



BOTANY DOWNS Secondary College

575 Chapel Road, Howick,
Auckland
Telephone: 273 2310
Fax: 273 8551



BOTANY BULLETIN

2011 Edition 2
8 March 2011

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Our students raised an amazing \$11,500 from their activities at school on Friday 25th February for the Christchurch Earthquake appeal. This was an outstanding and humbling achievement. Thank you to the many families who gave generously on this day.

I would like to congratulate our scholarship winners from last year. These results reflect the hard work and effort put in by the students who appreciated the great support from their families and teachers:

Revati Chopara	Chemistry	Statistics	Mathematics	Classical Studies
Ji Yae Kim	French	History	Classical Studies	
Michael Kim	Mathematics	Chemistry		
Yeong Kyong Kim	Graphics	Photography		
Chloe Manga	Media Studies	Classical Studies		
Amy Rankin	Geography	Statistics		
Jessica Seo	English	Classical Studies		
Mirendra Aruldasan	Mathematics	Chinmay Pandit	Mathematics	
Emily Bennet	Mathematics	Junia Pholpraser	Photography	
Min Han Chow	Statistics	Junia Pholprasert	Photography	
Nadine Foy	Statistics	Samantha Reynolds	Physical Education	
Ben Goodger	Economics	Mandale Smuts	Drama	
Yida Guo	Statistics	Ji Kin Tang	Statistics	
Samia Ghazali	Geography	Na Wang	Mathematics	
Andrew Lim	Chemistry	Taylor Woodmass	Technology	
Tzu-Han Lin	Mathematics	Linda Zheng	Drama	
Rione Naidoo	Accounting			

PPTA Industrial Action: The union has asked all teachers not to attend parent-teacher conference. The College normally holds these meetings in Week 8 of Term One after students have received their interim reports. Reports will be issued in the week commencing 21st March. If you have concerns following their receipt, please contact individual teachers, Whanau Leaders or the Principal.

We would like to have an **Open Day** where parents and grandparents of current students can come into the school to observe school life in the 21st Century. School will go on normally but you will be welcome to sit in classes, observe lessons and find out about what makes Botany Downs Secondary College so special. The date for this will be **Tuesday, 29th March 2011**.

Mike Leach, Principal

HEAD STUDENTS FOR 2011



Head Girl **Jane Cha**; Head Boy **Tommy Long**; Deputy Head Boy **Akshay Ogra**; Deputy Head Girl **Mena Alsaffar**

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 Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday the 16th March 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. The Principal, Mike Leach, and one of the Parent Trustees, Mike Arand, will be in attendance to answer any queries you may have. Light refreshments will be available.

Marilyn Plews, Chairperson

BDSC RUGBY REGISTRATION 2011

All boys who register will get into a team
Boys new to rugby are welcome to register
Parents are encouraged to attend

**RUGBY WEIGH IN AND
REGISTRATION
7PM BLAKE WHANAU
Wednesday 9TH MARCH**



ENGLISH FACULTY NEWS

The English Learning Area welcomes three new teachers: **Miss Olivia Jordon**, **Ms Anastasia Lemalu** and **Ms Nicole Poindexter** from the beginning of this year. Mrs Alice Vickers also returned from maternity leave on a part-time basis. Mrs Jan Stuart was promoted to Head of English at Rosehill College, Mrs Jasmine Johnson is taking maternity leave for part of 2011 and Mr Vivashal Singh took a permanent position at Mission Heights Junior College.

We currently have five Level 3 NCEA classes for Year 13: two University-driven courses for students keen on continuing English at university, three R-reading based courses and two M courses, all leading to Level 3 university entrance, the specialised ENS course for Year 13 students completing Level 2 literacy and three Level 2 classes for Year 13 students still needing literacy credits. There are 14 Level 2 NCEA for Year 12 students, an abridged course at Level 2 (two classes) and Year 12 ENS classes for students who might find they need two years to achieve Level 2 literacy. There are 12 NCEA English classes at Year 11 with some of these students aiming to complete a wide reading Unit Standard (8823) at Level 2; one of these classes is a class set up to support students who have struggled at Year 10 but still offers all the requirements needed to achieve literacy. There are also more specialised Year 11 courses (11ENS) for ESOL students and this year we are running pre-NCEA Level 1 courses for students newly arrived in New Zealand.

Over half of our Year 10 2010 students completed the wide reading Unit Standard (8808) last year and have already gained 3 credits at NCEA Level 1. Year 11 students this year are attempting the new curriculum achievement standards this year. The course is very similar to last year: two external assessments have been combined and all credits have been increased. It means that students attempt less but in more detail. The Achievement English work book is new this year, although similar to last year's, and has an added bonus of a log in/password to Live-Wire Learning. This is unique to each student and accompanies the work book. Students find the access to interactive revision activities very helpful.

All NCEA students have been issued with details of this year's course and should have bought work books which will be used extensively for class work, homework, and for revision purposes throughout the year. Every student has had included in their pack *Essential English* which should help with grammar, syntax and literary terms. Students should keep these very handy text books as they only need to buy one copy to keep over the years. Next year, the purchase of these texts will only need to be made by Year 9 students.

Year 9 and 10 students should also have bought the Sigma Homework book and details of their courses have been issued to them. Year 10 books have a writing focus, and Year 9 a grammar focus. Parents should have read course details and signed the letter which is then placed in the front of their exercise books along with assessment criteria. Junior classes are of mixed ability except for one class at each year level where top students have been grouped (9J11). Testing for entry into class this year has been extensive.

PA testing has been completed for junior students. Parents may expect to have these results reported on early this year (either separately or with the first reports). Generally Progress and Achievement tests report a stanine (a number 1-9). 1 is the lowest and 9 the highest. If your child is reading at their age level, you can expect their stanine to be the middle number (5). Should they be reading at a low level, you can expect them to have undergone further testing to ascertain whether they need to be included in the specialised reading programme. If they are reading at a high level, they may have been placed in the accelerate class or be catered for by the personal reading programme, as well as in their English class. The AsTTle testing is a more detailed and relates to curriculum levels. Generally Year 9 students operate on curriculum levels 3-4, and Year 10 at 4-5 (at the beginning of the year). These tests will be done later in the year electronically.

Media Studies is always popular and this year a newly created Year 11 course will provide continuity between the Year 10 and Year 12 and 13 courses. It offers NCEA Level 1 credits which is new across New Zealand.

Professional development for teachers of English this year will be focussed on the new curriculum for Year 12 as well as personal development in English. There is constant updating in new technology and software used by the school.

Co-curricular: We are currently offering co-curricular activities in debating and speeches, writing, newspaper and school magazine production. We are also hoping to subscribe to digital conferencing with New Zealand writers. The storyteller, Andy Wright who was very popular with students is also scheduled to entertain junior students with imagery in story-telling mid-year. Apirana Taylor, poet and short story writer will be performing for Year 11 students and this will be followed by a workshop for young writers. Last year two senior students had writing published in Write-On magazine and we will repeat this poetry writing course across the school later this year. Year 13 students will be invited to attend the Readers' and Writers' festival in May.

We would like to encourage all students to view as many theatrical performances as possible. We would also like to draw your attention to the many writing competitions and publications available to students – these are advertised through the ultranet/intranet. If students are unsure, they should approach their English teachers or see Mrs Sturgess direct for details.

For students requiring any help in English: language or literature, we offer tutorials on Wednesdays after school with English teachers in B1.5. We will also be running an English detention for students who do not fulfil classroom or homework requirements. That will be in the same room (B1.5) 3.15-4.00pm every Wednesday afternoon and will be supervised by English teachers. Parents will receive a notice in advance advising them that their son/daughter is required to attend and the reason for doing so.

We would also like to remind you how important it is for students, teachers and parents to be reading on a regular basis. If you have a child who is a reluctant reader, encourage the reading of at least local newspapers so that he or she develops confidence in reading and sees the importance of reading in every day life. Parents frequently ask what they can do to support their child in writing and we would like to suggest that students who actively seek to know what is going on in the world and discuss these issues with family members are better equipped to express an opinion, so have ideas for writing. Reading is also the entry into writing. All students should be reading local papers and keeping abreast with what is going on around them, senior students should be reading national newspapers, *The Listener*, *Metro*, *North and South*. This year the student diary has some excellent writing and literacy tips included in it.

We hope that all students enjoy their English courses. Remember that English is key to good communication in all facets of life and to all other subjects studied.

Janet Sturgess, Head of English Learning Area

ENDEAVOUR ICE SKATING TRIP



DRAMA WORKSHOPS

KICK OFF THE TERM

On Wednesday the 9th and Friday the 11th of February all NCEA Drama students had the opportunity to attend an all-day Drama workshop on site in the Performing Arts Centre. The workshops were led by ex-head of drama at Botany Downs Secondary College Mr Anton Bentley. Mr Bentley has worked extensively in theatre as a director and actor and led the students through a range of activities and learning opportunities.

The students discovered that Drama is hard work and fun. They were challenged as they devised drama rapidly and in small groups. The focus of the workshop was on the work of German playwright and theatre practitioner Berthold Brecht. It was a great way to introduce the students to a wide variety of conventions and elements of Drama and allow them to experiment and try ideas throughout a day. The students were enthusiastic and created some strong pieces which will hopefully be developed further in their first achievement standard. We were grateful to Mr Bentley for developing two exciting workshops for us.



Well done to the students who took part and created some interesting dramas.

Make A Difference (MAD) Marine 2011 Camp



During January 19th – 21st, three Year 11 students: **Aarushee Kaul**, **Christine Sy** and **Aimee Lowe**, went on an amazing adventure, participating in **Make A Difference (MAD) Marine 2011 Camp**, along with 25 other students from 15 different Auckland schools. The camp took place at Motutapu Island for three short days. It was organized by the Department of Conservation and the Auckland Council. The purpose of the camp was to learn about the marine environment and its issues, the Motutapu Island Restoration programme, as well as raising awareness of Sea Week (February 26th – March 6th). We learned about coastal ecology and shared ideas on promoting Sea Week and inspiring BDSC students and the wider community to rejuvenate their connection with the sea. We also had fun with the different camp activities such as: snorkeling, kayaking and more. We even got to make new friends! All of us are looking forward to combining our great ideas to help save the environment, starting with Sea Week this month.

Aimee Lowe



Year 9 Social Studies Trip to Howick Historical Village

This year we have arranged a fieldtrip to Howick Historical Village as an extension to the unit *Background to Botany* which will help students complete a research assessment on this topic.

This programme is part of the Botany Downs Secondary College's endeavour to provide students with a range of authentic learning experiences. The fieldtrip will take place on the following dates:

- | | | |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| • Thursday 17th March | 11.05am – 1.35pm | 9D3 9D9 |
| • Monday 21st March | 8.40am – 11.00am | 9E8 9B7 9K6 |
| • Monday 21st March | 11.10am – 1.40pm | 9J5 9J11 |
| • Friday 25th March | 10.50am – 1.20pm | 9B1 9E2 9S4 |
| • Wednesday 30th March | 11.15am – 1.45pm | 9K12 9S10 |

Students will miss their timetabled classes for two periods on the day of their trip – one of which will be their normal Social Studies lesson. All other lessons of the day will proceed as per the timetable. A programme of activities at the Village has been developed and students will be taking part in a range of interactive experiences.

Students are required to be in full school uniform and should bring pens/pencils and refill paper. They will not need to bring their lunch as they will return to school for the lunch hour. They may, however, like to bring a snack and a water bottle.

The trip will cost \$12.00, please ensure payment is received by Monday 14th March. All cash and cheque payments must be sent to school in a clearly marked envelope with the student's name, tutor group, the amount of money enclosed and what the payment is for.

We would be very grateful to any parents or guardians who may be able to assist with supervision at the Village. If anyone is able to help, or indeed has any queries about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact me on (09) 2732310 ext 220. E-mail: m.andrew@bdsc.school.nz.

Michael Andrew, **HOLA Social Sciences**



Discovery
Students
Making
Paper
Cranes
for
Christchurch

As New Zealand is well aware, Christchurch has suffered a tragic ordeal that has changed the lives of many Cantabrians. Botany Downs Secondary College is right behind Christchurch wanting to help them in any way possible. Recently we raised \$11,500 for Christchurch by holding a mufti day, sausage sizzle and organising a night concert for the community. All events were very successful.

During **Discovery Whanau** assembly on the 8th March, students made paper cranes and wrote personal messages of encouragement to their peers in Christchurch on the inside. The students are aiming to make 1000 paper cranes as a symbolic gesture as 1000 paper cranes are meant to represent **Hope, Peace** and **Courage**. This idea was introduced by Ms Lodge, Japanese Teacher and is based on the Sadako Sasaki story. After the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Sadako was determined to fold 1000 paper cranes and this inspired her fellow classmates to do likewise.

Discovery students had fun making these cranes and through it the Whanau became closer as a family, just like the community in Christchurch. We all worked together, helping one another to finish the cranes. Their messages of hope will be sent to Christchurch.

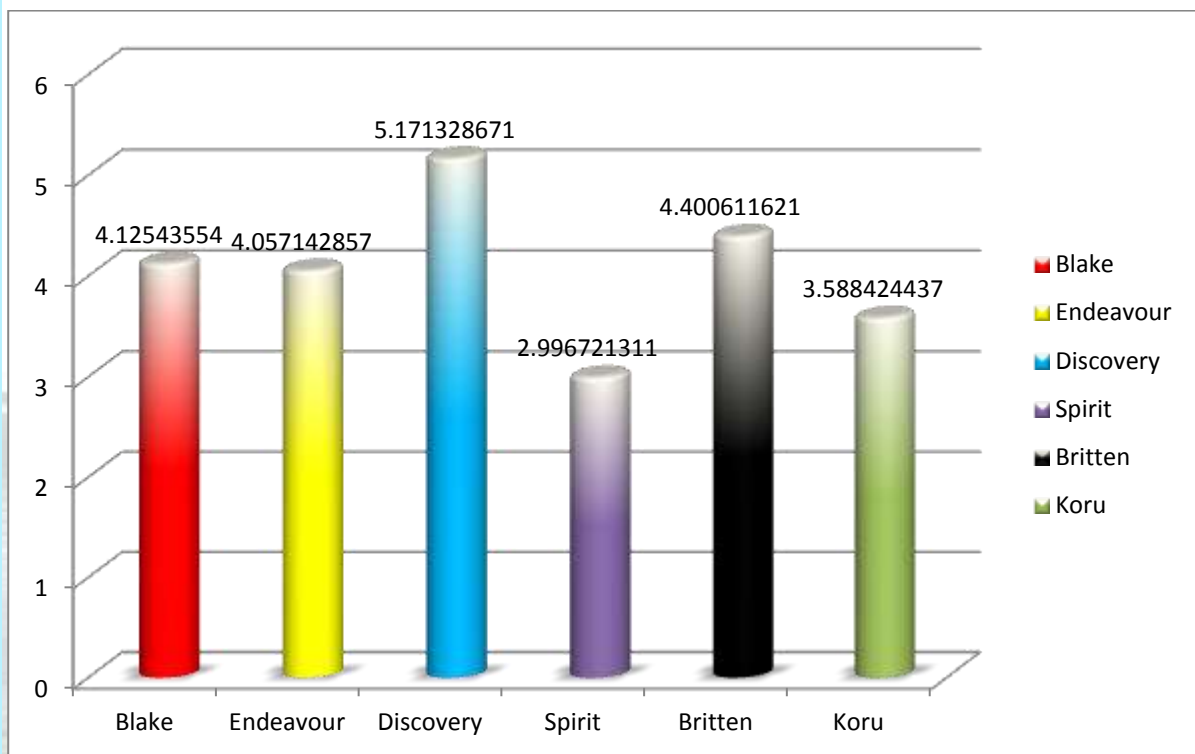
Matt Clark and Danielle Parshotham

ATHLETICS DAY



1st

DISCOVERY



Congratulations to Anuradha Sureshchandra 12D3

Dance Arangetram

SOLO DANCE DEBUT

Congratulations to Anusha who sat her final dance examination on 7th December in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and passed. Anusha has worked for many years to achieve this level, particularly during this last summer and displayed dedication and discipline well beyond her years.

Then began the arangetram training. She awoke at 5am daily, attended prayers, then started warm-ups at 8am, dance exercises and steps at 9am, then from 10am to 7.30/8pm, she would be with the dance teachers and choreographers, learning the routines and polishing them..

Anusha performed her Solo Dance Debut on 24th February 2011 and she performed beautifully.

Her family are understandably very proud of her and wish to share this momentous occasion with Anusha's friends and teachers, who have been instrumental in moulding her into the young woman she is today.



THE GUIDANCE TEAM

PRESENTS...

MEET THE TEAM

Counsellors Barbara Divehall and Leanne Rowe, along with Registered Nurse Sherie Thompson welcome you to an evening for Parents.

Come and enjoy refreshments and meet the team.

We will be free to answer all those questions you have wanted to ask about surviving those teenage years, and how we can help.

WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH 2011

7-9PM

Botany Downs Secondary College

To be held in the Staff Room, accessible via main reception.

For catering purposes and to register, email b.divehall@bdsc.school.nz

Reminder: the Library is now open at Interval for students to study, select and return books and read.

2011 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
Friday, 11 to Monday, 14 March	Blake Whanau Year 9 Camp
Wednesday, 16 March 7:30 p.m.	Family & Friends Association AGM BDSC Staff Room – Administration Upper Level
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
Monday, 28 March 5:30 p.m.	Board of Trustees Meeting BDSC Boardroom – Administration Ground Floor
Tuesday, 29 th March	BDSC OPEN DAY
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

333 Ti Rakau Drive, East Tamaki (Up driveway opposite Bunnings Warehouse)

Our Services:

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

