



Blue Mountain College

Newsletter Issue 10, Term 4 2009



Merry Christmas!



From the Principal

The Prizegiving this evening effectively marks the end of the 2009 academic year. As always I am sure it will be one of the highlights of our year and I hope to see you there tonight. For our students the awards represent the culmination of a year of dedicated hard work and we look forward to celebrating their success.

It has been a busy year and our students have achieved some amazing things. These have been in the Newsletter during the year and are summarized in the School Magazine which will be available for purchase tonight at prize-giving or from the school office from Tuesday.

The end of the school year sees some staff changes. Miss Patchett, Ms Somerville, Mr McIlwrick and Mr Hadfield have all been with us for the year and have done a tremendous job. I would like to thank them for that and wish them all the best for the future. Next year Mrs Harvey and Ms Pennicott will be returning from their overseas adventures.

2009 has been an interesting and challenging year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have assisted the College in any way during the year. I will, of course, do this in more detail at the Prizegiving tonight.

Finally, on behalf of the Board and Staff of BMC, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kevin McSweeney
Principal

Term Dates & School News

Term 1	Tuesday 2 February	To	Thursday 1 April
Term 2	Monday 19 April	To	Friday 2 July (98 half-days)
Term 3	Monday 19 July	To	Friday 24 September (100 half-days)
Term 4	Monday 11 October	To	a day in December which ensures that the school has been open for instruction for 380 half-days in 2008

Public Holidays in 2009:

Schools must be closed in 2010 on Saturdays and Sundays and on the following holidays:

- Otago Anniversary – Monday 22 March
- Queen's Birthday - 7 June (Monday)
- Labour Day - 25 October (Monday)

The other public holidays including Waitangi Day, Easter and ANZAC day fall in the school vacation periods or weekends.

Arrangements for the start of 2010

Monday January 25th	Office opens. New enrolments taken - please contact office to make an appointment.
Thursday January 28th	Option Counseling for all Senior students.
Monday February 1st	Teacher Only Day
Tuesday February 2nd	Normal classes commence for all year levels.
Friday February 12th	OtagoNet eDay at Roxburgh tbc
February 10 - 12	Leadership Camp at Waihola for all Year 13 students.

Any Year 12 or 13 students who have not made appointments for option counseling need to contact the school office to arrange a time. We strongly encourage parents/caregivers to accompany their children to these interviews. Please bring with you the interim notification of your NCEA results from 2009

Note: The school year will start for all students with an Assembly in the College Hall at 9.00am on Tuesday 2nd February. Ideally all students will have their stationery by then, but if not, it is important that they at least have pens and paper.

NEW LOOK BMC WEBSITE

www.bluemountain.school.nz

The school website has been redeveloped with more information being added as it comes to hand.

These pages will be updated frequently during the school year:

- Please check out the Latest News for weekly information and notices.. The monthly newsletter is also available on line.
- We will be regularly updating information on the Our School in the Community page under the Activities and Subjects heading.
- The school Term Calendar will also feature current information.

The College Uniform pages have recent pictures of our students in the regulation school uniforms and the sports uniforms. There is also a kilt ordering form available on line to download and to send away to Helean Kilt Makers.

We also have a downloadable enrolment form on the Contact page.

There are plans early next year to set up a school photo gallery, so keep an eye out for the link!

Please enjoy a good browse and if you have any ideas and suggestions that you think we may like to consider for our school website contact Robyn Collins at the school office.

Email Database

In 2010 we will be setting up a database with parents email addresses. If you have email, this avenue of communication will be used to notify you of school events and other general information. We will not send you junk email or use your address for anything other than school business. Please note that written notices will also continue to be sent home with your child.

Can you please email Robyn Collins at rcollins@bluemountain.school.nz and she will add your address to the database.

Thanks

Sports Reports

The first few items should have been in an earlier newsletter:

Bayfield Sports Exchange

On Thursday the 17th September 54 BMC students boarded a bus en route to Dunedin to compete in our Annual Sports Exchange with Bayfield High School. Six sports were played with the following results –

A Netball lost 25-22

This was a hard fought encounter having already beaten Bayfield at the SISS Tournament. Bayfield came out firing and were determined to outplay Blue Mountain College at all costs.

B Netball won 27-18

This was also a strongly contested game with our B team victorious.

Development Netball won 35-8

BMC completely dominated Bayfield with the half time score at 21-2. Mrs Venz swapped players to give them experience in other positions still winning easily.

1st XV Rugby won 32-26

At half time the score was Bayfield 26 - BMC 20. Some hard words to the boys from Coach Pete Davies at half time saw our BMC boys excel scoring 2 tries and 1 conversion to make the score BMC 32 – Bayfield 26. An outstanding second half from BMC.

Snr Boys Basketball lost 89-24

This game was played in the new stadium at Bayfield and our boys struggled against the more experienced Bayfield team.

Snr Girls Basketball lost 73-9

Our girls were outplayed in all facets of this game defeated easily by Bayfield.

BMC won 3 of the 6 games played so a draw overall was achieved.

Under 15 SI Junior Rugby Tournament

This Tournament was played in Invercargill on 31st August, 1st & 2nd September in atrocious weather conditions for the entire 3 days.

Coach – Pete Davies, Manager – Richard France

The team was -	Dylan Mackenzie	Scott Hansen	Tyrone Broad
	Corey Muldoon	Adam McIvor	Jared Stark
	Jarrad Pryde	Nathan Jory	Garth Devereux
	Gavin Stark	Jordan Brand	Tyson Adams
	Elliot Hancox	Lee Stiven	Jackson France

Five boys also played from Lawrence in the team.

On Monday they played Golden Bays winning 25-13 then went down to Greymouth 0-24.

On Tuesday they lost to Mt Hutt 5-19 and won their second game 10-0.
Wednesday saw 4 games playing 10 minute halves – they lost to St Kevins, beat Central Southland B, Greymouth and Golden Bays.

Dylan Mackenzie was selected for the Tournament team.

Despite the appalling snow, gailforce winds, driving hail and rain the boys had a successful and enjoyable Tournament and as a young team have gained a wealth of experience for 2010.

Touch Tournament

On Saturday the 5th December 7 students from BMC played in the Year 7/8 Touch Southland Tournament at the Gore Show-grounds.
The weather was extremely warm and the team had a hard draw with three games in a row.
Team members were Rhiann Knowles, Sarah McKee, Zoe Hancox, Megan McCall, Sean McElrea, Ryan Duff and Matthew Heffernan.

Results as follows – Menzies won 3-2
Otautau won 4-2
Longford lost 2-3
St Peters drew 3-3

The team all worked well together and went through to the final against Longford. After the week at Pounaweia these guys were exhausted and finished runner-up in their mixed grade. Well done to you all and thanks to Mr Heffernan for being an awesome Coach.

Other Reports

Artsweek

Artsweek has been a great event with many students developing their interests in a chosen area.

Unlike other years, the students were assigned one class for the whole time (two and a half days) to develop a skill interest or passion.

All year 7-9 students take place and although it is at the end of the year it is by no means a “fill in” activity but a chance to sow artistic or creative seeds for the future. There has been an immense amount of learning going on as tutors have worked and taught 14 different topics.

Students have participated in : drums, drama, dance guitar, choir, keyboards, jewellery, pop-up book making, Oamaru stone carving, metalwork, woodwork, painting, pottery, photos/photoshop. We have had some great outside tutors again, painting – Janet de Wagt, drama – Trudy Anne Rowe, pottery – Joan and Jean from Edievale Pottery Club. But we have also had many teachers/parents/students who have taught their areas of interest to the students. I thank them immensely for giving up their time and for sharing their knowledge. All of the classes have been small to maintain interest and one on one tutoring, We will run a similar programme next year but will get students to choose two activities to be part of .

The students have been very well behaved and some have achieved a lot in improving their confidence, teamwork and self belief.

Thanks to you also as parents for supporting me in this programme, as your students have gained a lot from our three days of Arts immersion and many have some great take home items for their \$5.

A wonderful concert was held on the Thursday afternoon where students performed their pieces and presented their art pieces to each other and the parents and teachers in attendance.

A huge thank you must also go to Creative Communities who support the programme each year by giving us funding to pay tutors. They gave us \$800 this year and I am grateful for their continued support.

Vicki Crawford
HOD The Arts

Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Awards

Lately...

There have been a great amount of students signing up for the Duke of Ed and that is really pleasing, many too have competed sections in bronze, Silver and Gold and have singed them off ready for awards.

There are a few tramps planned between now and Easter for students to complete their Expedition section. Please remember to write your tramp reports while the memory is fresh in your mind, this is only needed for the actual tramp – the final qualifier at each level.

From Silver level on, student should be taking control of their award, especially in planning and booking tramps, meeting to discuss food and gear, organising parents to go with them and generally being self motivated and properly prepared for all weathers etc., this builds confidence and leadership and are an essential part of the process.

Parents are encouraged to be involved, as it helps me out a lot. Do make suggestions and give verbal guidance but don't be tempted to do it for them as it is their award in the long run Students also should be the ones fronting up to get their books signed off and asking coaches etc to do this. Encouragement is essential from all sides but they know the system from the bronze level and should build on their independence from there.

Congratulations to those students who have just completed their Gold and will receive their awards next year.

Students, get organising your tramps while it is nice weather and you have the time. You only need 4 award students to go on it and 1 adult per 4 students. However, some of the bigger, longer tramps wont happen for you if you are not fit. You should be practicing 3-4 times a week, carrying a pack on your back, walking up the farm, farm track etc to improve your fitness in readiness for tramping, especially those at Silver and Gold levels,

Well done to everyone who have managed their awards this year, you have accepted the challenge!

Mrs Crawford/Mrs McTavish

Year 8 Camp

A special thank you to Mr Catto, Mr Wilson, Mr Hancox, Mrs Horrell , Mrs Smith, and our senior students, Todd Murray, Glen Isted, Marcus Devereux, Tessa McCall, Cherise Thomson and Laura Smith. Everyone worked together to make our Year 8 Pounaweia camp very successful and enjoyable. We had an awesome time with excellent weather and the students were great.

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Jam and Raffle fundraising.

Vicki Crawford & Dianne Erickson
Year 8 Form Teachers

Student Achievements

Past Pupil Rachel Mariu has graduated from Southland Polytechnic with a Bachelor of Primary Bilingual education

Kate Stiven was awarded the Amokura Award for special service towards the success of the voyage from the Spirit of Adventure Trust

Athletics

Ashleigh White recently competed in athletic competition gaining new Personal Best in discus 28.96m and shot put 9.40m and javelin 29.67m

Sarah McKee 4/ 2nd placings at Waverley Shield Athletics held in Invercargill recently

National Secondary Schools Athletics Championships

Two students travelled through to Timaru to compete in the National Secondary Schools Athletics Championships with another 1307 Athletes from throughout New Zealand on the 12th and 13th of December, 2009.

Ashleigh White and Gavin Stark both were in the Under 16 year age group.

Ashleigh White got 11th in Shotput and Javelin on Saturday and 12th in Discus on Sunday.

Gavin Stark PB'd in the Semi-finals 11.49 and placed 4th in the 100m final in a time of 11.73 out of 64 competitors. He also competed in the 400m achieving another PB of 53.91sec which put him in to the Semi-finals (Top 16). After the Semi-finals he was placed 2nd fastest time but was Disqualified due to running on the line.

Both students excelled in their competitions and the experience of being with the best of New Zealand was awesome.

Shooting

Jacob Finlayson competed in the Cowboy Action Shooting NZ Champs recently gained 1st in Master Gunfighter, speed pistol, 2nd speed rifle and 3rd speed shotgun

Cultural

Rosemary Alderton passed her Grade 6 Trinity College Speech & Drama exam with Distinction.

Rosemary Alderton sat her NZ Federation Assn Advanced Silver Bar Ballroom & Advanced Gold ballroom, new vogue, and Latin American exam in Gore recently (this involved 16 dances). She was awarded the 'Van der Walter Jewellers Trophy' for the highest awarded exam result of 95% an Honours pass.

Fraser Munro passed Grade 3 Trinity College Speech with Merit

Eveline Devereux passed Grade 1 Piano with Distinction 99%

Cricket

Avana Miller & Kate Stiven have been selected for the Sparks women's cricket team

Ryan Duff & Matthew Heffernan selected for Yr 7 & 8 Southland Country cricket team

Community Notices

Netball Fundraiser

For Sale

1 pair of new Canterbury sphere tracksuit pants size small \$75.00

Contact Janine Venz

Kayaks For Sale

3 x Bandit Kayaks, excellent Christmas gifts, offers over \$300

Contact Janine Venz or Pete Davies

Tramping Packs for Hire

The Outdoor Education Department have five full size new packs for hire - \$10.00

rental per pack plus a refundable bond of \$50.00

This newsletter and archived copies can be found on our website

www.bluemountain.school.nz



Merry Christmas!



CHRISTMAS PARADE

Tapanui

**Thursday 24th Dec
parade starting at 7pm.**

There will be bed racing before this in the main street.

Register your team with Michelle Kennedy 2048404.