No.3 10th March 2011

**Principal Report**

As Principal, I am often asked questions about the focus and direction of the school. I would like to share my responses to two questions that have been asked of me this week. The first asked if whether having a determined focus on academic outcomes takes all the fun out of school. In responding, I directed the parent to our website and previous College News which, like this edition, demonstrate the diversity of activities and opportunities we offer our students. In short, there can be no ‘either/or’ about this question. A sense of community and strong student engagement are not only important themselves but also contribute to students success academically and experience of school. It is our responsibility and our privilege to do both.

The second question, from a teacher in another school was “I’ve noted the improvement in Brunswick’s Victorian Certificate of Education results. Is it fair to say that changing demographics in Brunswick are one of the main reasons?” The answer here is complex. While it is true that both Brunswick and Coburg have become more gentrified and this is reflected in the school’s enrolment, the reality is that this is one of many factors behind the improvement and certainly not the major one. The main factor behind the improvement relates to raised expectations and teacher commitment to ensuring that students of all achievement levels make or exceed expected progress. While we celebrated achieving a median of 31 for the second year in a row, we are most proud of the fact that our Year 12 cohorts achieved above average on the school comparison measure as shown. Our goal, motivation and measure of success around VCE is one and the same, to ‘add value’ so all students can achieve their best and have a successful pathway beyond school. Our challenge for this year and next is to do the same for VCAL, the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning recently introduced to the school.

**Administration**

Principal
Ms Vivienne Tellefson
Assistant Principal Year 7-9
Ms Heather Secomb
Assistant Principals Year 10-12
Mr Graeme McKinnon
Ms Alison Sanza
Student Engagement & Wellbeing Leader
Mr Craig O’Bree
Student Welfare Counsellor
Ms Katie Archibald
Careers Counsellor
Ms Catherine Jones
International Student Coordinator
Ms Lauren Flannery
Business Manager
Mr Chris Salmond
**Parent/ Teacher/ Student Interviews**

**Tuesday, 22 March 2011 2.00 – 5pm and 5.30 – 7.30pm**

Parent logins and instructions for the online booking of Parent/ Teacher / Student Interviews will be available soon. Details will be sent to parents with email addresses and a hard copy will be distributed to all students. Parents are reminded to consider the room locations of teachers while making their bookings, to allow for travel time between rooms.

*Alison Sanza*
*Assistant Principal (Yr 10 - 12)*

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**International Women’s Day**

On 9th March parents, teachers and students of Brunswick Secondary College came together to celebrate the importance of International Women’s Day. We recognised the remarkable women in our society. The day started off with a breakfast in which the food, flowers and tablecloths were coloured in green and purple; the symbolic colours of IWD.

There were numerous speeches that inspired everyone to be the best they can be in a male dominated world, with speakers including Taylor Ryan with an excerpt from her application to the Women’s Leadership Program as well as Lead Firefighter Rachel Cowling.

A huge thank you to Clare Kavanagh for organising such a wonderful morning and also to all the teachers and students who helped out.

*Brianna Inturrisi*

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**Year 7& 8 Swimming Carnival**

On Tuesday 22nd Feb the annual year 7 & 8 swimming carnival was held at Brunswick Baths. It was great to witness so many enthusiastic and keen swimmers in both year levels competing. Congratulations to the Gold house on being the overall winners of the day.

*Brent Pawley*
*Sports Coordinator*
Kendo Teaching Excursion

On Wednesday 11 May, the Year 8 Kendo Specialist Subject students have been invited to Box Hill North Primary School to be the feature activity at their Japanese Festival Day. This promises to be an excellent teaching and learning experience for both sides, with our students in the roles of experts, mentors and teachers of Kendo.

They have also been promised a complimentary Japanese lunch in recognition of their services! Notices will go out to these students prior to the day, and an early start will be necessary.

This will be a great opportunity for Year 8 Kendo to represent the school and to achieve recognition of their efforts in the Kendo Dojo throughout the semester.

Ben Sheppard
Kendo Teacher

Returning Teachers

Since the 80s, I have worked in several schools and a number of different industries, most recently publishing. I wouldn’t choose to return to many of those work places. But BSC is special. The bell still goes at the same times. Many faces are familiar. It could be 2005 but one of my students is now a teacher. It could be 2007 but my Year 7s are now Year 11s. Some walls have vanished and new ones appeared; the always spacious grounds have been landscaped. Technologically BSC has continued to move with the times, offering impressive facilities and support to students and staff. While I’ve been away, many have soldiered on and kept the home fires burning. Others have been away on long personal journeys of learning, exploration, healing ... and like me, have returned. Everyone has a story to tell. BSC was and is a diverse community of people bound by generosity of spirit and high expectations. It’s just lovely to be home.

Jana Kohout

It has been a good feeling to be back at BSC after 10 years away teaching at Mt Waverley Secondary College. It was a big decision to make as I was not sure it was the right move. After 2 weeks of teaching I realise this is the place to which I belong. My students have been great and wonderful and I look forward to working with them this year. I hope they will achieve their best under my guidance. I am grateful to the staff who have been so supportive and helpful in helping me to settle into my "new school".

See See Yeap

Jana Kohout Year 11 math
See See Yeap Year 10S Science
Hello Everyone

Coming to Brunswick Secondary College is an exciting challenge for me. After 13 years at TAFE this is my first experience within a secondary environment. The staff have been most welcoming and it is a pleasure to be involved within a great school community. My role as a Business Manager is to ensure that all students and staff have the necessary resources to achieve the best results. Together with a committed workforce I am confident we will continue to ably support the College's needs.

Chris Salmond, Business Manager

Year 7 Extended Pastoral:

Student Safety Does Not End at the School Gate

Because the teachers worry about our safety on public transport, they invited Peter and Shay to the Year 7 Extended Pastoral. On Tuesday 1st March these two Metro Transport Authority officers spoke about use of public transport and safety rules because many of the students use public transport to get to and from school. Peter talked about the main rules we should all know and obey. Some of the rules are:

- It is important to look for the nearest train crossing and cross at the crossing. We should never cross the train tracks where there is no crossing.
- When we are standing on the platform, we should never go across the yellow line, even if we are in a hurry.
- For safety reasons and not get hit by the train’s mirror, we must keep a few steps back from the yellow line.
- We should not push someone in the pit area for fun, as this is dangerous.

Shay said we should have our Myki card or a Met ticket when we travel by public transport. She also said that there are ticket machines on the trams and buses but there is not access to a ticket machine on the train. If a transport inspector who wants to look at our ticket stops us, we have the right to ask for the person’s ID.

Isbah Najam 7N

Today the 1st March, two people named Peter and Shay, from the Metro Public Transport Authority visited the Year 7 students. They talked about the dangers of trains and platforms. Peter and Shay used PowerPoint to explain and show some of the “DOs” and “DON’Ts” and what could happen if we did something wrong. I found the talk really interesting. I do not use public transport to come to school, but the information is good to know for the future.

Heidi Nippard 7N

Two people came on 1st March and talked to us about trams, buses and trains and how to travel safely on them. They talked about how we should not dangle our legs off the train platform because if an express train comes our legs could be chopped off. We learned that we should always obey signs, like ‘do not step over the yellow line’. If someone did step over the yellow line they could be knocked by the front of the train and maybe even get knocked under it. We learned that if we drop our phone over the yellow line and a train is coming, we should wait until the train has arrived before we bend down to get it because our bag could snag onto one of the train’s mirrors. I think everyone that listened to Shay and Peter will now be more careful on railway, roads and tram tracks.

Khairi Johari and Jack Milne 7N

On Tuesday 1st March, we had visitors Shay and Peter talk to us about public transport. Peter showed us what to do in an emergency. Peter and Shay explained the Myki Card to us. He also told us about the different train links and what not do on platforms We would like to thank Shay and Peter for talking to us about how to be safe and Metro transportation rules.

Huseyin Bator, Vicki Vagianakis, Katerina Polygerinos 7C
Sydney Road Street Party

The Sydney Road Street party has always been something many of the students from Brunswick as well as the Moreland community go to, and it was a fantastic opportunity to play there, on a public stage. Some of the students had only ever played in school and to them it was a whole new experience. This year was especially good as we had students from all our ensemble sections, all our year levels and from a very wide variety of genres.

All round it was a great gig and all the students really enjoyed playing in a public environment at a festival many of us hold dear and will always remember playing at throughout our Brunswick school years.

Maize Wallin
Music Captain

Our music students did the College proud as they performed on the Community Stage to a large crowd of enthusiastic locals last Sunday. Our newly formed Acoustic Band opened the set with ‘Somewhere’, followed by items from our VCE Band and strings as they joined the Stage Band for the closing number ‘It’s All Over Now’. A big thankyou to all the performers as well as their teachers Marc Matthews, Wayne Simmons, Nick Adams and Sophie Dunn for their time and dedication in preparing for the event.

Suzanne Kurick
Head of Learning: Music
Year 12 Chemistry

On Friday the 18th of February 2011, the year 12 Chemistry class went on an excursion to Melbourne University, Parkville, for an analytical chemistry student workshop. We were given the chance to observe and use instruments that we have just finished learning about in class. In three hours we got the chance to feel like real scientists working in a lab as we were given hands-on activities to complete. It was a really great opportunity to actually use the instruments as it can get just a little boring just reading about them out of a text book. Being in the Lab was great fun. Thanks to Ms Yeap for pulling all the strings to make it happen!

Wudassie Assfaw
Year 12 Chemistry student

Processes for contacting your child during the school day

Following these processes will ensure that you and your child are able to manage appointments, unforeseen illness and forgotten items with the minimum inconvenience and wasted time.

Appointments out of School
If you have an appointment for your child during the school day please send them with a note in the morning. This needs to be signed by one of their Coordinators or an Assistant Principal, and then shown to their class teacher so they can be allowed to leave class. Teachers may not allow students without a written and signed note, to leave their class.

Illness during the day
If your child feels ill during the day, they should see their Coordinator who will contact you or arrange for the office to contact you. A lot of confusion and unnecessary wasted time has resulted from students ringing parents and asking to be collected from school, while neither the office staff nor the Coordinator are aware of the situation.

PA Announcements
The office staff are not permitted to make announcements during class time. This is an interruption to the teaching and learning time for nearly 1000 students and teachers in order to contact one person. The only times announcements can be made are before and after school and during recess and lunchtime. The office staff cannot guarantee that students will respond to these announcements, and do not have time from their other responsibilities to personally deliver forgotten items and messages to students.

Heather Secomb
Assistant Principal Years 7-9

Flood Relief Fundraising

This Year Brunswick Secondary College raised $2500 towards the floods. We managed this by holding a teachers Vs Students soccer game, having a BBQ and a uniform free day. Together we reached our goal of $2000 for the flood victims who have suffered and are getting back on track. I would like to thank the leadership team, the peer support team & Miss Kavanagh for the effort & time they put in.

Giuliana Leslie
School Council Elections
School Council plays a vital role in the educational opportunity and outcomes of our students and in setting the long term priorities and direction of our school. Parents, teachers and community members who go on School Council do so in service to the whole school community. At the close of School Council nominations for the 2011 School Council Elections, the number of nominations equalled the number of vacancies. We thank in advance the following parents and staff for their time and contribution to Brunswick Secondary College School Council in 2011.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newly Elected Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parent Category</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Wood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sian Owen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damian Nippard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Continuing Members</th>
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<tr>
<td>Maree Guppy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Allen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Embury</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School Council meetings are also attended by the Business Manager. Election of office bearers and co-option of community members will be occur within the first meeting on Wednesday 23rd March, and will be announced in a future College News.
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).

BSC Office hours are between 8.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Phone calls and office enquires 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
Dear Parents,

National Data- MySchool

We are writing to inform you that the My School Website has been updated to contain 2010 data. The site can be accessed at www.myschool.com.au

Victorian Data- Government Schools Performance Summary

Due to the fact that there is no national senior certificate, MySchool contains limited information on achievement at Year 11 and 12. Information about VCE and more detailed data about our school’s overall performance compared with other Victorian Schools can be found at site http://www.vrqa.vic.gov.au Until the full 2010 Annual Report is uploaded later this month, the 2010 Government School Performance Summary for Brunswick SC can be accessed from on our website at http://www.brunswick.vic.edu.au/index.php/About-Us/Annual-Report.html

Differences between National and Victorian School Reports

Writing

MySchool includes a score for writing whereas the Victorian data reports only on Reading and Numeracy. On receiving our NAPLAN results for Writing last year, we felt some surprise. While our Writing results are above the national average at both Year 7 and 9, the data suggests that students have not made the expected level of progress from year 7-9. This result does not fit with previous NAPLAN results in writing, the consistently strong result in NAPLAN Reading and the range of teacher assessments in writing. Student focus groups have identified that some students, particularly boys, felt the task of writing a narrative on the topic “What a Mess!” was inappropriate to their age group. Students also perceived the writing task to be a less
important aspect of the NAPLAN than the short answer Reading, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy tests. To confirm our belief that the students are more capable than the results indicated in the 2010 narrative task, we have given them a similar task in Year 10 to be marked by an external NAPLAN assessor. We feel quite assured that the 2011 change of genre to persuasive writing will encourage students to perform at their real level of ability in the future.

The focus group of current Year 10 students confirmed that students saw the topic for the test and the writing genre as inappropriate to their age and level of schooling, and believed that a change of genre would allow students to demonstrate their real writing ability.

*Measurement of Socio Economic Advantage*

All Victorian schools have an SFO (Student Family Occupation) index. A school’s SFO is based on parental occupation and the percentage of students who speak a language other than English at home. Brunswick SC has an SFO of 0.4884 placing the school in the middle 50 percent of schools across the state as a measure of educational advantage. MySchool has an ICSEA (index of Community, Social and Educational Advantage.) This is determined by a combination of parental income and the highest level of education obtained by parents. Brunswick SC’s ICSEA is 1057, placing it marginally above the national average of 1000. Parents’ highest level of schooling is used when calculating the ICSEA. Language background other than English is not taken into account.
School Funding

This year, MySchool is reporting on school funding for the first time. While welcoming the inclusion of this additional information, it is important to be aware that a school’s income includes charges for camps and excursions and other ‘in/ out’ expenses. It is therefore not an accurate amount. For instance, in 2010 our expenditure would have included the substantial money collected and spent the Italian Study Tour among the many other camps and excursions we offer.

Questions

If you would like further general information about MySchool, please visit the website. If the questions relate to our school’s performance, please direct them to Vivienne Tellefson. If they relate to student performance, please follow up with Heather Secomb.

Vivienne Tellefson          Heather Secomb
Principal                  Assistant Principal
Dear Parents/Guardians,

Brunswick Secondary College students will continue to have terrific opportunities open to them in 2011. Through participating in state and national competitions, students are able to test their skills against a wide field, assess their performance against students outside of the school who share their interests and talents, and develop experience and confidence in performing under pressure. The College is proud of our ongoing high participation and success rate in state and national competitions.

To make the process of entering competitions easier to coordinate, the following is a list of all examination-style Maths, Science, SOSE and English competitions that are running in Terms 2 & 3. All competitions listed will be held at school, during class time on the dates listed. Every effort will be made to ensure students complete their entries during subject-appropriate class time, but there may be occasions when students are taken out of their scheduled class.

All students are encouraged to participate in any competition that they would like to. Please note that all Year 7-10 SEAL students are automatically enrolled in the competitions listed below, with the exception of the Rio Tinto Big Science Competition, and entry fees have already been paid. Parents of SEAL students need only return this form if their child wishes to participate in this competition. Please have all entries in by Friday, 1 April. If you have any queries, please contact me on 9387-6133 or via email at ferguson.karen.k@edumail.vic.gov.au

Karen Ferguson
Curriculum Manager

Please tick the competition(s) you would like to enter:

- **Rio Tinto Big Science Competition** – Years 7-12 (1 June)  
  Entry Fee: $6.00
- **Australian Schools Science Competition** – Years 7-12 (8 June)  
  Entry Fee: $7.70
- **Australian Schools Writing Competition** – Years 7-10 (21 June)  
  Entry Fee: $16.50
- **Australian Schools English Competition** – Years 7-10 (2 August)  
  Entry Fee: $7.70
- **Australian Maths Competition** – Years 7-12 (4 August)  
  Entry Fee: $5.50

Student’s name: _______________________________ Pastoral Group: _______________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________________
Phone number: _______________________________ Total entry fees included: _______________
Parent’s signature: ___________________________ Date: ________________
S.C.C.E. SCHOLARSHIPS

2011

OPEN TO ALL YEAR 10 STUDENTS AUSTRALIA-WIDE!

S.C.C.E. is offering Year 10 students the truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to win

ONE FULL SCHOLARSHIP*

and TWO HALF-SCHOLARSHIPS

to join an exchange program departing September 2011 for a semester (approx. 5 months) to one of the following countries:

- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Spain

* The total value of each scholarship is calculated according to S.C.C.E. 2011 program fees as listed in our 2011 catalogue

Each scholarship includes:

- International transportation on Singapore Airlines
- Domestic transportation in host country
- September 2011 - January 2012 (approx. 5 months) exchange program:
  - Selected volunteer host family
  - Compulsory attendance at local school
  - Full support 24/7 in host country
  - Professional support from S.C.C.E.
  - Special complete insurance cover worldwide

See program components as listed on page 28 of our current catalogue.

Applicants must:

- Be currently enrolled in Year 10 at an Australian secondary school
- Have at least a B grade average for the last 2 years
- Be motivated for foreign exchange and willing to become fluent in the local language
- Fulfil selection criteria as deemed necessary by S.C.C.E.

How to apply:

Email your name, address, phone number and school name to scceaust@scce.com.au Ask for a scholarship application kit.
You will be required to submit an essay on a particular topic by March 25th 2011.

Winners will be announced on April 15th 2011.
The Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation
Community Oration

Learn first-hand about the P.A.R.T.Y. program @ RMH
“Helping, protecting and empowering our youth of today.”

Guest Speaker: Associate Professor Rodney Judson
Director Trauma Service, The Royal Melbourne Hospital

More than 3000 people with life-threatening injury were treated at The Royal Melbourne Hospital last year.
Of these, more than 1000 were aged between 15 and 19 years of age

P.A.R.T.Y., an education program now running at The Royal Melbourne Hospital is helping to reduce the shocking number of youth requiring life-saving treatment for trauma related injury each year. Preserving their future by showing them first-hand the impact of trauma and helping to prevent injury, disability and death.

When: Wednesday 23 March, 5.45pm for a 6.00pm start (concludes at 7.00pm)
Where: Charles La Trobe Theatre, Ground Floor, Function Centre, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Grattan Street, Parkville
RSVP: The Royal Melbourne Hospital Foundation
Telephone: (03) 9342 7111
Email: rmhfoundation@mh.org.au
Fax: (03) 9342 8407

LIGHT FRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTERWARDS
Australia’s largest national careers and employment event is back in 2011 with more jobs and more opportunities for you to shape your future. You should attend this event if you are:

- Job Hunting
- Returning to Work
- Changing Your Career
- Choosing Your Career Path
- Graduate
- School Leaver

Visit our website www.eocexpo.com.au or phone 1300 66 71 21 for more information.