FEBRUARY 2015

BPC NEWS

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Visit our website
www.buckleyparkco.vic.edu.au
Welcome to the first BPC News of 2015.

I feel so positive as I write this first report of the year. I’ve been absolutely delighted with the way our school year has begun; with the enthusiasm, energy and willing approach to learning of our students and staff. From the very first day of the year, our school has been truly buzzing.

One of my favourite things about the return to school each year is the arrival of our Year 7 students. Every year there’s a palpable sense of excitement (and nervousness) around the A Block as our new students work out how to use their lockers, the timetable and the size of their school bags!

It’s been fabulous to see and hear how well our Year 7 students have settled into life at BPC. We’ve loved getting to know them and we enjoyed meeting so many of you, their families, at our recent Year 7 BBQ. Soon, we’ll also be at the Ace-High camp together, flying through the air on the big swing!

It’s not only our Year 7s though who have settled in well; of course our Years 8 - 12 students have too. My thanks to our student leaders for the early work they’ve done. Led by College Captains Alex and Emilia, the students who have also taken on the roles of School Vice-Captains, House and Music Captains and Form Captains have been mature, helpful and committed to their important roles.

Already these students have run assemblies: supported our younger students; planned engagement activities as a year level; built a strong sense of pride in the Houses and begun planning a whole-school improvement project for the year ahead. Our leaders have hit the ground running. We’re excited to help them grow in their roles and further develop their leadership capacity as the year rolls on.

The recent House Swimming Carnival was a real opportunity for our leaders, and all other students, to shine, and shine they did. Held on a mild February day, some heavy morning clouds didn’t deter the students from hitting the pool with gusto. As I’ve written before, these days are such good opportunities for participation, for fun and to build a strong sense of connection to the school and each other. These days are called ‘carnivals’ for good reason and together we’re improving each year to build a greater festive vibe for days like this.

This year the sense of participation was even stronger than usual. There were some herculean efforts by students who pushed themselves so hard (valiantly trying when swimming isn’t their natural strength) and performed strongly for themselves and their Houses. If your daughter/son participated in a competitive event at the swimming then they should be very proud of themselves. Whether they came third, first or last in a race, the fact that they got in had a go is a great achievement and is valued highly at our school.

This year, we’ve welcomed new teachers to our school and we’ve also welcomed back some teachers who have been away for periods of time. New teachers bring new ideas and see our world at BPC through different eyes, and this is always valuable. I know you and your children will join me in welcoming the following staff to our school.

This year we’ve welcomed 7 new teachers and 4 returning teachers.

- Mr Allan Thompson to teach Maths/Physics
- Mr Anthony Read to teach English/Humanities
- Mr Lachlan Grant to teach Humanities/Accounting/Business
- Mr Brent Taylor to teach PE/Humanities
- Mr Michael Knight to teach PE/Health
- Ms Tess Sakkas to teach Instrumental Music
- Ms Erin Immel in the role of Student Wellbeing Counsellor for Term 1

We also welcome back:

- Ms Danielle Santangelo to teach VCAL and English
- Ms Alison Godfrey to teach Media/English/Humanities
- Mr Garrett Townsend to teach English/Humanities
- Mrs Judy Pollock to teach Technology for Term 1

This year, we’ll continue making considerable improvements to the school in an ongoing effort to ensure that the buildings and classrooms are looking their best. Naturally buildings like ours, the majority of which are over 50 years old, need constant upkeep to keep them looking fresh.

We’ve begun replacing the old Venetian blinds across the school with simple, modern dark roller blinds. We’ve also installed another 4 air-conditioners in various locations. I understand at this time of the year, hot classrooms are probably a ‘hot topic’ at home too. The reality is that we don’t have air-conditioning in every room but we are installing more units each year to improve conditions for students and staff all the time.

Work has begun to formalise a plan of refurbishments over time as we ensure that our school will continue looking good long into the future.
Further to some smaller projects, this term we’re also moving ahead with our exciting project to lay Tiger Turf on the existing tennis courts at the corner of Cooper and Mary Streets. This is a hugely exciting project for the school as we further improve our sports facilities for students. At this stage, the installation will begin on March 11. I’ll keep you updated.

As most of you would be aware, last year was a year of review for BPC. This has been a rigorous, inclusive and worthwhile process, leading to the development of our new School Strategic Plan for the period 2015 – 2018: This important document sets the direction, improvement agenda, goals and targets for our school for the next 4 years.

During the first 2 days of this year, our staff participated in deep professional learning and engaged fully with the content and intent of the new Strategic Plan. I was so pleased with what was achieved in those 2 days and with the outcomes that began to take shape.

Structured work has now already begun on our new strategic priorities. The following work is taking shape:

- A new curriculum delivery proposal for Year 10-12 for 2016 has been developed and is in a consultative/feedback seeking phase within the school at the moment. The intent of the new model is to provide students with greater choice over the subjects that they study and the level that they study them at.
- A review, aimed at further improving the SEAL program has begun
- A team has been developed and has begun work to explore best practice at Year 9, as well as undertaking some review of our current Year 9 program, with a view to further improvements beginning 2016

As 2014 finished and we celebrated the myriad varied achievements of our students at our awards ceremony, in my final speech to the school, I said this:

‘As with any large organisation, renewal and continuous improvement is a typical feature of the very best. Whether it’s a hospital or a bank; a department store or for us, our school, together we must always have an eye on the future. We know that when we’re are at the top of our game, complacency is the enemy that hinders growth. We also know that if we stand still, others catch up and here at Buckley Park, we’re determined to keep ahead of the rest. Our guiding plan now maps out a vision for the future that ensures we’ll not only maintain our high-standing in this community, and in the Victorian State system, but grow, evolve and aim even higher again. We will continue to ensure that this is the best school it can be for you.’

As we begin 2015, I reiterate and reconfirm this commitment to you and to every student who attends our school.

It’s going to be a great year together at BPC and I look forward to working closely with you and your child/ren.

Happy reading.

Nathan Chisholm
Principal
The effects of the Global Financial Crisis were first felt in 2007 as a result of a sharp fall in Stock markets around the world. However, Australia has experienced a period of relative economic prosperity in the same period. This can partly be attributed to good business practices as well as a surge in mining investment, which have lessened the effect of economic downturn.

Focus for 2015: Assessment and Data use

Goals for Semester 1, 2015:

1: to link the levels with the Domain Dimensions, to the questions and activities within assessment tasks
2: to design instructional rubrics for the (newly standards aligned) assessment tasks
3: to moderate student assessment work to clarify the levels of student achievement

We are excited about this work and it is planned to be closely aligned with our new Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan.

Teachers will take part in significant professional learning and workshops to enhance this work along with our new expert partner, Esther Weichert.

Writing- Cohesion

Read the following texts. Which one conveys information more completely and accurately?

The text in the green box is more informative and accurate…it has cohesion.

The text in the blue box is a little confusing and unclear: Did the stock market crash cause the global financial crisis, or vice versa? Doesn’t the third sentence (about Australia and the Global Financial Crisis) contradict the first? Does the line about ‘good business practice’ refer to Australia only, or include other parts of the world? How is the surge in mining investment relevant to the information before it? The first passage lacks cohesion, in that the connections between the ideas are unclear. The second text employs a number of cohesive devices that answer questions like those above.

Cohesive devices are words and expressions that indicate relationships between parts of text, such as cause and effect, time, addition, or comparison and contrast.

The text in the blue box is also somewhat repetitive. Cohesive devices not only reduce repetition but also supply valuable additional information in a few words, and create connections at multiple levels in the text.

This is such an important element in learning and understanding the craft of writing.
Here’s a few ways that we can all achieve more cohesive writing...

When referring backwards...
The reader needs to know who and what is being referred to in a text. However, it is not good to repeat the same phrases or words too often, so we use cohesive devices to make references to other parts of a text; such as:

- **Pronouns:** it, he, she, his, her, they, their etc.
- **Demonstratives:** this, that, these, those
- **Articles:** a, the
- **Adverbs:** previously, subsequently

When looking forwards...
We often use words and phrases to flag new information for the reader. This helps make a smooth transition from one point to another. Such phrases include: the following, as follows, below, next, subsequently.

Avoiding repetition
To emphasise or focus of attention on a part of text, we sometimes repeat the same word or phrase. But we also try to avoid too much repetition by using words and phrases with similar meaning (synonyms). Synonyms can also demonstrate your ability to evaluate and think critically:

Example: ‘The **conflict** began in the Bay of Pigs in 1961. This **unsuccessful invasion** was…’
Comment: The use of ‘invasion’ tells us something about the nature of the conflict, as well as the writer’s opinion of it. Notice also how addition of the single adjective ‘unsuccessful’ neatly summarises the outcome of the conflict.

Transitional devices / Connecting words
Academic writing usually deals with complex ideas. To enable the reader to follow your thoughts and the connections between them, they need to be clearly and smoothly linked. To join ideas and sentences, we use a number of connecting words and phrases. For example:

- **and** – to add information
- **however** – to show contrast
- **therefore** – to show cause and effect
- **although** – to qualify
- **because** – to show cause and effect
- **whilst** – to signal concurrency

Strategies to improve cohesion
1. Select a piece of writing (textbook or journal article) from your area of study.
2. Choose a paragraph and underline or highlight all the different forms of cohesion used (reference, connectives and parallel structures).
3. Which forms are the most common?
4. Choose a couple that you think are effective and practise using them in your own writing.
5. Try to use a variety of ways to show the relationship between your ideas.

*Using the work of other writers as a model for stylistic and cohesive features is how all good writers learn their skills. It is plagiarism, however, if you copy another writer’s information or ideas and present them as your own.*

Adapted from Academic Skills, University of Melbourne website: www.services.unimelb.edu.au

Richard Jones
**Assistant Principal – Later Years**
Compass Parent and Student Portal
Most parents would be aware that we are now using a program called Compass as our student management and parent communication tool. All parents have received login details and I hope have had a look at what is available on the parent portal. As with any new program, it will take a little bit of time for it to be functioning at its maximum but already there is a wealth of information available. This includes attendance, reports, learning tasks, student schedules (including excursions), school calendar and school news. Parent teacher interview bookings for March 19th and 20th will soon be available.

Family Information
It is essential that our school records are kept up to date with correct contact details. If yours change for some reason, please contact the General Office with the changes. Most of the correspondence from the school is now done by email – please ensure that email addresses are current.

Parking
The college has over 930 students and the streets surrounding it are narrow. Parents need to take care when dropping off students in the morning and picking up students in the afternoon and obey local road rules. I have noticed parents dropping students off in the no standing zone at the school crossing. This is not only illegal but very dangerous. Double parking in Nimmo Street and Spencer Street in particular presents a serious danger to students as well as an inconvenience to our neighbours. Please park in designated areas. The best places to drop off students are the car park in Spencer Street, the Buckley Park Bowling Club car park in Cooper Streets or in Cooper Street between Market and Spencer Streets. It is not unreasonable for secondary school students to walk a small distance to school rather than have a dangerous situation arise as parents try to get a parking spot close to the school.

Uniform
Parents are reminded that students must be in full school uniform whilst travelling to and from school and at school. It is the responsibility of families to ensure that this occurs. In exceptional circumstances, students can bring a note of explanation why they are not able to wear school uniform. Notes should only cover one day. The only jacket allowed is the college jacket. The uniform must be worn neat and tidy. The uniform shop at the college is open each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. Leather school shoes (with absolutely no visible branding) are required at all times and white socks must be worn with shorts and dresses.

Attendance
Parents are reminded that they must notify the school of any classes that students miss. This notification may be a written note, email or phone call to the students form teacher. Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 are covered by the schools senior attendance policy. A medical certificate is required for an absence to be approved. If in doubt about the policy, please contact the relevant year level coordinator. Parents can check student attendance through the parent portal and contact form teachers by email.

Sick Bay
Students who become ill or injured during the school day can report to the sick bay for treatment. However the resources of the sick bay are limited. Students who are ill should not come to school. Parents will be contacted by the first aid attendant and asked to come to school to collect students who are considered too sick to return to class. It is not possible to keep students in sick bay for any length of time. All students who attend sick bay will be given a notification of attendance to take home to parents.

Camps and Excursions
Parents are reminded that the Education Department does not provide personal accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. These costs may be recoverable where an injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of the Department, a school council or their employees or volunteers. Reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from commercial insurers

Student Leadership
The school is currently reviewing the student leadership structure with a view to making it more dynamic and giving student a greater voice on what is happening in the school. At the end of last year, elections were held for school captains and vice captains and house captains. Previously these positions were chosen through an interview process. We are currently taking nominations for a more streamlined SRC and elections will be held shortly. We value student voice within the school and encourage all students to consider the various positions available.

School Photographs
For parents wishing to hand in school photo payments into the office the last day they will be accepted is Tuesday 10 March otherwise the photos will need to be ordered online.

Geoff Currie
Assistant Principal – Middle Years
FROM THE SCHOOL COUNCIL

Welcome back to a new school year – Christmas seems so long ago! I hope you had a great holiday and have returned fresh and full of energy and ready to do great things in 2015.

As we commence a new school year half of the School Council parent members will complete their terms in February and nominations have been called for candidates. The School Council plays a pivotal role in setting the direction of the school and providing oversight of school’s operation. It frames the policy and strategic plan for the school which is implemented by the Principal, School Leadership team and the school staff. The Council comprises members from the parent community, the school leadership team, teachers and students. There is also a co-opted member from Friends of Buckley Park. For more details about the council, its role and members, please refer to the school website.

Participating on the School Council is one of the ways you can support the school, your child, and all the other students at the school. It is also personally rewarding to play an active part in the school community. You don’t need any special skills – just enthusiasm and the desire to improve the outcomes for all of our students. In fact, I believe the more diverse the background of our council, the better it will function. So if you have an interest, I encourage you to nominate.

There are also many other ways that you can actively support the school. You may wish to become involved with Friends of Buckley Park or volunteer to help at the canteen; or volunteer some time to support the sausage sizzles that we hope to run at Bunnings or Masters during the year. Or you may be able to provide support in other ways. Please contact the College if you can assist.

We embark on the first year of the new four year strategic plan and it promises to be an exciting and challenging time. Our goal is to take the school performance to a higher level and with the enthusiasm and commitment of our college staff and students I am very confident we will succeed. We will also continue to our fund-raising so that the Theatre development can become a reality and not just a pipe-dream.

On behalf of School Council I wish our students and teachers every success for the coming year.

Robert Ferlazzo
School Council President

YEAR 7 2015

It has been a cracking start to the year for our Year 7s, who have already successfully negotiated lockers, room changes, timetables, new teachers, and what must seem like millions of new friends. Walking around the yard here at Buckley Park it’s so great to see students so clearly and enthusiastically embracing what it is to be a part of the Buckley Park College community.

The first few weeks of term have been busy! Over just the past few days we’ve had school photos, the Year 7 Barbecue, Peer Support and the Year 7 Ace-Hi Camp.

Peer Support involved a number of Year 11 students running classes for the Year 7s. These classes were focused on engaging the students with both the school community and with each other, as well as forming a broader support network for the Year 7s. Students were having a lot of fun, playing name games and tangling each other up, but were also learning a great deal about their classmates.

The Year 7 Barbecue was also an excellent opportunity for students, staff and parents to informally meet up, and to set the tone for the positive relationships to come. It makes communication so much easier when we can put a face to a name, and we thank those families who were able to attend. Special mention must be made of the staff members who were also there on the night, and the Friends of Buckley Park, who were once again able to offer their tireless support.

At the time of publication the Year 7s will be on their way home from Ace-Hi Camp, and will no doubt be slightly exhausted from the huge collection of new memories they’ve accumulated. Everyone will have not hesitated to join in with all activities – even the chores. And as such, the camp will have run flawlessly, with only fun being had by all concerned. Again, I’d like to thank all the staff who will have attended, and who make camps like this not only easy to organise, but also fun to be a part of.

Our form teachers have played no small part in setting such a positive tone in these first few weeks, and I’d like to single them out for attention. If you have any questions or suggestions, your first port of call is always those inspiring people who see your students for the first 12 minutes of every day. They have been an absolute pleasure to work with, and I’m sure they’ll be an absolute pleasure to deal with over the course of the rest of the year.

Thanks again for all your support – it’s this support that ensures that this year will be a rewarding one.

Brendan Bailey
Year 7 Student Engagement, Wellbeing and Transition Co-ordinator
CAREER NEWS

Read all about it! The latest career news and information can be located on the school website [http://www.buckleyparkco.vic.edu.au/page/213/Careers-News](http://www.buckleyparkco.vic.edu.au/page/213/Careers-News) or follow us on facebook @ careersbpc

This term is busy with Year 10 students finalising work experience placements. The arrangement form and dates can be located on the website as above. Students who have not secured a placement are encouraged to see me for assistance.

Many opportunities exist for students to attend career expo’s and information sessions during this term and throughout the year. Further details are published in the fortnightly careers newsletter posted on the website.

The careers office is located in the college library and I am available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Students are encouraged to call in to discuss career related matters.

Please contact me should you have any queries relating to careers or pathways.

Judi Alexander
Post School Transition Coordinator

FROM THE LIBRARY

From the Library
Welcome to all our new students and welcome back to our continuing students. The library aims to continue to develop and improve reading recreation reading material available to students during 2015. Students using the library also have access to desktop computers, printing and photocopying in the library. All students are encouraged to ask library staff for assistance in using the library and its resources.

Library Orientation
Library staff will be conducting a Library Orientation session for all Year 7 classes during their English reading period in the library. Orientation is also available for new students in other year levels. These sessions held at lunchtime and will be advertised in the daily Student Bulletin.

New Books
During the second part of last year the library purchased some new and exciting additions for our fiction collections. We were able to add to popular manga series and graphic novel collections. Please ask library staff for ideas and suggestions when selecting books to read.

Reading Challenge
This year the library will be conducting a Reading Challenge for students in Years 7 and 8 during term 2. The Challenge will be to read 10 books. Students will be able to select books from a list compiled by librarians as well as books they choose themselves. All students in these year levels are encouraged to join in the challenge. Students who complete the challenge will receive a small reward.

New Closing Time
To best accommodate the needs of our students, we’ve decided that the library opening hours will now be 8.00am – 4.00pm 5 days per week.

The Library Team

ARTS UPDATE

The annual school production auditions will be happening in late February/early March so if your child is a keen performer or has an strong interest in the backstage or stagecraft side of all things theatre, please encourage them to come along to the first meeting on Friday 20 February in the Performing Arts Centre at lunchtime. The design process has begun for the annual banner competition where the four houses compete for the chance to win house points and be crowned ‘BEST BANNER’ for 2015. Writing casting and rehearsals have well and truly commenced for our annual House Theatre Festival competition. Four houses compete for the chance to be crowned “BEST THEATRE PIECE” for 2015. We warmly invite friends and families to attend on Thursday, March 26 at 7.00pm in the Performing Arts Centre. The winners of the banner competition will also be announced that night. See you there!

Hannah Williams
Arts and Student Theatre Co-ordinator
Maths Year 7 -10 and VCAL - Cambridge Hot Maths

Welcome back to an exciting year in Mathematics.

This year, students in Years 7 to 10 and VCAL will be using Cambridge HotMaths as part of their learning program in Mathematics. *Cambridge HOTmaths* is a comprehensive mathematics learning system that is interactive and online, that directly complement the work covered in class. Students should have logged on with their access code that was purchased through Campion as either a pack with the text book, or as a stand alone product if the student already had the text book.

If there are any questions about this contact me Salpietro.callope.c@edumail.vic.gov.au

Maths Club
Maths Club continues every Monday after school in the library until 4.00pm. There are always two teachers on duty to help students with their Maths work. Encourage your child to come along if they need help or even just to do homework in a great working environment.

Kelly Salpietro
Maths Domain Leader

eLEARNING

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
At the beginning of last year we implemented a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program at Buckley Park College. The support from the school community was fantastic, and the feedback from students was very encouraging.

In 2015, there are now 4 year levels who are required to bring their own device to school, and Year 11 and 12 students have the option to do so once their school-supplied netbook is returned.

The BYOD program gives students the option to bring one of the following devices:
- a Windows notebook or netbook
- a Windows 8 tablet
- an Apple Macbook Air or Macbook Pro
- an Apple iPad or iPad Mini

In the last 2 weeks, our IT technicians - Shaquil and Shoeb - have worked tirelessly to connect over 140 Year 7’s to our school network, as well as dozens of new and senior students.

Each device has its advantages, and students and parents frequently make their choice based on what the student is familiar with using, whether from primary school or in the home.

If you would like further information on the program, please contact me at the email address below.

Google@BPC
During 2014, we investigated a range of options that would help provide a solid foundation for teachers and students to build their capacity in using technology in the classroom. Google Apps for Education offers all students, at no cost, the following valuable productivity, storage and organisation tools:

- **Gmail** is the most widely-used web-based email service in the world, with over 425 million users. All students have a Google@BPC Gmail address, which is their student code followed by the school domain. For example: buc0064@buckleyparkco.vic.edu.au.
- **Drive** is a cloud-based storage service which allows students unlimited storage for their files. These files can easily be accessed from any device - at school or elsewhere - by logging in to their Google@BPC account.
- **Docs, Sheets and Presentations** is Google’s online productivity suite. These tools are excellent replacements for Microsoft Office, and again these can be used on any device for free. The ability to collaborate live on these documents is proving to be an exciting opportunity for teachers and students.
- **Calendar** is a valuable organisation tool. Like the other tools mentioned, Calendar syncs between devices, and when set up on a student’s mobile phone, can prove to be a great companion to a paper diary, especially when reminders are needed.
- **Classroom** is Google’s learning platform. Released last year, already many teachers and students at Buckley Park College have found it an incredibly useful way to communicate ideas, share weblinks and keep up-to-date with daily class activities.

For more information on Google Apps for Education please see: [https://www.google.com/edu/](https://www.google.com/edu/)

Daniel Crosbie (cb@buckleyparkco.vic.edu.au)
eLearning Leader
Students, parents and/or guardians please label all books, uniform items and belongings sent to school. Surname is the best option to ensure these items can be returned if lost or misplaced.

There are a number of unlabelled items in lost property located in the science prep room in D Wing. Please see Ms Wyatt. Thank you.

LOST PROPERTY UPDATE

Can you help in the Canteen?
The school’s canteen is a very important service to students and staff. It is only able to operate because of the commitment and dedication of our volunteers.

The canteen is a busy, friendly, work place and even if you don’t feel that you could serve the counter or handle money, there are plenty of things to do that would be of great assistance.

We would love you to call in and see for yourself just how important the canteen is to the school community. All profits from the canteen go to the school to provide facilities for our students.

So if you have a spare few hours once a month or once a term, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact
Connie Zahra
Canteen Manager
on 9331 9908

BUCKLEY BITES

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BUCKLEY BITES
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