, a la the Scary Movie franchise. In developing a final opinion on the film, one must ask themselves whether the film’s witty, quirky humour and few touching moments can outweigh its often completely random stupidity. However, it goes without saying – *Capturing Dad* demands a few chuckles.
In preparation for the Wilsons Promontory Qualifying Adventurous Journey camp for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award in Term 4, the Brunswick Secondary College Bushwhacked students went on a 3 day bushwalk along the spectacular Great Ocean Walk. The walk was a three day and two night hike where we walked a total 35km. The class was divided into two groups with two teachers per group. Each group began the walk at either end of the track. The groups camped one night at Johanna Beach Camp Ground and the other at Aire River West Camp Ground.

With challenging weather both students and teachers were tested, but at the same time thoroughly enjoyed experience of being in such a beautiful environment. A big thanks to the staff that came along for the journey, Hilary Gilbert-Wilson, Richard Andrews and Ollie Fairclough, the wonderful Bushwhacked team, and the parents and guardians for their ongoing support with the program.

Sarah Meads Year 9 Bushwhacked Coordinator
Students’ individual accounts of the hike.

From the 21st to the 23rd of August our bushwhacked class went on a three day hike. We started at Cape Otway light house and finished at Johanna Beach. The first day we did a 10km walk to our first campsite and thankfully got nice weather. For a short amount of the walk we had to walk along the beach which was probably the hardest part of the whole hike. We enjoyed looking at the ocean and the nice breeze until we got hit by a wave and were wet for the rest of the trip, but it was probably the funniest moment.

Once we got to the camp site, we set everything up and cooked our dinner on the trangias and played a few games before bed. The next day was our biggest since it was the furthest we had to walk all trip. This day we weren’t so lucky with the weather; it rained on and off the whole trip and felt like the track was never going to end. Luckily we had just missed the look outs and were actually a lot further than we originally thought which gave us some hope. We stopped for lunch at Castle Cove and staggered on. Once again we had to walk along the beach which wasn’t as bad as the first time but this time we had to walk through the river. Since we each group had left their tents at the campsite, everything was already set up. Since there was no shelter to cook under and it was pouring down with rain we decided to walk further to a campsite with a shelter. Once we finally made it, we set up our tents and cooked our dinner. It was nice to get into some clean and warm clothes again. However, our feet were hurting so much we didn’t bother to put our shoes on.

After dinner, I’m pretty sure everyone was so tired that we all went straight to bed. In the morning we packed everything up and set off towards the bus. It was a short walk but once we got there we were glad to have a short ride in the warm comfy bus. We finally got home and I don’t think I was happier to be in my own bed than ever before but I will always look back on this experience as fun and challenging.

Enya Webber and Meaghan Jamieson Year 9

On the camp I was partners with Nic, our group was the first group. It had Nic, Bryce, Matt, Barbara, Katie, Enya, Meagan, Kaitlyn, Bronwyn and I (Eren). This group was really fun and interesting because we were all friends but afterwards we were even closer.

On our hike we had ups and downs like when we were playing games and having dinner that was fun and an “up”. When we were hiking in the mud and rain that was unpleasant thus being a down. On the camp we did around 32km in total and this was really hard really hard mentally and physically. This pushed us because of the distance and the hard hike up and down big hills. The hardest part on the hike was probably on the beach because it was hard to walk on and the extra weight didn’t help but the teachers helped everyone get through it and didn’t let anyone give up.

There were heaps of funny moments, one of which was when Enya Meagan and Kaitlyn got hit by a wave (the tide came in quicker than they expected!).

Nicholas Kainey and Eren Tasci Year 9

We were pumped for this hike inside the bus but it all changed. In the chilling winds of the great ocean walk we stood, freshly kicked off the bus. Then we walked up and down hills, some muddy some dry. We saw some kangaroos and Sam went to get closer and twitched and turned 180 degrees and ran like Usain Bolt.

Once we got to the camp site we decided that it would be a while till it rained so we went to check out the beach. As soon as we start to leave the nearby beach it started spattering and then all of a sudden we were cooking while it was bucketing rain. After walking 9km with twenty kilograms on our back we called it a day.

The next day we woke up all sore and stiff and quickly ate breakfast and left. We were meant to eat lunch with the other group but they decided to keep on walking. We stopped for lunch at a tourist area and it felt like we were part of the attraction. We walked ahead towards our final campsite but it took us a long time because someone in our group had a lot of blisters.

When we started to unpack our things Kevin opened his sleeping bag and to our surprise there was a spider in it, we were paralysed with fear and could not stop swearing for at least 10 minutes. During the night we couldn’t talk to each other as the rain was so loud!

On the last day we sang and sprinted most of the way because we were just over being tired. As we kept on going we came to a cliff and the wind was so strong that the rain went sideways and the sea foam flew up the cliff. Halfway to the pickup point we met with part of the other group and found out that they took the bus on the last day and didn’t walk the whole way so we got bragging rights. Hiking is not for the weak.

Sam Cooper and Kevin Ramadhan Year 9

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Enya Webber and Meaghan Jamieson Year 9
The term 3 year 7 interschool sport

For futsal I went out to the Pit Lane Futsal Centre at Albert Park, the girls competed with two teams and the boys competed with four teams, it was a strong competition and the teams were tough but the first game for the girls was against princess hill and we drew. Our next game we won, then we had to have a grand final match against princess hill and we won 8-1. Also and behalf of the girls futsal teams we would like to thanks Luqman and Stanley in year 10 for helping us out. It was a fun and exciting day out on sport.

Tahlia Devito Year 7

For Basketball we went to MSAC, with two girl’s teams and two boys teams. Mr Kolber coached the girls teams and Ms Goss coached the boys. The competition was really good we were up against very competitive teams. The A team girls won 2 games out of 4. There were MGC, Fitzroy and Uni High. Our teams played very well together and tried our hardest. The boys played well in both sides. We developed skills and confidence throughout the day and look forward to trying again next year. Thanks to Lachlan Stredwick and Murray Leonard for coming along and helping out.

Sam Gilmou Year 7

For hockey we went to Essendon Hockey Centre. We had one boys’ team [coached by Mr Poynter] and one girls’ team [coached by Ms Meads] the boys’ team drew one in a competitive game and went down fighting in another match. The girls’ team drew against Melbourne Girls College and beat Fitzroy’s team. They also didn’t get a goal scored against them which is very good as their goal keeper had never played before. The girls team get go to zones hockey in term 4. Each team played really well and performed to their very best. A special thanks to Mr Poynter and Ms Meads for coaching a team each.

Meg Vincent Year 7

BSC put together a number of teams to compete at the ever popular Table Tennis tournament. This was a successful campaign with our boys team making it through to the next round of competition. Thanks to Ms Gilbert for training and coaching the teams on the day. Also big thanks to Mr Wang for organising and running specialist training sessions on other days for all table tennis players.

Josh Nolan Sports Coordinator
The inaugural Year 10 Subject Expo was held in the Gymnasium on Tuesday 27th August. The students made excellent use of the afternoon and it was great to see so many parents there too. The expo provides students with an invaluable opportunity to speak with teachers about pathways through the school and I was proud to see so many of the year 9s having mature discussions about their futures. These conversations allow for more informed choices as they head into the senior school. Choosing the right subject mix in year 10 can assist in students to succeed and make their VCE journey a smoother one. Thank you to all the teachers who took time out of their day to speak with our students, provide them with information and invaluable assistance with their subject selection. A big thank you to Mr Bartley, Ms Faubel and the VCAL crew who provided an excellent BBQ lunch for us all before we went into the gym.

Rohan McCarthy
Year 9 Coordinator

On Tuesday all of the year nines got together for the expo where they learned about the subjects they can do in year 10, this allowed them to get ready, and improve their studies for what they’re going to do in their future, careers, jobs and so on. This was the first time in BSC history that the year 9’s had an expo for all the subjects, and this will get them ready for their journey into the real world!

Muhammad Saad
Year 9

The point of the Subject Expo yesterday for the year 9’s was to get us organised for year 10. We had to choose our subjects for next year. They made it like a circuit where we walk around in a circle and let the teacher at the table, sign for us. The teachers that were sitting at each of the tables would explain everything to us briefly, so we don’t choose something we don’t want to do, and then start complaining to our coordinators.

Malak Abdul-Wahed
Year 9

On august the 27th, the year 9’s had a subject information expo. We were given a sheet of paper with blank boxes that we had to fill in with subjects we were interested in. During this time we were able to talk to teachers of all subjects in year 10. This helped the year 9’s get a better understanding of what they can do in order to ensure what subject they would like to attend the following year.

There were the following careers: wood, drivers ed, VCAL, early start, math, history, photography fitness, physical education, kitchen and gardening, literature, VCD, geography, economics, psychology and health ect. As we went over to the subjects we were interested in the teachers would let us know what it’s about and how it will benefit us.

Riven Keating-Stamp and Deon Fulgaro
Year 9
Year 7 COGS Reflections

We did so many fun things in COGS this term and enjoyed so many experiences including dancing, drumming and lots of fun quizzes. The last session was my favourite! For me COGS is a great get together to learn about what’s coming up in the school community.

James Kharma Year 7

In COGS this term I enjoyed the drumming activity and the superhero newspaper fashion show. I also liked the session involving cultural information, allowing us to learn about and understand other religions, backgrounds etc.

Sarah Anania Year 7

In COGS I enjoyed the drumbeat session. I also enjoyed learning a new language, new music, new dance moves and a new instrument. I learnt how hard it is to learn the drumming for a special ceremony, they learn the drum beating continuously for up to a week until they perfect it. I felt like I was connected to everyone through the music. It was really fun and pretty tiring, our hands got all red.

Priyansha Thapa Year 7

What I enjoy about COGS is the many activities we get to do. We did drumming lessons, dancing, sports and other enjoyable things. Everybody had fun during our activities. COGS also gives us advice on our education and also helps us with our safety in and out of school.

Emna Moustafa Year 7

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