



Blue Mountain College

Newsletter

Issue 8, Term 4, November 2010

From the Principal

I was treated to a wonderful welcome to Blue Mountain College on Monday 11 October. Mr Piripi Gage had worked with the students to prepare a truly moving Powhiri. This involved song, speeches, haka and the traditional hongiri. One of the most special aspects of this for me was that the whole school was involved. This only served to reinforce the strong sense of community which is one of the elements which attracted me to Blue Mountain College in the first instance.

The term has begun with students being provided with a tremendous number of learning opportunities which in many cases involved teachers going beyond the call of duty and giving their own time.

The Year 12 PE class traveled to Invercargill on Monday 11 October to learn about the testing facilities at Sport Southland. Ms Anna Pennicott reported that the students represented the school well and gained a lot from the experience. A spin off from this field trip was an offer from the providers to bring some of their equipment on site to BMC in the future.

Mr Jim Erridge has organized outside providers to come into the school to facilitate Agriculture based theory and practical activities which can be independently assessed for NCEA credits on site. A range of students from Years 10 – 13 have been given this opportunity, over six days in weeks one, two and three. Once again the students have made good use of this opportunity.

The Friends of the College along with Mrs Liz Murray and Mrs Janine Venz organized an excellent information evening for senior students and their parents and caregivers on Tuesday 12 October. They had pulled together speakers from the IRD, the banking industry and Study Link to share information about financial planning for tertiary study. There was an impressive turnout for this event and while the information was somewhat daunting from a parental perspective, everyone I spoke to had appreciated the opportunity to be forewarned in regard to both costs and the mechanisms for applying for student allowances and student loans.

Mrs Kathryn Harvey took two teams of Year 7 & 8 cricket girls to compete in the Milo series at Hamilton Park on Thursday 14 October. The teams placed second and fourth out of eight teams and were invited to go on to compete in the final in Invercargill on Friday 29 October.

The BMC 2 team won their grade bringing home a trophy and each receiving medals, while the BMC 1 team placed second in their grade.

The Year 9 cricket boys with the help of some Year 8 students traveled to Winton to play against Central Southland College on Wednesday 27 October. Mr Davies was delighted to report that the team played well and secured a win. This meant they would host Southland Boys High School on Wednesday of this week. Although the boys battled hard in glorious conditions, it would be fair to say they were outclassed by a very talented side on the day. Mrs Stark arranged for a boys' netball team to compete at a tournament in Balclutha on Friday 29 October. She was pleased to report that they had played well, thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were placed third equal.

As a culmination to the Gifted and Talented Drama Programme Year 10 students presented the plays they had written and directed on Wednesday 13 October. Parents, caregivers and members of staff were treated to high quality hard hitting and disciplined performances of which the students could be justifiably proud. To add to the colour of the evening a talented group of Year 12 students presented a polished Shakespearian excerpt as well as a moving piece of group choreography. Mrs Vicki Crawford had both arranged the tutor for the intensive drama workshops and hosted the evening which was a credit to all involved.



The Year 8 Debating Team hosted Fiordland College on Thursday 14 October. The team lost the debate by the narrowest of margins but the adjudicator commented at length about the quality of the debate. There was great parental support, the junior students formed a respectful audience and all three boys performed to an excellent standard. Mrs Dianne Erickson is to be congratulated for her work in coaching the team and providing wonderful hospitality for our visitors.

The Life Education Bus educator delivered health programmes to all Year 7&8 students on site on Friday 15 October and Monday 18 October and the Java Dance instructors visited the college on Monday 18 October to run workshops with all students in Years 7 – 10.



The Science Roadshow was set up at the college on Tuesday 2 November. Our junior students were rostered to visit the displays and we also hosted primary school students. The newly elected Mayor of the Clutha District dropped in and viewed the exhibits too and was impressed with what he saw, including the behaviour of the students. The presenter had enlisted the help of a group of our Year 10 students to act as demonstrators for the day and she was very pleased with the work they had done and the engagement from all who had attended.

Work Day occurred on Friday 22 October. Well done to all the students who willingly contributed their time and energy to raise funds for the collective good of their peers. Many students have handed in their money already and the total raised to date is \$3614. It would be great to have a big push to get the remaining money in and surpass last year's total.

One of the many highlights of my short time at Blue Mountain College occurred on Wednesday 27 October, when somewhere between eighty and ninety people gathered in the West Otago Community Centre to farewell the Year 13 students of 2010 and were treated to a superb four course kiwiana themed meal. The meal had been completely planned, prepared and cooked by the Year 13 Home Economics class members, under the guidance of Mrs Heather Turner. They were ably supported by the Year 12 students who took responsibility for hosting and serving duties. This represented a huge logistical exercise and the attention to detail was impressive, right down to different kiwiana themed serviettes for each course. I was delighted to be part of such a special occasion which allowed parents and caregivers to celebrate the achievements of their sons and daughters alongside the staff, while acknowledging the rite of passage of completing their secondary education.



The Student Council organised a mufti day on Thursday 28 October. Students were invited to come along dressed as something beginning with B or M or C in exchange for a donation to Canteen Otago. Great school spirit was in evidence and there were some entertaining costumes from both individuals and groups. The total raised was \$276.

Friday 29 October was International Teachers' Day and Year 13 students surprised the staff by shouting them morning tea. This was a wonderful gesture and spoke volumes about the positive relationships in the school and how much the students appreciate the support they have been given by the staff.

Student Successes

Golf

Scott Hansen placed 6th in the New Zealand Under 17 Golf Tournament in Gisborne.

Netball

Alice Crawford passed her New Zealand Netball Umpires Theory Examination. She has also been selected in the New Zealand Talent Development Squad for Umpires.

Rugby

Dylan Mackenzie, Gavin Stark & Garth Devereux are members of the Otago Country Under16 team. Shane Edwards was selected for the Otago Country Under 18 Training Squad.

Motocross

Elliot Hancox competed in the MLT South Island and Southland Motocross Championships and placed first in the 14 – 16 years Trail Points for the South Island.

ICAS English Competition

Ned Ennion gained a Distinction certificate awarded to the top 5% of approximately 3000 NZ students, and Shani Hayes, Tessa Kelly, Emily McElrea and Emily McGimpsey gained credit certificates.

New Zealand Economics Competition

Credit Awards were gained by Year 12 & 13 students: Danae Bradley, Mariah Broad, Rachel Hay, Shane Edwards, and Tessa McCall. Distinction Awards were gained by Year 12 & 13 students: Courtney Sanne, Gemma Townshend and Renee Tomsett.

Tennis

Anna Power was 2nd in the Eastern Southland Tennis Tournament, which qualifies her to compete in the Southland Tournament.

Jazz

Congratulations to Courtney Sanne and Cassie Crawford who both passed their Grade 4 Jazz examinations, Courtney attained Honours with high distinction and Cassie attained Honours.

Performing Arts

We received fantastic news this week in regard to Year 10 student Destiny Paikea who has made it through to the National Finals of the karaoke competition run by Sticky TV. She is one of only five students nationally who will compete in Auckland next Friday. Destiny will be required to perform three songs from a pre-prescribed song list at the television studios for the finals. The college community is immensely proud of Destiny's achievement and we wish her well for Friday.

University of Otago Problem Challenge

Merit Awards were gained by Year 7 & 8 students: Emily McElrea, Sinead O'Leary, Thomas Adam, Liam Wright, Samuel Perkins and Cameron Scott. Distinction Awards were gained by Arna Criglington in Year 7 and Jacob Ave in Year 8.

Scholarships

Tessa Livingston was awarded a Youth Development Fund grant of \$300 towards the National Youth Drama School next year and Renee Tomsett has been awarded a Future Leaders Scholarship from Lincoln University.

Mana Pounamu Scholarship

The school nominated Year 12 student Mariah Broad for the Mana Pounamu scholarship. Mariah, her whanau, some student supporters, Mr Davies and I attended the presentation ceremony for this award in Dunedin on Friday October 29. It was a real privilege to witness the wonderful strength of Maori culture in the wider Otago community with spontaneous haka and waiata being performed by almost all the schools present as the recipients were individually honoured. This was a setting in which I felt extremely proud to be the Principal of Blue Mountain College, as our students combined with those from South Otago High School to do a powerful group tribute, followed by an eerily moving individual performance from Year 10 student Destiny Paikea; and Mariah carried herself as a young woman of talent, dignity and mana.



Citizenship

Congratulations to Year 13 student Catherine Hutchison who has been selected to go on the Spirit of Adventure early next year.

We received a letter from World Vision thanking the school for its support of the 40 Hour Famine. Blue Mountain College raised the fantastic total of \$1895. Year 13 student Renee Tomsett was acknowledged for the work she had done in helping to organise this event.

Year 13 student Kim Shaw has been accepted as leading hand on a Spirit of Adventure trip in February. She will also be acting as a buddy for a student with disabilities.

Congratulations to Year 11 student Tony Johnston who is the college's nominee for the Clutha District Youth Council for 2011.

I look forward to being able to celebrate the successes of the year 11, 12 and 13 students when we all gather again as a community at Prizegiving. This will also be an opportunity to farewell our leavers but in the interim I would like to thank all of the senior students for the work they have done this year and the contributions that they each have made to Blue Mountain College. There are some challenging times ahead as they embark on their external examinations but rather than wish them luck I would like to reiterate what I said to them at my first assembly. It is now all about hard work for that is what will make the difference between results they can be satisfied with and results they can be proud of.

As Winston Churchill put it; “Continuous effort, not strength or intelligence is the key to unlocking your potential.”

Lindy Cavanagh – Monaghan
Principal

Curriculum News

CATs Assessments (Common Assessment Tasks)

The CATs assessment for year 11 students will be held over the next two weeks starting on Monday 1 November (period 2) and will run during usual timetabled periods until Thursday the 11th of November. All year 11 ICT students are expected to attend all classes as this is their official External Assessment opportunity.

Kay Roughan

2010 Pounaweia Camp

Year 8 Raffle winners are:

1st M Baird – Duntroon (sold by Corey Thomsen) – Grocery Hamper

2nd Zane Purser – Tapanui (sold by Luc Purser)

3rd John Ave – Gore (sold by Jacob Ave) – Sandwich maker and lollies

Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered their time for parent help at camp.

The parent team for 2010 is:

Craig Dowden

Ken Munro

Gaylene McLay

Rochelle Falconer

Information Evening

There will be an information meeting for all parents about camp on Thursday 11th November at 7.30pm to answer questions and to tell you about our camping programme

As we have forms to fill out, it would be great if all parents could attend to get this done properly. The parent team will have a short meeting at the end of that to discuss travel plans etc.

Sports Reports

Claybird Shooting

On 2nd September 5 BMC students traveled to Balclutha to take part in a Claybird Shoot with South Otago High School.

The team was Max Mawhinney, Dion O'Leary, Shane Edwards, Tyson Adams and Elliot Hancox and they were transported and Coached by Keith Falconer and Iain Park.

The shoot went well with our boys securing a win overall by just 1/2 a point.

Well done to this team and thanks to both these men for their transport and coaching.

This will become an annual event, and will hopefully held at Tapanui next year.

Southland Girls Cricket Festival Day

Blue Mountain College entered two girls cricket teams in the recent Girls Cricket Festival day held in Gore and came 2nd and 4th out of 8 teams. The second placed team was invited to attend the finals day to be held in Invercargill on October 29th and later on the 4th placed team was also invited to attend (due to another teams unavailability on the day).

The finals day was held in brilliant sunshine at Queen's Park cricket oval and 8 teams from Southland and Otago battled it out in 3 pool matches and a finals playoff. Both teams played really well with BMC 1 winning 2 out of 3 pool matches and only narrowly losing the 3rd one to Longford on a misfield. BMC 2 won all 3 pool matches and both teams made it through to the final of each section. In the end, BMC 2 won their section of the competition and took away the trophy and medals for each of the girls. Neve Veza received player of the day for this team. BMC 1 lost to Longford in their final, beaten by some brilliant batting from the Longford girls, but had a fun day and were satisfied with their second place. Nikita Ritchie received player of the day for this team. Congratulations girls on a great day.

BMC 1

Annie McKenzie – Captain

Nikita Ritchie

Yvonne van Baarle

Tessa Kelly

Anna Power

Arna Criglington

Tayla Fitzgerald

Tamara Weller

Brea Sim

BMC 2

Sinead O'Leary – Captain (finals day)

Evelyn Devereux – Captain (Gore day)

Jordyn Ritchie

Jessie-Ann Corbett

Neve Veza

Marti Blythe

Hanna Harvey – Yr 6

Amy Tomsett – Yr 6

The girls attended lunchtime skills sessions with the White Ferns who were present at the day and enjoyed these. Evelyn Devereux's 13th Chick competition entry was chosen by the White Ferns as one of the winning ones and she gets to be the Otago Sparks "13th Chick" for one of the upcoming homegames.

It was fantastic to see the girls all having fun playing cricket and we look forward to seeing them all play in the Milo shield competition next year. Parents of playing students are also invited to take any keen girls down to join in the Gore Saturday competition which starts at 9am at Hamilton Park every Saturday.

Community Achievements

Congratulations to Otago University Graduates in December 2009

Rebecca Kerr – BphED

Rachel Mariu – Bed(tchg)

Matthew McAuley – BA

Bowei Sim – BCom(Hons)

Rachel Tutauha – Bed(Tchg)

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.

Congratulations to this year’s recipient – Mr Bryce McKenzie

Bryce will be presented with this award at our assembly on November 8th.

Friends of the School

Uniform Sale

Friends of the College would appreciate any unwanted items of BMC uniform being donated to their second-hand uniform sale. Clothing can be left at the school office. Any queries phone Judy 2048130 or Deborah 2048132

Community Notices

NZ DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE

DriveSafe Southland

This NZTA approved course is about driving safety (8 hours theory + 1 hour drive)
Students can also gain time reduction on their restricted car/motorcycle licence + NZQA unit standards at no extra cost* (*refer to terms & conditions).

Next GORE Course:

- **Monday 6 December** **6 – 8.15pm**
 - **Wednesday 8 December** **6 – 8.15pm**
 - **Monday 13 December** **6 – 8.15pm**
 - **Wednesday 15 December** **6 – 8.15pm**
 - **Monday 20 December** **6pm**
- ➔ **Plus a 1 hour car assessment for students in the students own vehicle**
- ➔ **NZQA unit standards assessment at conclusion of course**

VENUE: DriveSafe Southland, SIT, Kakapo Street, GORE

NZQA unit standards (level 2 + 3, 11 credits):

1. Human risk factors
2. Hazard ID & risk reduction
3. Applying risk reduction techniques & strategies
4. Factors contributing to crashes & consequences of crashes

NOTE: a further unit standard can also be achieved: stress, health and fatigue driving (3 credits, level 2)

HOW TO ENROL: phone the DriveSafe office **03 214 6146**

Or go to our website: www.drivesafesouthland.com

ACAP: ADVANCED CRASH AVOIDANCE PROGRAMME @ Teretonga

**With DriveSafe Southland
VEHICLE DYNAMICS INSTITUTE**

ACAP is a challenging 'hands-on' advanced driving course where students learn and are extended in the practical application of crash avoidance techniques including vehicle control, braking, steering, cornering, positioning, where to look, passing, following, hazard identification: SAR, vehicle handling, safety components + more.

Students bring their own vehicle and learn about driver and vehicle capability. Students must have attained their restricted car licence.

Next ACAP dates/timings:

Stage 1:	Mon 8 November	6.00pm – 8.30pm	(theory instruction) at SIT Invercargill
Stage 2:	Wed 10 November	1.00pm – 5.00pm	(practical) at Teretonga
Stage 3:	Mon 15 November	6.00pm – 8.30pm	(theory assessment) at SIT Invercargill

NZQA Unit Standards (14 credits):

5. Vehicle dynamics & management techniques
6. Apply control driving light motor vehicle
7. Stress, health & fatigue in driving
8. Factors contributing to crashes & consequences of crashes
9. Knowledge of traffic law

Cost: \$180.00 incl. gst (*fee is discounted to \$170.00 incl. gst to students who have completed defensive driving course with DriveSafe Southland*)

For an enrolment pack please phone our office: 03 2146146



FIREWORKS

**Gore High school PTA MLT Fireworks Extravaganza
Friday 5th November, Gore Showgrounds
Gates Open at 7.30pm**

**Entry Fee : \$5 per person or \$15 per family
Hot Food, soft drinks, candyfloss, glowsticks,
Noddy train , coffee van and entertainment**

Fantastic Fireworks Display at 9.30pm



Have you seen the dentist lately?

Have you enrolled?

Do you know the free service will be running out when you turn 18?

- Take advantage of the free service while you can and look after your teeth by: Brushing twice a day (after breakfast and just before bed).
- Floss regularly
- Limit the amount of sugary foods and drinks you have. Give your teeth a rest between meals.
- If you have moved address don't forget to contact your dentist to let them know.

If you want to enrol or have any other queries contact Sharleen Szavay on:

0800 TALK TEETH/0800 8255 83

(option #2 on automated message)

Cultural Information

Each year many of our College students sit external exams for Speech/Drama/Dance/Instrumental. We like to recognise those students in our Achievements book and for those who aspire to excel in their chosen field, at Prizegiving.

Please record any such information for your student on the form below and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

Thank you

Vicki Crawford
HOD The Arts

.....
Student's name _____ Form Class _____

Type of Exam (eg Trinity/Royal School/Rockskool etc)

_____ for (the activity) _____

Level or Grade sat/or sitting _____ Date of exam in 2010 _____

Recorded Examined level given on
Certificate _____