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Choosing a Secondary School

April and May are eventful months at Brunswick Secondary College. In addition to a busy performing arts program, we host visits from grade five and six students from our local primary schools, hold our annual Student Information Evening for parents of Year 7 (2014) and see numbers on school tours swell. We appreciate the significance of the secondary school selection decision for families.

Choosing the right school is about matching a child’s aspirations, strengths and needs with the teaching and learning environment that will best empower them to flourish.

Of course, choosing a school requires thinking well beyond Year 7. We share with parents the goal of wanting our students to become the best possible version of themselves, not only during their time at school but into their adult lives. The phrase ‘every learner crossing the stage with dignity, purpose and options’ comes from the British Columbian network of schools in Canada. It is a vision that we at Brunswick Secondary College share.

As educators, our aspiration for our students extends beyond the six years they are directly in our care. We feel pride and reward in knowing our graduates’ lives have been influenced and enhanced by attending our school. I encourage you to read the ‘Where are they now?’ profiles in this and the previous edition of the Brunswick Star. Former students’ lives and opportunities matter greatly to us.

Having led school tours at BSC for well over a decade, I have noted over the past few years a far greater interest from parents in the social and emotional learning that the school offers. I have also been asked far more questions about the extension, enrichment and community involvement opportunities we provide at the school.

While the importance of students reaching their academic potential is a given and remains our core purpose as a school, my observation is that parents today recognise and value the interrelatedness between academic success and student confidence, connectedness and wellbeing.

Parents often ask me the best method of ‘really getting to know’ a school. As with all important questions, the answer is complex. A school website is a rich source of information containing data, day to day and more strategic information. Newsletters such as the Brunswick Star give insight into individual student and team achievements and stories and allow the community to see how a school’s vision and values are implemented in the life of the school.

There is no substitute, however, for attending a school tour on a normal school day and seeing the school in action and assessing its ‘feel’. Discussions with students and parents who are already connected to the school allow families to learn more about the quality of teaching, and the school’s responsiveness to parents’ concerns and feedback.

While some readers of this edition of the Brunswick Star will be prospective parents, most will be our current students and parents. Having already chosen to join our school community, I hope you find value in this reminder of our school’s aspirations for your child now and into the future and our shared responsibility in this endeavour.

Vivienne Tellefson
Principal

Some of our senior students reflect on why they chose Brunswick Secondary and what they appreciate and value in our school community,

Brunswick is our local school. We live in Coburg. What we like about Brunswick is that there is a lot of diversity and lot of extracurricular activities. We have both participated in a China Study Tour, had a lot of success in table tennis and been challenged in our classes which is good, as we are able to learn a lot about our interests. We are looking forward to doing work experience, which we are doing together, at a product demonstration company.

Aiden and Matthew Blair, Year 10

I came to Brunswick as I wanted to go to a high school that I could start anew. I wasn’t exactly happy at my primary school and I didn’t want to go to high school with the same people even though it meant leaving behind my close friends. I was also attracted to the Rock Eisteddfod program. Also, when I visited Brunswick for the school tour, I felt welcome, and loved the school vibe. The thing I love about Brunswick is that it offers so many opportunities for everyone.

Larissa Li, Year 11

I decided to change school when I was in Year 11. I had heard great things about the school environment at Brunswick from friends and family. I already had a number of friends at the school so I knew I wasn’t going to be by myself but I have quickly made many more. I enjoy being here because it has allowed me to flourish academically and socially. It also keeps me more accountable regarding my studies because the school is very focused on academic achievements, improvement and student independence.

Bellal Hassoun, Year 12

I chose to go to Brunswick because I had heard it was a good school from my sister’s friends who went there. I looked into it and found out they had a good music program which was important to me because I play saxophone and piano and am very passionate about being opportunities and encouragement to perform. What I liked about BSC is there is a good sense of community because everyone gets to know each other through their interests in extracurricular activities that the school offers. I also like the classes because we have good teachers that somehow make doing work enjoyable.

Melanie Lasslett, Year 10
Choosing a School / cont

I came to Brunswick because of the abundance of experiences my brother shared with me when I was younger. He has only ever had positive things to say about Brunswick and often informed me of the quality of friendships he developed, the bond he shared with teachers and all of the opportunities which he was offered. I also chose to come to Brunswick because of its reputation and success in the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge, which I was extremely eager to become a part of.

Kady Mansour, Year 12

I like Brunswick because of the sense of community. It has been really easy to settle in because of how kind everyone is. The teachers are approachable and helpful. They take some of the stress out of year 12 and being a new student.

Grace Anderson, Year 12

I chose to attend Brunswick Secondary College rather than my local school because my primary teacher thought this school would be a much better choice in helping to achieve what I want to do in the future. I have a passion for Mathematics and engineering. I know at Brunswick Secondary College that I will be get both the ‘pressure’ and help that I need to achieve what I can do. The teachers are helpful and care about me. I have been in Australia for five years so I am an ESL student. This means I have to work really hard to learn the English skills I need for every subject but I ready to for everything I need to do to achieve my goals.

Gary Mao, Year 10

I came to Brunswick Secondary College because my father’s friend recommended him this school. I like this school’s education system, the activities and most importantly, the teachers.

Tharishini Ramachandran, Year 11

When I came to Brunswick Secondary in Year 7, I knew a few people but not any friends. I soon started making friends, developed my social skills and enjoyed getting involved in the music program. It was the last thing I did when I got to the school. I was really keen on it. I have been learning and playing the guitar from Year 7 to Year 11 and love performing. The kids here are really nice and the teachers are lovely. The teachers always help me with my school work, always helping me if I have trouble and they are willing to depend time after school. It was more my Mum’s idea for me to come to this school but during my first year it grew on me. Now I couldn’t imagine being anywhere else.

Tristan Walsh Year 11

I was first interested in going to Brunswick because of their SEALP program but as I did more research into the school I found out about all the unique and interesting elective subjects that BSC offers to its students. I couldn’t wait to see what circus, computer art, textiles and woodwork were all about and as I continue my schooling at Brunswick I am still amazed at all the wonderful range of subjects, extracurricular activities and new opportunities I am offered at this school. I have had the opportunity to explore many different areas of education and made some wonderful friends with people from all year levels through things such as the music program and drama club.

I love that at Brunswick we have the opportunity to meet people with common interests and from a wide range of year levels too. Being a student at Brunswick Secondary for the last couple of years has really been a great experience for me and I cannot wait to see what my next couple of year will have to offer.

Georgia Polichroniadis, Year 10

The decision to come to Brunswick is one my family and I made together. My elder brothers had gone to another school. A big attraction was the amount of sport on offer and the hockey field. It is used to many different sports and is a great resource. The school has a strong sports program which it keeps improving even more. Our school participates in a wide range of interschool sports. When I graduate at the end of the year I know I will miss the people at school.

Kyle Allan, Year 12

I chose to travel to Brunswick SC and my sisters have followed. BSC is special because it provides you with the opportunity to grow and achieve. The teachers are there to help and give endless support and guidance to help us achieve our best. The community at Brunswick is friendly and comfortable and being in this kind of environment helps relieve the pressure and stress of being in year 12.

Mimi Awad, Year 12
Pacific Islander Group
This is a group of people from the pacific islands in Brunswick. This group has people from different countries in the pacific such as the Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji, Samoa and New Zealand. The group was formed to teach people about our culture and our traditions. We are planning to try to run a few workshops before we have a huge Polyfest. This is where we share different things about each other’s cultures such as the different types of music, dance, food and even tattoos. The pacific island culture is something that not many people have heard of in detail and that’s what we are trying to do, let the others know about, enjoy and experience our culture.

Sam Marsters Year 9

Year 7 Lunch Club
Year 7 Lunch club is a really great way to make friends. It encourages year 7s who are new to the school to have more confidence in talking and playing with others like themselves. I find this club to be especially good because it enables us the freedom to play with our friends in whichever way we’d like rather than focusing on one specific thing in the way that most of the clubs do. We are lucky to be in a room in F-Block with air con so if you are hot or cold outside it will always be nice and comfortable inside to have fun with your friends.

Belle Arcus Year 7

Cake Decorating
Cake decorating makes a Monday exciting and stress free fun for everyone and especially for those who may have the Monday blues. Cake Decorating is an activity I can not only enjoy with friends but with people from the younger year levels. As well as this, I can learn new crafts to take home and show off to my family and friends. It is a completely stress free zone and it’s a class I allow myself as a reward for all the hard work I do in school.

Mimi Awad Year 12

SRC
2013’s SRC team are working cohesively and effectively to create a better community environment for the students it represents. So far we have helped administer two successful weeks of activities, one centred around a House Revolution and the other revolving around Cultural Diversity.

House revolution was exciting for SRC and this translated to the students as there was a greater sense of enthusiasm in the school’s community and we were able to further build the strong connection we have between the junior and senior sectors of the school.

We then used appreciative enquiry, a review of all the positive elements of House Revolution week, and transferred these to Cultural Diversity week in order to further the success of the event.

Our future goals include enhancing the already growing community spirit in Brunswick’s students.

Kady Mansou and Mimi Awad School Captains Year 12

Boys Hip-Hop Class
The new Hip-Hop program that is being run for boys on a Wednesday recess is a very exciting new program. I have been involved in the program over the past few weeks and am really enjoying it. It has helped the dancing skills of all the students involved and the teachers have been really supportive. I strongly encourage anybody thinking of becoming involved to give it a shot as it is a lot of fun.

Sanchit Sanchit Year 8
Co-Curricular Programs

Chess Club
Chess club is run every Friday lunchtime in the library and is a great opportunity to play chess against our friends. I have been playing chess for two years with my friends and really enjoy it. I like chess as it is a very strategic game and makes you think a lot about all the different moves you make. The upcoming chess tournament that some of our students are involved in is going to be a very exciting opportunity to play competitively and put the skills we are learning at chess club into practice.
Bob Mai Year 7

Debating
This year at Brunswick we are really lucky to have five debating teams entered, from year 8 to year 11, in the Coburg region competition. Our first debate for the year was on the 13th of March and many of our debaters were competing for the first time in the senior competition. While we weren’t so successful in terms of wins vs losses, our teams competed with sportsmanship and a level of skill that is incredibly impressive given their relative inexperience. I’m very proud of all our debaters and look forward to the next debate. If you’re a year 7 and interested in debating just hold tight until term 3 when the junior competition starts. A big ‘well done’ to our debaters and good luck for the next debate.
Maggie O’Shea Debating Captain, Year 11

Science Club
Science club is one of the recently started extracurricular activities which are happening at BSC. It runs on Thursday lunchtimes. It provides students who have a love of science with an opportunity to try things outside of the classroom, and perform experiments which they are interested in as well as alerting these students to science based competitions and events. However, Science Club isn’t just for those who already have an interest in science. It is a real fun and relaxed atmosphere for anyone who just wants to try something new. One of the best aspects of Science Club is the variety of students who attend. There are students from all year levels and it is great to get to meet them and share your ideas with them. The experiments we try during the club are really enjoyable, we’ve created soap bubble explosions, sodium sparks and made our hair stand on end with the Van de Graaf generator. So far science club has been a really great experience. I highly recommend that anyone who is even vaguely interested comes along and gives it a go.
Elowen Amos Year 10

Percussion Ensemble
I think playing drums is a really great thing to do at the school. I started playing in year 7, and I still think it is really fun to do. The performances that the school organises are really great to be a part of, because we get to play in bands with other students. I think that it was a great choice that I made to play drums, because being a part of the music program at Brunswick Secondary has given me so many fond memories and experiences, as well as being lots of fun. This year, our teacher Nick, is involved in an exciting new project where he is teaching percussion skills to the students at the Brunswick English Language Centre as well as to BSC students.
Matt Thomas Year 11

Junior Homework Club
We like going to Homework Club because we can get guidance from our teachers and catch up with our work and homework. That way, we make good use of our time. If we need help or are stuck on something, we can get help from the teacher. You can get help in English, Humanities, Maths and any subject really. You can also get help with organisation, study and computer skills. Going to Homework Club also allows us more free time at home and be up to date. That’s the reason why we come to Homework Club.
Zehry Taleb Year 9 and Damian Christakis Year 7

Maths Help
Maths Help is one of the after-school co-curricular activities offered at Brunswick Secondary College. These sessions provide us with the opportunity to get one-on-one assistance from maths teachers when completing homework, studying and preparing for SACS and exams. As year 12 students, myself and my peers have found Maths Help to be a really valuable resource for improving our confidence and knowledge and challenging ourselves in maths. Students from Year 7-12 are all very welcome at Maths Help.
Alexandra Brown Year 12

Anime Club
Anime club is run on a Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime for all students at Brunswick Secondary. It is a fun way to spend lunch time as we get to watch many different sorts of anime movies and learn about Asian cinema. It has been a really good way to meet new people whilst also learning about a new and interesting form of cinema.
Matt Appleby Year 7
**Book Club**

Book Club is an excellent program where avid readers can get together and discuss their love of books and reading.

Wendy Jia, Year 9

Book Club is a great opportunity to learn about new things in the literary world. It’s all round fun and the refreshments are just a bonus. The conversations are amazing.

PJ Byrne, Year 10

Book Club is a great way to learn about books and to broaden your mind. It allows you to learn about and explore different genres of books which you wouldn’t usually pick up.

Aidan and Matthew Blair, Year 10

I have been in Book Club since Year 7 and have come back each year for more as it is an absolutely fantastic thing to be part of. I have really loved discussing different books and genres and coming away from our meetings with a whole lot of books that I want to get my hands on. I definitely recommend Book Club even if you don’t feel you are the most avid of readers.

Elise Louey, Year 9

Book Club is a lot of fun and a really easy way to meet people from other year levels with similar interests to you. There is a really good atmosphere and the conversation is interesting and insightful.

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**Coming to BSC Soon**

BSC’s first whole school production is in earnest rehearsal phase this term. We perform in the second last week, Thursday 20th and Friday 21st June. This term, in addition to the regular twice weekly rehearsals, the cast and musicians will hold some Sunday run throughs.

A Fame Camp, where we will sleep over at school, will enable us to rehearse for a full weekend. The cast has been working very productively, enjoying the challenge of an incredibly tight timeline and the amazing feeling that comes from everyone doing their best.

Tickets can only be purchased through the ClockTower and will be available soon.

We hope to see you there. We promise it will be wonderful.

Amelia Constable, Performing Arts Captain
Cultural Diversity Week

Do you love Brunswick and Coburg because they are so wonderfully diverse? Do you know that in our school in 2013 we have students from an impressive 51 different cultural backgrounds? Do you, like me, just love eating the food and learning about the dances, music and traditions of other cultures? At BSC, we really do.

In 2013, dance was a key theme in our Cultural Diversity Week celebrations. The lunchtime Zorba Till You Drop competition was enjoyed by all. The rules were simple. If you lost your step or bent your arms, you were out of the competition. The last three people standing won prizes. Thank you to Peter Eleftherakis, former Brunswick Secondary College student, who so expertly played the bouzouki (Greek instrument).

Thank you especially to all the parents who cooked the most amazing multicultural lunch. There were over fifteen different types of traditional food. The Zumba class in the gym the next day succeeded in getting even more people up dancing—over one hundred and fifty students danced their hearts out to the latest Zumba moves and tunes. The instructor said she was amazed at how enthusiastically BSC boys and girls of all year levels joined in the dancing.

While it is fun to celebrate the differences among cultures and to learn about the dancing, food and other traditions of Cultural Diversity Week, the event is above all a celebration about what people in all cultures share and how important it is for all of us to learn to understand and respect each other.

Helena Kakoliris
Peer Support Captain

With each new year comes new ideas and improvements. With this in mind, the 2012-13 SRC students and teachers have revolutionised the House Colour names at Brunswick Secondary College.

In previous years, House Colours and the friendly rivalries that accompany them hadn’t been a major focus at Brunswick. However this all started to change last year with the introduction of the Brunswick Bell and the opportunity for the winning House at school events such as sporting carnivals to ring the Brunswick Bell at the next assembly.

In Term One 2013, we were pleased to introduce the House Revolution. No longer are houses referred to as simply Blue, Gold, Green or White. Now students and teachers alike are grouped together under names that are thought to truly reflect the values and benefits of belonging to the Brunswick Secondary Community.

Our new house names signify the multi-cultural nature that we live and learn in. They are the words for each of our four school colours in different languages.

- Blue is now Lan-se: Chinese for blue
- Green is now Caagar: pronounced Agar, Somali for green
- White is now Abyad: Arabic for white
- Gold is now Oro: both Italian and Spanish for gold

In addition to choosing names which reflect the diversity of our school community, we have chosen names that are easy to pronounce and fun to chant at Sporting Carnivals and other House Events. We hope the new names and up-coming competitions, such as designing banners for each house, will further strengthen the important team building aspect of our school. Congratulations to Caagar (Green) who as winners of the Swimming Carnival was the first House to ring the Brunswick Bell in 2013.

The Student Representative Council
Brunswick Secondary College says No Way to Bullying!

On Friday 15 March BSC joined over 1400 schools across Australia in celebrating the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. Our Year 10 Peer Support Leaders asked their peers how do we stop bullying and what can be done about it? Approximately one in four Year 4 to Year 9 Australian students (27%) reported being bullied every few weeks. 

83% of students who bully others online also bully offline
84% of students who were bullied online were also bullied offline

With some of these concerning statistics in mind our Peer Support Leaders felt that they wanted to share the message that Brunswick Secondary College (BSC) says NO WAY to bullying. Peer Support Leaders set up a Vox Pop in the yard on Friday, 15 March and asked the difficult question of how and what can be done to stop bullying.

Students sent a strong message that they didn’t agree with bullying and felt that we could stop it. Students believed that people need to speak up and not allow bullying to occur. Peer Support Leaders were able to share with them the importance of the bystander and what an impact they can make. ‘Peers are present as onlookers in 87% of bullying interactions, and play a central role in the bullying process’

Source: Australian Covert Bullying Prevalence Study (ACBPS). Child Health Promotion Research Centre, Edith Cowan University, Perth, 2009

This mini documentary is currently been edited and developed for it to be shown at our COGS sessions throughout the year. Peer Support Leaders would like to continue sharing the strong message through their peers that bullying is not OK and we can all do something to stop it. As part of this Peer Support Leaders have been facilitating and developing team building activities for students of years 7, 8 & 9 through our COGS sessions. They have played games and activities that have allowed students to work with their peers and to learn to trust and support each other.

They have focussed on building a culture that is respectful, appreciative of others and one where students look out for each other. This is the message that they hope to continue with their involvement in COGS, Year 7 Team Building Day and many more school events.

It is important to note that research shows that communities must come together to stop bullying. It is for this reason that we are committed to building awareness with students, teachers and parents on how we can stop bullying.

The websites listed below provide information on what is Cyber Bullying and how we can address it. They provide useful tips for parents to implement at home. There is also the latest research on what young people are telling us about bullying.

Please refer to the websites below for further information;

- http://au.reachout.com/cyberbullying
Where are they now?

Cindy Bach
Graduated 2005
Year 12 subjects: English, Chemistry, Biology, Maths
Methods, Specialist Maths and MUPHAS (Mathematics)
Favourite subjects: Maths, Methods

Favourite memory of BSC
During 2003, I was part of an environment collective called MLSEC, which comprised of teachers and students.
We organised a conference at CERES, inviting students and teachers from surrounding primary schools to come together with the aim to discuss and raise awareness of environmental issues that were impacting our local community.
We organised workshops and talks which allowed other students to take back issues to their own schools and try and become more environmentally conscious.

An important lesson learned at BSC
Someone once told me that different parts of our lives are defined by the people we know. I truly believe in this. Having friends and a strong support network around you are important and make things that seem impossible, possible. Communication and building relationships with those who find themselves in the same situation should not be under-rated.

My life beyond BSC
After completing Year 12, I studied Pharmacy at Monash University, Parkville. I then went on to work at the Western Hospital as a Clinical Pharmacist for two years, where I now work on a part-time basis. I have since returned to study, doing a Bachelor of Medicine at Monash University. After my first year out at the Gippsland Monash campus, I am currently back in Melbourne in my first clinical year at Monash Medical Centre in Clayton, with two more years of study before completing my degree.

A favourite quote
"Today you are You, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is Youer than You." - Dr. Seuss

My best advice to current students
Stay focused and determined and never lose sight of your dreams.

Megan Conley
Graduated 2006
Year 12 Subject: English, Theatre Studies, History, English Literature, Japanese, Media
Favourite subject(s): English Literature & Theatre Studies

Favourite memory of BSC
Some of my best memories of BSC come from my involvement in the rock eisteddfod.
The rock, eisteddfod encouraged a great sense of community and it enabled you to become connected with people from different year levels and groups that you may not have otherwise known.

An important lesson I learned at BSC
BSC taught me the importance of giving things a go and being open to new opportunities and experiences.

My life beyond BSC
After I graduated I studied a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Melbourne majoring in Japanese and Cultural Studies.

A favourite quote
"An eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind" – Gandhi

My best advice to current students
Never give up on your dreams. Thanks to Mrs. Tangey telling me that I would always get somewhere I learnt never to give up.

Yahye Fitaax
Graduated 2008
Year 12 Subjects: English, Business Management, Further Maths, Physical Education
Favourite subjects: Maths with Jack Torosidis and Business with Helen Spanos

Favourite memory of BSC
Athletics carnivals were the most fun, going out with all the boys. We were always late and I’d have to run straight into my event. It was all fun and games running amuck after that.

An important lesson learned at BSC
Never give up on your dreams. Thanks to Mrs. Tangey telling me that I would always get somewhere I learnt never to give up.

My life beyond BSC
I am now working at North Melbourne Football Club working as Multicultural Development Officer which involves running football programs within primary school that have over 60% of their students coming from multicultural diverse backgrounds. At the same time as working I am studying a cert 3 in sports and recreation which compliments the work I am doing within North Melbourne football club.

A favourite quote
"Without struggle there is no success"

My best advice to current students
Stay focused and determined and never lose sight of your dreams.

Yahye (right) with North Melbourne’s Majak Daw
Students from Brunswick Secondary College have just returned from a school trip to China. To enhance their appreciation of Chinese culture and improve their language skills, these lucky children spent an afternoon attending a middle school in Shanghai.

**The Great Wall of China**

We have come a long way since this wall was begun 2000 years ago. The myriad steps provided a great workout, as we traversed it for a couple of hours, and photographed the snowy forest on the Mongolian side. An exciting toboggan ride to the base, with loud speakers intoning us to “slow down” at every curve, was well worth the extra cost.

**Delicious Food in Muslim Market in Xi’an**

This colourful, vibrant market had small alleyways and a huge variety of food, exotic smells of spices and different voices everywhere. The labyrinth of passageways is intimidating at first, but the students were keen to buy souvenirs, so they were off to bargain with the merchants.

**Hot & Sticky after Bike Riding around City Wall in Xi’an**

It was mid afternoon on a warm day, when the group rode the 14kms around the top of the city wall. This was not a smooth roadway. Built in 1370 in the Ming Dynasty, and 12m above the city, it has cobblestones, potholes and sloping areas. But a couple of boys set a new record racing to finish it. Others took their time and enjoyed the views of tiny streets and houses, from the wall.

**Snack Food in China**

Forget chips, donuts and popcorn. A delicious snack while walking around the Mall is deep fried scorpions. Several students tried these, but you will have to ask them about the taste...

**Food, glorious food**

Everyone was delighted with the Peking Duck banquet, and watched the chef carve up the duck. It was served on a traditional Duck plate. Then with excellent chopstick skills we demolished the food.

Thank you to Jan Dods-Armstrong for sharing her photos and reflections of the Study Tour, teachers Megan Conley and Jiwei Xu for their organization and Mr Xu’s parents for hosting the group for dinner- it was a highlight for all.
International Women’s Day

The first creative project in Art Club was to make felt flowers to celebrate International Women’s Day. We wanted to make many felt flowers to hang them up around the school. So the Year 8 Textiles class joined forces to increase the quantity, to make the grand total of 49! The students took much pleasure in making these petite, colourful and tactile objects. A special thanks to Tayler Muir who extended herself to make extra flowers in her own time, which are individually hand embroidered. Look up outside Alison Sanza’s office to admire these delightful, suspended artworks. Each one is individual, representing the diversity of women in our world.

Shannon Widdeson, Art and English Teacher

In Art Club we made felt flowers. We had to design a pattern then we cut the pattern out. After that we sewed them together with a button. The purpose of the flowers was to celebrate International Women’s Day. I believe this day represents the rights of women around the world.

Tayler Muir, Year 9

I believe this special day signifies the importance of all women throughout this world.

Cecilia Gu, Year 8

In our Textiles class we all made different flower designs. Some people used flower cut outs, others designed their own. I think International Women’s Day is about celebrating and remembering all the women in the world and thinking about the women close to you.

Julie Pascall, Year 8

International Women’s Day means the rights of women and girls all over the world.

Chloe Cerra, Year 8

The sound scape, designed by Russel Goldsmith, was really impressive. He used basic voiceovers to give the idea of the different parts of the house and the entire second act contained the continual sound of rain on a tin roof. Using elements of an abattoir in set design was another interesting feature.

Though Hate was written in 1988 it was incredible how much of the content was relevant and still stinging today. The thickness and selfishness of Australian politics remains and those affected by it are still invisible. I would recommend this play to everyone, both experienced theatre goers and newbies as most people can find something to connect to; be warned though, content is about M rating so little kids are a no-no. I’m really looking forward to meeting Marion Potts (artistic director of Malthouse Theatre and director of Hate) at the next Provocateurs meeting.

Lucy Payne, Year 11

Congratulations to Ellen Campion, Year 11, who has been successful in her application for an MTC (Melbourne Theatre Company) Provocateur role. Ellen, and her teacher, Nick Tranter were thrilled to receive this news on the last day of term. You can look forward to reading one of Ellen’s reviews in a future edition of the Brunswick Star.
Year 7 Lunchtime Activities

Every Tuesday and Thursday year 7 students are invited to F2 to eat their lunch, play games and make new friends. We also invite members from the senior SRC so that our year 7s can ask them questions, play games (some very intense UNO games have taken place) and feel welcomed in their new community. A few of our regulars had this to say: ‘I like the fact that you can just play games and you can choose when to come. It’s good to get to know other people who are in the same position as you. You get to meet new friends that you normally wouldn’t meet.’

Belle Arcus

Creating Success

Students in the Creating success class undertook a unit of work entitled Student driven curriculum. The content they worked on was of their own choice. However the weekly tasks and skills were the same for all students. The rationale was to allow students to feel positive, excited, engaged and proud of their content so that they could achieve success and develop skills such as research, reading, summarising, listening, speaking, organisation and adhering to deadlines. Here is Kosta Vasilacopoulos’s reflection:

I chose to research the knights of the medieval times because when I visited museums in London I was fascinated by their armour and weapons. I really enjoyed finding out more about these but when I did the research I also learnt about the lifestyle of the knights and their code of practice.

When I thought about this, I realised that there was some similarity with the Samurai warriors that I was reading about. So I put all this information together in a PowerPoint presentation with quite a few images I found on the Internet.

Alison Sanso, Assistant Principal and Creating Success Teacher 7

Melbourne University-Science Micro Teaching

This year Brunswick Secondary College participated in the Melbourne University Micro teaching program, which involved small group teaching in Science classes. This program provides student teacher candidates with experience in teaching practice, while engaging students in Science curriculum.

This year 9W, 9N and 8S science classes participated in the program each Tuesday morning over three weeks. Students enjoy this experience, which significantly benefits students understanding and engagement in science. Year 9 students focused on the topic of psychology, while Year 8 students worked to improve their understanding and knowledge of Earth Science and minerals.

8S Student comments

“The classes were interesting and hands on, this made the classes fun and helped me understand some more in-depth aspects of Earth Science and resources in Australia”

9N Student comments

“The teachers were nice and helped me solve problems. I enjoyed the different games and activities that they taught us each lesson. I think I learnt a lot.”

Anna Madden, Head of Learning, Science
Year 12 Chem
In Term 1 the Year 12 Chemistry class went on an excursion to the University of Melbourne. On the excursion we undertook experiments in a professional lab and were given the opportunity to use state of the art equipment. We also learnt about tertiary and career paths in science, including the job ‘professional ice cream taster!’ Our teacher, Ms Yeap, put lots of work into preparing us for the excursion and even gave up her day off to take us. It was a really fun day.
Alex Brown, Year 12

Shave for a Cure
The shave for a cure fundraiser was held late last term, with the funds raised being donated towards cancer research. We had a fantastic turnout of teachers willing to shave their heads and students happy to participate in getting their hair temporarily spray painted. It was a great event for our school community. Students watched in awe as hair was removed or coloured in the blink of an eye! I would like to thank all who participated especially in shaving their heads! It is a very daunting and nerve racking experience which deserves to be commended by all. This fundraiser was an exciting event. All students were honoured to raise money for such a worthy cause.
Kady Mansour

Debating
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Maggie O’Shea, Debating Captain

Textiles
In textiles I am learning design. I am designing a cushion and it is in the shape of a cat. I chose the most colourful design. I am using special paint to paint the fabric. The cushion will be for my little sister.
Mostafa Radwan, Year 9

Static Electricity
In our science class we have been working on static electricity with the Van der Graaff generator. I got to go on the Van der Graaff to see what it was like to have static in me. It made the confetti in my hand fly out and my hair floated up. Everyone was really surprised. It was a great way to show static electricity. Sarah had a turn after me. It looked like her hair was swimming in the air.
Chantelle Meja Cai, Year 7

Damian and the NBN
Our family was very fortunate to be one of the first city families in Australia to be given access to the NBN (National Broadband Network). In fact my brother, Thomas and I, were the first kids in Melbourne to get to try it out. That was around a year ago now. You may have seen our family on the television ads recently. It is great that even more areas of Moreland will soon have access to the NBN.
What I like about the NBN is the ‘far faster’ access especially with downloading. Having a family involved in the televised advertisement was fun. It took thirteen hours from set-up to final filming. It was really exciting to be a part of the ad, to learn about the process and see what was involved in doing the voice overs. Now whenever I watch an ad on TV, I know how much has gone into it.
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Bringing Wild Life to Brunswick
The year 11 VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) class took part in creating a Wildlife Corridor along Union Street in late February. We worked with Martin Forster from the Moreland Energy Foundation. In doing this we were able to complete some of our community and work skills outcomes for Year 11 VCAL. Building the corridor involved de-grassing nature strips along Union Street so residents could plant 150 plants during the middle of March. Performing this task was rather demanding in that there was a lot of physical work. It was a great experience and a fun three days.

Maddie Holt, Year 11

Our Third Annual VCAL Picnic
It has become a tradition for the Year 11 VCAL class to organise a VCAL picnic as their first project of the year. This year we ventured out to the Fitzroy Pool followed by a barbecue and bowling at the Fitzroy Bowling Club. As luck would have it, the day coincided with the abrupt end of our very warm summer. However, the rain held off and the qualities of resilience and commitment, both central to the VCAL Program, shone through as students and teachers braved the water and immersed themselves in learning the art of Lawn Bowls. The success of the day can be measured by both the quality of the food prepared and the level of connectedness between all three VCAL classes manifested on the day. On both counts, this year’s picnic was a gratifying success!

Andrea Faubel, VCAL Coordinator

Chamal Gajaweera’s VCAL Journey
Chamal joined the BSC VCAL Program during the latter half of his Year 11. He was recommended by his teachers as a student who, despite his solid work practices, was finding difficulty with the nature of learning required in VCE. Chamal responded with relief and enthusiasm to the individualised, applied and supportive learning environment of the VCAL class. At the end of his Year 12 Chamal, through his growth in confidence, communication skills and willingness to contribute to projects, achieved a Foundation VCAL Certificate. A particular highlight was the Table Tennis Competition which he ran for Year 12 students. This year Chamal is studying for his Senior VCAL Certificate at NCAT. His specialist subjects are Media, where he is learning to develop websites and games, and Virtual Art, in which he has just completed a unit on sculpting. He is enjoying developing his IT skills, making new friends and gaining a sense of where his future may take him.
On Tuesday, 5th March, all the year 7s, 8s and 9s went to the swimming carnival. People who wanted to compete from BSC got to compete against their own ages, but they were competing for their colours. The colours are green, gold, blue and white. At the end of the day, Caagar (green) won. Yayay! I had an awesome day with the activities and friends!

*Molly Laumeamata, Year 7*

It was great fun at the swimming carnival. Many people participated in the races, which made the day very exciting. Near the end of the day people were having fun splashing in the water. I was happy to come along to the swimming carnival.

*Muhammad Aziz, Year 7*

We all arrived at Coburg Olympic Pool on a perfectly sunny morning. After seeing the sun shine down on the water and making it dazzle, I knew it was going to be a great day. Everyone stationed themselves at their own house area. We were able to see evidently who was in Oro, Lan Se, Caagar and Abyad. It was an amazing sight-seeing everyone dressed up and looking like a team. The new house colours represented our school’s multiculturalism which is something that we were all really proud to be a part of.

It was then that we got our competitive modes on, for it was time to start the first race. We all watched as the gun was shot and the competitors dived into the water. It didn’t matter who won however, because everyone showed immense sportsmanship and congratulated each other. As the day heated up, we watched race after race with excitement while continuously slapping on sunscreen.

But when the novelty activities came around, everyone’s enthusiasm levels rose even higher. For people who didn’t compete, this was their chance to have a splash around. And boy, did everyone splash around. There was a giant inflatable here, diving boards there, and beach balls everywhere. The whole day was great fun, and I was truly grateful that year 9’s were able to be involved this year. I cannot wait for the athletics carnival, GO CAAGAR!

*Elise Louey, Year 9*

*Year 7 Students share... “What I liked best”*

Everything was awesome and extremely fun. Free swimming at the end and cheering for your house colour.

Winning house points, bringing people together, having fun and playing with your friends...
This year, Media has been launched as a VCE subject at Brunswick Secondary College. Our first cohort of VCE Media students began work with their teacher Ms Lara Alexander in the newly furnished A4 Media Room. Thanks to the help from our hardworking ICT team, our Media students are able to make use of a suite of 25 shiny new wide-screen digital editing workstations. A range of new camera and sound equipment has also recently arrived just in time for our Year 11’s first production tasks.

Media at Brunswick currently runs as an elective in Year 8, 9 and 10. Our Year 8 students are working on the codes and conventions of magazine covers and how visual language is used to target specific demographics through use of representations with Ms Kate Allibon. Students had to analyse a range of Magazine covers before producing a cover themselves using Photoshop. Next term they move on to stop-motion projects where they’ll use editing software and cameras to develop short, stopmotion films.

Year 9 is all about genre and our first cohort of Year 9 Media students have been analysing the codes and conventions of television programs looking at Crime/Heist genre and Supernatural/Drama with Hustle and The Vampire Diaries with Mr Rohan McCarthy. From there students looked at the conventions of Hollywood trailers and are currently in the middle of representing the film Finding Nemo as a different genre. They take clips from the film in Adobe Premiere Pro and cut them together to present the film as a horror film, action comedy or romantic comedy. Our Year 9s have been really getting into the new computer equipment and working very hard all term.

Year 10 starts to get more theoretical in preparation for VCE and students have been studying visual language more in-depth with Mr McCarthy, looking at two feature films as they would a novel in English. North by Northwest and The Prestige were well received by the students who looked specifically at the opening sequences and how the director had used codes of conventions of visual language to develop characters and themes in the films. Now that they know how to pull visual products apart, students will concentrate on developing their own, with term two being all about developing a television commercial and working with After Effects to produce kinetic typography and other visual effects.

Year 10 students Sagar Rathod, Jack Pryce and Rob McMillan (left to right) film for a group production.

Year 10 student Abdullahi Mahamud edits his individual production.

Year 11 has started with the exploration of some of the integral principles of Media Studies. The eager and enthusiastic cohort of students has looked at representations in the media. They have focused on gender representation throughout the history of advertising allowing them to understand how contrasting ideas are represented differently due to historical and political contexts, as well as learning to decode images. Students then applied these skills to analyse the representations of gender in the films Chicago and Juno in conjunction with analysing how meaning is constructed through production and story elements. In term two, students balance the development of these analytical skills with exploration of their creative skills. They will develop their own representations and apply the knowledge of either a genre or classic story through two productions in two different mediums, film and photography.

Year 11 student Maggie O’Shea decided to wear a beret to her group production.

Year 11 students re-create scenes from Harry Potter to learn about continuity editing.

Year 11 students re-create scenes from Harry Potter.
Term 1 has been a great start to the sporting year. Brunswick, as usual has been very successful at a range of interschool sport events!

Here are the results:

Year 7: The girls and boys softball and volleyball teams have all made it through to zone. The three cricket teams performed well on the day but did not make it through this time. Congrats to the 2013 Year 7s for not only having such a high participation rate in interschool sport but also in training before the game.

Year 8: The Boys and girls tennis teams both came third at the Inner North Competition, coached by Mr Nolan. The year 8 cricket team came second at inner north competition coached by Mr Andrew. The girls’ volleyball team played at Melbourne Girls College and put in a good effort, coached by Ms Gandi.

Year 9/10: Both the boys and girls tennis teams played at Royal Park Tennis Club, coached by Mr Nolan and had a good hit out. Cricket team won the inner north districts and came 4th in a great effort at the zone finals, coached by Mr Evert. Boys Volleyball had some good rallies at Uni High coached by Ms Gilbert.

Senior school: Girls Volleyball went to MGC to play. The team was coached by Ms Turner. Although they came last they fought hard and had tremendous fun! The boys tennis team came 2nd in the inner north districts. The girls had a great day and won their districts at Royal Park against the very competitive Melbourne Girls. Well coached by Mr Nolan again and they are through to zone finals.

The senior boys cricket team walked out on a stormy day, coached by Freddy Stringer, ready to face Uni High in the final to make zones! Unfortunately, we fell 20 runs short after a great 50 from Alex Bachmann and the fall of the Sport Captain himself with a golden duck. It was a great day and the Year 12 boys enjoyed their last cricket day of high school! Not only have we been successful in sport, the whole school is getting behind the new house colours and the team spirit this entails. The Swimming Carnival was a great success and a whole lot of fun. Make sure to sign up for sports in term 2!

Ella Fusca and Will Zaghis, Sport Captains