



BOTANY DOWNS
Secondary College

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www.bdsc.school.nz

2011 Edition 1

8 February 2011



BOTANY BULLETIN

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Botany Downs Secondary College welcomes back to school all students, parents and staff especially those who are new to the area. 2011 has started extremely well.

The College welcomes a number of new students at all levels and we are especially pleased to greet the 320 Year 9 students to their first year of secondary education. I know that these students will set goals that will enable them to achieve at high levels. The College also knows that students will achieve what you as parents expect from them. So help your children set their goals and work with our teachers to monitor and extend your child's intellectual, academic, sport and cultural aspirations.

The opportunity to work in one of New Zealand's newest secondary Colleges is a challenge that I continue to enjoy. It is obvious that Botany Downs Secondary College is a "Student Centred Learning Organisation" where academic excellence and intellectual development is the focus of quality classroom learning practice. The college has been built to service the needs of students who will be living and working in a technologically advanced society.

NCEA RESULTS: The College results from last year's NCEA are very pleasing and those students with the right work ethic who are engaged in their learning achieved the results they deserved. If students are to achieve their potential this year it is important that students, parents and teachers are continually communicating about learning and achievement. Absence from the classroom should be minimised. All students will receive course outlines which detail what they will learn, and how and when they will be assessed. These outlines should be used by students and parents to track when assessments will occur and then record progress.

Learning and Teaching is essentially a transformational activity which aims to get students to take charge of their learning in such a way that they can gain the knowledge they need but also think critically, solve problems and gain the competencies that enable them to participate effectively in the community.

All students will be encouraged to be involved in the wider life of the school. This means participating in the whanau activities and joining the many sports, arts and cultural programmes that are offered at the College. Students who get involved in these activities will create memories and traditions that are sure to be part of the history of Botany Downs Secondary College.

The College is extremely fortunate to have a great group of teachers who are passionate about student achievement. The teachers have high expectations for all students and will encourage students to expand their intellect and become superior learners. This curriculum encourages higher level thinking, analysing, reasoning, discovery, problem solving, and inquiry and develops skills that are essential in a global community.

A school cannot work in isolation from its community. Strength lies in working together and the constructive partnership with parents and caregivers is necessary to help students attain their goals.

Mike Leach, Principal

PAID UNION MEETING

Tuesday, 22 February

SCHEDULED CLASSES FINISH 12:05 p.m.

The Post Primary Teachers' Association has called a paid union meeting to consider issues in the Secondary Teachers Collective Agreement. Paid Union meetings are part of the collective contract and the Board is obliged to provide the necessary time. The College has a large number of staff in the union so teaching classes on the afternoon of **Tuesday, 22nd February** will not occur. The teaching of scheduled classes will finish at 12:05 p.m. and all students may go home. If you wish your child to stay at school there will be supervised study in the Library.

STUDENT DIARY

The Student Diary contains information about the College. Students should use this book to record homework, and write on what and how they are learning. It is recommended that parents read through the diary and students' exercise books on a regular basis to provide a perspective of what is happening with their child's learning.

LIBRARY

The school has a tremendous library facility. We should encourage all students to read more. Each student should have a library book in their bag and 20 minutes reading per day should be a minimum. The library is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday until 4:00 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursdays until 4:30 p.m. for students to study quietly.

DAILY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Monday	Start 8:40	Finish 3:05
Tuesday	Start 8:40	Finish 3:15
Wednesday	Start 8:40	Finish 3:15
Thursday	Start 9:05	Finish 3:15
Friday	Start 8:40	Finish 3:15

DRIVING TO SCHOOL

The school hopes that students will not drive to and from school during normal school hours. We encourage the use of public transport and/or walking and cycling. The Council will be putting parking restrictions in local streets. If parents allow students to drive to school it is the parents' responsibility to ensure all students are safe and sensible.

YEAR 9 CAMPS

All Year 9 students have been booked on camps from the 27th February. Information will be distributed through the Whanau Leaders.

CELL PHONES

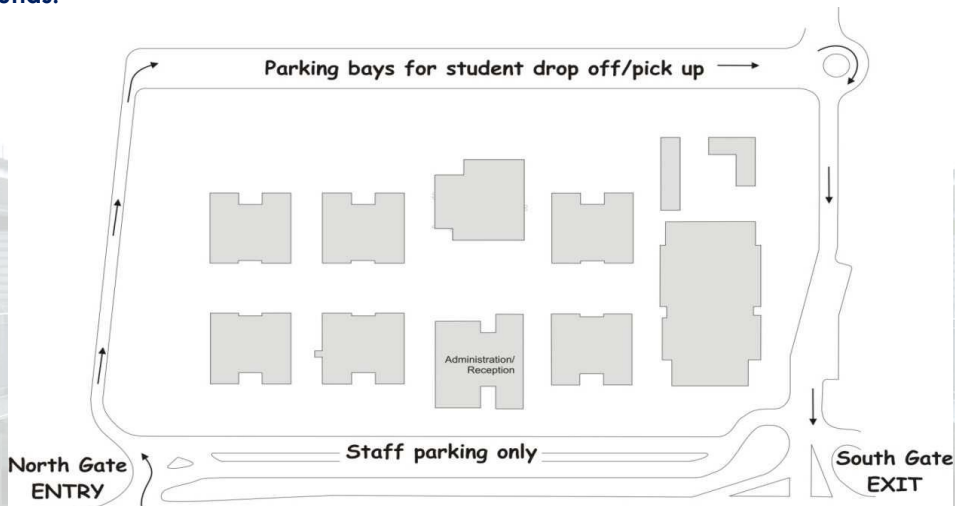
Cell phones are not to be used at all during the school day. If students need to contact home, this can be completed at Student Reception.

STUDY PERIODS

Some Year 12 and 13 students will have study periods. If these are in the first or last period of the day the student may be able to do this study at home. If the study occurs during the school day then they are to work in their own Whanau Commons.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

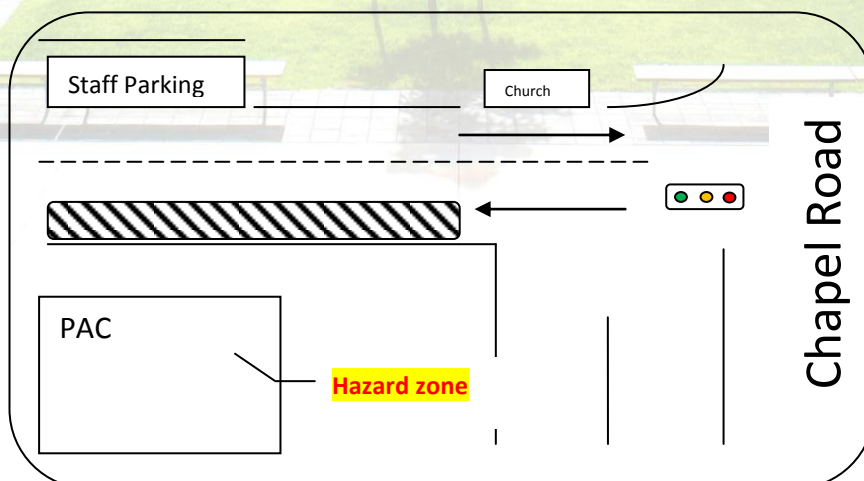
To prevent traffic congestion we strongly recommend that walking to school is the best option for students. However should you need to drive your student to school dropping them off in the car park at Botany Town Centre directly opposite the pedestrian crossing at the southern gates is a good idea. The official student drop off and pick up area on school grounds is in the back car park. Traffic will enter via the northernmost gate, and continue down the one way road past the green water tanks to the back car park. Cars will leave the school grounds past the roundabout out the southernmost exit past the Panasonic Performing Arts Centre to the traffic lights. **The front slip road is closed to through traffic and is used for staff parking only.** There is provision of disabled car parks at the front of the administration block, along with several visitor car parks for official business during the school day. There is to be no parking of parents' cars on the College grounds.



The drive between Chapel Road and Kilkenny Drive is for Pedestrian Traffic only and there is no thoroughfare for cars between Chapel Road and Kilkenny Drive.

No cars are to enter the school grounds through the controlled intersection at the southern boundary of the school from 3:00 p.m. It creates a very dangerous situation for our students. Please do not wait for your child in the church car park.

Please do not stop in the area outside the back of the Performing Arts Centre shown as a Hazard zone on the diagram. This causes a tailback onto Chapel Road and is a serious hazard.



HEALTH CENTRE

The Health Centre is for emergency use for students who are sick or injured at school. Please keep students who are unwell, at home for their safety and to prevent the spread of infection.

Emergency Contacts: Please inform the school of changes of address and telephone numbers,.

Water is important for general health, which always impacts on learning. Encourage students to drink water several times daily especially in summer and during high stress times such as exams.

Food intake affects learning. Healthy breakfasts, snacks and lunches make a difference. No soft drinks are permitted at school as the high sugar content affects behaviour, health and the well-being of one's teeth.

UNIFORM

BDSC has a School Uniform Code, compliance to which is shown by the signing of the enrolment forms at the enrolment interview. This is signed by the student at the time and indicates agreement of the various BDSC standards.

Once a student has agreed to become part of BDSC, he/she must adhere to the school standards. The significance of the uniform standard is highlighted by the fact that it is the first standard of the code of conduct. It is essential in establishing the tone and culture of BDSC.

We know all parents will support the high expectations we have for students who attend BDSC with regard to uniform, attendance, learning and work presentation. A copy of our expectations can be viewed in the parent handbook that was sent to all families.

We recommend that all students purchase a school hat to wear outside during P.E. or for travel to and from school.

YEAR 13 STUDENTS PRIVILEGES

Year 13 students have permission to visit Botany Town Centre during their lunch breaks on Mondays and Wednesdays only. This privilege is given on the understanding that they are back in College well in time to commence their Period 5 classes.

EXTRA MATHEMATICS TUITION

Maths help is available for all year levels on every Wednesday afternoon:

Venue:	P1.1 from
Time:	3.30 pm to 4.15pm.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The Family and Friends of BDSC would like to welcome all the new families to our school community and welcome the parents to our first monthly meeting on **Wednesday the 16th February at 7.30** in the staffroom which is upstairs from Reception.

We will spend some time in informal discussion about the Family and Friends Association, its goals and vision as well as the expectations of our relationship with the school.

Light refreshments will be available.

Marilyn Plews, Chairperson

PARENT PORTAL ON BotanyNet

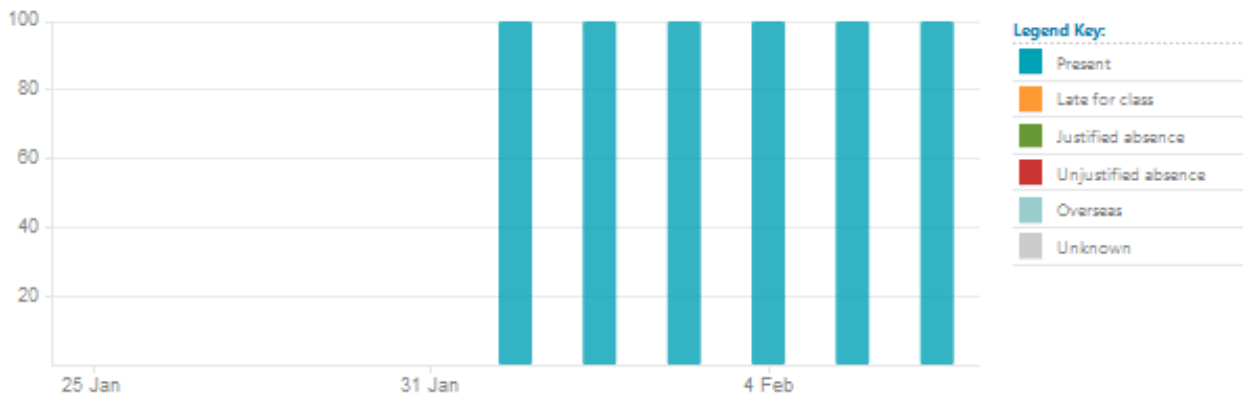
BotanyNet is the BDSC Learning Management System (LMS). It is used by teachers and students to access and share learning resources. We now have a Parent Portal that will allow parents and caregivers access to up-to-date contact information, attendance, assessment and class activity information about their child(ren). As the use of e-Portfolios for some subjects increases, the Parent Portal will allow parents/caregivers to access these as well. If any information, such as contact information, attendance or assessment, is found to be incorrect then please contact Student Services (StudentServices@bdsc.school.nz).

Sign in details (user name and passwords) will be sent by email to parents/caregivers before the end of February. If email details for parents/guardians are not up to date then this information can be corrected by emailing Student Services.

For further information about the Parent Portal please go to <http://intranet.bdsc.school.nz> and refer to the link from the home page.

<i>Present</i> 100.0 %	<i>Late for class</i> 0.0 %	<i>Justified absence</i> 0.0 %	<i>Unjustified absence</i> 0.0 %	<i>Overseas</i> 0.0 %	<i>Unknown</i> 0.0 %	Date Range: 25 Jan - 08 Feb	Export In: Select format
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Filter by: All Present Late for class Justified absence Unjustified absence Overseas Unknown



Term 1 Summary: 25 January - 15 April 2011

Last Updated: 8, Feb 2011 12:00 a.m.



BDSC Classic

10 DECEMBER 2010



Our annual sports fundraiser was once again a resounding success with over \$13,000 raised. On Friday 10 December 2010, 22 teams (132 players) entered the Ambrose golf tournament held at the Grange. We would like to thank the generous support of the local businesses for their donated items for the auction and sponsorship by New World, Botany. We look forward to hosting this year's event on Friday 9th December, 2011. Registration forms will be available in October.



YOUNG PEOPLE AND SOCIAL NETWORKING

During the year from time to time we deal with young people facing the consequences of bullying or unwanted attention on the internet.

It is important parents talk to their children about the dangers of being on these sites, giving away too much information and "chatting" with people that don't know.

If you have concerns you can call: **Barbara Divehall, School Counsellor 273 2310 X 282**

The following is an article written for the Eastern Courier January 2011 by Senior Constable Adele White, Youth Education, Howick Police, that you may find useful:

It is necessary to once again remind our teenagers of the dangers associated with the use of social networking sites on the internet. Most teenagers are extremely skilled in their use of "the net" - often more so than mum or dad. However, they are naive when it comes to the possible outcomes of misuse.

Facebook, and other similar sites have become a popular and widely used method of keeping in touch with friends both local, and around the world. Despite Facebook users having to be 13 years old many younger children are active users of this tool. Users are placing personal details online which are able to be accessed and subsequently misused. This ultimately places users in vulnerable and unsafe situations.

Younger users are at risk of being persuaded to pursue face to face meetings with undesirable people who have gained this information. Sadly there are people with the intention of establishing inappropriate relationships with young people using social networking sites to make contacts.

You might ask your child how they know whether the person they are talking to on-line is in fact who they think it is! In many cases they won't! Some young users have posted photographs which depict them to be older than their years, and some are of a provocative nature. These photos may well end up in cyberspace, and be used in unacceptable forums.

We suggest the following to parents:

- Familiarise yourselves with the use of the internet - and in particular any social networking sites your child may be using. They will have a statement of rights and responsibilities
- Speak to your child about the dangers of placing personal details online, and of face to face meetings with those met "on-line"
- Put boundaries in place. Children with unlimited and unsupervised access to the internet can often end up in troublesome situations
- Visit www.netsafe.org.nz This excellent website provides enlightening information for parents, and offers a fantastic support site for younger internet users in "Hector's World"

PRESENTS....

MEET THE TEAM!

Wednesday 23rd March

7-9 pm

BDSC staffroom

**An evening for parents to
meet us and see what we
can do for you**

For catering purposes please contact

b.divehall@bdsc.school.nz

A Note from the Nurse

Welcome back to the new school year for 2011!

I am a Registered Nurse available here full time onsite at BDSC. We also have an ACC registered Physiotherapist available once/ week to see students, and starting soon a Doctor will be in monthly to run Question and Answer sessions for students.

I look forward to meeting parents at our upcoming 'Meet the Team' evening on March 23rd; or at any time by appointment.

If you wish to discuss anything, please feel free to contact me:

Sherie Thompson BN, RNZCpN

273 2310, extension 284

s.thompson@bdsc.school.nz

2011 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday, 16 February 7:30 p.m.	Family & Friends Association Meeting BDSC Staff room – Admin Upper Level
Thursday, 17 February	Swimming Sports Day for Competitive Swimmers only
Monday, 21 February	PhotoLife Class and Individual Photographs
Tuesday, 22 February	PPTA Union Meeting Students dismissed 12:05 p.m.
Sunday, 27 Feb to Wed 2 March	Discovery Whanau Year 9 Camp
Tuesday, 1 to Friday, 4 March	Koru, Endeavour & Spirit Whanau Year 9 Camps
Wednesday, 2 to Saturday 5 March	Britten Whanau Year 9 Camp
Friday, 11 to Monday, 14 March	Blake Whanau Year 9 Camp
Tuesday, 22 March	Swimming Sports Day – Non-Competitive swimmers
Wednesday, 23 March 7:00-9:00 p.m.	Meet the Guidance Team BDSC Staff Room
March 30 – Friday April 1	Proposed Year 12 Geography Trip to Tongariro Volcanic centre
Friday, 15 April	Final Day of Term 1
18 to 29 April	School Holidays (including Easter) Good Friday 22 April, Easter Monday 25 April
TERM 2	Monday, 2 May to Friday, 15 July
Saturday, 11 th June	Senior Ball (Years 12 & 13) Ellerslie Events Centre
TERM 3	Monday, 1 August to Friday, 7 October
TERM 4	Tuesday, 25 October to Friday, 9 December

VTNZ East Tamaki

Our Services: 333 Ti Rakau Drive, East Tamaki (Up driveway opposite Bunnings Warehouse)
 WOF / COFA - Rentals and Taxis / Driver licensing Theory testing/renewals, replacement
 WOF + checkup additional check to your WOF / Interior car vacuum / MVR and Road User Charges
 Number plates / Pre Purchase Inspections / Vehicle information reports / Redbook valuations
 Driver licence theory testing
 Mon - Fri 9.00-3.00pm / Sat 9.00-1.30pm

BDSC gratefully acknowledges the support of the following business partners

