Principal Report

Principal's Report

Learning Beyond the Classroom

The opportunity for students to learn beyond the classroom has been integral to the curriculum at Brunswick Secondary College for many years. Last Thursday, Heather Secomb and I enjoyed the chance to experience this first hand. Our journey began at Coburg Lake with a tasty and convivial BBQ organized by the Year 11 VCAL class for their teachers and other special guests including the Year 10 Pre-VCAL class. It was a wonderful day. A beautiful setting and perfectly cooked hamburgers combined with the friendliest of company to make the first major VCAL organized event a very successful one.

Our next stop was to join Year 7 students and teachers on their second day of camp at Belgrave South. We arrived to find the students literally in ‘full swing’ on an Initiatives Trail that included canoeing, archery, flying fox, ropes course and the highest giant swing we have ever seen. Students reported being surprised and impressed by the ease with which a harnessed Year 7 Coordinator, Nadia Cavallin, took her turn to be raised to a great height to then swing through the air. The other standout teacher effort was Ms Sepp. However, as the students were keen to explain, this was less for bravery than for the piercing and reverberating echo of her accompanying scream!
Back in Brunswick, the day ended with a parent and student information session for our first China Study Tour, departing on Friday 1st April. With passports, injections and itineraries all under control, there was a strong sense of anticipation and excitement among the multi-age group of travellers assembled in the auditorium. For most students, it will be their first visit to an Asian country. Teachers, Jiwei Xu and Lynn Kyle, have commented on the enthusiasm and responsibility of the group members, and are greatly looking forward to their fortnight studying and sight-seeing. As the China travellers make their final arrangements, the World Challenge students who will travel to Vietnam and Cambodia for a month later in the year have just completed their first training hike to Bunyip State Forest. Some of the students will be completing their Gold Duke of Edinburgh which involves a community project in a developing country, after completing Bronze in Year 9 Bushwhacked and Silver level when they were in Year 10 last year.

These examples, involving varied experiences and groups of students, are just a few of the many forms of learning beyond the classroom that we offer at Brunswick. Each in its unique way builds students’ responsibility and teamwork, the two school values that we have identified as the focus of our new four year Strategic Plan. Taking students outside of the school is not only about connecting with a new environment, it is primarily about forging new relationships and confidence. There is a special form of pride that comes from knowing that your individual effort has contributed to a greater collective effort and success.

**Parent Teacher Student Interviews**

Without detracting from school occasions such as concerts, graduations, exhibitions and other events that attract a large number of parents to the school, I think it is important to say that I regard our two Parent/Teacher/Student Interview evenings as the most significant days in our school year. On Tuesday the school was abuzz with parents, some of whom were meeting their child’s teacher for the first time and others, who with several children and years at the school, already know many of our staff. While parents are always welcome to phone or email their child’s teachers, the opportunity to speak face to face about their child’s progress, achievements and next steps as a learner is rare, valuable and in our experience, does make a difference. While parent attendance at school performances and ceremonies is always greatly appreciated, so too is attendance at Parent-Teacher-Student interviews. It is important as parents and teachers to value and celebrate the learning that occurs day to day in every classroom, and not only focus on our many special events. Thank you to all families for your attendance.

**Work Practices**

For a decade now, our school has measured the work practices of all students form Year 7 to 12 on a set of eight common work practices. These include the ability to work cooperatively and independently, willingness to seek and act on feedback, skills in asking effective questions and being well prepared for class. Work practices are measured out of 4, and we are delighted that more students have achieved outstanding or excellent work practice than we have ever had previously. A perfect work practice score was obtained by 34 students while 129 students earned a work practice score of between 3.9 to 3.99. All of these students will receive a certificate in the Term 2 whole school assembly. Their names have also printed at the end of this College News. Students who have made substantial improvement will be recognised by Year Level Coordinators who will also continue to work with students whose work practices are below the target. Finally, special congratulations to our 2011 Year 12 students. We set a high bar of 3.7 or higher for Year 12 work practices. The fact the students have come so close in March with a year level score of 3.68 out of 4 augers well for them achieving the 3.7 target by midyear.

_Vivienne Tellefson_

_Principal_
Michael Milton’s visit to Brunswick Secondary College

Michael Milton is a one legged paralympian. He clocked a staggering 213.65km/hr to also become the fastest Australian skier ever. Michael came to speak to a combination of year 7, 8, 9, 10 and year 11 students and their teachers on Wednesday 16th March. His story was both interesting and inspiring as it describes his battle with cancer as a nine year old, the beginning of his skiing career and inventing adaptive equipment for disabled people to use in other sports such as hockey. The students responded well to Michael’s positive approach to life as he informed them that “It never really stopped me from doing anything”. It was fantastic to have Michael deliver a seminar that so closely touched on our school values and reminded the students that there are different ways to approach life. We appreciate having such a wonderful speaker at the school and hope all the students took something inspirational from it. The teachers certainly did.

Clare Kavanagh
SRC Coordinator

Last week, paralympic gold medallist Michael Milton came into school to give students a motivational speech. Michael has beaten cancer twice, won paralympic medals and travelled around the world. In his speech, when Michael spoke of his disability, he was intent upon stressing to us that it was not an ‘obstacle’ for him to overcome, rather, that it was just a part of who he is. He was an inspirational person because he was not afraid to test his limits; he told story after story of his experiences growing up, always trying to figure out how he could play all the sports his friends did.

Michael’s key to success where his goals—his goal was to get fit again and enter the Paralympics. He did this and more—he won, exceeding his goals. Michaels dedicated problem solving skills and positive, honest attitude left everyone with a smile on their faces and a great feeling and viewing their goals as a future reality.

Kushla Egan, Year 10

Excursion to Loddon Prison, Year 11 Legal Class

All very excited but somewhat dreary eyed, our yr 11 legal class gathered at 7:30 to proceed on our 2 hour bus journey to Loddon Prison in Castlemaine. On our arrival mandatory security measures were undertaken and we were briefed in a communal room by one of the prison guards on the history and the running of Loddon Prison. A short slideshow and speech was followed by 5 inmates entering the room. Our first task was to guess what each inmate was serving time for. At this stage, we were given the opportunity to ask some general questions before splitting up into small groups and talking to each prisoner individually, where every single question was answered truthfully and no question was too personal. This was an invaluable experience which most of us won’t forget in which we gained a great deal of knowledge. Thanks to Mr. Runting for the awesome bus ride and Ms. Giannakakas for all the effort and organisation that went into this excursion. The day was enjoyed by all!

Brianna Inturrisi, Year 11

VCAL Class Gets Cooking!

On Thursday the 17th of March, we as the first ever VCAL class at Brunswick Secondary College organised a barbeque to celebrate the beginning of VCAL. We also invited the year 10 pre VCAL of 2011. After all of the hours of discussion and organisation as a class, we finally decided to head down to the Coburg Lake. The planning and preparation took about three weeks. We had a couple of people in charge of each area, transport, teachers, invitation, drinks, notices and money. We organised this in the aim for it to be the first group excursion as a VCAL class. The barbeque was a great success and everyone really enjoyed themselves. Almost everyone attended and mixed together well. A number of teachers also made time to come down. We would just like to thank the teachers that attended, Ms Tellefson, Ms Secomb and Miss Sanza and especially the year 11 VCAL class who made it such a success.

Sarah Johnston
BSC YEAR 7 CAMP

In Friday the 18th March, sixty Year 7 students and seven teachers returned from their three days at Mt Morton Out- door Camp. The weather was kind to us and all activities went ahead without a glitch. During the three days, students led by the Mt Morton Camp staff (Shane, Amber, Justin and Tim) were involved in a variety of activities that involved teamwork training. Students participated in activities such as Giant Swing, Tug of War, Bush Hut Building, Damper Cooking, Archery, Orienteering and Yabbying. Teachers supervised different groups, which gave them the opportunity to get to know the students in a different environment and observe their interactions with one another. Over the three days, all students cooperated with one another and got on extremely well. Teachers and Camp Staff commented on the students' good behaviour, manners and their adaptability to work with each other in different groups. The students also learnt that their teachers were adaptable and willing to have a go with tasks that may not be part of their normal routine. Kerrin Whiting provided entertainment on both nights. He engaged the students in Trivia Night and drew out teachers' talents through his mime performance. After the first day students quickly realised that it was important for them to work together to achieve their goals. Each activity required them to problem solve. Some of the lifelong skills that were developed and reinforced included working in teams, listening to others, thinking about what is being said, and adding to it. I commend the students for their behaviour and for taking their responsibilities seriously. All students worked together in ensuring that their duty groups were on time and carried out their tasks quickly, efficiently and with a smile. Over the three days, students developed new friendships and appeared to become more confident. The teachers who attended camp had a fantastic time, supported camp staff as well as participating in the various activities. I would like to thank the teachers for their support, positive energy and involvement at camp. It was a pleasure to be with such a fantastic and energetic group of teachers who were always at hand to encourage students to overcome their fears and attempt all activities.

Some memorable quotes include:

"You’re just like my mum, taking photos all the time." Adrienne Awad said this at the Bush Tucker activity when Tim James was taking photos.

"Hey Nadia, you’re a gun!" Lachlan Hutchinson shouted from the bottom of the hill after Nadia Cavallin went on the Giant Swing.

Stay tuned for student feedback in next week’s newsletter.

Nadia Cavallin,
Year 7 Coordinator

Monash University’s Faculty of Engineering
2011 Engineering Scholarship Celebration

Monash University’s Faculty of Engineering celebrated the achievements of their top new students at the 2011 Engineering Scholarship Celebration on Thursday 10 March. Held on campus at Monash University the celebration acknowledged the success of students who not only gained a place in an engineering course at Monash University but who also received a scholarship for their outstanding results during their VCE. Among these students was Zeming Zhuo from Brunswick Secondary College.

Students celebrated with their families, the Deputy Dean of Engineering, Professor Tam Sridhar, school representatives and Monash students. Scholarship recipients were individually acknowledged at the ceremony and had a chance to mingle with university staff and other students after the presentations. Brunswick Secondary College would like to congratulate Zeming Zhuo for his outstanding achievements and wish her/him/them the very best with his endeavours.
MUSIC NEWS

Katy Perry Competition – Behind-the-Scenes and Concert Tickets

Year 9-12 students only

Thanks to our forthcoming Rock the Schools event in May, there are double passes for 2 lucky students to get a special behind-the-scenes look at a Katy Perry concert as part of her California Dreams 2011 Tour. You will get to see what it takes to set up for a monstrous concert tour and who knows...you might even get to take a peak at an actual soundcheck! Once you’ve seen how it works behind the scenes, you and your friend will be rocking out the night at the Katy Perry Concert on Friday 29th April. Competition entry forms are available from Ms. Kurick in the music staffroom and must be returned by Friday 1st April – no later!

Brunswick Voice
‘Behind the Mirror Ball’ – a Behind The Scene Experience at Xanadu The Musical

In the last week of term, Brunswick Voice are off to the Docklands to explore the creative possibilities of the performing arts through interactive activities and workshops run by industry professionals. Students are reminded that parent permission forms and money must be handed in to the General Office by Monday 28th March after which bookings close.

Suzanne Kurick
Head of Learning: Music

Senior Interschool Debating

BSC has made an enthusiastic start to the year with Senior Interschool Debating. One of the most pleasing aspects has been welcoming the many year 8 debaters who are continuing on after competing in the junior debating last year. It has also been terrific to welcome some students who are completely new to debating this year: Sarina Barkho 9U, Matt Reade 8S and Nathaniel Peacock 8S. Congratulations also to Alex Brown, who is our Debating Captain for 2011.

Round 1 on Wednesday 9 March presented some challenging topics, and our three teams put in a great performance. Commiserations to our C-Grade Team of Daniel Lee, Maggie O'Shea and Xavier Dupe who were narrowly out-debated by their opposition on the topic,”That the government should not fund major sporting events”, although they did a great job preparing and presenting their arguments.

Congratulations to our D-Grade team of Anton Newgreen, Channa Ratnayake (best speaker) and Dylan Silke who worked well as a team to win their debate, persuading the audience that ”We should ban violent video games.” Well done also to our other D-Grade Team of PJ Byrne, Blake Everett and Luke Johnstone, who didn’t win, but put in a great effort in their debate on the same topic. Thank you also to Ms Apted and Ms Gardner who have been helping our teams prepare for their debates.

Come along and help support our teams in Round 2 of the competition on Wednesday 30 March 2010 at Mercy College, 760 Sydney Rd, Coburg:
C Grade – “That schools should be allowed to drug test students” 7pm
D Grade – “That we should not allow animals to be used as objects of sport” 8pm

See you there!
Kanela Giannakakis
Debating Coordinator
Teacher v Student Soccer

It was a sunny Friday at Brunswick Secondary College when the lunch time bell went. Students spilled out of their classrooms as usual but instead of making a mad rush to the canteen the masses converged at the oval to get the best seats in the house for the much anticipated Teacher vs Student soccer match. The teachers were riding high on confidence after the 3-1 demolition of the year 7’s in 2009. However this year was a new challenge, a double header in fact, 15 minutes against the year 10’s followed by another 15 against the year 9’s. Off season recruitment had served the teachers well picking up some fresh talent in the form of Mr Moustie, Mr Surhan and Mr T (Mohamed). What follows is a somewhat fictional account of actual events.

GAME 1: Teacher’s 1:0 Year 10’s

To be fair on the Year 10’s they weren’t terrible...... the teachers were just on a different level. From the very first few passes it was clear that Mr Whiting, Ms Wood and Mr O’Grady were going to run them ragged all day with their speed and aggression at the ball. The first chance fell to Ms Kyle who volleyed a thunderbolt of a shot against the upright and then let the year 10’s know about it “That’s your last warning!!” she yelled. And right she was. Next play Mr Mossemenear whipped in a well weighted cross that was met by Mr Moustie at the front post for a clinical finish. And that is how it stayed 1-0. The match was best summed up by Mr O’Bree, spoken with a tear in his eye, "We rolled our sleeves up, fought hard and came out with what we deserved, a win. I’d like to thank my beautiful wife, this win is for you baby!"

GAME 2: Teacher’s 1:0 Year 9’s

To be fair on the Year 9’s they weren’t terrible ....... the teachers were just in the mood for punishing mediocrity. Mr Torosidis, Ms Abdullah and Jason (our resident tech expert) all brought their fresh legs on after being rested for the first match. It proved to be a decisive decision with the teachers immediately wresting control of possession quickly turning defence into attack through Ms Goss. The game wasn’t really broken open until the last 5 minutes when Mr O’Bree latched onto a lofted through ball and picked his moment, when the goalkeeper was distracted by the crowd, to walk the ball into the net. And that is how it stayed 1-0. Mr Kolber verbalised the thoughts of the team as the teachers left the field as champions leaving the students licking their wounds... “This one is for you Viv”

Warren Evert

On Friday the 25th of February the SRC organised a teacher v students soccer match to help raise funds for Flood Relief. On the day of the match all of the year 9s and 10s were pumped and ready to go. We thought we had them but it was through sheer luck and the dirty play of the teachers that both the year 10 team and the year 9 team lost 1-0. The sportsmanship and character of the students was admirable, having gifted the teachers four of our best players. This is more than can be said for the teachers however, doing anything (legal or not) to get in the way of a student victory. The students will no doubt be ready and prepared for a rematch later in the year, and they hope it will be played in good spirits. Watch out Evert!

Rory Smyth – Sport Captain
Students with Perfect Work Practices Score
4 out of 4

Year 7
MOIR-WILSON Selina

Year 8
AMOS Elowen
DUFF Greta
FARID Fawwaz
XU Yi Jie

Year 9
DUPE Xavier
LI Larissa
O’SHEA Maggie

Year 10
BROWN Alexandra
DI CIERO George
FORDER Emma
HOLT Joshua
LIN Chang
MCMILLAN Lucy
POTTER Caitlin

Year 11
CONSTABLE Mikaela
JOHNSTON Sarah
MISURELLI Georgia
MUSUMECI Cassandra
PHAN Tony
RUEANKHUM Alin
RYAN Taylor
TABURET Valentin
TEESE Gemma

Year 12
ABDULLATIF Aboudi
BOYCE Alison
IBRAHIM Ardo
MOORE Holly
RAHMAN Asha
SCHENK Kara
WATSON Miranda
ZHAO Chenkun
ZHOU Yan Xuan

Students with Excellent Work Practices Score
3.9 out of 4.0

Year 7
ASSFAW Jerusalem
AUGIER William
AWAD Adrienne
CASHI N Bronwyn
COVENTRY-POOLE Jacob
DENCh Jesse
GUNEY Kubra

INTURRISI Reece
JOHNS Daniel
LA Raymond
LIN Dessi
LIYANA ARACHCHIGE Nellie
LOUEY Anna
MARSTERS Samuel
MILLER Tobias
MUJIR Tayler
NAJAM Isbah
NGUYEN Dung Tien
NIPPARD Heidi
RAMADHAN Kevin
RIGAZZI Samantha
ROWLEY Georgia
SAAD Ramzy
SIMONS Stephen
STEFF Jessica
SU Yu Yin
VARKOPOULOS-PRIDHAM Orion
VO William
WINKLER Zachary
ZHOU Mo

Year 8
BLAIR Aidan
BLAIR Matthew
BORG Madeleine
GUMELA Helena
JOHNSON Luke
KAYA Nivan
LEE Amy
LIM Adrina
MADRIGANO David
MARSHALL Alanna
MYRWODA Jason
NA Claire
NEWMAN Amelie
RATNAYAKE Channa
ROLFE Oliver
RUTHERFORD Euan
RUTHERFORD Katherine
SHERIFF Ashleigh
SILKE Dylan
TRAN Kelly

Year 9
ANDERSON-CLEARY Flora
AVRAMIDIS Ioannis
AWAD Lucille
AZHAR Ammar
BACHMANN Alexander
BUGEJA Jessica
COLLINS Nicholas
FISHER Louise
FUSCA Ella
GEROGIANNAKIS Evelyn
INDOS Tiffany
JENKINS Liam
JOSE Trizia
OAG Fintan
PAYNE Lucy
THOMAS Matthew
UZUNCAM Kukiye
VO Frances
WILLOX Cassandra
YELLENKI Saiatheja
ZAFIROPOULOS Joanna
ZENAIDEE Nur
ZHONG Shannon

Year 10
Awad Magdaleine
BROWN Sade
CAMPANA Anthony
CONSTABLE Amelia
FLANAGAN Georgina
JOHARI Mohamed Azri
LEE Daniel
LI Feng Mei
LICKLITER Mia
MILAS Christos
MOHAMED Abrarr
NGUYEN Chi Cuong
NOE Su Myat
PENINGTON Bridget
RINCHEN Sonam Lhamo
SHARMAN Jamie
SOSA HABY Daniel
TSANTIKOS Helen

Year 11
ABDUL GHAFOOR Shaikhoon
AKTAS Emel
AROSTEGUI CRUZ Sidney
AZHAR Filzah
BRUNT Sara
DEVICI Arzu
DOBELL Emma
DRUZHININ Veniamin
GONZALES Ruben
INTURRISI Brianna
KARAKAN Gamze
LIM Audrey
MANSFIELD Phoebe
NEWMAN Jonathon
NIEUWENHUIS Daniel
NOTT Jack
SALDIN Hazmaan
SUWANTEVAKUP Siririn
TRAN Thao
ZAYAT Sarah

Year 12
BARLEY Harry
CAO Huiqi
CHAMBERS Nicholas
CHEUK Matthew
DOWLING Axiom
ELEFTHERAKIS Peter
GIAGOZOGLOU Eva
GLAB Jason
JACKSON Samuel
KRUSE Jesse
MENELAOU Aphrodite
PIFFER Alice
ROBOTHAM Michelle
SHARMA Renu
SMITH Samuel
TWITE Jacqueline
WALLIN Maize
**EMERGENCY CONTACTS !!**

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

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**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).

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**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
Premiers' Reading Challenge 2011
at Moreland City Libraries

Did you know that Moreland City Libraries have a large selection of the books that are listed on the Premiers' Reading Challenge booklists?

You can search for Premiers' Reading Challenge books on the online library catalogue or you can look for the books on the shelf.

A colour-coded sticker according to the year level identifies these items.

Our website address is:  

For further information contact:

Brunswick Library
Corner Sydney Road and Dawson Street, Brunswick. Phone: 9389 8600

Campbell Turnbull Library
220 Melville Road, West Brunswick. Phone: 9384 9200

Coburg Library
Corner Victoria and Louisa Streets, Coburg. Phone: 9353 4000

Fawkner Library
Jukes Road, Fawkner. Phone: 9355 4200

Glenroy Library
737 Pascoe Vale Road, Glenroy: 8311 4100
Wanted – children’s books!

Brunswick Neighbourhood House Occasional Care is in desperate need of Children’s books suitable for children up to 6 years old. If you have any picture books in very good to excellent condition that you no longer need please drop them off to us!

Any book donations are greatly appreciated!

Office Hours – Monday – Thursday 9:00 -4:00 and Friday 9:00 – 1:00pm.
Brunswick Neighbourhood House – 18 Garden Street Brunswick 9387-9901