

Geelong Baptist College Newsletter No. 8 Thursday 6th May 2010
Principal: Trudy Knol

Principal's Patch

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to all the families, students and staff who attended **Open Evening** and made it such a fantastic night. Many parents assisted with the food stalls which was great and the students made it possible for all the activities to run successfully. A huge thank you to each of you; well done.

I would especially like to thank the PSG as they prepared, cooked and worked hard all night. They are an outstanding group of enthusiastic parents. Their consistent contribution to the College is amazing and greatly appreciated. Superb job PSG!!

God provided glorious weather for the evening adding to the very enjoyable and festive atmosphere. A pleasing number of families came through with many providing very positive feedback. Well done GBC!!



National Partnership Program – Parent Survey !!!

GBC is very pleased to be part of this program and is looking forward to the many ways we can receive support in our endeavour to be enhancing our College and student's learning. As part of this program, the entire College community is asked to participate in a survey, including parents, students and staff. The survey is designed to help us collect data about our performance to identify areas for celebration as well as those which might become the focus for improvement efforts. We believe this will greatly assist the College and I look forward to your support in this important matter.

Students will be undertaking their survey during class time but we do ask that all parents participate as well. The survey provides families with the opportunity to express their thoughts about the College. All responses are collated by Independent Schools Victoria and names are not requested, thus the survey is totally confidential and anonymous.

We would appreciate your support of the College in completing this survey. Your honest feedback will be a valuable part of the improvement process. The survey is done on-line and only takes about 10 minutes. The closing date of the survey is June 7th.

The link to the survey is as follows:

Parent Survey:

<http://limesurvey.independentschools.vic.edu.au/index.php?sid=39769&lang=en>



Walkathon

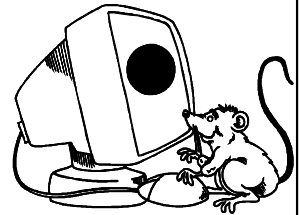
A full report about the day will be in the next newsletter, but please remember that we are hoping to fundraise for 3 or 4 air conditioners in shared areas such as the Information Centre, Art room, and Computer room. This is very possible if everyone gets on board!! I have heard some very excited students share how they are going with their sponsors which was very encouraging!!

All students should have attained sponsors and are now asked to return their forms with the money by Friday May 21st.

NAPLAN testing (National Assessment Program Literacy And Numeracy) This national testing will take place next week, May 11th to 14th. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will participate in the NAPLAN. Please avoid unnecessary absences.

Internet, Teens and Parents

Last year GBC held two very informative sessions for our students about Cybersafety. Students were made aware of the dangers, the laws and how easy it is to be caught out either posting inappropriate details about themselves or about others. Identify theft and inappropriate internet relationships were also discussed.



Sometimes students do things on the internet impulsively without thinking of the consequences. Maybe we as parents need to be more aware of all the available technology out there and what our children are involved in. I have to admit as a parent of four teens, I do not know much about "My Space" "Twitter" "Facebook" etc. However, I am keen to learn more about this technology and develop a better understanding of how it can be used in positive ways whilst also ensuring my children are protected.

I believe it would be beneficial to hold an evening session about Cybersafety at GBC for families/parents to attend. Please indicate below if you would be interested in attending such an event.

Whether we run such an evening will depend on the feedback provided, so please if you are interested please reply by Monday May 24th.

Internet, Teens and Parents Reply Slip

Family Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

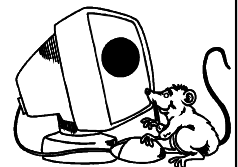
Children's names and Year levels: _____

Yes we would attend an evening session at GBC about Cybersafety. We would come with _____ people.

Please stipulate which evenings you would be available: _____

No, we would not attend.

To assist in our planning and catering for family needs, please provide a reason:



YEAR 7/8 CAMP:

The Year 7/8's had a fantastic time at their 3 day camp at Norval - Halls Gap. After a long 3 hour drive on the buses, we finally arrived at our destination and its beautiful surroundings. After a short time in our dorms, we were out to activities that we rotated through over 2 days: High Ropes, Abseiling & Rock climbing and Initiative activities. All activities provided students with significant personal challenges. Some looked like they were born to climb, whilst others obviously looked more comfortable on terra firma. Those who pushed beyond their limits and fought their fear of heights were rewarded by the feeling of exhilaration from these achievements.

The first evening activity saw us making our way through the dark, the bush and scrub in pursuit of a lantern. Those who moved stealthily were rewarded by capturing the lantern that eluded many. When it came time to sleep, the excitement of being with friends for the night resulted in little sleep for some; the effects of which were felt by these students the next day!!

A number of brave students joined me for a morning run to begin Day Two. Activities continued throughout this day, and the evening activity was a night walk to the local ice-cream shop. We very much appreciated the owner opening his store especially for us that evening... and what beautiful ice-cream it was!! We returned to the campsite to a campfire. Here, the teachers announced the phrase that they came up with for each student that captured a snippet of the student's antics during their time on camp.

The Pinnacle climb was the scheduled activity for our final morning of camp. 32 students chose the 2.1 km walk from the Wonderland Carpark whilst 9 students braved the 3.4km walk/run from the very bottom to the very top and back. All groups met at the top to enjoy a breathtaking view and well earned rest before making their way down.

The dorms, facilities and meals provided by the Norval campsite were outstanding and the staff who ran the activities demonstrated great knowledge, skill and awareness of safety as they presented the students with their various challenges.

Students relived their time on camp recently during Homeroom time where they were presented with their certificates and viewed a slideshow of the photos taken on camp.

As a staff, we really enjoyed our time away with the students; it's always great to see students out of the school environment and watch them as they experience success in attempting tasks that are often new to them. I would like to thank the 3 other staff on this camp team:

Mr Andre Venter, Mrs Judy Andrew and Mrs Debbie Ormesher. It was an absolute pleasure to share this time with staff who had a great sense of fun, and who so willingly shared the load in caring for the students whilst on camp.

Sharlene Tattersall

What did the students say were their highlights?

"I talked to people I actually wouldn't have talked to at school. Abseiling was also my highlight. I thought I wouldn't go off the cliff if my life depended on it. But I did." Evie Robertson

"Managing to do the mountain hike, because I'm not good at stuff like that." Brandon Whelan

"I enjoyed the views because they looked good." Ben Baker

"I liked abseiling because I'm afraid of heights and I wanted to conquer my fear and I did." Jake Hrkac

"Abseiling (was my highlight) because I've never done it before and it was challenging." Madison Hawkes

"My highlight was the high ropes course because I like heights." Ben Scarlett

"My highlight on camp was being around my friends because I love them so much." Natalie Brkic



GIRLS TASTE TRADES AT "GIRLS DAY OUT"

On April 20, Geelong Baptist College senior girls visited the Gordon's East Geelong campus to learn about skills shortages and career opportunities in a variety of trades. Students from Years 9 and 10, including Hannah Killey, Jasmine Nieto, Laura Uebergang, Kim Nguyen, Madison Stephens, Mikahla Scarlett and Georgia Sutcliffe experienced mentoring and hands-on training in a variety of workshops. These sessions were cabinet-making, painting and decorating, horticulture and sustainability. The students produced CD boxes, stencilled wall plaques, succulent mini gardens and learned about food production with a small carbon footprint. Female professionals, including Ms A.Fisk from

ANZAC DAY CELEBRATIONS

ANZAC Day dawned bright and clear as Geelong Baptist College students and staff, along with many other Geelong citizens, assembled around the memorial at the RSL in Belmont. Hundreds gathered at this sombre service to lay wreaths in memory of those who had fought and died for our freedom. From here we moved to the marshalling point at Officeworks for the ANZAC march through the streets of Geelong.

Geelong Baptist College carried the military colours of the 'Darwin Defenders' (Geelong sub-branch). Staff and students marched behind serving members and their families from Malop Street to Johnstone Park. For me personally it was particularly moving to note that only two serving members of the unit were able to march this ANZAC Day, which makes our role as custodians of their colours, a vital one. In the future, when they are not able to march GBC will continue to ensure that the 'Darwin Defenders' are always represented – a humbling responsibility.

As the march wound its way through the streets of Geelong and into the gardens, it was stirring to see the people of Geelong gather in the streets to cheer and clap the veterans and their families as they walked past. Some of the diggers struggled to walk the distance but were carried by the emotion of the moment and the heartfelt gratitude of those who came to witness this event. The morning ended with a short memorial service in the park - reflections were given, songs shared and a short address delivered, all connected by the threads of our thankfulness to the men and women who gave everything that we might be free to enjoy the lifestyle we now live.

Thank you to all those students who attended the service at Belmont and were able to march in the parade. A further thank you to the parents for bringing your children whose behaviour, once again, was impeccable. I believe all who took part in these ceremonies were touched by the occasion.

I would ask that the GBC families pray for one of our dear friends from the 'Darwin Defenders', Neil Webb. Neil had a bad fall several weeks ago and is not recovering as quickly as expected. For this reason Neil missed the ANZAC march which, I believe, is the first one he has missed. Cards or well wishes can be left at the school office and we will pass them on to Neil. Thank you.
Joy Findlay

LEST WE FORGET.



Along with eleven other GBC students, I marched in the Anzac Parade. It was a great honour that we could represent the Darwin Defenders. I marched with my grandfather's medals and I felt a real sense of pride. We marched down to Johnstone Park and then had a service there. I hope the College will continue to represent this group of Australian armed forces. Ben Schwarz.



Give Mum the Mother's Day Card she will use all year.....

Looking for a gift to last the whole year through? Buy Mum the **brand new 2010|2011 Entertainment™** Book and she will receive valuable offers on everything she loves... dining, movies, travel and much more!

Each Entertainment™ Book includes an Entertainment™ Gold Card, which is valid for incredible offers from fine restaurants and hotels. Entertainment™ Books are filled with 25% to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers on almost everything else you can imagine... family dining to sports events, theatres to special attractions, travel and more!

See the office for your copy today!!

ONLY
\$55



Future enrolments and Open Week May 17th to 21st

As previously outlined, we have reached that time of year where the College commences planning for the following year. Enrolments play a very important role in this planning. Consequently we open our College to the public to allow them to see our classes in action and to consider our school for their children.

If you have friends or family looking for Secondary for 2011, or for a new primary school for their children, please encourage them to come and visit the school during our Open Week (May 17th – 21st) or at a time convenient to them. If you would like to pick up brochures to pass onto friends, they are available from the office.

Also, some of our current College families may be planning to send a sibling here next year in Prep, Year Seven or any other year levels. We ask that these families promptly contact the College for enrolment forms and return them by the end of Term Two.

Withdrawal of children from the College

To further assist the College with its planning, including staffing and resources, we would like to inform the College community that parents withdrawing their children from the College at the end of the year must notify the Principal in writing by the end of Term Three of that year. The College seeks a full term's written notification.

Parents withdrawing their children's enrolment at other times during the year (not at the end of the year) must notify the Principal in writing at least one month prior to the student's final day of attendance.

We understand that due to some unforeseen circumstances, the above requests may not always be possible, but we do ask that in all cases, the Principal is notified as soon as possible and that this is done in writing.

- Trudy Knol

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? NATHAN COPPOCK

First of all I'd just like to say a big hello to all the staff and students at GBC. Since leaving GBC I spent a lot of time relaxing and enjoying the fact I had just finished high school. It was also a very tense time for me waiting for my ENTER score results and to see whether or not I was lucky enough to get into my preferred University course.

When the results came, it wasn't exactly what I wanted, rather what **I needed** as I was successful in my application to study at the University of Ballarat. At UB I have begun a Bachelor of Sports Management degree which will last for three years. I also made the decision to stay and live at home rather than live up in Ballarat.

Being a generally shy person I was very anxious at the beginning of the year as to what I could expect going from a school of 200 or so students, where everyone knew your name, to a university of over 1,500 students where you are basically just a number to most. Luckily enough, I was paired with a fantastic mentor who was put in place to help me in the early stages of my studies. Given the course, it's fairly obvious that I would be surrounded by fellow sports nuts just like myself, and I am thoroughly enjoying every aspect of it so far. At the present time, I've made friends and have thoroughly enjoyed the Uni lifestyle, although this may change when the assignments start to pile up!

Whilst I have enjoyed myself at UB, it's nothing compared to my time at GBC. Whilst GBC was small in size, it was not small in quality. The attention we received from the teachers in our VCE years was nothing short of amazing as all of our requests were met with very little asked of us in return. The community feel of GBC is what most of the graduates from last year will say is what they miss most. You could talk to anyone and be treated like a friend by everyone. Whilst we may not have always got on smoothly, I definitely miss the fact of sharing the homeroom with the Year 12's of this year (you'll always be year 11's to us) as they really were great people and great friends.

Having been at GBC since day one, it was fairly sad to move on and to no longer be a student at GBC. Whilst I don't miss waking up for the bus in the morning, I definitely miss GBC as the best years of my life were spent there. If I were to give any advice for the current year 12's, it would be to work hard and listen to your teachers; you may not agree but they have your best interest at heart and are there to help you succeed.

I'm quickly running out of room so I better finish up by saying a big thank you to all the teachers and students at GBC. I definitely miss you all and hope to see you again very soon. Cheers and Go Cats!



Other stories to share!!

Please remember if families have a story they would like to share in the newsletter please contact Sarah on 52761641. Stories can be about celebrations, difficult times, accomplishments or achievements gained outside of school hours.

The PSG also invites families to inform the PSG about anyone who may require their support in the way of prayer, outreach or in more practical ways. Please contact the Parent Support Group through Sarah on 52761641. Confidentiality is assured.

Important Dates

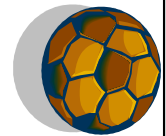
- Fri 7th May: Mother's Day stall
- Tue 11th May– Fri 14th May: NAPLAN testing
- Mon 17th May– Fri 21st May: Open Week

TERM DATES

Term 2 13th April - 25th June
Term 3 13th July - 17th September
Term 4 5th October - 9th December

SPORT SPOT: WCSSA – Autumn Carnival

At 7am on Thursday 29th April, 44 bleary eyed Secondary students and 6 staff members made the long trek to Bendigo to compete in the Western Christian Schools Sports Association Autumn Competition. We had two volleyball teams and four netball teams representing Geelong Baptist College this year. These sporting carnivals offer students a wonderful opportunity to compete against similar sized schools and to socialise and make new friends. Our best performing teams on the day were the Year 7/8 Boys Netball team (2nd), Yr 9/10 Boys Netball team (2nd), Year 7/8 Boys Volleyball team (3rd) and the Year 9/10 Boys Volleyball team (3rd).



GBC Mother's Day Stall

We love running the Mother's day stall.

All those happy little faces seriously choosing the best gift for their mum!

The stall will be on Friday 7th May. Gifts start at \$1 and nothing is over \$5. All Primary classes will be taken to the stall in turn. Secondary students may attend the stall at recess if all classes have had their turn and there are gifts remaining. Extra gifts can also be purchased at this time.

If your child requires more than one gift (ie for a grandmother or step-mum etc) this purchase can be made during their class time.

Parents - It may be a good idea to put your child's money in a named envelope. Any questions? Call Sarah 527616418

Thank you- Parent Support Group



Can Fundraiser

For the Year Ten subject 'Applied Learning' we have to choose a project to improve our school in some way. We have chosen to remodel a garden bed. For this project to take place, we will need to raise some funds. We have decided that empty aluminum cans could be traded to raise these funds. We would very much appreciate it if you and your family could bring your empty aluminum cans in to school so we can recycle them. Please drop off any cans to the front office.
Thank you kindly Jacob, Ben and Aiden
(Year Ten Applied Learning).

VCAL Pancake Day

The VCAL students are organizing a Pancake Day for Tuesday, May 18th.

Time: Primary students will start receiving their pancakes during Period 5 (about 12:30)
Secondary students will get their pancakes at the beginning of lunch (about 1:00)

Cost: 1 pancake for \$1:50 and 2 for \$2:00

Where: Outside the Multipurpose Building

Topping: Lemon and sugar, jam and maple syrup

For more information see Danny Nguyen or Brent Carter

Indonesian Students of the Month

Year Prep/One– Ella Dalli

Year Four– Jake Burton

Year Seven– Schae Jarrett

Year Two/Three– Amy Paul

Year Five/Six– Alexander Klasevski

Year Eight– Hamish Traynor

Year Four Certificates

Darcy Feuz– Pen Licence

Isaiah Melhuish– Literacy Certificate

Tahlee Trotter– Progress in Reading Certificate