Welcome to our Term 3 July edition of the BPC News. As always, there is so much happening and I hope we’ve captured some of all that’s wonderful at BPC for you to enjoy in these pages.

I was so pleased to attend the Plain English Speaking Awards State semi-finals last week to support one of our College Captains, Maroushka. This competition is run across Victoria and celebrates the power and importance of public speaking.

Maroushka competed against 5 students from other schools across Melbourne in this most impressive final. Maroushka’s speech, about the abuse of blasphemy laws in Pakistan, was a sophisticated, insightful and compelling argument. I congratulate her on her amazing achievement.

I also congratulate our Year 7 students for their outstanding efforts in their Night of the Notables presentations over the past 2 Tuesday evenings. The students undertake in-depth research about a significant person through time and then step into the role of that person for a night of learning, questions and celebration.

The students all did the most sensational job and proved themselves to be highly-skilled researchers as well as entertaining and poised presenters. I learned more about Winston Churchill’s wartime Prime Ministership; the herculean effort of Sir Edmund Hillary and the profoundly important impact of the work of the McGrath Foundation.

Currently there is also a lot of important work happening around our school to prepare for VCE 2014. Term 3 is a very important term of planning and preparation as our Year 10 students begin to prepare in earnest for the rigour and challenge of their introduction to Units 1 and 2 learning next year. Thank you to all of the students and families who attended our first information night last week. Your attendance and early commitment certainly augurs well for a terrific VCE experience for your child.

Term 3 is of course a hugely important term for our current VCE students too. This is the final full term of secondary school classes for our Year 12 students and very much marks the beginning of preparation for the final examination period of their VCE. I am delighted with the work ethic and commitment of the great majority of our Year 12 students, who are really stepping-up to ensure that they give themselves every chance of success this year.

I had the pleasure of reading each of the Year 12 students’ reports and I can proudly say that there was some good news in each. Of course, there is always room for improvement and I strongly encourage all VCE students to make sure this is a term of maximum effort. Be sure to do your best!

As Mr Fidler and the Year 11 students talked about last week, make sure that this is a year when “you are amazing. Be amazing!”

Some Thoughts on Building Resilience…

In this BPC News, I’d also like to talk to you a little about resilience and the importance of making mistakes when we’re learning. Too often we can be quick to judge mistakes as a problem, rather than recognising them as vital to learning. This goes to the absolute importance of building resilience in our students, ourselves and our community. Mistakes are not of themselves bad; they are opportunities for learning.

Ask yourself this…Do you hit the ‘bull’s eye’ every time? If so, you may be standing too close to the target. Is the level of challenge appropriate for someone like you? Do you have the opportunity to get it wrong and learn from that experience?

As comedian Woody Allen puts it “If you’re not failing every now and again, it’s a sign that you are not doing anything very innovative or challenging”. This is very strong language from Allen, but I think the principle of what he’s saying is relevant and pertinent to our work as learners and teachers.

For some people, the fear of getting something wrong may paralyse them from action. This could be noticeable in ourselves and our children when we resist, procrastinate or use excuses to avoid taking action. Whilst fear is a normal and healthy feeling, we have to manage that within ourselves and our students to ensure that we don’t let fear of making mistakes stand in the way of progress, of further achievement and of new and exciting ventures.

Fear of making a mistake could stop students from pursuing new challenges and new opportunities. As a school and as a community we must continue to build support in our language, practices and processes that strongly encourage all learners to take risks, to accept challenges and to feel safely supported to take these risks.

Resilience is that quality that helps us stretch our comfort zone; push past our fear, and do the crucial things that sometimes we might try to avoid. In the same way that your body builds muscle from physical training, so too do we build resilience from exposure to challenges, dealing with complex situations and the trial and error nature of the learning process. It matters and it makes a difference.

Michael Licenblat, in his work on resilience, explains further when he argues that “Everyone has a ‘Risk Muscle’ that needs to be kept in shape by trying new things and risking failure. The key, just like going to the gym, is to start slow, easy, but do it frequently. True success doesn’t necessarily come from what you know, but lies in your ability to apply what you know in the face of resistance, fear, and challenging circumstances.”

I believe that schools have a crucial role in building resilience in young people and communities. There is intentional, strategic work we can do and structures we can put into place to put resilience ‘right up there’ as an area of our work with students that we should esteem and value highly. This will be important work for our school that I’ll be exploring more and more over time with our students, staff and you, our families.

A phrase I use often is that “language is culture”. Our use of language has such an impact on our relationships and interactions at home and work. In order to truly enhance our culture of resilience at school, one simple step we can take is to ensure that our language of mistake-making for learners is positive and constructive.

If every student, in every class, answers every question right, every time, we need to raise the challenge, allow mistakes to happen and relish that learning opportunity. Food for thought...

Happy reading.

Nathan Chisholm
Principal

@BuckleyParkCo
REPORTS

The End of Semester One saw the introduction of on-line reports for all students. Parents and students can access their reports through the Student and Parent portal and I would encourage you to do so if you haven't already. The reports give a lot of detail about what the student has done as well as areas that they can improve on. Parents should go through the reports with their child so that improvement can be made in Semester Two. The system appears to have gone well but I would appreciate any feedback from parents by emailing me at the college.

PARENT PORTAL

It is good to hear that parents are logging onto the Parent Portal to see information about their children. Attendance information, reports as well as some assessments and homework are available to be viewed. Obviously with a new system it can take time for all to get used to it. Teachers have been using the Student Management Tool for several years now and the Parent Portal extends on what teachers have already done. Over the coming months, I would expect more information about how your child is going at school to be available on the portal.

UNIFORM

It is good to see at the start of the new semester students embracing the school uniform – the vast majority are doing the right thing. Students are expected to be in full school uniform travelling to and from school as well as when they are at school. Below I have listed some of the areas that some of our students need constant reminding of:

- A plain black jacket (no logos or other colours) can be worn OVER the school jumper, not instead of the school jumper
- White socks, only, with shorts (boys) and summer dress (girls)
- Black tights for girls with winter uniform
- White tee shirt or skivvy under the white polo or business shirt (no other colours).

BUCKLEY PARK OVAL

We are currently restricted in area for students to play in and the variety in our Physical Education and Sport programs. Buckley Park Oval, which we have used as an extension to the small amount of outside areas that we have within the school has been closed all year and the we have had limited access to the top ground due to the wet conditions. Students have been using our south area but that is also becoming muddy. Hopefully, we will be able to resume our use of Buckley Park Oval shortly.

PARKING

There is still a lot of congestion outside the school at the end of the school day. Spencer and Nimmo Streets, in particular, can be a hazard for our students as they leave the school.

I would ask that parents picking up students make arrangements to meet them further from the school. Cooper Street between Spencer and Market, utilising the Buckley Park Oval Car Park, would be a good spot. It is not unreasonable that secondary school students can walk several hundred metres to be picked up.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Just a reminder that Parent Teacher Interviews will take place on Wednesday 28th August. Interviews will be able to be booked through the Parent Portal. More information will be available closer to the date.

Geoff Currie
Assistant Principal - Student Development and Facilities
TEACHING AND LEARNING

We have been fortunate to have time to work with our teachers around a whole school approach to teaching and learning. We have been using a common model of instruction we call IMPACT. This model has allowed us to develop common understandings and shared approaches to improving outcomes for our students. For example your child should aware of their goal for learning during lessons and there will be more use of hooks in class to engage and raise the curiosity of your child.

The model is shown below and is research based. August 9 around the use of IMPACT in class and with the use of the latest technology, websites and applications. We have appreciated your support for this work.

Three things you can do to help your child learn

There are plenty of books and articles written about what parents can do to help their children learn. We, at Buckley Park College, are in partnership with you to try and bring about the best possible outcomes for our children. Each day we have some 944 students come to us and each day we want to see improvement in their learning, engagement and wellbeing. Here are three suggestions you could try to help your child do a little better in school:

1. Communicate.
   Try using car time as talk time with your child. Deliberately no music, no phone and chat with your child about anything and occasionally include a question or topic related to school, to their subjects, to their friends or to their teachers. Try not to accept the one word (and only word) ‘Gooood’ as their answer.

2. Guide.
   Routines can help at home where regular time can be allocated for homework. Monitor and check in with your child’s progress and help them out with things they are getting stuck on. If they are finding something difficult to do, try and break it into several parts. If it’s something difficult to understand, have your child write it in their diary or student planner to ask their teacher.

3. Celebrate.
   Your children are great! They are cooperative, respectful and we like them. Be positive about their progress at school and try not to focus only on the results. Praise the effort and look for progress and improvement.

Richard Jones
Assistant Principal - Curriculum
TERM 3 SPORT

Term 3 is the best term of the year for sport. Already we have had many teams participate in Western Metropolitan School Sport and have many teams looking forward to Moonee Valley Division sport in the next few weeks.

Congratulations to the Senior Girls Hockey team who yesterday won through to the state finals on the 22nd August. The girls played incredibly well, impressing their coaches and the opposition. We wish them luck at the state finals. A big thanks to Ms Goodwin for her organisation and experience, and student helpers James Pane and Matt Lanyon for their enthusiasm.

The Intermediate girl's soccer team were particularly unlucky not to join the senior girl's hockey team at the state finals, losing 0-1 in the final in extra time. Despite some early chances, the girls were unable to make their mark on the score board. Congratulations to the girls involved, particularly given their limited preparation.

The senior girl's table tennis team, senior and intermediate badminton teams and Year 7 boy's football team have also all competed at a WMR level this term. Well done to all students involved, we continue to receive feedback from other schools about the excellent sportsmanship displayed by our students.

Well done to Isaac Pane and Jacob Williams who competed at the School Sport Victoria State Cross Country in week 1 of Term 3. Both boys ran incredibly well, completing the 3km course in just over 10 minutes. Both boys ran personal best times and have continued to improve since the Moonee Valley Division Cross Country in May. Jacob placed third overall in his age group and Issac within the top 30 runners. Congratulations to both boys and Mr Garrett who gave up many afternoons coaching the cross country team.

The school is also eagerly anticipating the 2013 Athletics Carnival, which is sure to be a fantastic day. Students have signed up in their droves to participate in one or more of the 12 track and field events on offer, and many more heats for the events have been created to cope with demand. The question on everyone's lips is 'Who will win?' Will Buckley repeat their dominant performance of 2012? Will Croft continue on from their house theatre win in 2013? Will Hoffman show red really is the fastest colour? Or will the great Graves come from nowhere and surprise the competition? One thing is for sure, the Buckley Park College Athletics team will be the ones to beat at the Division carnival towards the end of term.

Carlee Wood
Interschool Sport Coordinator

YEAR 9

As a whole, our year 9 cohort has had an excellent start to Semester 2 with a noticeable progression in social and academic maturity. Reflecting back on our year level camp, held at Lady Northcote Adventure Camp in the final weeks of Term 2, this progression comes as no surprise. Throughout both camps, we were blessed with beautiful blue skies, and whilst it was very cold, the warmth, positivity, and enthusiasm of all students were a delight to witness. I was deeply impressed by our students’ determination to challenge themselves, and the respect, trust and honesty they showed toward their peers and teachers at all times. Without a doubt this was one of our most successful and positive Year 9 camps to date; student’s demonstration of our school values, and their genuine compassion and support for one another, was evident throughout. Most of all, the smiles on faces, the sense of a shared achievement, and the bonds formed on this camp, are what makes it such a worthwhile experience for all involved. I would like to thank all of the staff involved, all of whom dedicated their time and passion to this camp, and of course, I would also like to congratulate all students who took on each and every challenge and had a blast doing it. I really do look forward to witnessing their further progression and success throughout Semester 2.

Arturo Tallarida
Year 9 Coordinator
On Monday 29th July the Senior Girls Hockey Team WON their way through to the Hockey State Finals!

It was a nail bitting finish in the final game against Maribyrnong Sports Excellence College but the girls played well and held on for the win!!

A big thank you to my fantastic assistant coaches James Pane and Matt Lanyon who almost had a heart attack in the last 3 minutes of the game.

The girls (and assistant coaches) will be at the State Finals on August 22nd August!

If you see them wish them luck as this is the MOST successful Hockey team BPC has EVER had in the history of the school!

Amy Goodwin
Coach

Recently the senior debating team recorded a narrow victory in their last A Grade debate for the year. The team was made up of Sara Pellegrino, Gia Thuy Do and Quynh Ho. The girls were supported by Olivia Walker and Esra Turcan.

Congratulations to Maroushka Saldanha who also recently represented the school with distinction at the state semi-finals of the Plain English Speaking Award. This is the public speaking competition sponsored by VCAA and the Australia-Britain Society. Contestants must be senior students and are drawn from public, private and catholic schools. The semi-finals are the top 24 students in the state. Unfortunately Maroushka did not progress through to the final, but she was a bit stiff not to progress.

Bernie Gibney
Debating Coordinator

The Buckley Park College Writers Festival “What’s your story?” will be held on Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th September. During these days, the Year 7 – 10 students will be exposed to a range of writing styles, workshops, author talks and writing challenges. The event will conclude with a Thursday evening showcase of the students’ work, which will be published and performed. The Principal’s Writing Competition winners will also be announced on the night. So come along and celebrate all things writing, at the school on Thursday 5th September from 7pm – 8.30pm.

Elise Schultz & Kathleen Thomas
The Centre for Young Writers

Yes that’s right, this year’s annual school production has seen our students transform into acrobats, trapeze artists, pickpockets, inept coppers - even cannon-balls, Russian Soldiers and Monkeys!

It’s a story about a group of orphans who run away and join the circus in the midst of being chased by those clumsy coppers. While the street urchins manage to blend into circus life well, they’ll have to outwit a Property Developer and his side-kick who want to close the circus down and avoid an approaching war that could spell the end for the whole town and the circus.

Audiences will laugh, be amazed and maybe even shed a tear as the actors, dancers, puppeteers, acrobats and musicians tell the story of ‘The Circus.’

Performances: WED 7/8, THURS 8/8, FRI 9/8

Tickets on sale now from the Clocktower Centre Box Office on 9243-9191 or booking on line at www.clocktowercentre.com.au
Buckley Park College presents

THE CIRCUS
LOVE. WONDER. FAMILY. WAR

By Nick Pease & Anne Sced

The Clocktower Centre
7, 8, 9 of August 2013
at 7pm

Box Office:
9243 9191

Directed by
Nick Pease & Alison Godfrey

Musical Direction by Bevan May

Adults $24
Concession $17 Family $65
Chess Competition a Big Hit with Students

The Chess Competition held on Friday's at lunchtime is once again proving very popular with students from all year levels. The first round held on Friday 19th July with 30 combatants competing for the title of BPC Grand Chess Master. In round two 26 students did battle with the winners moving up to the next level. The competition will continue weekly as a round robin until the eventual winner is decided.

Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge

Students from years 7 to 10 are invited to join the Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge. Consent forms must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the Library for registration. Students who enter will be provided with their user name and password to record their reading. Please see Library staff for more information about the Challenge or visit http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/

Displays

The display in the Library foyer “celebrates” the current Ashes tour of the Australian Cricket team. Thank you to staff for the loan of their cricket memorabilia.

Science Week in the Library

To celebrate Science Week the Library has created a science theme display. We have included non-fiction books on the many different areas of science. The fiction books include the genres of science fiction, dystopian fiction and steam punk.

Read Across the Universe

The theme for Book Week this year also has a science – space travel theme Read Across the Universe. The Library is planning a display and competitions related to the theme of space travel and reading.

E-Books at BPC

BPC Library has a small collection of fiction e-books available for students to download to their own device either at school or a home. Students who would like to use e-books should go the website below and complete the Want to register section: https://bpc.wheelers.co/account/logon?ReturnUrl=%2Faccount

All registrations need to be approved by the Library before students can continue to download from the e-book platform. The site provides easy-to-follow instructions in the Help menu. Please contact the Library for more information.

The Library Team

SCHOOLKIDS BONUS

Need a boost to your mid-year school budget?

The second payment of the Schoolkids Bonus is coming in July. If you are eligible you could receive up to $205 for each primary student and up to $410 for each secondary student.

You could receive the Schoolkids Bonus if you have a child in primary or secondary school and receive Family Tax Benefit Part A or you are a primary or secondary student receiving an income support payment.

If you think you are eligible and you haven’t already updated your child’s education details with Centrelink, then visit Online Services by 29 June 2013 to ensure you receive the correct amount and are paid on time.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaced the Education Tax Refund in January 2013 so eligible families cannot claim education expenses in their 2012-13 income tax return.

To ensure you receive the Schoolkids Bonus payment in July, check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus
MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE

Brick Paver Campaign

I am extremely happy to report that the Engraved Brick Pavers have arrived! A site has been agreed upon and it should be all systems go with the first installation. Engraved Brick Pavers will continue to be on sale for the remainder of this year in celebration of Buckley Park College's 50 Year Anniversary.

Market Day

The Buckley Park College 50 Years Festival promises to be an exciting event with various activities on offer, including FoBP's Market Day. Any trader who would like to participate in Market Day on Saturday 12 October, please email FoBP for more information and to secure your stall.

Year 11 Debutante Ball

2013 Deb Rehearsals have begun and it's wonderful to watch the Deb Set enthusiastically learning their routines in anticipation of the Deb Ball in September. Already there has been a noticeable improvement in everyone's dancing (and much less stepping on toes).

Nola Kalaitzidis
FoBP Liaison
friendsofbpc@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF BUCKLEY PARK

Uniform Shop Trading Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1pm - 4pm
Access: via Nimmo Street Telephone: 93373651

CREDIT CARD AUTHORITY FORM

A convenient way to pay for purchases when you can't make it into the shop is to use a credit card authority form. Your child can pick one up during shop hours, or a printable version is available on the Buckley Park College website: www.buckleyparkco.vic.edu.au on the students & parents page.

SECONDHAND

THE UNIFORM SWAP SHOP

To buy and sell uniforms, books, sports equipment and other items visit:

www.uniformswapshop.com.au

All sales assist YOUR school community and The Alannah and Madeline Foundation

The site provides 24 hour access to goods and is simple to navigate. No commissions. 100% of money received by the seller.

Try it today: www.uniformswapshop.com.au

ALANNAH AND MADELINE FOUNDATION

Dobson's are selling Stationery Packs to support The Alannah and Madeline Foundation. The packs are available at the Uniform Shop and cost only $5. Each pack sold allows Dobson's to donate one pack to a child in need.
Year 12

Term 3 marks the commencement of a very busy time in career exploration as Year 12 students make important decisions in relation to tertiary application, undertaking a traineeship or apprenticeship and working or taking a gap year, a popular option for some. To assist with an understanding of the tertiary application process, an information session for students has been arranged for 6 August. Students have received a copy of the VTAC Guide 2014. Parents are invited to attend a similar information session in the evening at 7pm in the library. Please contact me if you haven’t received the details.

Students are encouraged to make an appointment with Ms Alexander to further discuss their post-secondary school options.

Years 10, 11 & 12

A Career Expo was organised for Year 10, 11 and 12 students on 19 July. Representatives from the tertiary sector and employer groups were on hand to provide information relating to career choice and post school options for students.

To further assist career exploration, students are encouraged to attend tertiary Open Days, as they provide detailed course information and a valuable insight into the university and TAFE environment. A calendar of Open Day dates has been posted on Student Management Tool and emailed to families.

VCE subject selection commences on 12 August for Year 11 students, please contact me if you would like to attend this session; arrangements can be made for a before or after school appointment.

Year 10

The school community congratulates Year 10 students for completing a very successful week of work experience last term. Students were able to reflect on their experience during a Career Orientation Workshop where they explored career interest areas and linked this to careers from the Job Guide. This activity and work experience should place students in good stead when making decisions relating to VCE subject selection.

I hope you have been able to make an appointment for subject selection using the online booking system. Please contact me if this is not the case.

Students are always encouraged to visit the Careers Resource Centre in the library and read the careers newsletter for the latest information.

Please contact me at the college if you have any matters you wish to discuss relating to careers.

Judi Alexander
Post School Transition Coordinator

FROM THE SRC

The 40 Hour Famine is back! A team from Buckley Park College, led by the Year 9 and 10 SRC representatives, will join together to support World Vision’s 40 Hour Famine from 16 to 18 August 2013.

This year the Year 9 and 10 SRC representatives will be running the program which will be open to students of all levels within the school. The 40 Hour Famine is one of Australia’s biggest youth events raising community awareness and much needed funds to help fight global hunger. Each year inspires a new generation of young people to help break the cycle of poverty. Participants will give up something important to them for 40 hours to raise awareness and funds to fight global hunger.

Last year we raised over $5000 to help communities in Kenya, The team hopes to raise even more this year and welcomes support from the school community. This year, the 40 Hour Famine is focusing on Malawi, in southern Africa, where around 1.9 million people are impacted by drought, failing crops and dramatically rising food prices.

The 40 Hour Famine was started by World Vision Australia in 1975 and around 300,000 young people from all over Australia are expected to participate this year.

To find out more about the 40 Hour Famine, including how to make a donation, visit our team page: http://www.worldvision.com.au/40HF/ProfilePage.aspx?preferredurl=BuckleyParkCollege
At the end of Term 1 this year, the gold coin donations collected for the out-of-uniform last day of school went towards the volunteer program I was a part of in the July holidays. I just want to share with you my experience and what your donations went towards.

I had the privilege to go with an organisation called “Teachers Across Borders” to Cambodia to run a 5 day workshop for Khmer teachers about teaching strategies to use in their classrooms.

My husband, Steven (also a secondary teacher) and I travelled to Kampong Thom, a big town between Siem Reap and Phnom Penh, with a group of about 25 Australian teachers (who were running their own workshops) and stayed there for 5 days. We ran a Junior Secondary Literacy Strategy Workshop for Khmer teachers at the local Teachers College.

We met our class on a very humid and hot morning on the first Monday of the school holidays. We had about 16 Khmer teachers in our workshop from the district, ranging from beginning teachers to very experienced (25 years +) teachers. We had two translators in the classroom with us to help translate as not many of our teachers could speak English and we could not speak Khmer very well. They weren’t qualified translators, just teachers who could speak and understand English the best out of the group we had. I found it was very useful co-presenting with my husband because often if one of us had trouble expressing ourselves so our translators could understand, the other one would intervene and try and reword and we could go back and forth until everyone understood what we meant.

The classroom we ran our workshop in was very basic. It had old wooden tables and chairs, no fan, no air con and no electricity! I had been expecting a blackboard but was very pleased to find we had a whiteboard to work with! We introduced many different strategies to our class such as group work, reading strategies, writing strategies, questioning techniques and classroom management. We even took our class on their very first excursion to the markets to do some creative writing. They had not even heard of the word “excursion”!

The education system in Cambodia is in crisis. My understanding is that there is money within the federal budget for education but due to corruption at a very high level, not much of it filters down into the actual schools or into the teachers’ pockets. The teachers we got to know are only paid about $100US per month. An approximate class size in Cambodia is about 60 students. In a city like Phnom Penh, it’s not unusual to have a class of 80 students. Schools are built but no money given to maintain them, not even enough for electricity (which makes the room full of computers put in null and void). There are virtually no resources for teachers to use. Often a class of 60 will need to share 3 reading books between them. But despite all this, every teacher we met in Cambodia is passionate about teaching and wants to do it to better their country.

Steven and I paid, out of our own pocket, the travel expenses to and from Cambodia and also our accommodation costs. We also needed to raise over $1000 in order to run the workshops. The $1000 goes towards paying the teachers a small amount to attend the workshop (as it falls within their school holidays and they often need to be working a second or third job to support themselves or their family), paying the translators, getting our resources translated into Khmer, photocopying and other materials like a Khmer/English dictionary for each of the teachers.

Steven and I are very grateful for the support and donations given to us to run our workshop. It was terrific to not only share the knowledge and skills we have gained from our years of teaching, but also an amazing learning experience for us as we got to know our teachers and the struggles they go through on a daily basis.

We are very much looking forward to going back next year, hopefully with more BPC teachers in tow!

Jemina Kolber
Year 8 Coordinator
Congratulations to all students who participated in the Language Perfect World Championships 2013 from the 20th until the 30th May! **Buckley Park College answered a total of 317,844 questions with 470 students competing.**

The following students have won awards in the following categories (these will be given out at assemblies):

**Elite Award** (10000+ points): Alicia Monsone of Year 10 (10346).

**Gold Awards** (3000+ points): Nicholas Zuccarelli of Year 11 (8355), Penny Baseggio of Year 11 (7026), Jungwoo Kim of Year 9 (5684), Minseok Kim of Year 12 (4645), Rebecca Maretic of Year 8 (3535), Preeti Gandra of Year 8 (3358), Madision Luscombe of Year 9 (3127) and Jacquelyn Saldanha of Year 9 (3007).

**Silver Awards** (2000+ points): Catherine Braid of Year 9 (2275), Glenn Alexander of Year 7 (2120) and Anthony Liu of Year 7 (2115).

**Bronze Awards** (1000+ points): Brayden Davis of Year 7 (1821), Julie Hercus of Year 11 (1808), Isabella Zumbo of Year 12 (1628), Alice Kaiser of Year 10 (1602), Pelin Kaya of Year 7 (1377), Gia Thuy Do of Year 10 (1166), Daniel Vien of Year 9 (1146), Elizabeth Smith of Year 12 (1126), Isabella Lam Keng Yee of Year 8 (1064), Joshua Schembri of Year 8 (1022), Seth Millott of Year 7 (1001) and Stephanie Vergos of 9 (1000).

**Credit Awards** (500+ points): Cameron Arthur of Year 7 (878), Zara Curran of Year 7 (878), Stephanie Rozek of Year 7 (876), Liam Hart of Year 7 (763), Liam Ward of Year 10 (763), Kathryn Barbounis of Year 7 (723), Jettyn Frederiken of Year 8 (716), James Bakis of Year 7 (683), Rachel Hart of Year 9 (677), Samantha Ryan of Year 9 (668), Britt Burbold of Year 9 (636), Damien Ambegoda of Year 7 (631), Lillie Butler of Year 8 (624), Zoe Hann of Year 7 (616), Maxwell Sampson of Year 7 (602), Conor Siryj of Year 7 (586), Naomi Best of Year 7 (576), Lillie Butler of Year 8 (574), Zoe Hann of Year 7 (574), Angus Quail of Year 7 (560), Rhiannon Anthony of Year 11 (542), Amy Roebuck of Year 7 (502) and Roxanna Levkut of Year 7 (501).

Buckley Park College was ranked:

- 130th overall globally (out of 1054 schools)
- 95th overall in Australia (out of 705 schools)
- 36th overall in VIC (out of 189 schools)
- 44th overall in the 251-500 students category (out of 192 schools)
- 23rd overall in German (out of 717 schools)
- 16th overall in English Spelling (out of 164 schools)
- 8th in VIC for the 251-500 students category (out of 36 schools)
- 32nd in Australia for the 251-500 students category (out of 151 schools)
- 18th for German in Australia (out of 474 schools)
- 168th overall in Japanese (out of 775 schools)


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**ALUMNI**

Buckley Park College celebrates 50 years of service to education in the Moonee Valley community.

To mark our fiftieth years the school will host some special events in the month of October.

Buckley Park College looks forward to welcoming back to school many former students, teachers, staff and the entire community during its special year.

**ALUMNI REGISTRATION**

Become a life-long part of the BPC Community and reconnect with Alumni

Notifications of BPC social, professional and Alumni events

BPC Alumni are also connecting through social media

Join us on Facebook

Buckley Park College Alumni

For updates about our events & Alumni Registration: [www.buckleyparkco.vic.edu.au](http://www.buckleyparkco.vic.edu.au)
The ACMA’s Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentations

On Wednesday 16 October ACMA will run a series of internet safety awareness presentations for parents, teachers and students. The presentations will provide valuable information about the risks confronting children online, and offer tools and tips to help make their internet experiences safe and positive.

Internet safety presentations cover topics including:

- the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, illegal content, inappropriate contact, identity theft, grooming and predatory activity
- tips to help children stay safe online.

The presentation is thorough, non-technical and is conducted by an accredited cybersmart trainer.

The student presentations will take place during the school day.

Parents are invited to attend an evening session in the Library from 7pm to 8:30pm. A range of support materials such as brochures and websites will be provided.

Please contact Jess McWilliam if you have any questions.

STUDENT WELFARE

Congratulations to Olivia Walker of Year 12

Olivia has been selected to be a member of the new Victorian Government’s Youth Advisory Committee. One of only 19 young people selected, Olivia will be a direct conduit between young people and the government, helping shape a range of youth policies and raising issues of concern to young people.

Members of the Involve Committee will:
- meet with the Minister for Youth Affairs and share their insights and advice;
- meet and hear from other young people across Victoria;
- gain an inside view of how change happens in Government; and
- use and build their skills to benefit the community.

Previous committees have provided government with advice on topics including social media; career support; the role of families as informal mentors; and mental health.

We are sure Olivia will be a fantastic representative of both young people and Buckley Park College.

Jess McWilliam
Student Welfare Coordinator

Year 10 ‘Keys Please’

On Monday the 22nd of July we had 2 people from Vic Roads come to the school to have a talk to us about driving, with a presentation called “Keys Please”. Rebecca and Jaye talked to us about the basics of learner driving and the steps that need to be taken to receive your full licence throughout your driving years. We were showed a PowerPoint that explained the hours we needed to drive and the kind of conditions we needed to experience as learner drivers.

We also learned about what is legal, how many people you can take in the car and what your alcohol level needs to be at. There were also short clips we watched showing how parents and children sometimes don't get along when driving; it explained to us the multiple solutions that we use to help fix conflicts going on during the drive. All in all it was a great learning experience for everyone, even those who already knew about the road.

Matthew Theodopolous, Zac Margaritti, Jordan Whybrow & Leighton Field 10AN
ENGAGING ADOLESCENTS™
PARENT COURSE

Parenting skills for resolving teenage behaviour problems

A three-session program for parents and carers
at Buckley Park College, Cooper Street, Essendon
on 13th of August, 20th of August and 27th of August 2013 at 5pm – 8pm

Learn:
✓ Some common ground shared by parents & reasonable expectations to hold about adolescents
✓ New understandings of adolescence
✓ A three-option model & flow chart for decision-making
✓ Self check-in, first - for parents.
✓ Building relationship with your teenager and making the best of your non-crisis conversations with them
✓ Skills for tough conversations for handling those problems you just can’t ignore

Registration Fee
The course is free for all parents who have adolescents attending Department of Education and Early Childhood Development schools in the Moonee Valley Network. A gold coin donation is requested for refreshments.

What parents have said...
A step dad recalled an incident at the weekend with his 12 year old step daughter. He said that the input he had received the previous week from the course helped him keep his cool and brought a more favourable outcome.

A single Mum who had presented as quite anxious on the first night told the group in week 2 that she had made an appointment with her 15 year old son during the week and had had a far more favourable discussion with him than would previously have been the case.

Who’s running it?
Lynn Neill (Psychologist) who completed the Parentshop® Engaging Adolescent Course on the 25th of November 2011. Lynn has a background as a teacher, school counsellor and DEECD psychologist. She is the senior psychologist and network coordinator for the Moonee Valley group of schools.

Melissa Di Pietro (Psychologist) who completed the Parentshop® Engaging Adolescent Course on the 25th November 2011. Melissa has experience working in schools, providing services supporting both children and adolescents and their families.

To register for this course contact Lynn Neill or Melissa Di Pietro on 9376 3876
Two homes, one heart

With the number of Australian children of separated parents exceeding one million, there’s much at stake when coordinating their back-and-forth movement between two homes, writes Karen Fontaine

A divorced Canadian couple made international headlines last month with the construction of a duplex-style home – at the centre of which are the bedrooms of their children, aged eight and ten.

Doors at either end of the duplex’s central hallway lead to each parent’s self-contained ‘wing’. Each week, one parent has custody of the children; during that week the door to the other parent’s wing is locked, maintaining a relative privacy for that parent. This arrangement provides stability for the kids, who don’t have two homes but rather two parents who alternate their care from week to week.

It’s certainly a novel approach at a time when parental divorce affects the lives of nearly one in five young Australians under the age of 20 – “a disruption related to long-term social and economic disadvantages”, according to the Australian Institute of Family Studies.

This is a position supported by Sydney family law professor Patrick Parkinson. In a recent research paper entitled For Kids’ Sake, Parkinson brought together extensive evidence showing that parental separation is a significant risk factor for children’s long-term emotional wellbeing and educational performance.

Another expert, Dr Nicky McWilliam, a lawyer/mediator with Sydney Mediation Partnership, spends a third of her working week dealing with separating parents. She notes, “there are always issues with contact arrangements for the children”.

Unlike in times gone by, when children automatically lived with their mother and might have spent every second weekend with their dad, shared-care situations are becoming much more common, says McWilliam.

“Most of the time the children are split evenly from week to week and sometimes even from day to day,” she says.

In a shared-care situation, academic challenges can arise, says Jacqui Marquis-Conder, Principal Psychologist at Youth Psychology. This is particularly the case if there is a lengthy commute to one parent’s home on some weekdays, allowing less time for homework.

“Routines are also usually different in each home and some parents are better than others at supervising homework,” says Marquis-Conder. “Academic challenges and even learning difficulties will most certainly arise if there are behaviour issues associated with unresolved and ongoing emotional distress.”

A recent study on the effect of divorce or separation on young children and older children found that, contrary to what many public policy makers believe, children are most affected by changes to their family structure in the first five years of life.

Leading a study of 3,492 children into how remarriage and integration into a blended family affected behaviour throughout their early and mid-adolescent years, Rebecca M. Ryan of the...
Department of Psychology at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. found that children of married parents demonstrated the most dramatic behavioural changes later in life if their parents divorced prior to their first year of school.

When handled sensitively, there are many benefits to shared care as it allows children to build meaningful and ongoing relationships with both of their parents, says Jacqui Marquis-Conder.

"Logistics aside, if parents are able to form an amicable shared-care arrangement, and work out a communication style that does not involve the children in their conflict, then shared care can be ideal for children as well as parents. It breaks from what is often single parenting after separation," she says.

Interestingly, Ryan's study also showed that children who are integrated into a new blended family have fewer behaviour problems than those who are not. "In fact, children of blended families actually receive protective benefits that seem to help them avoid some of the negative behaviors exhibited by children who remain in single-parent households," Ryan says.

For Marquis-Conder, what this study highlights is that "step-parents and step- and/or half-siblings can play a very crucial role in a child's life if they are able to form a relationship built on warmth and trust".

"I have certainly seen many cases where a child has a warm, loving and close relationship with their step-parents and siblings and this certainly provides protective benefits and potentially increases the child's resilience," she says.

Dr McWilliam agrees. "I have dealt with parents whose separation caused a lot of hurt and anxiety but they have managed to sort out two homes for the kids in a very loving and stable way," she says.

"A lot of that, I think, is due to giving the kids lots of information - making them aware of what's happening for the next hour, the next day, the next week, the next year - and doing a lot of talking and communicating."

"It's about explaining to the kids that although they are no longer in a relationship with the other parent, they respect that every parent has a different style. And no matter how young a child is, what's bearing out from my practice is that that really makes a difference."

Jacqui Marquis-Conder, Principal Psychologist of Youth Psychology, a private practice in Sydney (http://www.youthpsychology.com.au/), offers tips on how parents can ease the pressure on children for whom they share care:

1. **Establish a shared-care arrangement that is **child focused not parent focused.** "A shared-care arrangement should always reflect the needs of the child first, not the parent. Parents need to ask themselves: 'Is this about me wanting to get my way or have control of the situation, or is this about what is best for my child?' For example, if the child must be at both before- and after-school care or do a very long commute in order to spend a particular day with a parent, is this actually in the best interests of the child? This is for the parents to decide, depending on their child's age and particular needs."

2. **Establish a routine, particularly during the week.** "This can be a huge challenge but if it can be achieved for both parents to enforce regular homework, meal, and bedtimes for their children, this will help the school week go smoothly."

3. **No matter how tempting, never speak badly about the other parent to the children.** (This goes for new partners as well). "This doesn't mean that you have to say nice things about the other parent but in this case it is wise to follow the good old-fashioned advice ‘if you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all’. This includes subtle jokes, hints or sarcastic comments – even very young children understand the meaning behind these! And do not under any circumstances share communication from the other parent with your child such as showing them email or text message correspondence."

4. **Make pick-ups and drop-offs as stress free as possible for the children.** "If the conflict is so high that parents cannot even be in the same room, then try to establish a neutral pick-up and drop-off spot such as a pubic park or cafe. All heated discussions should be held well away from the hearing or sight of the children (whether in person, on the phone, or through text message)."
Does your child have a developmental delay chronic medical condition or a disability

Would you like helpful information?
Would you like a chance to discuss and share your experiences?
Would you like support, understanding with people who understand the challenges and intensity of the parenting role?
Tweddle and City of Moonee Valley are seeking parents and carers who are interested in attending a MyTime group in Essendon.

What is MyTime
MyTime provides local parent support groups for carers, mums, dads, grandparents caring for a child up to 16 years of age with a disability developmental delay or chronic medical condition.

Groups can choose topics and activities to discuss, and explore with their group facilitator, while a play helper keeps children busy and active. MyTime groups will usually meet weekly and its FREE!

Day Monday
Time 10-12
Venue Lincoln Road Early Years Facility
      129 Lincoln Road, Essendon (next door to the toy library)
Commencing TBA

If you would like to register your interest or find out more contact
Eleni My Time Coordinator 8387 0638. eleni.matskarofski@tweddle.org.au

MyTime Provider  Tweddle  City of Moonee Valley

The program is funded by the Australian Government Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and Coordinated by the Parenting Research Centre.