No 3 18th February

Principal’s Report

The first whole school assembly for 2010 last Thursday celebrated the outstanding achievements of the 2009 Year 12 class and provided an opportunity for the 2010 School Captains, an impressive team of 19, to introduce themselves and their goals and priorities for the year ahead. The assembly also welcomed Brunswick Secondary College’s new students, both the 183 students in Year 7 and those in other year levels. Before the end of the term, I will host a morning tea for Year 8-12 students who are new to our college. I have already had the pleasure of meeting each of our Year 7 classes.

After a thoughtful address from the 2010 School Captains, Jo Boyce and Rose Steele, Assistant Principal for Year 10-12, Graeme McKinnon, introduced the 2009 College Dux, Joshua Chang. Extracts from his Dux Speech are included below and I am sure parents and students will enjoy reading Joshua’s reflections and advice on success in the VCE including the importance of pursuing your own passion no matter how individual.

The next award was one that has been newly introduced this year. The Principal’s Award has been established to recognise the achievement of a Year 12 student who has overcome adversity or obstacles in order to achieve to their personal best. The recipient of the 2009 Principal Award is Jamal Khoder. Jamal’s very honest acceptance speech had a strong impact on every student and teacher in the room. He reflected on the fact that for much of his secondary schooling, he had made the wrong choices in relation to behaviour. Jamal made it very clear that his decision to focus on his own studies and not allow himself to be distracted by his peers is what enabled him to complete Year 12 and to obtain an impressive enter of 90. Lavie Vo (99.35), Lewis Moore (98.8), Morgan Jones (98.7), Maryam Ghazvini Ferooz (97.6) and Leiana Zampogna (Perfect Study Score of 50 for Business Studies) were presented with books from the school to commemorate their outstanding achievement. As Joshua said in his speech, we should never define a person by their Enter score. At the same time, it is important to acknowledge the persistent effort and hard work that enabled these students to achieve so highly.

Joshua’s Speech:
"Hello. I’d like to start this speech with thank yous. Thank you to my parents and sister, to my friends and classmates, to the office staff, and to many teachers, including those who are no longer at this school, or no longer alive.

Year Tens, choose subjects that you like so that the next few years will be fun. Remember that you have many options: VCE, VCAL, an apprenticeship, TAFE, or moving directly into the workforce. What’s good for you may not necessarily be what most people are doing. Consider distance education for subjects that aren’t..."
offered at school. I did three Year 12 subjects, French, Latin, and Music Styles, by distance education. They have a massive range of subjects, including a few obscure ones that aren’t taught at many schools.

Year Elevens, use this year to experiment with different ways of studying. For example, long or short sessions, before school or after school, at home or at the library.

There’s a lot to remember. Note upcoming events such as SACs in your diary. Knowing what’s happening so that you can prepare for it is vital.

Year Twelves, study according to what you need. Most days you’ll have about the same amount of work, but remember that a few days will have almost nothing, and a few will have killer amounts.

At the end of the year, in exam time, don’t work too much. During exam time, concentrate on one or two subjects at a time. You should spend less time working than you do during the school year, because there’s less to do. Do NOT study on the morning of an exam, do not unduly tire yourselves.

The ENTER is the Equivalent National Tertiary Entrance Rank. It’s not a measure of success at school, or of intelligence. Its purpose is to help universities, TAFEs, and institutes choose the most desirable candidates, and don’t treat it as anything more than that.

I would like to encourage everyone to play music. Look around until you find the right instrument for you, and try all sorts of performing arts – dance, drama, music, anything. Everyone can do something here.”

Joshua Chang, 2009 College Dux

Year 7 Parents - Transitions for Parents Evening

Wednesday 24th February 6pm
Auditorium

All parents of Year 7 students are cordially invited to an evening of information about the college and the process of transition that your child and you will travel through this year.

Save Rocka

We are both passionate supporters and members of our school’s Rock Eisteddfod team; since starting high school at in 2005 we’ve been involved every year. Brunswick has been very successful, winning the Small Schools Division, Open and Premier in our 6 years (so far!). These successes have generated massive amounts of enthusiasm, and indeed love for Rocka, from students, teachers and parents.

Mere words are not enough to describe the unity that it generates, the fun we have at rehearsal and on performance day, the thrilling, terrifying, electrifying exhilaration of being on stage or the absolute euphoria of winning. There were a number of things to consider this year about being in Rock Eisteddfod. We’re both in year 12 this year, and School Captains. Also taking into account extra-curricular things and you know, actually having a social life, there’s not a whole lot of time left, and Rocka demands a huge time commitment. But none of this mattered, because Rock Eisteddfod has become such a vital part of our lives that there was no way we weren’t going to participate in our final year. This is true of many of our year 12 classmates and students from other year levels.

Apart from the personal joy Rock Eisteddfod brings to all involved, the students of Brunswick and hundreds of other schools around the country, Rocka endorses current and essential issues; fighting obesity, encouraging socialisation with peers, and combating teen drug and alcohol abuse. We are bombarded in the news and by politicians about how fat the country is, how young people die from drug and alcohol related causes and sadly, often about teen suicide. Now, we don’t want to claim that cancelling Rocka will cause obesity, increase the amount of adolescent suicide and drive young people to drink and do drugs, or that Rock Eisteddfod solves these problems. But it certainly helps create awareness. Rocka creates bonds between students and teachers. At the risk of sounding incredibly clichéd, it enriches our lives and we promise, was going to be the high point for us and our friends during the stress of VCE. The Rock Eisteddfod is an integral part of countless schools across the country.

Over the past years parents and students have supported and encouraged Rocka, by helping make costumes, paint sets, and just by being committed to rehearsals, this year we ask parents, students, friends, relatives and co-workers to support getting Rock Eisteddfod as much as you have in the past by getting behind it and emailing John Brumby and Julia Gillard (premier@dpc.vic.gov.au or Julia.Gillard.MP@aph.gov.au) with positive emails detailing your personal experience with Rocka, why it means so much to you and why it shouldn’t be cancelled.

Also if anyone has any connections to the media, be it radio, television, newspaper or to a member of parliament... could you please tell them of our loss and ask if it is possible in anyway for them to publicise and show our devastation at the thought Rocka could be taken away.

Jo Boyce and Rose Steele, School Captains

The Rocka Group
Upcoming event on the 24th March—A Family Night with a Greek Flavour

Brunswick Secondary would like to bring families together for an evening of culture laughter, and good food on Wednesday 24 from 6pm. This evening precedes Greek National Day and will celebrate the Greek heritage of a large number of our College community.

For $20/ adult, $10 /student or $50/family ticket (max 5) you will enjoy
- Performance of Odyssey by Andreas Litras
- A feast of Greek food
- Music by our BSC Greek Band

MUSIC NEWS

Ensemble Practices starting this week:
- Mondays – Greek Band (after school) in the Soundhouse
- Tuesdays – Saxophone Quartet (before school) in the Soundhouse
- Tuesdays – Percussion Ensemble (after school) in the PAR
- Tuesdays – Singing Group (after school) in D1 (music room)
- Wednesdays – Stage Band (before school) in the Soundhouse
- Wednesdays – Girls’ Band (after school) in the Soundhouse
- Wednesdays – String Ensemble (after school) in the PAR

Mondays – Concert Band starting Monday 15th March in PAR

Before School ensembles 8.00 – 8.50am
After School ensembles 3.20 – 4.10pm
It is important that students are ready to rehearse by the required starting time so that ensemble practices can be effective and productive.

Students who learn privately outside of the College are welcome to join any of the ensembles. The fee is $50.00 for the year. Please feel free to contact Suzanne Kurick at the College if you are interested in joining any of the above listed ensembles.

Suzanne Kurick, Music Coordinator

BSC Italian Study Tour 2010

An information night for the Italian Study Tour planned in Term 4 this year will be held here at school on Thursday February 25th at 6.00PM. Please direct all enquiries to Pina Mazzeo on 9387 6133 or email - mazzeo.pina.r@edumail.vic.gov.au. The tour is open to students in all year levels.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

EMA helps to cover the costs related to your child’s schooling. The EMA provides families on a low income with financial assistance to support their child’s education up to the age of 16.

The allowance is paid in two instalments throughout the year; the first instalment from March onwards and the second instalment from August onwards. Half of the payment is paid to the school and half to the parent or guardian.

You need to submit your EMA application to BSC by 26 February 2010, in time for the first instalment. Application forms are available from schools.

Parents have the option to have their EMA instalments paid by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) directly into your bank account. You can select this option when filling in your application form. If you opt for payment by EFT, you do not need to fill in the peach coloured sign over form that you get from the BSC office.

Secondary students payment: The total annual combined payment for secondary students is $450
(increased from $443 in 2009)
Parent portion:
installment one $157.50 (from March 2010)
installment two $67.50 (from August 2010)
The portion that goes to your school will be $157.50 for installment one and $67.50 for installment two.

Parent Update—VSN

Please click on this link to be taken to the VSN webpage for information Victorian Student Number

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Student Passports allow students, parents and teachers to attend three MSO evening concerts for only $45 per student and $84 per accompanying adult. Until last year, Student Passports could only be booked through schools. Now anyone can book Student Passports, as long as there is a ratio of one student to one adult per booking. To ensure that the ratio of students to accompanying adults is maintained, we will monitor attendance. Tickets will be printed on a special stock and ticket holders may be asked for student ID or evidence that a student is attending.

Printed programs are available free on the night of the concert, or teachers and students access them online by signing up to MSO E-News at www.mso.com.au. If you would like to make a Student Passports booking for your child, it can be done very easily, through your existing MSO account on our web site (www.mso.com.au) or by calling our friendly Subscription Box Office during business hours on 9929 9600.

I urge you to use Student Passports to introduce young people to the wealth of wonderful music played live in concert by the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Yours sincerely
Cheri Le Cornu, Director of Marketing

Southern Cross Cultural Exchange

Information Session for overseas exchange programs: Tuesday 23rd February 2010 at 7.30pm. Conochie Hall, 2 Rochester Road, Canterbury.
Contact via email www.scce.com.au or 1800 500 501

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. The school nurse, Jeremy Fiske, will in the next fortnight, be contacting parents of children who have anaphylaxis or other serious medical conditions. If your child has a medical condition that the school needs to be aware of, please contact the level coordinator or Jeremy.

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