

Geelong Baptist College Newsletter No. 1 Thursday 4th February 2010

Principal: Trudy Knol

Principal's Patch

Welcome to 2010 at GBC!!!

God has certainly blessed us in many ways as we commence this year. Last Friday was a wonderful day for the Year 7 and VCE students as they participated in a special program and everyone seemed to enjoy the games and beach afternoon. On Monday when all students came back, they quickly settled into their classes with their new teachers. It was especially great to see that the new students quickly seemed at ease and joined in with their peer groups quite confidently.

God has blessed the College with three new staff and 30 new students. We warmly welcome all these individuals and trust they will continue to settle in and quickly become part of the GBC community.

The new teachers are: Mrs Claire Naraghi (Year Four), Mrs Christine Shaw (Secondary Food Technology and VCE Health) and Mrs Joan Dunstan (Secondary English and Careers).

The cooler weather to start the school year is also greatly appreciated. I recall that last year, we began with a spate of very hot weather.

Staff retreat

In preparation for the new year, all GBC staff attended a one day retreat in the Anakie bush. Discussion and reflection times were well appreciated as we focused on who we are as a united staff team. Some other highlights of the camp were: the fantastic food, the amazing flying fox and the opportunity to have some fun together.



Meet the Teacher Night

GBC will be holding a 'Meet the Teacher Night' on Thursday February 11th at **7.00pm** in the **Information Centre** (NOT in M Block as stated in some letters that have gone home). All families are invited and we would like to encourage you to attend so that you can meet your child/ren's teachers.

At 8.00pm, there will also be a VCE Information Session in the Information Centre led by Mrs Tattersall. All parents of Year 11 and 12 students and parents of any Year 10 students undertaking a VCE subject are encouraged to attend and bring along the procedures guidelines booklet students have received. There will be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you all at this informative evening.

Assemblies 2010

Primary classes will continue to have fortnightly assemblies. New to 2010 is that the College will introduce weekly secondary assemblies every Tuesday morning. This will allow opportunities to discuss and highlight the focus for the week, to incorporate brief devotions, prayer and opportunities to regularly hand out merit certificates and other awards for various achievements.



Car Park Update

As most families would have noticed, our car park has had a splash of colour added, including a few new signs. Yellow pedestrian walkways and crossings have been added for everyone's safety. Please ensure you only cross the car park using the **yellow crossing or walkway** during morning and afternoon busy traffic times. This means that no one should be crossing the car park in any other places, ensuring safety for both drivers and pedestrians.

Also please remember not to park and leave your car in the **drop off zone**. All parents who need to leave their car, must park on the other side of the car park near the trees. Please be mindful of parking under **gum trees** as they do occasionally drop branches, so do this at your own risk. In the afternoon, people may queue in the drop off zone but cannot leave their car, as this line should keep moving as children are picked up.

Please take note of the signs that stipulate where parking is available as we need to leave enough space for buses to turn and reverse. Some additional signs and work is still required to assist us even further, but we appreciate your patience and support in this serious matter of safety.

Bag hooks

The outside lockers have been removed and bag hooks are currently being installed. Hopefully this will assist us in keeping the grounds tidier and cleaner, as well as working better for the students.

Interactive Whiteboards

Two new interactive whiteboards have been purchased and delivered. One will be mounted in the Year Seven Homeroom and one in the Year Four classroom. Last year two portable interactive whiteboards were purchased, one of which will be installed in the Information Centre and one in the Year Prep/One classroom. This will ensure that these fantastic technological tools will be used regularly. Other teachers will have plenty of opportunities to book and utilise these different rooms and boards, allowing the whole school to have access to interactive whiteboards.

PSG Welcomes Everyone Back!

The kids are back and already busy learning!! Also, by the time this newsletter is sent out, we will have had our first meeting! By "We" I mean the Parent Support Group or PSG for short.

The PSG is a group of parents whose aim, as the name suggests, is to support the parents of the College community. Like most parent clubs of other schools, the PSG fundraising efforts over the past few years have provided our students with many "extras" and we aim to continue this support to the College. We have also decided to offer a monthly special lunch (like the hot dog day) which will aid our canteen and also offer a more family friendly way of raising smaller amounts regularly.

We will continue to offer Mother's Day and Father's Day Stalls, Open Day BBQs and the New Parents' Dinner.

The PSG is the parents' voice – our group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. All parents, new or old are welcome. Mrs Knol attends our meetings and we are able to share our thoughts and ideas. We do not get to help run the College (definitely a good thing!) but our contributions help to maintain the friendly sense of "community" at the College, and that is very satisfying.



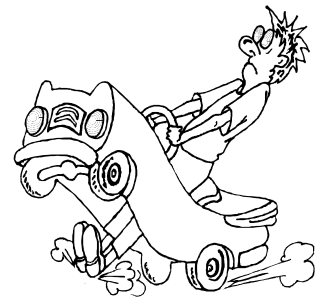
What we would really like to do is concentrate on why we are a Parents Support Group. We are hoping to provide Coffee and Chat days to enable parents to come together and meet other parents. The goal of these events is purely social and would NOT involve recruitment for PSG or to ask for "help". The first one for 2010 will be held on **Thursday afternoon February 25th at 2.15pm till 3.20pm in M Block**.

If you think you would like to know more about the PSG, please feel free to ring the PSG Co-ordinator – Sarah Rees on 5276 1641 or just turn up at the next meeting on Tuesday March 2nd at 7.30 pm at the College in the Staff Room. P.S.G

Seeking a Canteen Coordinator

GBC has a small canteen which in the past has been open twice a week; one day just for snacks and one day for lunches. However, in order for the canteen to function and be open, we need a new canteen coordinator.

We are seeking someone to take on this role to assist the College in providing some delicious, healthy foods for our students. We mainly sell packaged foods and very little food preparation is required. Initially, if twice a week is too much, we would appreciate it if we could open the canteen one day a week. Basically the time commitment can be determined by the person willing to organise the canteen, as we would hope to attain other volunteers to assist as well. For any interested persons, more specific details can be obtained by speaking to the Principal, Mrs Trudy Knol



GBC strives to be a Peanut Free Zone

We have three students who have allergies to peanuts. For one of these students, this is not a small matter. In his case it can be life-threatening. If he eats any food with even a trace of peanut in it, he will require emergency injections and immediate hospitalisation. It is that serious. Peanut products are not uncommon in school lunches (ie, chocolate bars, nutella snacks, etc). In spite of being reminded to do otherwise, children can sometimes 'trade' food and **even the touch of a child who has been in contact with food containing traces of peanuts, will cause severe reaction.** It is for this reason that we ask you to keep peanuts and peanut products out of the College.



Other Allergies

In light of children sometimes developing allergies and anaphylactic responses, we do ask that parents keep the College informed and provide all relevant medical information, including current management plans and appropriate medications. The College aims to ensure staff are prepared and equipped to assist in any such emergencies that may arise, but cannot do this without proper details.

Energy Drinks and soft drinks are NOT permitted at GBC

Students are not allowed to bring soft drinks or 'energy' drinks of any sort to school. Drinks such as Red Bull, Red Eye, V, Mother, etc are banned from GBC. We ask that students bring water to drink as this is the most beneficial drink to quench thirst and prevent dehydration.

Discipline Policy for 2010



I trust that all families received the updated Discipline Policy for 2010. College staff carefully discussed this policy and as a consequence we have incorporated some additional support and welfare assistance for students. We have also put in place more effective means of celebrating, recognising and rewarding students for the many amazing and wonderful things they do and accomplish.

We ask that all families take the time to read the policy carefully with their children, ensuring everyone understands the College's expectations and then also to sign and return the attached return slips at the bottom of the policy by the end of Week One (Friday February 5th).

As outlined in the Discipline Policy, GBC will utilise Discipline Coordinators this year. Mr Kevin McWha will assist with Secondary discipline issues and Mr Andre Venter will assist with the Primary issues. If parents have any questions or concerns, they should contact the appropriate coordinator.

GBC Community BBQ

This event takes place early in the year, welcoming new families into the GBC community and allowing families to meet and mingle with each other. This year, the barbecue will be held on Friday February 19th, commencing at 6.30pm. Further details will be given closer to the time, but please mark this date in your diary.



New Bus Coordinator

Mrs Helen Robertson has been the GBC Bus Coordinator for the last few years and has done an amazing job in this very specialised role. Her organisational skills and her dedication and commitment to the GBC bus system has been greatly appreciated. Her willingness to participate and assist in school excursions and events has also been wonderful and I know she will be greatly missed. However, we are thankful for Helen who has completed her studies and has been able to take on a new job at Kardinia. Congratulations Helen!!

The good news is that Helen will still be part of the GBC community as her children are at our school. Also, she has trained up our new bus coordinator, Colin Hooper. Colin has been driving buses for GBC for more than a year and has a great passion for ensuring children's safe travel. Colin has demonstrated great understanding of our bus system and has a wonderful rapport with students and staff. We are thankful that he agreed to lead our bus team which will consist of Nick Kuiper, Norman Fitzgerald and Colin Hooper.

Secondhand Uniform Shop

Geelong Baptist College has a small secondhand uniform shop that has a wide range of uniforms available to buy. The secondhand uniform shop is open on a Monday afternoon from 12:30- 3:30. Many thanks goes to our wonderful helper Gwen Hildebrandt who has done a fantastic job in the past and has volunteered to be involved again this year!!

Food Technology

Thank you to all the students for being so welcoming to me at the College. I also look forward to parents dropping into classes throughout the year. I do have a small request. If any families have any food magazines or recipe books that they no longer require, could they please drop them into the box provided at the front office. Thank you in anticipation.

Mrs Christine Shaw

Photos – Day Two of 2010

Miss Kucic and the Prep/One class

The Preps were already busy writing their names!!



Year Ones – role modeling for the Preps



Year Two /Three class with Mr Mitchell



Year Four with Mrs Naraghi



Year Five/Six with Mr Venter



The Year 7s with Mrs Dunstan



Year 8s in Art



Year 9s with Mr Radcliffe



Year 10s with Mrs Shaw



Year 12s in Private Study



IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

Some Important Dates for Term One:

Feb 11 th	Meet the Teacher Night
Feb 18 th	Hot Dog Day – details to come
Feb 19 th	GBC Community and Welcome BBQ (evening)
Feb 25 th	Social coffee and chat time
Feb 23 rd – March 5 th	Primary swimming lessons for 2 weeks
March 4 th	Parent and Teacher Interviews (Primary and Secondary)
March 8 th	Labour Day public holiday - no school
March 10 th	Swimming Carnival – whole school
March 15 th	Report Writing Day – Student free day
March 19 th	School photos for all students and staff
March 24 th	GBC Cross Country - whole school
March 26 th	Last day of Term One - usual finishing time

TERM DATES 2010
Term 1: 1 st February- 26 th March
Term 2: 13 th April- 25 th June
Term 3: 13 th July- 17 th September
Term 4: 5 th October- 9 th December



Working Bee Thanks

Thank you to those terrific hard workers who helped at our first Working Bee for 2010. A good clean up was achieved. Well done!! All families were sent a note about the importance of Working Bees to assist the GBC community. Please remember to return the reply slips. A spare slip has been included here.

Return Slip for GBC Working Bees 2010

Parent's Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Contact Number: _____

I will attend a Working Bee on: (Please feel free to tick more than one box)

Saturday April 17th

Saturday May 15th

Saturday July 24th

Saturday November 13th

OR I would prefer to do an individual project. I would like to help with:

