

NEWSLETTER

No 5 – 21 May 2010

AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED SCHOOL INSPIRING RESPECT FOR PEOPLE, COMMUNITY AND TRADITION, POSITIONING OUR STUDENTS FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

CALENDAR

Tues 25 May
'Rock Schools' whole school performance

Wed 26 May
Yr 8 HPV dose 2 & Varicella
+ Yr 9 Boostrix vaccinations
Open Girls 9-a-side Football

Thur 27 May
Science & Engineer Challenge
Arts Showcase Matinee 11am

Fri 28 May
CASUAL DAY – Loud shirt day

Mon 31 May
Yr 8-10 Exams begin
Yr 11 Career Expo 9.30am - 1pm at Adel Entertainment C.

Tues 1 June
Principal's Tour 9.15-10.30am

Wed 2 June
Cabaret in PAC 6.30-9.00pm

Mon 7-Fri 11 June
Year 11 Exams

Tues 8 June
Finance Com. Mtg 7pm

Mon 14 June
QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY

Tues 15 June
Governing Council Mtg 7pm

Thur 17 June
AGM Parents & Friends
1.30pm in Conference Rm.
Yr 12 Solo Perf. 7.30pm in PAC

Fri 18 June
Student & Class Photos
(envelopes sent home 24/5)

Fri 25 June
Yr 10 Careers Day, Wayville

Mon 28 June – Fri 2 July
Yr 10/11 Netball Trip to Melbourne Championships

Fri 25 June – Fri 2 July
Yr 12 Exams

Fri 2 July
LAST DAY OF TERM 2
Yr 8-11 Reports distributed

Mon 19 July
FIRST DAY TERM 3

Wed 21 July
Yr 10 Ski Trip Parent Info
Evening 6.30pm in PAC

SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Last Tuesday, 18 May, at our Governing Council meeting, the Council discussed issues about communication between the teachers and parents.

Communication in our school with 850 students, their parents or carers, 60 teaching staff and 15 school services officers is a complex business. Effective communication depends on the different parties playing their part in the process. The school has a variety of mechanisms for communicating to students and parents including the newsletter, the student's diary, incident forms and letters about events involving different groups of students. Telephone calls and email messages also play their part in communication between home and school.

I am aware that some parents find communicating with the school frustrating. One area of frustration occurs when the parents receive the academic report and find out that their children have not done well as they should in a subject. The parents wonder why the teachers haven't contacted them if they have concerns about their child's progress. Communication with parents in a high school is a complex task for teachers because they don't just teach one class as they do in primary school; they teach 5 classes which can add up to 140-150 students. Teachers may have to prioritise which parents they contact. Even so, there is no doubt that some teachers are better at this service than others. Some have been abused by a parent over the phone and that puts them off contacting others: once bitten, twice shy. Others find it hard to fit it into their busy schedule. Nevertheless, I will strive to achieve consistency in this aspect of our teachers' practice.

Some parents report that staff do not get back to them in a timely way. This matter has been discussed by the school's management team, and we agree that in normal circumstances a 24 hour response to contact parents would be our aim. Some matters frustrate this process, such as when a teacher is teaching all lessons, and has a meeting after school, making it hard to respond immediately. Other times the teacher may be away from school or the

teacher has tried to call and is not able to get in touch.

I hope that parents will understand these issues and be patient. If a response to your enquiry is not timely please contact the year level manager or the Assistant or Deputy Principal in charge of the year level. We cannot address the issue if we don't know about it.

Other sources of frustration come from parents not knowing when events such as sport, excursions and other activities are occurring, because sometimes very short notice is given. Sometimes the fault is with the school procedures such as knock-out sport which is organised weekly. However, some communication is not effective because students forget to go the scheduled meetings or forget to hand on messages to parents.

What this all boils down to is that **we all have to attend to our responsibilities in the communication flow.**

We hope that all **parents read the newsletter** which is sent home with students or sent by email. This is important because the **calendar events are in the newsletter**, as are articles about various activities in which the school is involved. Parents also need to ensure that their child gives them the notices and incident slips for signing and discussion. Sometimes parents may need to search the bag, ring school for clarification or check the **calendar on the website**. This is necessary because some adolescents might not think that their parents need to know the information that the school thinks that the parents should know. Informing parents on a "needs to know" basis is a feature of teenage behaviour.

Students also have responsibilities. It is their responsibility to listen to the daily notices that announce opportunities for students to be involved in sports and other activities. I know that some parents have been told that notices are not available in care group time or that the teacher doesn't read them out. (This would be an exception rather than the rule and may occur if the teacher has been absent.) Even so, the notices are available for all students in the Student Services Office. Students are also responsible for keeping their diary up-to-date and should not have to rely on teacher and parent pressure to do this. (cont. page 2)



The school's responsibilities are to ensure that activities are organised and communicated in a timely way. **I welcome ideas from parents about how we can improve that.**

Communication within the school community is a complex business and will improve if we all undertake our responsibilities and help each other to improve rather than laying blame when it breaks down. The Governing Council has agreed to discuss the issue further at our next meeting on 15 June. If you have comments, please email me at susan.hyde@bhs.sa.edu.au. It would help if you put *School Communication* in the subject line of the email.

Susan Hyde, Principal

EXTENSION of BICYCLE LANES on SHEPHERDS HILL ROAD from MAIN ROAD BLACKWOOD to SOUTH ROAD

The Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure is extending the bicycle lanes along Shepherds Hill Road. The operational times are also being extended and will now apply during the peak traffic periods of **Monday to Friday, between 7.30-9.00am and 3.00-6.00pm in both directions**. Under the Australian Road Rules parking is not permitted on bicycle lanes during operational hours. Bicycle lanes will become operational once line marking and signage is in place.

Speed restrictions will apply while construction work is underway and motorists are asked to use special care.

If you have any questions regarding the road works, please contact Mr Stephen Goldfinch on 8343 2464 or email stephen.goldfinch@sa.gov.au.

CONSTITUTION CONVENTION

At the end of the last term, 23-25 March, I was invited to the 15th National Schools Constitution. Over three days the group of 120 students, including 12 South Australians, toured around Canberra and explored the prestigious Australian Constitution.



Underlying the event was the theme of federalism in Australia. We were asked to consider whether the States should maintain legislative power in the areas of water and health. A particular highlight of the convention was dinner at the High Court; which featured not only an address by the Chief Justice.

A significant level of discussion about the Constitution was heard across the three days. Overall, it was a great occasion with benefits both social and academical.

By Jordan Tutton, 12L

CSIRO's Double Helix Science Club

It's fun and inspiration for all ages and helpful for homework and assignments too. Events and holiday programs, free weekly e-mail newsletters, packed with experiments, maths and news.

JOIN ONLINE at www.csiro.au/helix or call 02 6276 6643.

YEAR 10 SKI TRIP, WORK EXPERIENCE

During Term 3, Week 5 and Term 4, Week 8 this year all normal Year 10 lessons will be cancelled, allowing students a choice of two special programs.

It is expected that all Year 10 students will be involved in the programs offered during the designated weeks

All Work Experience must be arranged and Agreement forms completed by Friday 25 June.

TERM 3 – Week 5: 16 – 20 August (*Students must choose one of the two programs listed below*)

- a one week Work Experience Program, OR
- a one week school Ski Trip

TERM 4 – Week 8: 29 November – 3 December

- a one week Work Experience Program

Both programs are highly successful, especially in terms of the individual student's personal development. Depending on their effort, participation and written work students may gain a SACE unit for the Ski Trip. Work Experience is a compulsory part of Year 10 and must be completed before students can successfully pass the Personal Learning Plan, which is a compulsory requirement in the New SACE. We highly recommend that students undertake two different Work Experience programs to encourage diversity of experience.

All Year 10 students have been given an information booklet explaining the process of looking for a placement.

Luke Northcote, Work Experience Coordinator

SAVE THE CHILDREN

Our Year 12 Studies of Society group assignment is to research a social issue and take action. After our research we decided to concentrate on an issue related to poverty. Save the Children is a non-profit organization working to create positive, lasting change for disadvantaged children in 41 nations. BHS presented a cheque for **\$300** (from Save the Children **from our Harmony Day** celebrations) to Jennie Hammet, Education

Coordinator, of Save the Children. A current Save the Children program is 'KNIT ONE SAVE ONE'. Just by knitting a 20 x 20cm square you can help to save a life.

Overall, the goal is to knit 80,000 squares – enough to make 5,000 blankets for countries like Australia, Cambodia and India. However, our group goal is to make 160 squares, enough to make 10 blankets. Now we need your help. Get your friends and loved ones in on it and help us piece together warm blankets for children in countries that need a helping hand.

There are **two weeks left to hand in the squares** so find your old knitting needles and scrap wool, and knit us as many squares as you can! Squares can be handed in to Student Services. We would really appreciate your help.

For more information please go to

<http://www.savethechildren.org.au/what-you-can-do/campaigns/knit-one-save-one.html>

Kirsten Guppy, Jessica Morallee, Melissa Bennetts and Lauren Bungey



SPORTS NEWS

Open Boys Knock-Out Football



On Tuesday 11 May, Blackwood High School participated in the Open Boys Knock-Out Football competition. A team of students from Years 10–12 played games against St Francis De Sales and Tatachilla Lutheran College. The boys battled hard in both games but unfortunately a lack of height and football experience resulted in two losses for Blackwood High.

Blackwood 3-6-24 defeated by St Francis de Sales 9-9-63

Goals: M Waldron 2, J Matthew

Best: S Fotheringham, M Waldron, S Napier, D Winra, J Schoen

Blackwood: 3-2-20 defeated by Tatachilla: 11-7-73

Goals: J Swinfield, B Papps, L Furness

Best: J Schoen, S Fotheringham, B Papps, J Dell, M Bourke

Glen Little & Dwayne Treasure

Year 8/9 Boys Knock-Out Football

The Year 8/9 Football boys ventured out to Adelaide High School on Thursday 6 May to play Adelaide High School and Seaview High School. Both games were scrappy games with neither team really dominating. Both games ended in tight finishes. In game one Adelaide had come back to threaten our lead but the boys showed grit and managed to get over the line. In game two the boys had to come from behind to win with a goal late into the last quarter, to put us five points in front.

Game 1

Blackwood HS 7-7-49

Adelaide HS 5-3-33

Best Players: Todd Eshmade, Wyatt Hammer, Chris Perrotta, Nathan Taylor, Brett Turner, Corey Sawyer, Justin Wicks

Game 2

Blackwood HS 6-7-43

Seaview HS 5-8-30

Glen Little & Brett Ellis

9-A-Side Football Carnival

On Wednesday 28 April, 28 our footy boys travelled down to Flinders Uni Sporting grounds to play in the 9-A-Side Football Carnival. On what was a wet and cold day, we had Blackwood 1 with our younger players and Blackwood 2 full of year 9's that, on paper, looked a much stronger team. Our Blackwood 1 team struggled all day, competing against a much older competition.



Unfortunately the boys were unable to win a game all day, although they pushed their opposition hard. The Blackwood 2 boys were on the other end of the spectrum, winning all but one game. We lost to Brighton in the fifth game of the day, by a narrow margin of one goal. The Blackwood 2 boys went through the day with 7 wins and 1 loss, finishing second in the pool. The third and fourth playoff match against Seaview was dominated by Blackwood. We were convincing winners by over 10 goals. Well Done Boys.

Glen Little, Dan Smith, Brett Ellis & Peter McMaster

Boys & Girls Handball Competition



On Thursday 22 April 1, 31 students went to Pasadena High School to play in the 5th Annual Handball Carnival. In the girls pool there were four teams, two from Tabor and two from Blackwood. The boys' competition consisted of two divisions. The Blackwood boys fought hard all day winning the majority of their matches. They played off for 6th and 7th against Unley.

In the **Girls' Competition**, Blackwood 2 played Tabor 1 in the Final. Blackwood 1 played Tabor 2 for third place. The main game was a thriller; at the end of time it was a 4 all draw. After discussions with both teams we decided to keep playing 5 minutes time on. The ball was moving back and forth, with very few clean shots until Blackwood got a break away shot around the defenders and scored, with only 20 seconds to go. **It was a great win by the girls**, especially considering Tabor have handball speciality coaches and lessons at their school.

Dan Smith & Brett Ellis

CASUAL DAY at Blackwood High School NEXT

Friday 28 May – Loud Shirt Day! A Year 12

Humanities class are raising funds for deaf and hearing impaired children. Come along in your brightest shirt!

A wonderful performance opportunity is happening on the **evening of Wednesday 2 June** when Blackwood High School students entertain and offer fabulous food at the **2010 Cabaret Night**.

The event begins at 6.30 and closes at 9.00 pm. The Performing Arts Auditorium will be set up with tables and chairs for audience and senior students will entertain with music and fabulous finger food will be served to your table by the year 12 hospitality class. It is a “bring your own drinks” occasion and tickets are on sale from student services at \$15. There are only twelve tables each seating eight people, so book early to secure a good seat for the night.

Cabaret



Wednesday, 2 June 2010

6.30 – 9.00pm

*Blackwood High School
Performing Arts Centre*

Cost \$15.00

*finger food included,
provided by the*

*Year 12 Hospitality Students
BYO Drinks*

YEAR 11 CAREERS DAY IN THE CITY

On Monday, 31 May students in Year 11 will be visiting the Tertiary Careers Expo at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore their future career options and discover how to achieve their goals.

For more information you can visit <http://www.careersevent.com/AdelaideTSCEA/Home.php>

Students will need to be released from Lesson 2 at 10.00am for recess and will make their way to the train station with their Care Group teachers at 10.25am. Students will either be dismissed from the city or travel back by train at the end of the day.

A letter with a parent consent slip was sent home. Please call Luke Northcote or Argie Buesnel at the school if you have any further queries.

Luke Northcote, VET Coordinator

CYBERSMART MATERIALS FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN

Cybersmart website – www.cybersmart.gov.au

This website is about keeping safe and smart online. It provides cybersafety education and awareness for children, young people and parents. Cybersmart features news, resources and information about current cybersafety issues and provides practical advice about how to deal with them.

Cybersmart guide for families – This easy-to-read guide offers information about children’s internet use and advice for parents and carers about online safety. The guide provides practical advice on current issues such as privacy, spam and cyberbullying.

Cybersmart Kids brochures – Social networking, mobile phone use and general internet safety tips are covered in the ACMA’s suite of Cybersmart Kids brochures. The brochures provide tips for children and parents about keeping safe online.

Cyber rules poster – A colourful hints and tips poster for children aged 7 and up, the cyber rules poster reminds young internet users to think carefully about what they see online, who they communicate with and what information they provide about themselves.

SuperClubs PLUS Australia – This is a protected online social learning network for children aged 6 to 12 years. The ACMA offers a Cybersmart Badge on the site, enabling children to undertake a range of cybersafety activities. www.superclubsplus.com.au

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS NOW FOR SALE!

Entertainment Books are now for sale from the Blackwood High School front office. The money is being raised for the Spanish Club which will assist students going to Spain and money will also be donated to TIA INTERNATIONAL which is a small non profit organisation based in Adelaide. It was set up by a SA University student who volunteered at an orphanage in Cochabamba in Bolivia, South America. 65% of the population in Bolivia is under the poverty line, and 40% in extreme poverty - many children who are visually, mentally and hearing impaired are left at the orphanage which is desperately in need of everything. For more information about the orphanage please google Tia International Aid or go to info@tia.org.au<<mailto:info@tia.org.au>>.

Jenny Arezina, Spanish Teacher