Year 12 Exams began last Thursday with the three hour English and English/ESL exam. Some families may have seen our students on Channel 10 and ABC television, pretending to sit the exam. I know several heard Harry Barley discussing his reaction to the paper on ABC Radio that evening. Obviously the reporters had to wait until the exam was finished and all script books were collected before they could begin filming. We were very impressed that each of our, by this stage exhausted students, continued to write conscientiously for at least the next ten minutes. We were also very impressed by our students’ demeanor prior to the exam. Waiting outside the gym, the students seemed the most relaxed that we recall any Year 12 Class going into an exam. Of course there was some understandable nervousness, but as the students quietly waited for the doors to open to sit the first of their five exams, the overall impression was that they seemed genuinely ready to begin.

Later that night I enjoyed attending the World Challenge Team’s final fundraiser before the students traveled to Vietnam and Cambodia, a Trivia Night in the library. Extra special thanks to Susan and Grant Hamid, parents of Mallory in Year 10, for organizing and hosting the night. Funds will be put to building a road to the new Don Bosco Technical School in Cambodia. Perhaps it was the worthiness of the cause that led students and their families to compete with such energy and spirit. It was certainly a fun filled night. As Natalie Wood, World Challenge Organiser, reminded students and parents at the end of the evening, the trip is called World Challenge for a reason. Natalie stressed the importance of the students being there for one another at times of homesickness, physical or emotional challenge or confronting moments. As she spoke, I could not have felt more pleased that she and Warren are giving our students this life changing opportunity. We will keep you posted on their travels.

Netbooks

Year 11 Students received their Netbooks last night in plenty of time for them to become familiar with them before the Year 11 into Year 12 Orientation Program, rebranded this year as VCE 2012. Year 10 are to be congratulated on the
purposeful and responsible way that they have adapted to the Netbooks. Students in Year 9 and 10 in 2012 will receive their Netbooks at the beginning of next year. Students in Year 7 and 8 next year will enjoy greater access to the laptop trolleys once all Year 9-12 students have their own Netbook. While we look forward greatly to this expanded access, our focus remains on using ICT in ways that add genuine value to student learning. We are also aware that so long as the VCE Exams require hand written responses, we need to provide students ample practice in this genre. Writing and composing on computer is a substantially different process to hand writing an essay and it is important students are skilled in both methods.

End of Year Arrangements

Families are reminded that the VCE 2012 Program that operates between Monday 28th November and Friday 9th December is compulsory for all students and will help to position them for success in either Year 11 or Year 12 the next year.

- Year 12 students finish school on their final exam
- Year 11 and 10 students finish on Friday 9th December, the final day of the VCE 2012 Program
- Year 7-9 students finish classes on Friday 16th December. Details of the special program in the remaining week will be advised within or before the next newsletter.

Finally, if your child is not returning to Brunswick SC next year, please let the Year Level Coordinator know as soon as possible as this helps us greatly in managing enrolments, class lists and specialist subject allocation.

University of Melbourne Vice Chancellor’s Dinner

On Tuesday evening I attended the annual Vice Chancellor’s Dinner for Principals at the University of Melbourne. My purpose was to learn more about the curriculum changes that have been made to undergraduate programs over recent years. Vice Chancellor, Professor Glyn Davies, and three of the University’s students outlined features of the ‘Melbourne Model’ including the promotion of breadth subjects and greater course flexibility, expanded opportunities to study internationally and the ability for enrolling students to keep their career options more open than the previous structure allowed. I was particularly impressed by the young Bio Medicine student who so eloquently outlined the way her undergraduate degree had taught her to think as a scientist and to view the world as a series of systems and processes. She attributed her breadth subjects and exposure to some influential ‘left wing’ lecturers for developing her awareness of ‘the discrepancy’ between indigenous Australians and her own life. Her commitment is to work with indigenous communities in the areas of health and disease treatment and prevention. The Vice Chancellor spoke among other topics of the impact of globalisation on tertiary education, the value of changed learning spaces in the University and the opportunities and challenges of undertaking and marketing major curriculum reform. These are all themes that strongly resonated with all the secondary school principals in the room. For me it was the opening remarks that resonated most. Professor Davies began by enthusiastically outlining the diversity and performances of some of the University’s twenty seven theatre groups. This was the voice of a proud Principal, albeit of a far larger ‘school’ than any other in the room. It was valuable and affirming to have the connections and continuum of secondary and tertiary education so clearly drawn in Professor Davies speech and throughout the evening.

Vivienne Tellefson
Principal

Excerpts from Year 12 Graduation Speeches

Year 12 creeps up on you, and it comes so quickly. I urge you all to fulfil your potential, transcend your circumstance and achieve everything you have dreamed of. The environment of Brunswick Secondary College is so unique and diverse - please embrace this.

I’ve learnt that the capabilities of Brunswick are immense and if you express who you are, they will care for you. If you are true to yourself, no matter who you are, Brunswick will support you and guide you. I think only once you understand what you want and who you want to be, will you fully realise what Brunswick can offer, and it is so much. When a school can be so passionate about so many things, you know that something is special.

Throughout my years at Brunswick I’ve learnt the importance of self expression, and understanding who you want to be, Brunswick has always been there to support us to help achieve our goals. The care and dedication which is so pivotal to this school has shaped all of us.

Leaving Brunswick means leaving people I admire, respect and love. Brunswick has shown us not to be “perpetually idle”, but rather to take action and to achieve the “dreams of transformation” which we all have in some form. Whilst this is hard, we have been prepared for life, not just academically but also emotionally.

If Brunswick has taught me anything it is to fulfil your potential, no matter what, transcend your circumstances.
and achieve everything you have dreamed of, we can do it.

**Holly Moore - 2011 School Captain**

First thanks has definitely got to go to each and every teacher that has made a contribution to any of us and all of us over the past six years. I’ve come across some exceptional teachers in my time here and they’ve all helped make high school the memorable experience it’s been. It’s amazing, teachers have a lot of power in their hands to define our perception of school.

A second thanks has got to go to all the parents, families and anyone that has supported us along the way. I know that without my family and friends behind me this would have been an especially tough year. And for anyone out there who is thinking about how to support another child through their final year of school – whether it be your child, your niece, nephew, a friend. Do it with love.

Finally, leaving the best till last, thank you Year 12s. Knowing that I might never see some of you again actually saddens me. Look around, and this is it, the graduating class of 2011 is finally here. Be proud of how far you’ve come and don’t forget there is still a very long way to go. We can do it.

**Wudassie Assfaw - 2011 School Captain**

My theme is memory.

Memory is what creates and maintains personal identity. How we think we are is established by our memories, but our identity can be changed. Sometimes memory is not reliable and is altered by our immediate needs and reactions. One of the greatest misfortunes we can suffer is to lose memory through age or injury.

Memory is a key issue in the exams. Abraham Lincoln, the US president, said that once he had heard something twice he would not forget it. Most of us probably need more repetition. Memory needs to be exercised to grow stronger; students should be constantly revising their work. I hope that students will remember what they need to know and the advice they have been given by teachers. Memory is not just what we can consciously say or write down. The body has unconscious memories of how to do things such as ride a bike. If you see students going into the Physics exam making this gesture, you will know that I have nagged them enough about the right hand force rule.

Just as important we hope you have engraved on your minds the school values. Our culture has a vast amount of information stored in books and computers. The internet may eventually make accessible every existing text in every language. This is an enormous achievement with great benefits but there is a danger that if we rely too much on an external memory we will not be forming our own integrated picture of the knowledge that we need for ourselves.

One of the alarming problems that will affect us all is the loss of social memory. In 1929 the stock markets crashed and there was a world wide economic depression that lasted until the start of World War 2 in 1939. For many young men their first job was joining the armed forces. As a result controls were established to prevent a repetition of the greedy and dishonest behaviour that caused the crisis. This lesson was forgotten and greedy people pressured government to remove the controls leading directly to a financial crisis that has not yet finished and could still to an economic crisis greater than 1929.

In the British Isles in the mid nineteenth century there was an environmental crisis. Potato crops failed in Ireland and the Scottish highlands and there was a long famine. Even though there was sufficient food and the means to distribute it, available one million people starved to death in Ireland. Others got onto badly equipped boats for America or Australia. Many died on the journey. At least when they arrived they were allowed entry to their new country. Even though we now have a higher level of technology and vastly improved food supplies famines are still occurring.

Disasters occur when the lessons of history are ignored through greed or lack of care for others.

Although our individual influence may be small we must all try to do whatever we can to help avoid the brutal outcomes that can happen when we forget good values and what experience teaches.

Whatever may happen to you I hope you remember your part in the school where humane values were practised, people were valued and no-one was stigmatised or excluded.
Good luck and farewell.

Graeme McKinnon  
Assistant Principal Years 10 to 12

Year 12s…for the past 8 months your explicit learning has been defined by content knowledge, outcomes, deadlines and due dates, SACs – this is the visible learning - the content, skills and processes you have had to master in order to get your VCE certificate, your ATAR score. Much of this learning serves the short term goal – to achieve the best possible outcome for VCE.

As Assistant Principal for Yrs 10 – 12, I have had the privilege to observe a range of other learning – the type of learning that will have long term benefits…that creates individuals who are respectful and respected, trusting and trusted, understanding and understood, global citizens who can relate well to each other, so that they can develop successful relationships and interactions into their adult lives.

Here are some of the valuable life lessons that I have seen our Yr 12s develop over the year and would proudly like to share with all of you.

They have learnt to balance their workload, even though at times it has seemed almost impossible to control their attitude, coming to an understanding that if they don’t, it will control them that it is sometimes better to agree to disagree, than to just disagree to recognise that there are always two sides, no matter how thin you slice it that it takes years to build trust and only seconds to destroy it to recognise that they are influenced by their backgrounds and circumstances, but that they need to take full responsibility for what they do and who they become to support each other, in classes, in study groups, in friendship groups.

These are the life lessons that aren’t measured by S and N or by ATAR scores…there are no timelines, deadlines or resits…only further opportunities to reflect and learn. Success in these learnings creates individuals who are able to maintain relationships and to develop new friendships, mature individuals who are confident in themselves and their ability to be responsible and to take on responsibilities, to seek out new learning and to adapt to different cultures. These are the individuals who will prosper in our world today…where content knowledge is less important, because everything one needs to know is only a click away...

So it is the human relationships that are important….work towards these and value them. The friends, with whom you sit today, may be the ones who sustain you in times of joy and sadness. They may be the godparents of your children.

So today, Yr 12s I want to remind you that while your school days are over, your education continues and for each of you here, Yrs 7 - 12, I wish you faithful and enduring friendships. And tomorrow, I hope that even if you remember not a single word of mine, that you remember those of Lucius Annaeus Seneca, an ancient Roman philosopher, who said, “As is a tale, so is life. Not how long it is, but how good it is, is what matters.”

I wish you all very good lives.

Alison Sanza  
Assistant Principal Years 10 to 12

Year 9  
The Year 12s enjoy their Dress-Up Day with a picnic in the sun  
City Life
Year 12 Dress-Up Day Photos

Dress-Up Day is a time honoured tradition for Brunswick Secondary students. Over the years we have seen many themes and ideas, such as the Mario Brothers, wild animals, Sesame St characters and any number of famous celebrities. This year did not disappoint with some brilliantly innovative ideas shown including Pac Man and a horde of Ghosts, the superhero squad The Avengers and even an appearance by the well known Ghostbusters.

The lunchtime Fashion Parade is the perfect opportunity for the Year 12s to show off their costumes to the rest of the school. Hosted by the 3 Little Pigs (Hassan, Andrew and Conor) one by one the Year 12s were called onto the catwalk to strut their stuff.
excursion to the Big Issue Centre

On the 7th of November, the city life SOSE class went on an excursion to the Big Issue Centre to learn about the magazine, homelessness and social justice. We participated in a workshop where we discussed issues like homelessness, drug addictions, unemployment and poverty. A vendor of the big issue, Peter, talked to us about his own experiences in all of the issues mentioned above. It was amazing but also heart breaking to listen to his story. It felt great to learn about how he had overcome his problems independently.

One activity we did which helped illustrate how discrimination works in society was by doing a puzzle activity with specific instructions. Some people were doing the puzzle in silence or even being disruptive and hindering the ability of others to do the puzzle. The results taught us how people don’t choose to be homeless or disabled so we shouldn’t treat them differently.

The Big Issue Excursion was a very enjoyable but educational day. Thanks to Ms Kavanagh for organising the day out.

Larissa Li and Maggie O’Shea 9S

Student Representative Committee

Earlier this year Brunswick Secondary’s SRC created a video to enter into a competition run by Vic SRC to promote the role of Student Representative in schools. We were competing against schools from all over the state and were lucky enough to win second prize for our video. For coming second we won a Flip HD Video Camera. This was a very big achievement for our SRC team who has been working hard all year. We would also like to thank Clare Kavanagh for the work she put into making this video and for all the work she has put into the SRC this year at both junior and senior levels.

Rock Eisteddfod News

This Saturday 12th November, the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge will be aired on Channel 9 at 2:30pm. A video of Brunswick Secondary College’s winning production ‘Submerged’ will be shown as they battle it out for the title of National Champion.
Dear parents and students, we invite you to attend the 2011 annual Art and Design Exhibition at Brunswick Secondary College F Block Learning Centre. Opening night is on Thursday 24th of November, from 5:30 til 7:00pm. The official part of the proceedings will begin at 6pm. Feel free to come along and take a look at amazing student artwork from all year levels. We have a wide range of media on show this year, including textiles, woodwork, ceramics, photography, digital media, sculpture, mosaics, jewellery and visual communication and design. The expo is a great chance to show your support for the school’s Art and Design Program, and give our students’ artwork an audience. There will also be final products of VCE level students in VCD, Studio Art and Textiles. Hope to see you there!

Gemma Teese, Art Captain

Please see attached Art Exhibition Poster created by Quetzal Rodriguez Burge in 10B

Year 12 School Leavers

After finishing Year 12 many young Victorians celebrate by participating in schoolies events around the country. While it’s good to encourage young people to celebrate this significant achievement, it’s also essential to make sure they do it safely. Before students leave for schoolies, parents should make sure they know about risks associated with alcohol, drugs, sex, sexting and social media footprints.

The Government’s youthcentral website has useful information for parents about how to help their child get ready for schoolies and a checklist of things parents might like to talk about before they head off to celebrate.

School leavers can also register on the youthcentral website if they are planning on celebrating in Lorne, Torquay, Phillip Island, Sorrento or Portsea.

By registering, students get access to free community transport, activities, BBQs, free water, access to ‘chill out’ zones and in some cases, discounts and other offers from local businesses.

The youthcentral website also has a wide range of useful links for young people including information on health and relationships, accommodation, safe partying tips (including Partysafe, a Victoria Police initiative) and key messages on how young people can look after their mates.

For more information about helping students to stay safe and to register online for schoolies, see: http://schoolies.youthcentral.vic.gov.au

Jeremy Fiske
Secondary School Adolescent Health Nurse.

Alcohol and under 18s

From 1 November 2011, it is against Victorian Law to serve alcohol in a private home to anyone under eighteen years, unless their parent or guardian has given permission.

Websites have been developed to provide parents with useful advice and strategies to help them confidently manage alcohol issues with their children, with links to important information on the health risks of underage drinking. These websites are available at:


In conjunction with the Australian Drug Foundation, the Department of Education has developed alcohol fact sheets for parents. See: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/programs/drugeducation/lestagepar.htm for copies. The Australian Drug Foundation also has fact sheets and other information on their DrugInfo website:


Jeremy Fiske
Secondary School Adolescent Health Nurse.
BSC Office hours are between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Phone calls and office enquiries outside these hours will be recorded by the answering machine.

NB: If you are contacting the school to let us know your child is going to be absent, you can also e-mail the school on Brunswick.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

Brunswick Secondary College advertises local community-based events and activities that might be of interest to students and families.

Please contact the relevant organisation for further information about these events and to check that the event meets your family’s needs.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS !!

Could all parents ensure we have accurate contact numbers both for themselves and for other available emergency contact persons (other than themselves).

Student Medical Conditions

Could parents of students who have anaphylaxis or other serious medical conditions please hand in a completed action plan for your child to the front office. If your child has a medical condition that the school needs to be aware of, please contact the level coordinator or Jeremy (school nurse).

Bike Safety Reminder

This is a reminder for any student who uses the Bike Shed near F-Block. Please make sure that you lock your bike away inside the shed. If the shed is already closed when you arrive, please find an Assistant Principal who can then unlock the shed for you. DO NOT leave your bike outside the shed unlocked.

When travelling to and from school, please be courteous to all other pedestrians and ensure you follow road safety rules.
BRUNSWICK SECONDARY COLLEGE
STUDENT ART AND DESIGN EXHIBITION 2011

ART - PHOTOGRAPHY - WOODWORK - TEXTILES - VCD - MOSAICS

DIGITAL MEDIA - JEWELLERY - SCULPTURE

F Block Learning Centre
Official Opening: 6PM 24 November
Open 5:30 - 7:30 PM
24 November to 2 December
Community Street Party

Thursday November 17

Live Music
Live Street Art
Live Dance
BBQ

Brunswick Youth Services
Come and check out your local youth service and support the youth of Moreland and Hume.

- Youth Projects on display
- Community BBQ
- Live Music
- Live Street Art
- Live Dance

Thursday November 17
3–7pm
12 Tinning Street
East Brunswick