



"Work Conquers All"

# BEAUFORT SECONDARY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER 2009

Phone: 5349 2305

Our Core Values are:

**Caring. Tolerance. Consideration. Truthfulness. Loyalty. Fairness. Friendliness. Co-operation.**

## Western District Study Camp

Last week most of our Year 12 students attended the annual Study Camp at the University of Ballarat Mount Helen Campus.

From Tuesday to Friday students attended lectures that related to their Year 12 subjects, as well as sessions on study skills, goal setting, attitude, exam preparation and leadership. There were also tours of various parts of the University as well as the TAFE section. Our students joined in all these sessions with students from other Western District schools which enabled many new friendships to be made.

Students were kept very busy each day with sessions starting at 9am and finishing at 5.30pm. Each night there were activities including workshops on team building and leadership, road safety, safe partying, a movie and a live band.

Our students were once again extremely well behaved and all gained some benefit from the experience.

The focus for our Year 12 students is now on working productively both at school and home to gain the best possible results for 2009.



*Photos: Our VCE students enjoyed their taste of university life during their recent study camp. They had the opportunity to engage in a variety of subject areas for possible future university courses such as the human movement physiology studies as seen below.*



*Above: Some of our VCE students outside one of the accommodation buildings at UB's Mt. Helen campus.*

**PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION  
Annual General Meeting  
will be held on  
Wednesday, 4th March at 7.30pm  
All parents, especially new families, are  
welcome and encouraged to attend.**

**Issue No. 4**

## Welcome Mr. Walton

Mr. Walton is a maths specialist and will be working with our students and staff on Mondays and Thursdays during this year. As a 'maths coach', Mr. Walton is providing additional resources and innovative ideas in the maths area.



# From the Principal's Desk



## POSITIONS VACANT: ENTHUSIASTIC AND POSITIVE PEOPLE REQUIRED

The Beaufort Secondary College Council is keen to see an injection of “new blood”, accompanied by enthusiasm and fresh ideas. Our school community has undergone a generational change over the past couple of years. Most of the traditional Beaufort families have progressed through the school and been replaced by new families coming into the district. Unfortunately, however, we find it difficult to tap into this wealth of talent.

School Councils play an important role in setting the directions of the school within central guidelines. Nevertheless, Beaufort Secondary College Council meetings are informative, positive, relatively informal and not too long.

Please read the school council information attached to this newsletter, and consider nominating. A nomination form, self-nomination form and a notice for parents are also attached.

If you wish to discuss the matter with me personally, feel free to phone or call in. Alternatively, catch up with me at Tuesday evening’s community barbecue.

*Steve Macaulay*  
(Principal)

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## Homework

The homework grid will not be included in the Newsletter this term.

All students should have a diary and be using this each day to record their homework. Parents are welcome and encouraged to write comments in diaries as well. If you have any concerns, please contact Mrs. Higgins.

## English Puzzle 17

Answer to last weeks puzzle:  
**STERNER, RESPOND, DOWRIES**

This weeks puzzle:

### Playing the “V”

Rearrange the letters in the words below to make three six-letter words when a “V” is added.



## MWC Swimming Sports

The MWC Swimming Sports will be held at the Beaufort Swimming Pool tomorrow, Friday, 20th February commencing at 10.30am.

Schools from the Mid Western Complex - Derrinallum, Lake Bolac, Mortlake, Hawkesdale and Beaufort will be competing.

Parents are most welcome to come and support our competitors. Please bring a fold-up chair, hat etc. If you have further enquiries, please contact Mr. Collins or Mrs. Higgins.

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## School arrival Time

A reminder that the school does not open until 8.30am and students should not arrive before that time.

## School Community BBQ

All staff, students and parents are invited to the School Community BBQ on Tuesday, 24th February at 6.00pm.

The PFA will supply the meat, bread, sauce and plates. Each family is asked to bring a salad to share. All families are encouraged to come along and meet other parents, staff and students. Please return the slip below before Monday, 23rd February, to assist with catering.

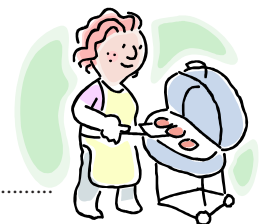



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### Return Slip - School Community BBQ

Family Name: .....

Number of family members attending - Adults: ..... Students: .....



### MATHS PUZZLE

#### Answer to last week's puzzle.

The four corners of the square have one nail each. Each side of the square now requires 29 nails (excluding the four corners). Thus, total number of nails used =  $4 + (4 \times 29) = 120$ .

#### *This Week's Puzzle: Chalk it up!*

Your teacher has a total of 49 chalks. When a chalk reduces to  $\frac{1}{7}$  of its original size, it gets too small for her to hold for writing and hence she keeps it aside. But your teacher hates wasting things and so, when she realizes that she has enough of these small pieces to join and make another chalk of the same size, she joins them and uses the new chalkstick. If she uses one chalk each day, how many days would the 49 chalks last? *Answer Next Week*

Beaufort Community House  
and Learning Centre

## 2009 BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this appeal which is now CLOSED. Also to the many volunteers who assisted with the sorting etc.

*The appeal received an overwhelming response.*

## IMPORTANT DATES

Please check each Newsletter for additions/deletions or changes.

February 2009	
Thursday 19	Out of Uniform Day - Bushfire Appeal
Friday 20	Mid Western Complex Swimming-Beaufort
Tuesday 24	School Community BBQ
Wednesday 25	BSSSA Swimming - Eureka Pool
March 2009	
Wednesday 4	Mid Western Complex Triathlon PFA AGM - 7.30pm
Monday 9	Labor Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 10	School Photos School Council Meeting
Wednesday 18	Year 7 & Year 10 Immunisation
Friday 20	House Athletic Trials
Wednesday 25	Western Zone Swimming
Monday 30	House Athletics - Llanberris
April 2009	
Friday 3	Final day - Term 1
Sunday 12	Easter Sunday
Monday 20	First Day - Term 2
Friday 24	Mid Western Complex Athletics
Wednesday 29	BSSSA Athletics
MAY 2009	
Monday 4	Year 10 Driver Education - Charlton
Thursday 7	Western Zone Athletics (Geelong)
Tuesday 12	School Council Meeting
Friday 15	House Cross Country
Wednesday 20	BSSSA Intermediate Sports
Tuesday 26	Mid Western Cross Country
Wednesday 27	Year 7 Girls Immunisation

### BSSSA Swimming

This will be held in Ballarat next Wednesday, 25th February. Notices will go home to those students who have been selected to compete at this next level.



### Computers at low cost

Work Ventures and their partners, Westpac and Unlimited Potential can provide quality, fully refurbished computer systems, software products installed and ready to use from \$250.00.

For more information call 1800  
112 205 or go to  
[www.workventures.com.au/  
connectit](http://www.workventures.com.au/connectit).

### BUCKET HATS

*Available from the  
General Office  
\$8.00 each.*

### Reminder

EMA Application Forms need to be submitted to the school office by Wednesday, 25th February, 2009.

# The Education Tax Refund

The Education Tax Refund (ETR) aims to help families, with children undertaking primary or secondary school studies to meet the costs of school education through assistance with certain education expenses.

Under the Government's ETR, eligible families will be able to claim:

- a 50 per cent refundable tax offset every year for up to \$750 of eligible expenses for each child undertaking primary school, (that is, a refund of up to \$375 per child, per year); and
- a 50 per cent refundable tax offset every year for up to \$1,500 of eligible expenses for each child undertaking secondary school (that is, a refund of up to \$750 per child, per year).

## Eligibility

• Those entitled to Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A in respect of children undertaking primary or secondary school studies for the relevant financial year are eligible for the ETR.

Payment types that can stop you from receiving FTB Part A include:

- Social security pension or benefit - for example, Youth Allowance;
- ABSTUDY Living Allowance;

## Eligible Expenses

For the purposes of the ETR, eligible educational expenses are

- laptops, home computers and associated costs (including USB flash drives, disability computer equipment aids for students with special needs, repair and running costs of computer equipment, lease costs, printers and paper),
- home internet connection;
- education software;
- school textbooks and material (including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationery); and
- prescribed trade tools.

## You cannot claim for:

- School fees, school uniforms, extra curricular activities such as excursions.
- Tutoring costs, musical instruments, sporting equipment, school subject levies.
- School photos, donations, canteen expenses.

Claimants are expected to retain receipts for the purchases of items for which they intend to claim the ETR.



***The MIPS program  
What is it and how  
does it apply to  
your child.***

Beaufort Secondary College supports students to explore, plan and implement individual learning goals. Years 7, 8 & 9 discuss and design their individual learning goals principally with their Home Room teachers but also as part of the broader school curriculum. Included in the Year 10 Curriculum is LIFE SKILLS where, among other topics, students explore, discuss and address their learning and career goals.

Once they move into the VCE years, students choose individual mentors from the teaching staff who organise informal meetings with individual Year 11 & 12 students at least once or twice each term, to assist each student with their chosen career pathway. This is what is referred to as the MIPS program. The individual pathway plan is the property of the student

The MIPS program is a State Government initiative aimed at providing guidance and support to strengthen a young person's ability to make effective transition between education and training and employment. The guidance and support provides a case management approach to services and will include pathways planning for every young person 15-19 years.

It aims to enable young people to develop skills to manage their pathways throughout their working lives and to manage lifelong learning. It helps develop knowledge, understanding and experience of opportunities in education, training and employment. It enables young people to move through the transition phase from compulsory schooling to further education, training and employment.

Beaufort Secondary College is working towards increased participation and successful completion of post compulsory education programs by young people with improved employment and other education outcomes. MIPS also allows for greater integration of programs and provision of support for young people and maintains effective procedures for tracking the destination of all young people leaving the school.

Careers Co-ordinators  
*Danielle Hinton, Phil Crouch.*

## SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### ***What is a school council and what does it do?***

All Government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within Departmental provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

### ***Who is on the school council?***

There are three possible categories of membership:

- a. *A mandated elected Parent Category.* More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed at the school.
- b. *A mandated elected DEECD Employee Category.* Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- c. *An optional Community Member Category.* Members of this category are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members. The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

### ***Why is Parent membership so important?***

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

### ***How can you become involved?***

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

### ***Do I need special experience to be on school council?***

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

### ***What do you need to do to stand for election?***

The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent Category. DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are **not** employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the timeframe stated on the Notice of Election Schedule. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination. If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

### ***Remember***

- Ask the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.
- Consider standing for election to council this year.
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

**Contact the Principal for further information.**

## SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION

Beaufort Secondary College's Council has the following composition:

- 7 Parent Members (elected by parents)
- 5 Department of Education and Training employee members. Four are elected by DE&T employees, with the Principal acting as an "ex officio" member
- 3 members co-opted from the school community. At BSC, they will be comprised of a PFA representative, a student and a community member)

Elected representatives serve two year terms, with half up for re-election each year.

As at 31 March this year,

### PARENTS:

Parents who will retire or are up for re-election: Brian McKinley  
Debbie McIntyre  
Howard Yates  
Debbie Rosenthal

Parents who are mid way through their term: Gerard Briody  
Jill Upton  
Rod Upton

### STAFF:

Staff who will retire or are up for re-election: James Jeffreys  
Carolyn Atkinson

Staff who are mid way through their term: Heather Higgins  
Lynne Dickman

### CO-OPTED MEMBERS (2008):\*\*\*\*\*

PFA Representative: Leesa O'Brien  
Community Representative: Malcolm Fletcher  
Student: Laura Briody

\*\*\*\*\* These positions are filled on a year by year basis by the council itself

The result of all this is that there are FOUR parent and TWO DEECD employee vacancies to be filled at this election for the term of office 1/4/09 to 31/3/11.

Please note that Debbie McIntyre and Howard Yates are eligible to nominate for re-election as parent representatives. The eldest children of Brian McKinley and Debbie Rosenthal completed school last years, so they can't renominate as parent representatives. I thank them both for the significant contributions they have made to the School Council.

Proposed 2009 Election Timeline:

Notice of election and call for nominations:	Thurs 19 February 2009
Close of nominations:	Thurs 26 February 2009 (4.00 pm)
Prepare and distribute ballot papers (if required)	Thurs 5 March 2009
Election closes:	Thurs 12 March 2009 (4.00 pm)
Declaration of Poll Results:	Thurs 19 March 2009
First meeting of 2009-20 10 School Council**	Tues 31 March 2009

\*\* The co-opted members will be appointed at the first meeting of the 2009-2010 School Council

See the attached documents:

- School Council Elections - Information for Parents
- Schedule 5A - Self Nomination Form for Parent Member Category
- Schedule 5B - Nomination Form for Parent Member Category

Other documentation and information will be distributed via the school newsletter.

Under Department of Education and Early Childhood Development rules, the Principal is required to be in control of the School Council election process.

**School Council Elections**

**Schedule 5A Self-Nomination Form for Parent Member Category**

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the ..... school council.

Name.....

Residential address .....

.....

Home telephone: ..... Business telephone:.....

Email: .....

I am the parent/guardian of ....., who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

I am an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development:

Yes / No (please circle)

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I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not an undischarged bankrupt and that I am not currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence.

Signature of Candidate: ..... Date: .....

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

**School Council Elections**

**Schedule 5B Nomination Form for Parent Member Category**

I wish to nominate ..... for an elected position as a parent/guardian representative on the

..... school council.

Name: .....

Residential address:.....

.....

Home telephone: ..... Business telephone:.....

Email: .....

I am the parent/guardian of ....., who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

The person I have nominated is the parent/guardian of ....., who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

The person I have nominated is an employee of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development: Yes / No (please circle)

Signature of Nominator: ..... Date: .....

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**Candidate to complete**

I accept the nomination and I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not an undischarged bankrupt and that I am not currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence.

Signature of Candidate: ..... Date: .....

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.