

UNIFORM SHOP

Regular Shop Hours

Tuesdays 8.30 am—11.30 am
 Thursdays 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm and
 6.30 pm – 7.30 pm
 (except public holidays)

Uniform enquiries to
 Mrs Diane Kirwin, Uniform Shop Manager
 Telephone: 8768 1042 during shop hours
 or 9707 2605 after hours

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NEED MATHS HELP?



Available in A15 with Mr Buff
 from
 3.30pm to 4.15pm,

NARRE WARREN-BERWICK BLUE LIGHT DISCO

Berwick Leisure Centre Manuka Road, Berwick

Saturday, 6th June

Students in years 5 to 8 only.
 Cost \$10.00

All enquires to Narre Warren Police Station
9705 3111

(please note that Sat 2nd May is cancelled due to hall being renovated)

Drive-In Movie Night

Akoonah Park, Berwick
 (Cnr Princes Highway & Cardinia Street)

Saturday, 9th May—Gates Open 6:00 pm
 Cost \$20.00 per vehicle

Tickets available from the following
 Berwick Traders or at the Gate
 Gloria Jeans Pol Boutique
 Berwick Curtain Nook Harry's Male Fashion

Hot Food and Refreshments available on the night

A great night out for the whole family!

Enquiries: call Annette on 9707 3362 or 0409 955 066

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Berwick Secondary College Newsletter

Berwick Secondary College
 creates a learning community by
 taking pride in its school values:

- Excellence in Learning
- Positive Relationships
- Personal Growth

Issue 4 2009

Address: Manuka Road, Berwick 3806
 Email: berwick.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au
 Phone: 8768 1000
 Fax: 9707 2533
 website: www.berwicksc.vic.edu.au

Principal: Mr Ross Bevege

Assistant Principals: Ms Josie Gray, Mr Mark Woodbridge, Mr Pat Mulcahy (Acting)



Kenny Learning Team —Winners of Attendance Competition for March

Term 2 Calendar 2009

- Monday 11th May
 Immunisation for Year 7 & Year 10
 Grade 6 Parent Information Evening 7:00pm in the PAC
- Tuesday 12th May - Thursday 14th May
 Senior Winter Sport
- Monday 18th May - Friday 22nd May
 Year 7 & Year 9 NAPLAN Testing
- Wednesday 20th May
 Year 10 Exam week
- Tuesday 19th May
 Year 8 Winter Sports
- Monday 25th May
 General Assembly
- Saturday 30th May
 Year 7 Winter Sports
- Monday 1st June - Friday 5th June
 Redemption Classes for Year 11 & Year 12 Students 9am-12:45 Senior School
- Saturday 6th June
 Year 11 Exam week
- Tuesday 2nd June
 Redemption Classes for Year 11 & Year 12 Students 9am-12:45 Senior School
- Monday 8th June
 Performing Arts Night PAC 7:30pm
- Tuesday 9th June - Wednesday 10th June
 Queen's Birthday Holiday
- Thursday 11th June
 Year 12 Exams
- Friday 12th June
 GAT test for students doing VCE Units 3 & 4
 Year 10 Production—show starts at 7:30pm in the PAC
 Report Writing—Student Free Day

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,



School Review - The College's performance against its stated objectives as listed in the 2006 - 2009 Strategic Plan will be externally reviewed in early June. In recent weeks, staff have been critically reviewing aspects of our performance against stated goals and targets within the plan. Parent members of College Council and Parent Reference Groups will meet on Tuesday 12th May to provide a parent perspective with regard to school progress. The Student Leadership Group including the School Captains, Learning Team Leaders and Home Group representatives will meet on Thursday 14th May to provide feedback from the student body. The feedback provided by each of the groups will be summarised in a Self Evaluation Report which will then be handed over to the External Reviewer and a copy sent to the Regional Office.

Code of Conduct - The work associated with this review will continue once we have completed the survey and consultation work required for the completion of the school Self Evaluation outlined above.

Staffing - It is with some sadness that I announce that Anne Martin has been officially appointed to the position of Principal at Hallam Secondary College. Anne has been a valuable and terrific Assistant Principal at our College for a number of years and will be sorely missed by students, parents and staff. We wish Anne every success in her new role and extend our thanks to her for the wonderful service she has provided to the Berwick Secondary College community.

Building Education Revolution - As mentioned in the last Newsletter, there are two aspects of this program which secondary colleges can apply for. These are:

- National Schools Pride Program
- Science and Language Centre Funding

We expect to be notified of the success (hopefully) of our application for the National School Pride Program in June / July. With respect to the applications for the Science and Language Centres, these close on Wednesday 13th May. Although the Science and Language Centre programs are heavily weighted toward those schools deemed to be disadvantaged, we have nevertheless applied and are hopeful we may be successful with at least one of the applications.

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) - This is scheduled for completion during the period Tuesday 12th - Thursday 14th of May. I wrote to the parents of all Year 7 and Year 9 students advising them of the forthcoming tests. All students at these two year levels will sit these tests unless notification has been received from the parents that they do not wish their son/daughter to sit them.

Transition Visits - Over the last few weeks, I have had the pleasure of accompanying Ms Ure and four Year 7 students on transition visits to each of our main feeder primary schools. The four students who went on these visits were ex-students of each of the primary schools and provide a great insight for the grade 6 students as to what they will face next year, should they come to Berwick Secondary College or any other secondary college.

Attitudes to School Survey - This survey was conducted on Tuesday 5th May with all students in Years 7 - 12. We expect to get the results of the survey back around August. Staff surveys are being conducted in all government schools over the next six weeks and the Parent Opinion Surveys are carried out in August. Parents interested in last year's survey results can access this data via the School Level Report on our College website. The 2008 Annual Report can also be accessed on the site under the Parents link and then College Information.

Debutante Balls - These were held on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th April and what fantastic nights they were. Congratulations to all those Year 11 students who completed the training and participated on the night in such a wonderful fashion. Special thanks to Ms Erica Peck for coordinating the event in conjunction with the Berwick Rotary Club. The Berwick Rotary Club has had a 20 year partnership in relation to this event which is also a memorable milestone.

B Block Development - The completion of this project has stalled somewhat of late but I am hopeful that it will be completed in the next few weeks. We have a number of students and staff eagerly awaiting the opening of this facility as they have a special performance planned. Hopefully by the time your next Newsletter is received, the main part of the project will have been completed. At this stage, our Maintenance staff will complete the landscaping aspects of the project once the main works have been finished.

Cont....

From the Chaplain's Desk

At the time of writing this the tragedy of the Victorian fires was still unfolding. Many will have been touched directly as a result of the fires. On a personal level I have had family and friends affected with loss of family, farming land, businesses, business premises and homes. There is one story I wish to relay to you from this tragedy which shows that the human spirit, while capable of the most horrific actions, is also capable of compassion and care. A friend from one of the fire affected areas whose home was one of only a couple not destroyed in the street told me this story.

There was a local 'lad' who had over the years caused my friend trouble. He had, in fact, stolen from him and many in the area, often being abusive and generally not liked in the community. This 'lad' owned an old car. He was away when the fires started, but when he saw the devastation they had caused, he sold his car for \$800.00 and purchased food. He then went around and gave to people who he had previously caused trouble to, and who now had nothing. This event has begun to bring about change in this person's life.

I like stories like this, not just because they make me feel good about humanity, but because it shows that it is possible to change and sometimes it takes a tragedy for us to instigate change. Sadly we as humans can be obtuse and tragedy is sometimes the only force which will bring about change. Why wait for a tragedy? Why not have an honest look and see if you need to change. As adults we expect our children to behave and act properly, yet often as adults we fail to see that we also need to change those areas of our lives which may not be as they should... you are never too old or too 'bad' to change ...just a thought.

Peter Whitefield
College Chaplain

Bushfire Assistance Project

Bushfires! Huge devastation and tragedy for all those concerned. What can we do to help? Let's make some house number brackets to restore identity and assist rebuilding.

Our class produced a batch of 50 house number brackets made of recycled materials including a wooden name plate. They were donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society for immediate distribution at the end of term one.

An outstanding class effort commended with a Certificate of Appreciation.

The students did a great job working as a team and learning new skills, such as the art of MIG welding. They are now using their new talents in creating their own decorative candle holders.

Congratulations to the Year 9 Materials Design Class Semester One 2009.

Mr Raffaele Battista
Technology



VCE & VCAL ATTENDANCE POLICY

RATIONALE

VCE and VCAL requirements are set externally and teachers must comply with these rules. The VCE comprises three components: assessed work, completion of outcomes to a satisfactory standard and **attendance**. VCAL requires the completion of outcomes to a satisfactory standard and **attendance**.

It is a requirement that students attend all timetabled classes so that teaching and learning opportunities are maximised. Attendance in class provides opportunities for student work to be authenticated by teachers. Work which cannot be authenticated will not be accepted for assessment.

The VCAA has stated that "where a student has completed work but there has been a substantive breach of class attendance, the student may be awarded an N".

VCE & VCAL Attendance Rules

- All absences must be explained by parents
- A student absent from classes for part of a day must sign in or out at the General Office.
- A medical certificate must be provided for any absence of three or more consecutive days

Approved Absences

Approved absences are defined as follows:

- Any absence supported by a medical certificate
- Any absence due to family/welfare circumstances supported by the Learning Team Leader, Later Year's Coordinators, Principal class or welfare staff, e.g. funeral, family holiday, family illness
- Any absence to attend an approved educational activity like sports, excursions, camps, tertiary information seminars.

It is a student's responsibility to ascertain what work has been missed, to obtain any handouts and to complete the required work as soon as possible after an absence.

*It is the student's responsibility to provide teachers with suitable evidence related to absences. Students should keep any notes, medical certificates and approved absence slips in their planner. These must be shown to the class teacher and Home Group teacher within **three** school days of the absence.*

Redemption of absences

Students are required to redeem any unexplained absences for each unit. Approved absences do not require redemption. However parent explained absences are subject to redemption as follows:

- Students can have up to and including six periods of parent explained absences per unit per semester without the need for redemption.
- Students with seven to twelve periods of parent explained absences per unit per semester are eligible for redemption.
- Students with more than twelve periods of parent explained absences per unit per semester automatically fail the unit.

Redemption classes will be run on Saturday May 30th and Saturday June 6th from 9:00am to 12:45pm and students are required to wear full school uniform. Students are required to complete school work during this time. No other redemption classes will be held outside of these times. Students who don't complete the required redemption class will fail the unit.

Mr Pat Mulcahy

Acting Assistant Principal

STUDENT EXCHANGE AUSTRALIA

In July 2009, 15-18 year old students from over fifteen countries will be arriving in Australia to study at local schools for five or ten months. Opportunities exist to act as a host family in a volunteer/unpaid capacity.

Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis. Host families help provide these students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill.

If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To learn more about this opportunity call Student Exchange Australia on 1300 135 331
or

visit our website: www.studentexchange.org.au

Basketball Courts - These outdoor courts are receiving a well overdue makeover at the present time. We hope to have the area ready for student use in the next week or so.

"Generation Next" - This is a public seminar aimed at understanding the unique health and wellbeing challenges facing generations Y and Z and how these challenges can be met. The event's focus is on providing essential and up to date information for parents, teachers and carers about problems relating to bullying, drugs and alcohol, internet and cybersafety, mental health and related issues that affect young people – and on constructive solutions to these problems. Presenters include: adolescent psychologist Michael Carr Gregg, Susan McLean an expert on cybersafety and Paul Dillon, Drug and Alcohol Research and Training Australia to name but a few. For information about this seminar go to www.gennextseminars.com

Attendance Competition and Prizes - We had an encouraging response with our push during March to maximise student attendance and to reduce the number of "unexplained" absences. The results of the competition between Learning Teams and individual Home Groups appears below. The month of May has been designated as our next competitive period aimed to maximise student attendance at school.

Mr Ross Bevege

Principal

Go Kenny Top Attendance

Congratulations to the Kenny Learning Team for winning the attendance competition for the month of March. As a reward the Learning Team was given an awesome morning tea held in the school stadium in which various party foods were served to all Kenny students. The team enjoyed their prize and appreciated the effort gone to, to make it a great morning tea.

Kenny 1 (Mrs Kamoda) and Kenny 4 (Mrs Edwards) students did really well and had all students in their groups with absences explained. These two groups had a lunch provided and from all accounts it was sumptuous!

We want to encourage all students to be at school but if they are away to let the office know in the morning and follow up the next day with a note to their Home Group teacher explaining why they are away. Our Home Group teachers work really hard so let's try and make their job a little easier.

The competition is running again for the month of May and look out to all other Learning Teams because we are hoping to win again.

GO KENNY!

Donna Janke and George Mondon

The Kenny Captains



Kenny 4 Home Group



Donna Janke

Mrs Jenny Hart
Kenny Learning Team Leader

Mr Mark Woodbridge
Assistant Principal

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

All schools have been asked by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to remind parents at the beginning of the year about student accident insurance.

Berwick Secondary College has no whole-of-school accident insurance program in place.

Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including transport costs.

Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold accident insurance for school students. There is however, Individual Student Accident Insurance that parents can purchase for approximately \$21-\$25 per year, depending on the insurer.

The College is aware of two insurers that offer individual insurance for students. Parents may wish to consider taking out such insurance at the start of the school year. Information and applications are available on-line.

- JUA Underwriting Agency Pty Ltd—www.studenthealth.com.au
- EBM Insurance Brokers—www.studentcover.com.au

IMMUNISATION PROGRAM 2009

The City Casey Health Department has informed the College that their immunisation program will be offered to students in the following year levels.

	YEAR 7 VACCINATIONS	YEAR 10 VACCINATIONS
Monday 11 May 2009	Chickenpox [yellow card]— boys and girls – only requires one dose. Gardasil - cervical cancer vaccine – girls only – second dose.	Boostrix [blue card]- diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis/whooping cough— boys and girls – only requires one dose.
Thursday 3 September 2009	Hepatitis B – boys and girls – second/final dose. Gardasil - cervical cancer vaccine – girls only – third/final dose.	Nil
Cards have been processed. NO LATE CARDS ACCEPTED		

Different vaccines will be administered on different days as outlined above.

Students who cannot be immunised on the day/s the Health Department is at the College, can still be vaccinated free of charge at any of the other City of Casey vaccination centres.

Go to: www.casey.vic.gov.au/immunisation and follow the link at the bottom of the page to find the 2009 City of Casey immunisation schedule which provides alternative venues and times.

All parents should ensure that they can easily be contacted on the day of immunisation just in case students need to go home.

Ms Josie Gray
Assistant Principal

LEARNING TEAM DAYS

To celebrate each Learning Team the following Learning Team days have been scheduled

Term 2

Friday 29th May - Chisholm Day
Friday 26th June - Monash Day

Term 3

Tuesday 14th July - Dunlop Day
Monday 3rd August - O'Donoghue Day
Tuesday 18th August - Flynn Day
Friday 28th August - Frost Day
Friday 18th September - Kenny Day

Note: Hollows day was held in term 1.

On these days all students have the opportunity to substitute one item of uniform only with something in the Learning Team colour. e.g. jumper, pants, scarf, headband etc.

Please note this is **NOT** a free dress day.

Chisholm - light blue Flynn - purple Kenny - red O'Donoghue - orange
Dunlop - yellow Frost - dark blue Monash - dark green

Mr Pat Mulcahy
Acting Assistant Principal

The Amazing Race



On Thursday 19th of March, the Year 12 VCAL class participated in *The Amazing Race* in the Melbourne CBD.

Five teams took part in the race – Team Purple, Team Traitor, Team Freshjive, Team Seamonkeys and Team

Foofoobox. The race required students to work together to follow directions and decipher clues as they raced around the city. Students were only able to use a map they had created in class and relied on the kindness of strangers to help navigate their way through the city.



Students were required to complete several challenges before heading on to the next leg of the race. Challenges included gathering information about historical buildings, an Easter egg hunt and a teamwork challenge involving balloons and blindfolds! The final pit stop included a 'detour' – teams had to choose between 'old' and 'new' in order to complete the race.

Congratulations to Team Foofoobox for achieving 1st place. This team included Heaven Tibble, Glen Van der Poel and Dan Maio. Coming in a very close second was Team Clem-is-a-Traitor – Corey Macleod, Marc Primrose and Aaron Samwells.



Congratulations teams – We hope you had fun!

Corey Macleod & Indy Thorn
Year 12 VCAL

College Tour Dates 2009

Bookings are essential

Meet in the General Office on the morning of the tour

Tour No. 7 Thursday 14th May at 9.30 a.m.
Tour No. 8 Wednesday 26th August at 9.30 a.m.
Tour No. 9 Wednesday 11th November at 9.30 a.m. (final tour for 2009)



Grade 6 - Parent Information Evening

Monday 11th May 7.00 p.m.
Performing Arts Centre
(Due to seating constraints, no children please)