



BOTANY DOWNS
Secondary College

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**BOTANY
BULLETIN**
Edition 11/2011
7 October

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

BDSC Term Three

"Senior students have recently completed their exams and should all be studying for their National qualifications. Many students have achieved at very high levels but they must still be committed to extending their knowledge and ability to answer questions effectively. The more time we spend doing something the better we are and this is appropriate for school work.

Thanks to all those involved in the sports awards on Tuesday evening and congratulations to all those students who were recognized for their outstanding success. Another great success the school community can be proud of is the award received at the AMI Showdown Drama awards where Jane Luton won the best design for all schools. This was a team effort but came from the vision and passion that Jane and our students bring to our performance areas of the College.

Congratulations also go to Chris Clay who will be representing New Zealand as the Microsoft world teacher of the year."

Michael Leach, Principal

FAMILY & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

All parents are invited to the Family & Friends Meeting taking place on **Wednesday 16th November** at **7:30pm** in the College staffroom. Our teacher in charge of Health Education, Claire Joyce, will be presenting information regarding the current Health Curriculum.

Mark Twyman - Chairperson: BDSC: Family & Friends - 021-978070 - friends@bdsc.school.nz

The BDSC Dance department proudly presented Pulse 2011

This year's production of Pulse included 150 students, 38 dance works. The show was a celebration of student achievement, and this year the focus of the show was on "student choreography". Year 12 and 11 students, Justine Mentoor, Hiria Bell and Canaan Cangir choreographed on the two year 10 dance classes, working with them in their lunch breaks, producing two vibrant hip hop performances.

Isaac Monga, Stefan Williams and Canaan Cangir choreographed the year 11 performance of "The History of Hip Hop", gaining credits for their choreography and performance.

The Year 13 students chose a theme, and choreographed the year 11 dance class during their lunch breaks, before, and after school. They have worked extremely hard, making costumes and rehearsing their dancers to create their media merge production of "The Wizard of Oz".

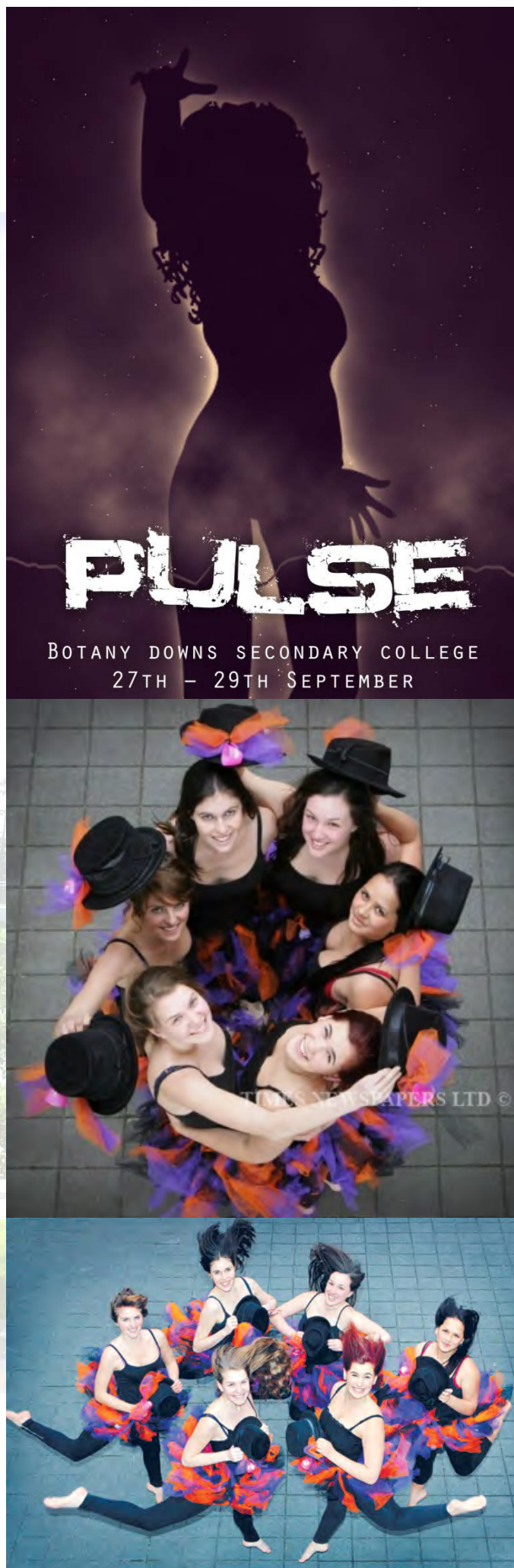
This production had been six months in the making, students worked very hard on their dance works, as well as the costumes, the music mixing, and moving bleachers, and furniture. Big thank you to Mr Duncan Veitch who is always there to help us move furniture, hang props, and generally make life easier.

At the time of writing this article, my lighting crew; Thaddeus Tucker and Jarred Kerr were packing down the lights after two weeks of labour intensive work. Thank you for your dedication and sense of humour, you worked so hard to make this production a success, I appreciate your time and effort, and above all the quiet way you went about making the show happen.

No show happens without a wonderful backstage crew, most of these students have worked in Pulse since year 9. I would like to acknowledge Michelle Burns, Kelly Edwards, Brendan Rose, Katherine Maslowski and Alex Soh. Thank you for your dedication and hard work; you were the first to arrive and the last to leave sometimes that meant arriving at 6am. I appreciate all you have done for my department.

I am very proud of the achievements of my students, it has been a busy year, but one with many successes. Thank you to all of the teachers involved in the production, your support and help are greatly appreciated. I look forward to an exciting 2012.

Mrs Aroha Rakanui
Head of Dance





Botany Downs Secondary College hosted WOW-Wee, its annual inter-school wearable arts competition and showcase in August this year. We had 64 entrants from across 5 Eastern area schools. Students competed in 5 different categories which ranged from culturally inspired evening wear to garments made of recyclables and couture fashion.

The quality and creativity of the individual garments was raised again this year and we saw some stunning entries. Continuing the tradition started last year all proceeds from the show will be donated to the New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation.

The event had a new theme of insects which was used to introduce the beginning of each category, the most memorable of these being the giant praying mantis puppet. Local businesses helped to sponsor the event and provide prizes for the winners. The event was judged by Emma Whiteside, former Montana WOW winner of the shell sustainability award in 2009, our own former student, previous WOW-Wee winner Taylor Woodmass and two representatives from the New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation.

Many students were involved in the showing of the event including backstage crew, lighting, dancers, a choreographer, models and designers. Thanks to all of those who participated it was a great show!



Category winners and runners up from BDSC:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Brittany Aldridge | (Winner of "On the Edge") |
| Paige Kingston | (Runner up in "On the Edge") |
| Holly Dodson | (Winner of "In the Pink") |
| Miaoting Ye | (Runner up in "In the Pink") |
| Daisy Kaur | (Runner up in "Whetu Kahu") |
| Eliza Baker | (Winner of "Revival") |
| Katherine Maslowski | (Runner up in "Revival") |
| Karenza Yates | (Runner up in "Avant Garde") |



Year 13 Geography 2012

Students studying Level 3 Geography in 2012: we will be going to Rotorua for three days from March 14th to March 16th 2012.

As part of our Year 13 Geography course we study “Tourism Development: A Cultural Process”. This leads to an externally assessed achievement standard (90702) worth 4 credits and also allows students to conduct independent research about the tourism industry for an internally assessed achievement standard, (90705) worth 3 credits.

Our proposed itinerary is:

Wednesday 14th March

8.00am Depart Auckland
Lunch - self catering
Buried Village
Skyline Skyrides & Luge
Arrive at Kiwi Paka accommodation, Rotorua



Thursday 15th March

8.30am Wai-O-Tapu Thermal Wonderland
1.30pm Rotorua Museum
3.15- 5.00pm Students to collect information in central Rotorua for research assignment
7.00pm Mitai Village Hangi Dinner and Maori Concert

Friday 16th March

8.30am Speaker: Gina George, Tourism Marketing Manager, Destination Rotorua, Rotorua Convention Centre.
9.30 am Students to collect information in central Rotorua for research assignment
2.30pm Agrodome: marketing manager and Sheep Show
4.30pm Depart Rotorua
8.00pm approximate arrival time at Botany Downs Secondary College

I am very aware that the start of the school year is an expensive time for families and it may help to budget for this field trip if notified of the likely cost well in advance. In 2011 the cost of the trip was \$345.00 per student and it hoped that costs in 2012 will be similar. Accommodation, transport, two dinners and breakfasts are included in the cost of the trip as are the activities listed above.

The Year 13 students who went on this year's Rotorua Geography trip thoroughly enjoyed themselves and gained a lot from doing so.

I will be in contact with more details early in Term One 2012. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on 09 273 2310 or at s.brodie@bdsc.school.nz

Miss S Brodie - TiC Geography

Learner Support

The Botany Downs Secondary College newsletter is a great way to get information out to parents and an excellent way to *request information*. This article requests information about your child that will assist teachers in finding the most successful way to teach them.

We have a growing number of students at Botany Downs Secondary College who need support with their learning. Some of these students have learning preferences such as dyslexia, or conditions such as auditory processing disorder, visual processing disorder, dyspraxia, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD).

In order for the teachers and teacher aides at BDSC to best help these students, it is imperative that parents/guardians provide the school with any documentation they have that supports a diagnosis of the learning difficulty or condition. This should ideally be accompanied by any documents outlining all past interventions (like Reading Recovery or Speech Therapy) and any help previously received from agencies such as Resource Teachers of Literacy (RLit), Resource Teachers of Learning and Behaviour (RTLB), Supplementary Learning Support (SLS), or Moderate Needs Contract.

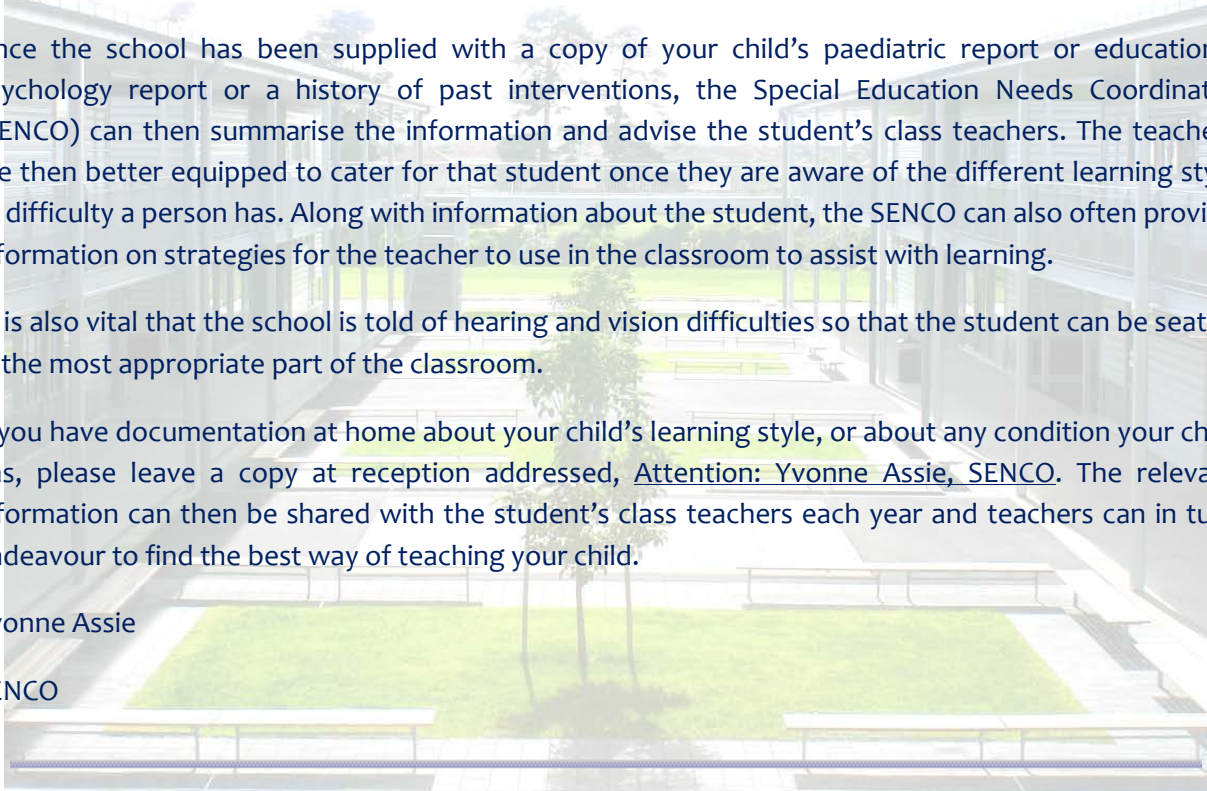
Once the school has been supplied with a copy of your child's paediatric report or educational psychology report or a history of past interventions, the Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCO) can then summarise the information and advise the student's class teachers. The teachers are then better equipped to cater for that student once they are aware of the different learning style or difficulty a person has. Along with information about the student, the SENCO can also often provide information on strategies for the teacher to use in the classroom to assist with learning.

It is also vital that the school is told of hearing and vision difficulties so that the student can be seated in the most appropriate part of the classroom.

If you have documentation at home about your child's learning style, or about any condition your child has, please leave a copy at reception addressed, Attention: Yvonne Assie, SENCO. The relevant information can then be shared with the student's class teachers each year and teachers can in turn endeavour to find the best way of teaching your child.

Yvonne Assie

SENCO



English Learning Area

ICAS ENGLISH EXAMINATION RESULTS

Botany Student takes out Top Prize

This year has been very successful with a record number of 'Distinction' and 'High Distinction' certificates being awarded in the English and Writing Examinations. Congratulations especially to Nikki Miles 9J11 who achieved the highest score in New Zealand for Year 9. She will be awarded a medal in recognition of this.

The ICAS tests are developed by Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia. These tests are designed to provide an independent evaluation of students' academic abilities, skills, knowledge and understanding of particular core areas.

The following students have attained at 'credit' or higher:

Nikki Miles 9J11 – High distinction (Top score in New Zealand)

Year 9 ICAS English

Rishika Chopara – High Distinction
Jonathan Wenhaosee – High Distinction
Omkar Nitin Athavale – Distinction,
Tina Chen – Distinction
Kelly Gradon – Distinction
Poornimajeya Kumar – Distinction
Catherine Kang – Distinction
Becky Nisbet – Distinction
Sarah Davis – Credit
Spencer Groom – Credit
Shirley Ho - Credit
Matthew Kim – Credit
Brittany Mason – Credit
Saachi Shara – Credit
Shivani Sharma - Credit

Year 9 ICAS Writing

Sophia Chu – Distinction
Nikki Miles - Distinction
Omkar Nitin Athavale – Credit
Tina Chen – Credit
Rishika Chopara - Credit
Sarah Davis – Credit
Kelly Gradon – Credit
Shirley Ho - Credit
Matthew Kim – Credit
Rhea Patel – Credit
Vishal Prakash – Credit
Olia Wan – Credit
Rhia Woollaston - Credit

Year 10 ICAS English

Simone Wadia – High Distinction
Kelyn Ferguson – Distinction,
Sabrina Lau – Distinction
Norine Ma – Distinction
Yashawini Amberkar – Credit
Deborah Lau – Credit
Rebecca McCulloch – Credit
Prachi Sethi - Credit

Year 10 ICAS Writing

Norine Ma – High Distinction
Sabrina Lau – Credit
Deborah Lau – Credit
Jessie Liu – Credit
Prachi Sethi - Credit

ESOL TRIP TO KELLY TARLTONS

On the 8th of September, year 9 and 10 ESL went to Kelly Tarltons to further our knowledge of Antarctica in the unit we are studying. When we arrived at Kelly Tarltons, we were met by Jorie who talked to us about Antarctica and the clothing that were worn in the past and now. She also talked about Robert Falcon Scott, and Roald Amundsen who had a race to see who could reach the South Pole first, unfortunately Robert Falcon Scott died on his way back, because of starvation.

After Jorie had finished talking to us, we had morning tea whilst watching the sting rays being fed then we went on the penguin ride and watched penguins swimming around in the penguin zone. Some penguins were lying around and some were hatching eggs. We also saw an baby emperor penguin.

Then we went and saw the fish in the aquarium. It was interesting as we saw a lot of different types of fish, such as star fish, sea horses and sharks.

After Kelly Tarltons we had lunch in Mission Bay. As we finished our lunch some people were playing social rugby, some people were taking photos and some people were chilling out under a tree. It was a fabulous and enjoyable day.

Here I would like to thank Miss Morgan, Mrs Bottom, and Mrs Hare on behalf of the students of year 9 and 10 ESOL. Thank you for arranging such a wonderful trip for us. We had a wonderful and educational day. A big thank you!



YEAR 9 & 10 SOCIAL STUDIES GATE DAY

On the 28th of September 9J11 and 10B1 had a group of guest speakers come in to talk to us about water and the problems the world is currently facing. The first speaker was Seth from World Vision. He talked to us about the work they are doing in Tanzania and how they are helping to stop 24,000 children dying each day due to preventable diseases. Seth showed us photos of some of the water structures he and the World Vision team have put in place to ensure that everybody has clean drinkable water. One was filled with burnt animal bones to filter the water. Seth said that "Burnt animal bones last longer and work better as a water filter than sand". One really helpful thing Seth taught us was 8.1.1 meaning 8 teaspoons of sugar, 1 teaspoon of salt and 1 litre of water.

This can be mixed together to provide a simple remedy to help children survive diarrhoea.



Our second speakers were from a group called OneBuzz. They talked to us about the idea they have created as part of the Microsoft Innovation competition they competed in earlier this year. Their creation was to do with preventing the spread of malaria and treating it in parts of India. This consisted of software they had created that showed them the distribution of bed nets, medical supplies and swamps around the area and how long those bed nets have left until the insecticide in them has worn off. With this software they were able to predict the spread of malaria and how much medicine was needed to treat this.

Our third and final speaker of the day was Andrew Jenks from Waicare. His lesson was based on the Killkenny Reserve behind our school. He taught us about what is happening to our waterways and some of the species living in them. Overall, both 9J11 and 10B1 had a enjoyable day filled with exciting activities and presentations and would like to thank World Vision, One Buzz and Waicare for giving up their time to come educate us in water usage around the globe.

Spencer Groom 9J11

After lunch, we all put on our "stylish" gumboots and old clothing and walked over the road to Killkenny Reserve. The Yr 10s and the Yr 9s went into separate groups. We swapped over later in the afternoon. The Year 9 class, my class, went down the hill and worked in the lower part of the stream, while the Year 10 class went further up the stream, into the bush.

Once we got down there, we were again split up into two groups of roughly 14. My group, first, went with Kate and Julia from Wai Care. We checked the temperature of the water by using thermometers. I accidentally dropped my thermometer in the water, but managed to scoop it out quickly. On average, the temperature was 12.2°C, which was excellent for fish life.

Next, we checked the clarity of the water. We used long clear plastic tubes and filled them up with water. Then we dropped a weight attached to a string down it and looked through the top of the water. We dropped the weight until we couldn't see it anymore, and then measured the distance between the weight and the top of the water.

Most of our measurements were around 100cm and I could see my weight even when the string had run out! These were all signs of possible life in the stream, so we started hunting, using nets. We found lots of shrimp-



like creatures living in the stream, which were extremely miniature. Our most exciting findings were a mayfly larvae and a leech. We put the mayfly larvae underneath a magnifying glass so we could have a closer look. It had three long tails that stuck out and moved up and down.

Then we switched over groups with the other half of the Year 9 class and went to some of the Pollution Response Team members from Auckland Council. They took us to a nearby storm drain where there was a long sausage shaped bag made of netting filled with a strange blue and white rubbery material, a large rubber mat, another sausage shaped bag filled with sand and a red box. They explained that they use these things to prevent pollution from getting into the storm drain. The large rubber mat is used to cover the drain. The sand filled bag was used as a temporary barrier around the storm drain and the bag filled with the strange blue and white rubbery material is used to put down the storm drain itself if the pollution accidentally gets through. The blue and white material is actually used for absorbing oil because it doesn't absorb water, only oil. Then finally they opened the red box which was filled with... kitty litter. This is used to absorb pollutants such as petrol and the Pollution Response Team uses it by spreading it all over the road. Afterwards, they took us over to a board covered in photographs of different situations they had been to, the most absurd one being milk that had been split into a pond. Then they took us back to the stream, near where we were working before. There they put litmus paper in the water, to see how much acidity was in the water. This would show if there was any human waste had leaked in there from faulty pipe connections. Luckily, there wasn't any. Then they showed us a ground up wood called peat. Peat is used to soak up oil in water, because when it absorbs water, it doesn't let go of it again. They told us if we put peat in the water full of oil, it would release any oil back in. Which I think is pretty amazing.

Rebekah Hutchinson 9J11



The Year 10s examined the native bush left in the reserve and were lucky enough to see Koura and Kopuka fish caught by Paul a specialist fisherman who studies fish in stream habitats. After a short spell in a tank of water so that everyone could see them, they were returned to the water. Water quality tests were conducted in the bush area too, to see the difference between a shaded and open habitat. We also examined the different tree species that are re-growing now the area is not grazed by animals. Many students in the two classes had not

been into the reserve despite living near it and were surprised at what native species live there. Thank you to the Waicare and Auckland Council staff for spending the time with us.

UKULELE GROUP

We have been strumming, and plucking it up, weekly to learn eighteen songs from The KIWILELES SONG BOOK for our performance as part of New Zealand's Massed Ukulele Orchestra at the Waitakere Stadium 26 November. This is an annual event and if you would like to participate just visit www.nzukulelefestival.org.nz. We had a great afternoon recently at Queens Wharf, where we played through the entire repertoire along with 900 other kiwileles, in The Cloud. It was a great experience enjoyed by all, and if you were lucky, you may have caught a glimpse of us in the TV3 news.

Ms S Wood



SCHOOL DONATIONS

DONATION

The school donation for 2012 will be \$275.00 per student. For families with three or more students the third and consecutive student will be free.

DISCOUNTS

We offer discounts to families who pay the donation early, detailed below are the discounts:

15% discount if the 2012 donation is paid in full by the 15th December 2011

10% discount if the 2012 donation is paid in full by the end of term 1 2012.

Families who pay the donation will receive copies of the school magazine free.

PAYMENTS

We offer the following payment options to families

Cash

Cheque

Credit card

Eftpos

Automatic payments: if you require a form for automatic payments please email d.bellette@bdsc.school.nz or j.johnston@bdsc.school.nz

Internet banking: Bank account number 12-3040-0700750-01 Botany Downs Secondary College. It is important with this option to record the family and first name of the student, the item you are paying for i.e. donation, school trip etc as reference information to appear on our bank statement.

With any of the above payment options we are willing to accept payment in installments

Remember you can claim part of your school donation as a rebate from Inland Revenue.

PROCEDURE FOR RETURN AND RE-ISSUE OF SENIOR TEXTBOOKS FOR STUDY 2011

The Deadline for return of Senior Textbooks for

YEAR 13

TUESDAY 25TH OCTOBER

- Textbooks will become overdue as at
Wednesday 26th October

HOW DO I GET TEXTBOOKS FOR STUDY PURPOSES?

- Before your exams start please check with the library staff that the books you have are the ones issued to you. i.e.: Check Barcodes.
- Return **all library** resources and any textbooks not needed for study before 25^h October to the Study Centre foyer/Library.
- After 25th October pay your \$50 bond to the Finance Centre and collect a Proof of Payment Card
- With your card and textbooks go to the Study Centre foyer/Library to have them reissued.
- After your exams return all your textbooks to the Study Centre foyer/Library, and collect your card. Take signed card to the Finance Centre and collect your bond.

Finance Centre – Cash or Cheque Only (Cheques will be held, not banked)

NO EFTPOS available

PROCEDURE FOR RETURN AND RE-ISSUE OF SENIOR TEXTBOOKS FOR STUDY 2011

The Deadline for return of Senior Textbooks for

YEARS 11-12

WEDNESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

- Textbooks will become overdue as at **1ST DECEMBER 2011**

DO TEXTBOOKS NEED TO BE RE-ISSUED FOR STUDY?

- The answer to the above question is **NO**.
 - If you are in Year 11 or 12 then you hold onto your textbooks (*all **Library books must be returned***) until you have finished your exams, return them to the Study Centre foyer/Library before the above date.
 - If you have already returned a textbook that you need for study come to the Study Centre foyer/Library to get another one issued.
 - **Before your exams start please check with the library staff that the books you have are the ones issued to you. i.e.: Check Barcodes.**
 - *If you do not return your textbooks by 30th November, they will be charged to your school account and you will not be able to borrow textbooks/library books next year until they have been returned or paid for.*
-

10 revision tips for parents

Educational psychologist Paul Mawer has more than 30 years' experience in his field. Here is his advice on preparing both parents and children for exams

1) Offer help

Help your child structure what he/she is doing, but don't be overbearing. Sit your son or daughter down and ask how you can help. Let him or her know that you are there to test them, or to bring in a much-needed hot drink.

2) Look around for revision materials

Contact the school and ask for some revision aids. There are a lot of tips on revision websites such as www.studyit.govt.nz, which has links to other sites.

3) Encourage breaks

Breaks are vital — no one can revise all the time, and all brains need time to digest information properly.

4) Keep an eye on the mobile phone and internet

Social networking is a really big distraction and something that you could agree to put on hold. Suggest that you will turn off the internet router when revision is going on, or look after his or her mobile phone for an hour. Remove siblings from the revision area, too.

5) Look for signs of stress

If your child is not sleeping or eating, you need to address this.

6) Help them play to their strengths

Do you know how your child learns? Suggest cards, charts or techniques such as mind-mapping and multisensory learning (walking around, saying things out loud, rather than just sitting and reading).

7) Don't get stressed

It's vital that you don't panic. If parents stress out too much, their children can pick up on this and get anxious in turn. Quiet pressure is better than nagging or shouting.

8) Don't over-bribe

Stick with something simple and immediate. A big promise — such as a car or exotic holiday — may just add to anxiety and create a double-whammy of failure.

9) Be tough

It's good to be nice, but don't worry about being a little tough as well. After all, your child needs to do some revision, and you need to make sure it's done.

10) Keep things in proportion

It's amazing how much competition there is between parents about exams. You know the sort of thing: "My son got 3 E*s and yours only got 2 E*s." Don't let a situation develop whereby your child thinks he is letting you down if he doesn't get straight E grades. Your job is to protect as well as encourage.

10 revision tips for students

1) Make a plan

Look at your work, realise what you need to learn and divide it into topics. Don't just stick to what you're good at (and find easy to remember).

2) Don't do an elaborate plan

There's no need to use all the colours in the rainbow. This is a waste of time.

3) Get going

It gets easier once you actually do something

4) Revise in the best way for you

The most futile way of revising is to sit down and read. It's so passive that after about five minutes you will probably have switched off. Find something that works for you — if you need to walk around, do so. If you need to tell the cat about Stalin's Russia, do it. Or if you just need to sit at your desk making notes, do that instead.

5) Test yourself

Get hold of past papers and involve friends and parents if you need to. Saying answers out loud may help you to imprint them on your brain.

6) Find out about anything you don't understand

Don't just learn it by rote. Ask someone to explain it to you (you may be on study leave, but your teachers are probably still at the school and should be able to help).

7) Take breaks

But make sure that they're shorter than the time you spend revising.

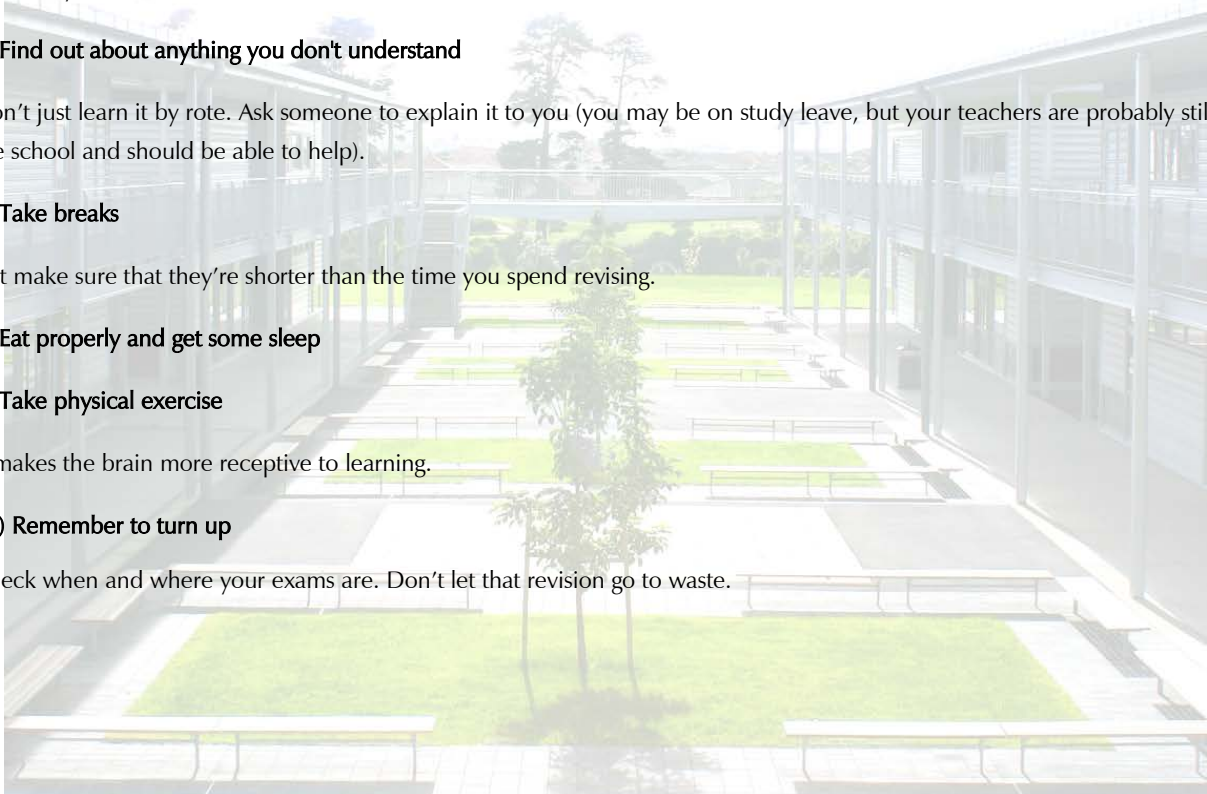
8) Eat properly and get some sleep

9) Take physical exercise

It makes the brain more receptive to learning.

10) Remember to turn up

Check when and where your exams are. Don't let that revision go to waste.



Golf Tournament

Golf Tournament

Last Sunday 02 October there were three BDSC students selected to play for the Auckland golf development squad against the North Harbour development squad.

Players were Jared Edwards, Gim Keh and Keiran Brook

And... Auckland won the competition on the day!

2011 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
Thursday, 6 th October	Last Day of Term 3 for students
Friday, 7 th October	Teacher Only Day (Ministry Award for new curriculum preparation)
TERM 4	Tuesday, 25 October to Friday, 9 December
Wednesday, 2 nd November	4:00 p.m. Year 12 Awards Ceremony 7:00 p.m. Year 13 Awards Ceremony
Thursday, 3 rd November	1:00 p.m. Year 11 Awards Ceremony

BDSC gratefully acknowledges the support of the following business partners

