



Blue Mountain College

Newsletter Issue 1, Term 1, Feb 2010

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome to this first newsletter for 2010. I trust you have all had a pleasant summer and we are all looking forward to another productive year where the students achieve excellent results.

This year we have no new staff members although we do have two returning from leave and I will take this opportunity to welcome Kathryn Harvey and Anna Pennicott back.

External examination results from last year are now available and we are in the process of analysing them. Overall we were very pleased with the results and a description of these follows this article. The prime credit for these excellent results must always go to the students - after all they did the work. However I would also like to congratulate our teachers who have obviously been doing a great job and the parents of those students who did so well – without support and encouragement at home students simply cannot succeed.

We have identified the recipients of our Premier and Top Scholar Awards recognising our top performing students at each Level of NCEA in 2009 and they will be announced shortly (as soon as the badges arrive).

By now all parents should have received the “Handbook for Students and Parents” which students should have brought home on the first day (if you did not get one ask your son or daughter where it is). For parents new to the school there is a wealth of information in this booklet about all aspects of our College’s organization and procedures.

This term is a busy one on the sporting front with the athletics sports on 23 February and swimming sports scheduled for 3 March (although these dates are weather dependent). I would like to take this opportunity to cordially invite all parents, caregivers and other friends of the school to attend and support our students.

Following these school based events are the various interschool events which will be detailed in the next newsletter. This is also a very busy time of year for cricket with teams entered in various competitions. In addition many students are competing in competition tennis.

Kevin McSweeney
Principal

NCEA results from 2009

Year 11

To qualify for a Level 1 Certificate students must gain 80 credits and also meet the literacy and numeracy requirement and 33 of the 37 students who entered achieved this goal. That gives a success rate of almost 90% at this level.

Ten students gained merit endorsements by gaining over 50 Merit and/or Excellence credits at Level 1).

The mean number of credits gained was 120 which, for many students, included some credits at Level 2 or even Level 3

Year 12

To gain Level 2 (or Level 3) certificates students must gain at least 60 credits at that level. We had 24 students in Year 12 doing full Level 2 Courses at the end of 2008 and 22 of them gained their Level 2 NCEA certificate. Two Year 12 students gained merit endorsements.

The average number of credits gained by this group was 87 with an average of 84 Level 2 credits.

Year 13

This group is more complicated to analyse as the students at this level set their goals via personalised learning plans where they tailor their courses to meet their specific needs in terms of where they intend to go once they leave school. In addition we have a significant number of international students at that level who do not enter for New Zealand Qualifications (but who the MOE and NZQA still include when doing their statistics – skewing our data).

A number of students came into Year 13 needing to complete their Level 2 certificates and all did that. Of the 26 students who completed the year, 24 gained Level 3 NCEA and 18 qualified for Entrance to University (most of those who did not were not actually seeking this qualification). This is a significant increase over the past few years.

The average number of credits gained by this group of students was 82 with an average of 75 at level 3. Three students gained a Merit endorsement on their certificate. Scholarship results are due later in the month.

Comparisons with National results

The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) who run the qualifications system have published a range of National Statistics on their website. As they use all students in the year level who enter (even though some of these leave the school or are not doing full courses) their data can differ somewhat from each school's analysis.

Year Level	11	12	13	13
% gaining	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Entry to University
Blue Mountain College	87	88	86	68
National (all Schools)	70	75	69	63

Deans 2010

Years 7 & 8
Years 9 & 10
Years 11-13

Mrs Murray
Mrs Green
Mrs Venez

Form Teachers 2010

Class	Teacher	Room
7Yg	Mrs Young	18
7Mu	Mrs Murray	19
8Cr	Mrs Crawford	Art Room
8Ek	Mrs Erickson	Music Room
9Hv	Mrs Harvey	11
9Mt	Mrs McTavish	10
10Pn	Miss Pennicott	1
10Ga	Mr Gartly	2
11	Mr Ritchie Mr Moody	4
12	Mr Venez Ms Wright Mrs Chamberlain	9
13	Mr Hutchison Mrs McHutchon Mrs Venez	Common Room

School Magazine 2009

The School Magazine is still available from the College office at \$20 per copy. Thank you to all parents who supported us by purchasing our School magazine.

School ID Cards

In the last couple of years School ID Cards were organised for students and these cards will be available again this year. The cards are credit card size and in many ways look very like a credit card. They have a high quality photo of the student on the card as well as details of the school attended, class level, school enrolment number and date of birth. Students are able to use them as proof of age and identity and they give access to a range of student discounts at shops, public transport, movies etc. We encourage our local shops to ask for the cards as proof of age if young people request to purchase age restricted items

These cards will be purely optional. We are yet to be informed of the cost but last year it was \$7.00. The company will take the photos on the afternoon of Monday 15 February. All students will be photographed but only those who choose to have a card will have to pay. We will also use the photos for our files.

Sports and Activities

We are always keen to hear from members of the community who are willing to assist with school sports and activities. This need not be a big contribution but we know that there are many people out there with great skills, experience and enthusiasm and we would love to tap into this.

Mrs Stark, our SPARC Sports Co-ordinator would love to hear from anyone – simply ring her here at school (2048 358) and if she is not here leave a message. We are about to move into the athletics and swimming season and would be particularly thrilled to hear from people with specialist skills in the various disciplines who could assist those students going on to higher levels.

Contact details – addresses and phone numbers

It is important we have accurate details of family contact details for emergency purposes. If you have changed any details since this time last year could you please let us know. We would also really appreciate cell phone numbers and email addresses if you use them. Later in the term we will send out contact lists with the information we hold so you can check it.

Please email or phone Robyn Collins rcollins@bluemountain.school.nz

Uniform

It is only the first week of school and we have already had some unnamed uniform items found and handed in. Please ensure that all items are named.

If any parents require information regarding the correct school uniform could they please contact the College office and we can give you this information. Some uniform items currently being worn do not comply with our regulations, eg school shoes (not sandals) should not have buckles and some students are still wearing the old PE Tops and need to purchase the new ones.

Kilts – if you need to order a Kilt from Helean's Kilt Makers for Term 2 this should be done as soon as possible as they require up to eight weeks for delivery. Order forms are available from the College office.

The PE Tops and School Jackets are available from the School Office and are actually slightly cheaper than previously:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| ➤ PE Tops – All Sizes (12- XXL) | \$52 |
| ➤ School Jackets | \$110 |

School Blazers are available to Senior Students (Year 11-13) and can be ordered from the College office. If you are interested in purchasing a blazer (cost \$200) please contact the College office.

Start of School day

Reminder – ALL students are required to be at school and in their Form Rooms at 8.55 am every morning. If your child is ill and will not be at school please ring the office and inform them of this before 9.30am (you can leave a message prior to 8.30 am).

Reminder

The amendments to the Smokefree Environments Act passed at the end of 2003 mean that all parts of all schools (including BMC) must be smokefree at all times. This means that smoking is totally forbidden in all BMC buildings and anywhere on the grounds at all times. This even includes times when the grounds or buildings are being used for community or public events or non-school related sport.

Board of Trustees Members

Our Board of Trustees members are:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| ➤ Tony Livingston | Chairperson |
| ➤ Bill McCall | Parent Representative |
| ➤ Nicki MacKenzie | Parent Representative |
| ➤ Roger Mariu | Parent Representative |
| ➤ Adrian McIntyre | Parent Representative |
| ➤ Liz Murray | Staff Representative |
| ➤ Renee Tomsett | Student Representative |
| ➤ Kevin McSweeney | Principal |

This Board's three year term of office is coming to a close and Elections for the new board will be held on May 14. Nominations will be called shortly and all parents, including existing Board members, are eligible to stand. Detailed information will be sent home as soon as it arrives at the College. If you are would like more information or are interested in standing or nominating someone else, feel free to contact me or any existing Board member to find out more.

Kevin McSweeney
Principal

Birth Certificates

It is a requirement of the Ministry of Education that all new enrolments provide a copy of their Birth Certificate (we can make a copy if you bring in the original) to the College office as part of the enrolment process. We would ask if you would attend to this as soon as possible if you have not already done so.

Athletics Sports

Our BMC athletics sports are scheduled for 23 February, here at the College Grounds. Jim Erridge who organises the day is always on the look-out for helpers and if you are able to assist for all or part of the day he would appreciate hearing from you on his direct line at school 2048 742. Should the weather be unsuitable the event will be postponed until the first suitable day later in the week. While we will attempt to put any postponement notice on Hokonui Gold Radio if the weather is looking doubtful students should come prepared for both sports and normal classes. Please note that

- students must participate in five events to be eligible for Championship points and
- to be entered at Otago level students must reach the qualifying standard and we can only enter a maximum of 3 in any one event at that level.

Swimming Sports

Our BMC swimming sports will be held in the Tapanui pool probably on Wednesday 3 March. These are organised by Anna Pennicott and Sue Stark and if you would like to help out they can be contacted via the College Office (2048 358). Please note that students must participate in six events at the swimming sports to be eligible for Championship points.

Congratulations

- Danae Bradley has joined Todd Murray on the Clutha District Youth Council while our new Gore Youth Council rep who will join Avana Miller is Jared Stark.
- Ex student Hannah Sim has received a Tuapeka County Bursary.
- Last year's Year 13 students Jamie Mackenzie and Nicole Venz have been awarded RSA scholarships to assist with their University studies.

Achievements

We try to maintain an accurate database of student achievements and often rely on students informing us of what they have done. Often they are not good at this. If your child does particularly well in something (sports, cultural, leadership, community etc) and you think it may be noteworthy – please contact the College Office and let us know.

Term Dates

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

Important dates

We are still putting our calendar for the year together and a whole year planner will be included in our next newsletter (in about 3 weeks). However there are a number of important dates you need to know about now:

February

Friday 6	Waitangi Day (Saturday)
Tuesday 9	Year 13 Leadership Camp (return Thursday 11 th) Year 7 parents pot luck in the school hall
Friday 12	E-Day for OtagoNet Students – Roxburgh Area School Year 10 Art Trip
Monday 16	School ID Photos (pm)
Thursday 18	West Otago Primary School Athletics on the College Grounds
Tuesday 23	School Athletics Sports (backup 24 th)
Thursday 25	Year 13 Tramp departs (4 days) Board of Trustees Meeting

March

Wednesday 3	Swimming Sports
Saturday 6	Otago Secondary Athletics (Dunedin)
Tuesday 9	HPV Vaccinations Year 8, 9 10 and 13 Girls
Wednesday 10	Year 7 Parent Report afternoon and evening Peer Support Social
Thursday 11	Elwing Theory (also Friday 12 th)
Saturday 13	Otago/Southland Athletics (Invercargill)
Monday 15	Elwing Voyage (tbc) all week
Wednesday 17	Year 11 Drive to Survive (Dunedin) Year 12 Bio – Portobello Trip

Thursday 18 Y13 Bio to Portobello (2 days)
Friday 19 Theta Theatre
Saturday 20 South Island Secondary Athletics – Dunedin
Monday 22 Otago Anniversary Day Holiday
Tuesday 23 Second Elwing Voyage (tbc)

Thursday 25 Board Meeting
Saturday 28 Southland Primary Athletics - Invercargill
Wednesday 31 Report Interviews – Years 8 - 13

April

Thursday 1 Last day for Term 1
Monday 19 Term 2 starts

Duke of Ed Programme – Contact Person: Mrs Crawford

Books at each level are now \$25. Forms can be obtained from the office. This is a very worthwhile scheme for your student to be involved in and the awards look great on your C.V. Families already involved in the Duke of Ed programme need to continue to support their students to get each section signed off as completed and to complete their tramps at each level.

Wanted for Home Economics

Any clean ice-cream containers and lids please. Send to school with your student or drop into the office

Gateway 2010

We have a full group of students enrolled for the Gateway programme.

Careers that they wish to pursue include:

- Mechanics
- Childcare
- Tourism
- Vet nursing
- Building
- Engineering
- Hairdressing

If you know of someone who might be prepared to have the students in their workplace for one day a week please contact Janine Venz or Deborah Isteed for more information.

Year Nine Orientation Program

At the end of last year Mrs Young and Mr Davies interviewed all the 2009 Year 9 students about their year and how it could be even better. One consistent message was that we should do something to help the two new groups come together and we are acting on this advice. Starting week two, the Year 9s will be participating in a programme focused on strengthening class culture and relationships. Each Year 9 class will have two afternoons a week in which they will be put through many challenges. The focus will be on developing skills in communication, leadership, cooperation and encouragement. This programme has been developed by Mr Hadfield with the help of last year's Year 9s to ensure that the newly formed classes get the best possible start.

Athletics Practice

Athletics day is fast approaching and students have the opportunity this year to practice at lunchtime with the help of teachers and students with expertise in the various events. Please see Mr Hadfield if you are keen to get involved and keep an eye on the school daily notices.

Sports Reports

Blue Mountain College Girls Cricket Report – Nationals, Taupo

Tournament began for us girls on the 9th December when we flew out of Invercargill to Rotorua. From Rotorua we drove to Taupo, stopping at the Orakei Korako Thermal Park which was a new experience for most of the girls. We had the opening ceremony on 10th December. During tournament we played four games. Unfortunately we lost them all, but we felt we had improved over the tournament and it was a very good experience for all of us. We played against Waikato Diocesan School, Westlake Girls High School, Havelock North High School and Auckland Diocesan School for Girls. Havelock North won the tournament. Kate Stiven was named in the National Secondary School Girls Tournament team. We flew home on Monday for prize giving. Our team was given credit at prize giving when they said that we had performed well for the size of our school compared with the size of the other teams.

A big thanks to Ian Mockford (coach), Judy Stiven (Manager), Russell and Gwenda Crawford (supporters), to the parents of the girls who helped out with fundraising and to everyone who gave us fundraising opportunities. Thanks again it was much appreciated.

Kate Stiven (Captain)

Sports Professional Development Opportunity

What: Introduction to coaching children's athletics

Who: Teachers or parents who wish to coach children's athletics, or those already coaching who want to undertake some formal training.

When: Wednesday 10th February, 4.00 – 5.00pm

To register, please contact
Kelvin "Tiny" Carruthers
Sport Clutha
4 Clyde Street,
Balclutha 9230
kcarruthers@sportotago.co.nz
Phone: 034183046
Fax: 03 418 3917

Other Information

Bus Routes

Maps of the bus routes have been added to our website for your information.

Enquiries to:

BMC Bus Co-ordinator – Garry Moody

Bus Controller- Jane Stewart -Tapanui Primary School Ph 2048614

Ritchies, Gore – Robin Stevenson Ph 03 208 9902 Cell 0275 369 680

Bus drivers

Route Name	Bus Driver
Parkhill	Mandy Veza
Edievale	Ian Alexander
Wilden	Esther Hay
Merino Downs	Alan Favel
Glenkenich	Fred Masters
Waikoikoi	Debra Cruickshank
Moa Flat	Russell Dynes
Dusky	Sheryl Harvey
Dalvey	Brian Cross
Crookston	Charlie Davis
Waipahi	Shona Brensell

Bus drivers contact phone numbers can be obtained from the BMC school office.

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS – for Direct credit payments

Please note: If you are making payment by direct credit please email the payment details to the school office. Thanks

Email: admin@bluemountain.school.nz
rcollins@bluemountain.school.nz

Name of Account **Blue Mountain College Board of Trustees**
Bank: **Westpac**
Branch: **Gore**
Account No: **03- 0915- 0342164- 00**

**This newsletter and further information about our school can
be found on our school website**
www.bluemountain.school.nz

Student Achievements

Athletics

SISS Nationals 12th & 13th January

Gavin Stark and Ashleigh White competed in the 16 and Under section at the SISS Nationals in Timaru gaining the following results-

Gavin Stark 4th 100m. This time gained him 14th placing Nationally in the 16 and Under event.

Ashleigh White 11th ShotPut, 12th Discus & 11th Javelin

This was a huge competition and both students competed well.

Colgate Athletics 15th/16th & 17th January

Sarah McKee and Gavin Stark competed in the Colgate Athletics in Timaru as part of the Gore Athletics team.

Sarah competed in the 12 year section and gained Semi-final slots in the 100m finishing in 10th place overall out of 42 competitors. She also ran the 200m finishing in 12th place out of 32 competitors. In the Long Jump she finished in 17th place.

All personal bests for Sarah – well done!

Gavin competed in the 14 year section and gained 1st place in the 100m, 2nd place in the 200m and 2nd place in the 400m. PB's in all events as well.

They both enjoyed competing against the best of the South Island as well as some North Island competitors. Congratulations to you both.

Inter Centre Event 24th January

Gavin Stark also competed in Christchurch for Southland in the Inter Centre event against all top 14/15 year old Athletes in the South Island and a team from Queensland.

This event is on one day and there are they are all straight finals.

Results as follows – 1st 4/100m Relay team, 2nd 400m, 3rd 100m.

He gained top 14/15 boy honours for Southland and 3rd highest scorer over the entire competition.

Gavin has now gained entry to the NZ Track & Field Competition to be held in Christchurch 26th – 28th March. At present he is Nationally ranked 4th in NZ in the 16 and Under 100m event.

Future Events

Stage Challenge 2010

This is our year to put a stage challenge entry into the competition. It is an 8 minute performance involving lights, music, dance, masks, costume, hair and makeup. They have named Friday 14th May so far as the date for the performance in Dunedin. The Invercargill date is not going to work for us this year. Students of any age and ability can be part of our entry but they must be committed to attend practices in their own time. We will not be practising in the April holidays but ask that in Term 2 weeks 1-3 students who wish to be involved are not taken away on holidays as that will be a full on 3 weeks leading up to the event. Some parent help is also welcome to help with makeup, costumes etc. Notices will be sent home with your students when rehearsals start, should they choose to take part.

School-based HPV programme 2010

All girls enrolled in years 8 to 13 can participate in the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations at school this year. The vaccine offers protection against the viruses which cause most cervical cancers.

The series of three vaccinations is offered free of charge, and delivered by nurses from Public Health South. The vaccines are also available through your GP practice.

School years 9 and 10:

Many of these students had the vaccinations at school last year. If your daughter did not receive the HPV vaccinations last year, she will be offered a consent form to take home. If you do not receive a form, please phone one of the numbers below.

School years 8, 11, 12, 13:

Your daughter will receive a consent form to take home. Note that girls 16 years of age or older can self-consent to the vaccinations.

Please fill in the consent form and return it to school ASAP. It is important to do this even if you do not consent for your daughter to participate in the programme.

For any further information please contact:

Karen Nielsen	Victoria Bryant
HPV school-based co-ordinator	Public Health Nursing manager
03) 476 9838	03) 476 9880/ 0800 769 880

For more information on HPV please see: www.moh.govt.nz

Community Notices

Les Miserables – Gore Operatic Society 2010

Auditions for **children's** and **company** roles for GOS production of Les Miserables will be held on **Sunday 14th February** at the **SBS St James theatre from 10am – 6pm.**

Children are invited to audition for three roles;

1. Little Cosette – girl aged 9 – 12ish, physically small and waifish. Singing and acting role. Sings "Castle on a Cloud"
2. Gavroche – boy aged 10 – 13ish, physically small, confident. Singing and acting role - unbroken voice.
3. Little Eponine – girl aged 9 – 12ish. Acting role only.

Audition times for Cosette and Eponine will be from 10am - 12pm and Gavroche from 1 – 2pm. Senior students wishing to audition for the Company from 3 – 6pm.

Please come to the Gore Operatic Practice Rooms (old Ace of Spades) behind Westpac initially. Sheet music for songs will be available at Only Kidding, if required. For any queries please ring Barbara Hanna on 2048616.

Tru Talent

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Hi my name is Trudy-Anne Rowe and I own the Creative Arts business called **Tru Talent**. **Tru Talent** has been running for three years with great success.

I am currently offering the opportunity for students to participate in **Trinity College** and **Speech New Zealand Speech and Drama lessons in 2010**. This can involve students working towards sitting International and National qualifications in the area of Speech and Performance.

The learning and teaching of Speech and Drama/Performance enables students to:

- *Develop communication skills which are valuable for everyday life.
- *Develop confidence and self-esteem/self belief.
- *Be able to work effectively with others.
- *To be able to have lots of fun in a positive learning environment.

I am an established educator in Southland and I have held roles of responsibility such as Head of the Arts, Arts Coordinator and Teacher in Charge of the Performing Arts at a local college.

I am working towards completing a Masters of Drama in Education qualification through Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia.

I also have been heavily involved in community theatre in Gore and have held lead roles in Beyond Moulin Rouge and Snow White, as well as being involved with Gore Operatic Society's Theatre Restaurants. I hold a position in both Gore Operatic Society as well as the Reparatory Society's committees.

I directed the Gore Operatic Show main show "Jesus Christ Superstar" in 2009 and I was nominated for the Gore District Council's Community Awards for Contribution to Arts and Culture in 2009.

I will be directing West Otago Theatrical Society's main show of "Wizard of Oz" in 2010.

Registrations are currently open for 2010, however, spaces are filling fast.

Please contact Trudy-Anne Rowe on 03 2084080 or 0275357530 or trulent@xtra.co.nz if you are interested in your child being able to participate in this dynamic opportunity.

Tru Talent
6 Seymour Street
Gore
03 2084080
0275357530
trulent@xtra.co.nz

Fundraiser for Hospice Southland.

Teddy's Craft Day Out Children's Tea Party

<i>When</i>	Sunday 28 th of March
<i>Time</i>	1:30pm
<i>Venue</i>	Invercargill Workingmen's Club 154 Esk Street Invercargill
<i>Who</i>	For children, their dolls, bears and soft toys <i>(Each child who comes and brings their doll, bear or soft toy, they will receive a certificate and a small basket of goodies)</i>
<i>RSVP</i>	By Friday 5th of March
<i>Jenny</i>	03 216 7446
<i>Margaret</i>	03 216 8721
<i>Lesley</i>	03 216 5601 Email Lesley – kuri_bears@clear.net.nz

Thanking you.

Judi Devine

Public Relations Officer

HOSPICE SOUTHLAND - "Living Every Moment"

DDI: 03 211 2287, Telephone: 03 211 3081, Facsimile: 03 211 3082

Email: judi.devine@hospicesouthland.org.nz

P.O. Box 7020
INVERCARGILL

Coming up:

- **LIONS CLUB OF WAIU VALLEY ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT** - 6th of February - proceeds to Hospice Southland - for details contact - marlinf@es.co.nz
- **HOSPICE SOUTHLAND Street Day Appeal** Friday, 26th of February 2010 - Bluff, Invercargill, Matura, Gore, Riverton, Te Anau, Lumsden and Queenstown - **VOLUNTEER's required.**
- **TEDDY'S CRAFT DAY OUT** - Saturday/Sunday 27/28th of March 2010 Invercargill Workingmen's Club 10 - 4.00pm - competition, stalls, displays, workshops, childrens tea party - ALL Welcome - donations to Hospice Southland

BIKINI BEACH BEAUTY PAGEANT, Newfield Tavern - PLANNING UNDERWAY.

- **WISH LIST - PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS - URGENTLY REQUIRED** - for the Inpatient Unit and the Hospice Shop Call 03 211 3081
- **The HOSPICE SHOP** - Come and browse - 25 Gala Street, Invercargill Open - 10am to 4pm Mon - Fri. and 10am - 3pm Saturday