An Invitation To All Parents

Brunswick Secondary College is undertaking its Strategic Review this year. We are currently in the self evaluation stage which requires us to rigorously examine our performance and achievement over the past four years in order to develop the school’s strategic direction for the next four years and beyond. For the parents, students and staff who comprise the Brunswick Secondary College school community, the year of Strategic Review provides and opportunity to reflect on the new future we wish to create together.

The Brunswick SC self evaluation is structured to gather the diverse voices that make up our school community. We are aware that not all parents are able to attend a Focus Group and we have developed a brief on line survey that we hope all parents will complete. The survey should take no longer than 15 minutes. It would also assist our evaluation if parents attend the School Self Evaluation focus groups on the evening of Monday 22nd March, 7.00 - 8.00pm in the library. The focus groups will be facilitated by parents from the school and the evening will include the opportunity to discuss the 2009 Annual Report to the school community. The focus questions are both straightforward and important, asking respondents to reflect on:

1. What does our school do well?
2. What would we like to see our school achieving in 5 – 10 years?
3. What should we do to achieve the future we want to see?

Please email brunswick.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au if you will be attending the Focus Groups on Monday 22 March, or if you would like to attend a session at another time. Please list a few times that would best suit you. Depending on the response, we can organise other times.

Our 19 School Captains are currently developing questionnaires based on Student Attitudes to School Survey and will in pairs, conduct focus groups with students from Year 7-12. The Leadership Team members will conduct a rigorous analysis of our performance over the past four years, and will take staff in an extended meeting through the same process. The evaluation will also be the main agenda item at the next two School Council meetings. In term 2, after we have completed our School Self Evaluation, we will move on to the Review. We learn the name of our external reviewer within the next week or so. They will work with us in term 2 to offer independent and expert advice on our progress and the strategies that will move us further forward in our determined efforts to continually improve our students’ learning, engagement and well being and opportunities and pathways.

Rock Eisteddfod Decision

It is now definite that Rock Eisteddfod will not occur in 2010. There has apparently been some interest shown by Corporate sponsors and there is hope that it can be reinstated in 2011. While we have been awaiting the decision, Katherine Weatherhead and Cameron Hall have been industriously working on Plan B, a highly professional concert to be staged at an external venue. While disappointed about the Rock Eisteddfod, we are very excited about this new opportunity as we have the directors, choreographers, dancers and backstage crew needed to make it truly outstanding.
I would like to draw parents attention to the advertisement below for the Brunswick Secondary College social event of first term, the Greek Night. Join with other members of the school community for an inspiring evening of Greek Drama, Music and food. It is an opportunity to catch up with other parents. Those of you who attended the Brunswick Secondary stage at the Sydney Rd festival will already know the quality and repertoire of our Greek Band. We hope to see you there.

Vivienne Tellefson, Principal

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 March 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

Ελπίζουμε να γιορτάσετε την εθνική μας γιορτή μαζί με την παράσταση του άνδρα Λιτρας «οδυσσεία» και το μουσικό συγκροτημα του σχολείου μας «BSC ελληνική μπαντά».

Parent helpers wanted for the Greek Cultural Evening

The Parent Project Team will be working with teachers and the School Music Captain to prepare and source food and set up the Performing Arts room for the evening. If you would like to donate food (please list ingredients), drinks or Greek decorations, or enjoy creating Greek food with others on the day please contact Maria Rerakis 04838893942 / after hours 93866882

If you have any more ideas about how to make this a wonderful event and would like to generally help out please contact Pam Duncan at BSC on 93879726

MUSIC NEWS

Sydney Road Street Party

It was a cold and windy morning but that didn’t deter the members of our Greek Band who played beautiful traditional Greek music for the opening number on the Community Stage. Then the decibels grew louder as the Percussion Ensemble took to the stage and roused the audience with their toe-tapping rhythms.

It was lovely to welcome back and have past students play with us – John Milas in the Greek Band and Patrick Denison who played trumpet in the horn section of the Percussion Ensemble.

Well done to all the performers and their teachers Wayne Simmons and Nick Adams for their dedication in preparing for the event. A big thank you too to the roadies Ella, Lachlan and Keren. Your help was much appreciated!

Suzanne Kurick, Music Coordinator
Congratulations Ben Cauchi Year 7

For seven years Ben has been learning Taekwondo and in the past three years he has been involved in competitive taekwondo competitions. Earlier this year he was nominated for the Sports Star of the Year Awards. On Wednesday night (24th February), Ben went to the Leader Newspaper Sports Star Awards at the Docklands. Ben was not expecting to win an award that night but to his surprise he did win. Ben won the Moreland Leader Sport Star of the Year. He was awarded a medal and a $500 gift voucher from Rebel Sports. Ben is a third Dan Black Belt and since 2006 he has won several medals - 1 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze in Victorian State competitions and he has won 2 Bronze medal, 2 Silver medals and 1 Gold medal in the Australian Open making him a National Champion.

Nadia Cavallin, Year 7 Coordinator

Arabic Welfare Workshops

We invite all Parents/Guardians to attend a series of workshops run by Arabic Welfare and supported by Brunswick Secondary College. The workshops are a part of a fantastic program called Arabic Speaking Families Learning Together. There are workshops where parents from Arabic speaking background gather together to meet and discuss different topics, understand the school system and develop the relationship between the school and families. The workshops for parents will be held on Monday the 15th and 22nd of March 2010 from 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm and will be held here at the College.

If you would like to register your interest to attend the workshops, or find out more information please contact Amal El-Khoury on 9380 9536.

Year 8 Cricket

On Monday 1st March the year 8 boys cricket team played in their inter-school competition. The first game was against a strong University high. Oscar Allen blasted a quick fire 63, and the team made 125 off 12 overs. Uni high hit 25 off the first over to put Brunswick under some pressure. Excellent fielding by the whole team helped have Uni high, all out for 115 and put us into the final.

A strong batting performance in the final by Tom Reade (34) , Oscar Allen (36) and Ben Madden (30) to post a strong total of 129 off 10 overs was always going to be a tough ask for Fitzroy High. Great bowling by all our bowlers including Alex Backmann 2/13 and everyone else chipping in with a wicket each, had Fitzroy all out for 43. Well done boys, the year 8 cricket team is into the Northern Zone Finals.

Brent Pawley, Sport Coordinator

International Student Coordinator

As the new International Student Program coordinator I am proud to be involved in such a unique and diverse program. Brunswick Secondary College feels very privileged to accommodate 21 International Students from a diverse background. We are proud of the multi-cultural nature of our program with students representing countries such as China, Vietnam, Nepal, Bangladesh, Greece, Iran, Bhutan, Malaysia Korea and India. We feel the International Students are an integral part of the school as they share with us their unique knowledge and experience. In 2010, the Chinese year of the playful tiger, we hope to work creatively and collaboratively with the whole school community towards making the International Program an exciting aspect of our School.

Lauren Flannery, International Student Coordinator

International Student Report

Hi, my name is Vasilika, I am an international student at Brunswick Secondary College.

Firstly, I have to introduce myself. I came from Greece 6 months ago, so Brunswick Secondary College is my first school here in Australia. Before I went to school, I had been so anxious about my first day because I could not speak very good English. I was embarrassed and worried about how the children would welcome me. But to my surprise, they were friendly and approached me so warmly. I have made so many friends here from the first day and I am very happy.

This school is really impressive because apart from the people who are helpful and kind, it offers loads of activities to do. It also helps and supports the international students who face many challenges. That is the most important thing for me because I have a goal which I want to achieve. Everyone here makes things easier, working with us patiently without putting us down or demeaning us.

Without a doubt I have found myself in this school where for the first time I am allowed to be myself without being afraid of the judgements and what the others will think of me. I have improved my English and even if I still have some difficulties no one prevents me from participating in the activities, and from giving my opinion on different themes.

I am so lucky and delighted to be here at Brunswick Secondary College.

Vasilika Garuli, Year 10 International Student
Premier’s Reading Challenge 2010

Did you know that Moreland City Libraries have a large selection of the books that are listed on the Reading Challenge booklists? You can search for Reading Challenge books in the online library catalogue or you can look for the books on the shelf. A color-coded sticker according to the year level identifies these items.

Our website address is:  http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/moreland-libraries.html

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

Year 7 Camp

All remaining payments for the students going on the year 7 camp are to be paid by Friday 5th March.

Fotomakers

Fotomakers have accidently put some payments for school the photos through twice. They have now been reversed.

3D Animation Workshops for Students

Have you ever wondered how computer games and 3D movies like Shrek are made? Learn the latest in 3D Animation and Games Design on a Bubble Dome School Holiday workshop this April. Other courses in Architecture, Fashion Design, Movie Making and Ultra Games Development are on offer at a venue near you.
For students aged 6 to 17 years. Tel: 1800 11 55 62 or Email: info@bubbledome.com or Visit: www.bubbledome.com

The Bubble Dome Team

Northern Metropolitan Region - Regional Autism Plan, Parent Information Session

An information session is being held for parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder attending schools in the Northern Metropolitan Region. Parents attending the session will be provided an overview of the regional autism plan.

A parent consultation group is being formed to provide an avenue for parents to be consulted in future planning.

Session details -
When: Wednesday, 10 March 2010
Time: 9.30 am to 11.00 am
Where: Northern Metropolitan Region Conference Centre, 189 Urquhart Street, Coburg (turn into Alva Grove from Bell Street)
Melway reference: Map 17 H12

Those interested in attending are asked to complete the form attached to the end of this newsletter and return it to the regional office by noon on Tuesday, 9 March 2010.

Girls Soccer U12, U13/14 and U16 Players Wanted Now!

Hi my name is Ella Fusca and I play for Zebras 13/14 A-Team. Playing soccer is a lot of fun and I have made lots of new friends there. I recommend you join the B team, you will keep fit, healthy and happy. See you there!

Ella Fusca, Year 8

Brunswick Zebras is looking for a few more players for their U12, U13/14 and U16 girls’ soccer teams for the 2010 season. Beginners and experienced players welcome.

Brunswick Zebras is a strong junior club with lots of friendly girls’ teams.

Training for the season has just started. It is held at a Brunswick venue usually on Weds evenings and sometimes Friday as well depending on the coach.
Games are on Sundays once the season starts on 18th April and continue till 29th August.
All players provided with the team uniform and soccer ball.

Registration covers insurance, uniforms, balls, coaching including occasional specialist coaches for goalies and other skills, participation medallion or trophy.
For further information go to the club website www.brunswickzebras.com.au or contact club secretary Carole Fabian on 0409 563 922.
**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 contact 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
Northern Metropolitan Region

Regional Autism Plan

Parent Information Session

An information session is being held for parents of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder attending schools in the Northern Metropolitan Region. Parents attending the session will be provided an overview of the regional autism plan.

A parent consultation group is being formed to provide an avenue for parents to be consulted in future planning.

Session details

When: Wednesday, 10 March 2010
Time: 9.30 am to 11.00 am
Where: Northern Metropolitan Region Conference Centre
189 Urquhart Street
Coburg
(turn into Alva Grove from Bell Street)
Melway reference: Map 17 H12

Registration

Those interested in attending are asked to complete this form and return it to the regional office by noon on Tuesday, 9 March 2010.

Name:

School(s) your child attends:

Your email address:

Your home telephone number:

Would you like to be involved in a parent consultation group? Yes/No

Registration forms should be sent to:

Email: nmro.reception@edumail.vic.gov.au

Fax: 9488 9400

Mail: Parent Information Session, Northern Metropolitan Region, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Locked Bag 2001, Coburg 3058