



Blue Mountain College

Newsletter Issue 7, Term 3 2009

From the Principal

This week is tournament week and we have two teams away – the A Netballers in Timaru and the Under 15 Rugby team in Invercargill. I wish them all the best. It has been a busy few weeks with the Performing Arts Festival and subsequent Pot Pourri concerts undoubtedly highlights. The standard this year was particularly high and the students involved can be very proud of their achievements. This is an area where parental support is vital as early learning and frequent practice are two of the keys to success in the performing arts. Thanks too to Dianne Erickson who organised the events and to Sam Hadfield and Jeff Rea and the many others who helped out.

Those of you who get the ODT will have seen the section yesterday about the annual Class Act Awards and I would like to congratulate our winners, Farryn Crawford and Nicole Venz. Like all the students recognised with these awards they have done some amazing things and I recommend you read through the supplement if you have not already done so. Farryn and Nicole will travel to Dunedin tomorrow to receive their awards from Prime Minister John Key.

Two weeks ago at assembly we presented a large number of Duke of Edinburgh Young New Zealanders' Challenge Awards including six Gold Awards. It is a very special achievement for students to qualify for the Gold award while still at school and these six deserve real commendation: Gareth McCall, Braden Stark, Farryn Crawford, Nicole Venz, Jye Cormack, Gemma Tomsett. On November 2 these six, plus several of last years' Year 13s will travel to Christchurch for the formal ceremony which will be very special as Prince Edward will be making the presentations. From next year the name of these awards will be changing to the Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Awards which I think is a great name for them.

I would also like to congratulate three of our teams who have won their competitions in the winter sport season – Under 17 West Otago Colts Rugby team in the Otago wide competition, the Yellow Netball team in the Eastern Southland competition and the Basketball team who won the Gore Mens C-Grade competition. Many of our other teams did well too and a large number of students have won representative honours.

Next week senior assessments start and it is important students take these very seriously. Their prime purpose is to give senior students practice sitting exams (it's not easy to sit and hand write for 3 hours) and to give them and their teachers feedback of areas of strength and areas where further learning is required. They also provide the evidence we use should a student apply for compassionate consideration during the "real" NCEA exams if they are sick or disadvantaged by some other factor at that time. During the exam period between September 10th and 16th Year 11, 12 and 13 students will have study leave but study rooms will also be available at school during that period. I have included some advice for parents and students regarding exams in this newsletter.

Kevin McSweeney

Exams – some tips from the Principal

There is a week left before seniors start our school based exams on 10 September. On top of that it is not that long until NCEA externals start on November 16. Year 9 and 10 students will also have exams in the fifth week of next term.

It is vital that Year 11, 12 and 13 students now have an effective study plan in place and are making the most of the supports available such as tutorials. I cannot overstate the importance of their asking their teachers' assistance if they are struggling in their study – unless they ask the teacher will not know they need assistance. It is also important that Year 9 and 10 students study for their exams. One of the reasons we have these exams is to help them develop appropriate study skills.

Exams can be a very daunting experience for many students and, as parents and teachers, we can help by giving lots of positive encouragement and support with their study and preparation as we work together to assist our students to do as well as they possibly can.

There is no one recipe for successful study – everyone is different and what works for one person may not be so suitable for another. There are, however, some generalisations that can be made. Successful study needs to be regular, planned and systematic and also needs to be focused on a target. Study notes and other materials need to be well organised (although how this is done is very much a matter of individual taste). One point worth noting is that sometimes study can be wasted if the student takes the more comfortable route of revising material he or she is already very familiar with rather than concentrating on the stuff they don't know.

Study is best done in a structured fashion including breaks at regular intervals (experts suggest a few minutes every 20 - 30 minutes in study skills programmes) as a tired brain does not retain the information so well (although always remember the important bit is the study not the break) and, in my experience it is best to include variety by not focusing on one subject for a whole evening as that too may lead to overload. It is important to ensure the student has a good diet, adequate sleep (a good night's sleep prior to an exam will be more beneficial than extra study), a suitable place to study and regular exercise.

There are also some things I know which do not assist learning. Studying in an environment where there are a lot of other stimuli which can attract the brain's attention make it less likely that learning will "stick". Television is particularly bad as it is designed to attract

and maintain ones' attention and it tends to overwhelm other sensory inputs to the extent that study in front of TV is likely to be of little value. Listening to music can be a positive or negative depending on the music – if it is such that that lyrics grab ones attention and you listen carefully it is probably not helpful. Quieter background music, on the other hand, may be quite positive as it can filter out extraneous noise and actually help concentration. If the student gets stuck on a particular area to the point of frustration it is usually best to put that bit on hold and go on to something else. They can seek assistance later but often that is not needed – I am sure we have all had the experience of struggling with remembering something only to find it comes to us later when we have moved on to something else.

As a parent the most important thing you can do is to encourage and support your student to study. This may include such things as helping them construct their study timetable and ensuring that the venue is suitable, that they have the equipment they need and monitoring to ensure that they are working, taking appropriate breaks and getting enough sleep. It may also involve creating more time for them by excusing them from some household chores or other duties during this time. Your enthusiasm and interest can be a real stimulant for your student and generally rewards for doing well and putting in the effort are more effective than punishments or other sanctions for not doing so.

The results students will achieve are highly influenced by their efforts during this period leading up to, and during exams. As parents we ask that you help them realise that study must become their top priority at this time of year. While balance is important sport and social life should take a back seat during this period and certainly study should have total priority over the students' social lives. Last year I was really concerned to hear that some students were in paid employment during the exam period – in one case even working the morning before an afternoon exam. This is simply a recipe for failure

This can be a stressful time for students and often they may not recognise the effects this may have on them. If you have concerns about stress and your student please do not hesitate to contact Mr Erridge here at the College as he has a range of strategies that can help here. All of these are most effective if applied early rather than waiting until the effects of stress are serious.

Finally I would like to wish good luck to all those involved with exams and also remind them all of the old saying: "The harder I work the luckier I get"

Kevin McSweeney

Teacher Only Day

The College will be closed for instruction Schools on Friday 18th September because Blue Mountain College staff will be taking part in a Teacher Only Day based in Milton with five other Rural Otago Secondary schools. Please do not send students to school that day as there will be no supervision available

Workday 2009

Our annual workday will be held on Friday 23rd October (the second Friday of term and the start of Labour Weekend). Material will go out about this at the start of next term and we are already encouraging students to find work for the day. On that day all our teaching staff will be working on the new curriculum.

Senior Exams

School based exams will be starting on Thursday September 10th and conclude the following Wednesday 16th. During this period Year 11 – 13 students will have study leave or alternatively may study here at school. Most, but not all exams are 3 hours long. Morning exams will start at 9.10 am (after form time) and afternoon exams will start sharp at 1.15 pm. Three hour afternoon exams will finish at 4.15 pm and bus students will need to make alternative arrangements to travel home on those days. Students will be given exam timetables later this week or early next week.

Bayfield Exchange

Our annual sports exchange with Bayfield High School in Dunedin will be held on Thursday September 17th. This year we are scheduled to travel there for the games. Further information will be given to those students involved closer to the day.

Some important dates for the rest of the year

September

Wednesday 2	Year 7 Ski trip departs – returns Friday
Thursday 3	Year 8 Extension writing - gore
Tuesday 8	Excel – music presentation – lunchtime only
Thursday 10	Senior Exams start – finish 16 th , Years 11 – 13 have study leave
Thursday 17	Bayfield Exchange – at Bayfield
Friday 18	Teacher Only Day – School not open for instruction
18 th , 21 st , 23 rd	Extension Drama
Thursday 24	Board of Trustees meeting
Friday 25	Term 3 ends

October

Monday 12	Term 4 starts
Wednesday 14	Building Industry Seminar – interested Year 11 – 13 - Dunedin
Thursday 15	School Photos
Monday 19	Otago University Liaison visit
Thursday 22	HPV vaccinations
Friday 23	Work Day
Monday 26	Labour Day Holiday
Wednesday 28	Year 13 Leavers dinner (to be confirmed)

November

Monday 16	NCEA exams start – seniors on study leave
Monday 30	Year 8 Pounaweia camp week

December

Monday 7	Year 10 Borland Camp Departs
Tuesday 8	Year 7 – 9 Arts Programme starts
Monday 14	Last school day (tbc), Prizegiving (tbc) 7.30 pm School Gymnasium (please note this is a change from the date previously notified)

TERM DATES FOR 2010

At their meeting last week the BOT set the following dates for 2010 with a start date for students of Tuesday 2nd February. Course counseling for Senior Students will be held the week before this.

Secondary and Composite schools

Term	Start date	End date
1	Tuesday 2 February	Thursday 1 April (80 - 86 half-days)
2	Monday 19 April	Friday 2 July (108 half-days)
3	Monday 19 July	Friday 24 September (100 half-days)
4	Monday 11 October	Friday 17 December (92 half-days)*

* Or to a day in December which ensures that the school has been open for instruction for **380 half-days in 2010**.

This plan includes public holidays including Otago Anniversary Day and provision for 2 Teacher Only Days when the school would be closed for instruction during the year.

Curriculum News

NCEA Fees

Invoices will be sent out this week for NCEA fees. The cost is \$75.00 per student with a maximum of \$200.00 per family. If you are on a benefit or have a Community Services Card please request a Financial Support form from the office or Mr Venez. These have to be filled out and given to the College and must have your benefit number or your Community Services Card number to be valid. This reduces the cost to \$20.00 per student with a maximum of \$30 per family. The cost for International Fee Paying students is \$375.00. Payment must be made to the school by 8th September 2009. Please make cheques payable to Blue Mountain College.

Student Achievements

B.M.C. Duke of Ed Awards August 2009

<u>BRONZE</u>	<u>SILVER</u>	<u>GOLD</u>
Yr12 Alice Crawford Cherise Thomson Dion O'Leary Todd Murray Marcus Devereux Nathan Thomson	<u>Yr12/13</u> Tessa McCall Todd Murray Jye Cormack Jacob Finlayson Christopher Hay Anna Isted	Gareth McCall Braden Stark Farryn Crawford Nicole Venez Gemma Tomsett Jye Cormack
Yr11 Dean Baxter Danae Bradley Mariah-Carey Broad Caycee Cormack Cassie Crawford Hannah Diamond Gregory Edgar Megan Finlayson Justin France Mitchell Hancox Rachel Hay Josiah Hutchison Tessa Livingston James Rea Courtney Sanne Jared Stark		<u>2008 Year 13's</u> Penelope Peirce Kate van Woerden Chenay Sanne

Golf

Gareth McCall (Captain of team) and Dean Baxter played for Sth Otago Jnr Golf rep team and both won their matches and beat Western Southland Jnr team

Bowls

Tony Johnston & Dean Baxter are attending the New Zealand SS Indoor Bowls Champs in Wellington at the end of the month

Rugby

West Otago Colts won Otago Colts final vs South Otago 2nd XV 24-3. The team was coached by Pete Davies.

Jye Cormack, Logan Moore & Shane Edwards selected for Otago country U18 representative rugby team

Dylan Mackenzie selected for Otago Country U16 representative rugby team

Presentations were made to the following players following the U15/U17 Rugby breakup:

Best All Rounder	Mikey Perry U17
Most Improved Back	Will Young U17
Most Improved Player	Jacob Finlayson U17
Most Improved Team Player	Tony Campbell U17
Most Points Scored & Runnerup to Sportsman of Year	Sam Wyber U17

Sportsman of the Year	Dylan Mackenzie U15
Most Dedicated Player	Dylan Mackenzie U15
Best All Round Player	Gavin Stark U15
Best Forward	Tom Blackmore U15

Motorbike Racing

Seth Devereux competed in the Sportz Fotoz 150cc Cup at the Levels Raceway with the following results: 2/1sts, 2/2nds. He also gained 1/3rd and 2/2nds in the open class.

Cultural

Maxine Wilson & April O'Leary won the 13-18 yrs old section of the Clutha District Council Libraries Bookmark Competition

Eveline Devereux gained the following placings at the NZ Modern School of Music competition in Gore playing the Piano – 1 gold, 2 silvers and a shield (most points modern restricted) Trophy (most points West Otago Musician)

Performing Arts – Trophy List 2009

Programme Cover Design: Mathilde van Baarle
House Singing Cup: Pinkerton
Crawford Cup – Most Promising Vocalist: Maeva-Rua Kopa
Best Vocal Group: Kopa Family
Dance Cup: Courtney Sanne, Cassie & Farryn Crawford

McKenzie Cup – Best Overall Form Item: 8Cr
Best Overall Instrumental Performance: Dylan Phillipson
Best Overall Vocal Performance: Cassie Crawford
Hanna Trophy – Best Overall Performance: Courtney Sanne,
Cassie & Farryn
Crawford

Other results from the Performing Arts Festival:

Instrumental Individual Junior

1st= Marieke van Woerden & Harriet Keown
2nd Joseph Kummer
3rd Megan McCall

Instrumental Individual Senior

1st Dylan Phillipson
2nd Marie Crawford
3rd Lucius Le Clerc Jude

Duet Junior

1st Sarah McKee & April O'Leary

Duet Senior

1st Josiah Hutchison & James Rea
2nd Maeve-Rua Kopa & Cassie Crawford

Vocal Individual

Junior

1st Joseph Kummer

Intermediate

1st Alex King
2nd Hohepa Ellis
3rd Amy Sim

Senior

1st Cassie Crawford
2nd Fraser Alderton
3rd= Jared Stark & Tessa Livingston

Group Senior

- 1st Nina, Junior & Maeva-Rua Kopa
- 2nd Martin van Woerden, Chris Hay & James Rea
- 3rd Hohepa Ellis, Whina Pomana, Georgia Nicol, Eveline Devereux, Cassie Crawford, Nina, Junior & Maeva Kopa, Tessa Livingston, Chris Hay, Stu Mackenzie, James Rea, Martin van Woerden, Josiah Hutchison

Original Composition

- 1st James Rea
- 2nd Josiah Hutchison

Lip Sync

- 1st Todd Murray & Glen Isted
- 2nd Farryn Crawford

Recitation

- 1st Kim Shaw
- 2nd Maxine Wilson
- 3rd Zoe Hancox & Sarah McKee

Form Items

Junior	Intermediate	Senior
1 st 8Cr	10Ga	Yr13
2 nd = 8Ek & 7Yg	10Ro	Yr11
3 rd	9Wr	Yr12

House Items

- 1st Pinkerton
- 2nd Quin
- 3rd McKellar
- 4th Robertson

House Points

- 1st McKellar
- 2nd Quin
- 3rd Pinkerton
- 4th Robertson

Swimming

Marie Crawford competed in the SISS Swimming in Christchurch in July with the following results: 7th 100m backstroke, 8th 100m butterfly, 38th 200m freestyle, 27th 50m freestyle, 23rd 50m butterfly, 14th 50m backstroke & 25th 100m freestyle.

Netball

Ashleigh White selected as a Junior Southland Netball Umpire to attend the Sth Island Secondary Schools tournament in Timaru

Congratulations to the Yellow Netball team who won the Eastern Southland Netball competition 4th Reserve section, Development & Blue who were runners up in their grades, Senior 1 who came 3rd and Silver won the Pauline Henry Memorial Trophy.

Kate Crawford & Grace Isted selected for the Southland U13 netball development squad

Future Events

BMC “Unsung Heroes” Sports Prize

Several years ago the BMC Hockey Club donated funds to Blue Mountain College. The Board of Trustees, in consultation with the BMC Hockey Club, decided to use the income from these funds to present a Sports Prize annually to a person who has assisted in a significant manner during that year.

The specific criteria for eligibility for the Sports Prize are the following:

- ❖ Open to anyone (adult or senior student) who undertakes a significant **unpaid** coaching, management or administrative role with student sport. The nominee must not be a paid employee of Blue Mountain College.
- ❖ Must involve either an ongoing or significant role, rather than a ‘one off’ involvement.
- ❖ Open to anyone associated with student sport whether that be during school time or out of school time. This includes people who are involved in weekend sport through clubs where BMC students predominantly make up the teams.
- ❖ Individuals may be nominated by their team or club or be identified by the College.

All nominees will be entered into a supervised draw to determine the winner. A winner will not be eligible to enter the draw the following year but could do so in any future year.

Nominations need to be made in writing to the Blue Mountain College Office and provide details as to why the person is being nominated. The closing date for nominations will be Friday 16 October 2009.

Community Notices

Cup Cake Day: Friday 4th September.

All students in Home Economics will be making cup cakes for sale on Friday. There will be a prize for the most inventive cup cake. Students who do not do Home Economics and wish to bake some cup cakes are most welcome to join in. Perhaps this could be some family fun time at home baking some for sale. See Mrs Turner if this is you. All proceeds will be going to the RSPCA and this is an approved school fundraiser. So join in the fun with the students and order some cup cakes for them to bring home for a weekend treat.

Cup cakes will also be for sale at the canteen on Friday.

Cup cakes - \$2 each or 3 cakes for \$5.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL RSPCA

Year 7 Ski Trip Raffle

Thank you to everyone who supported the Year Sevens with their recent fundraising raffle by buying raffle tickets. Thank you to the parents who supplied items for the hampers, Judith Devereux for supplying the home baking and Lyn & Alwyn Walters for the United Video vouchers

A very big congratulations to the winners.

1st: Food hamper: Tosh family
2nd: Food hamper: Matt Dunlop
3rd: Home Baking: Harriet Keown
4th: United Video vouchers: John Ave
5th: United Video vouchers: Hamish McLean

NZTA approved Defensive Driving Course:

START DATE: Tuesday 8th September 2009 at 6pm

VENUE: DriveSafe Southland, Southern Institute of Technology, Kakapo Street, Gore

- Qualify for time reduction on the restricted licence + learn how to drive safely
- 1 hour car assessment in students own vehicle after workshops
- Gain 5 x NZQA driving unit standards, may be cross-credited to NCEA (unit standards no extra cost provided meets specified criteria, available from DriveSafe)
- Cost: \$160.00 (incl gst)

Debbie Grumball

M: 027 555 0234

P: 0800 2 EXCEL

Strengthening Families **Whakapiripiri Nga Whānau**

Presents an Evening with:

Diane Levy

Counsellor, Family Therapist, Speaker & Author
of:

"Of course I love you...NOW GO TO YOUR ROOM!"

"They look so lovely when they're asleep"

"Time out for Tots, Teens & Everyone in Between"

Diane is known for her practical, informative & humorous approach to problems that beset parents, educators & families.

She will speak about "Getting our Children to do as they are told" & "When to Growl & When to Cuddle "



7th September 2009

7.15pm at the

Calvin Community Church

Robertson Street, Gore

Supper Provided

Diane's books will also be available for purchase

(Courtesy of Paper Plus - Gore)

Tickets required - Available from:

Only Kidding (Irk St) & Community Connections Centre (Mersey St)

For inquiries or to book tickets, please contact Community Connections Centre 208 8480 or cccgore@woosh.co.nz