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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear parents and caregivers,

As I sit to write this newsletter and reflect, I wonder where this term has gone. It has been full of student-based activities, both curriculum related and within our extensive co-curricular programme. I would like to thank the many students who have organised, led or participated in the numerous events undertaken this term: Senior Ball, Business Market days, Arts Week, and Cultural Week that included our very first Botany Night of Nations. The term will conclude with our annual entry in Stage Challenge. We also have four international student tours departing at the end of term: service trip to our Sister school, Lelean Memorial School in Suva, Fiji; the Tokyo and Himeiji prefecture Tour to Japan; Commerce Tour to New York; and the Visual Arts Tour to New York and Washington. None of these opportunities would be possible without the support and tireless dedication of our passionate teachers.

We have had many successes in our co-curricular programme this term and these are highlighted in the Director of Sports report (please refer to page 7 and 8). Our students continue to amaze us with their accomplishments and the many ways in which they exemplify the values of the College and maximise the many opportunities at Botany Downs Secondary College.

Have a safe and relaxing break, as we count down to the Winter Sports Tournament and the all-important senior school exams (weeks 8 and 9) next term.

Karen Brinsden - Principal



OUR SCHOOL

TIME TRAVELS

Year 10 Investigative Geography is about learning about the world around us. Earlier this term, the Year 10 Investigative Geography classes went into the Auckland central business district to learn about our city's early history.

Working in teams, mainly of four, we were sent out around the central city to answer questions about the early European Auckland. This day taught us a lot about how Auckland has changed and developed over the years, giving us information about the early settlers and the major land expansion and reclamation that makes Auckland what it is today. The street called Fort Street today, used to be called Fore Street as it was the foreshore, the actual beach. Since 1840, the sea has been pushed back through reclamation. Now there are high rise office buildings along the street.

Teamwork became an important part of the trip as each group received a simple map to navigate the city, meaning we were expected to use our mapping skills to route the most effective way around the 34 question locations. We learned that although the map made the land look flat, it was not; there were several hills that we had to walk up.



Good time management and team work were crucial in order to make it round the different places and answer the questions. It was part of the year's team challenge, so correct answers gained points. This Geography trip was a fun day that all the students enjoyed.

By Renée Parkes 10J5

GEOGRAPHERS IN THE FIELD

The Level 3 Geography students recently spent a day conducting research for their 5 credit internally assessed research assignment. Students choose their own topics, which results in a wide variety and the locations visited varied accordingly.

I wanted to find out about people's perceptions and viewpoints regarding public transport within the Auckland region. To do this I visited Britomart Train Station, the Downtown Ferry Terminal as well as various stops along main bus corridors, where I surveyed people. 0% rated the transport network which we have as "good". Over 50% chose the options of average, or below par, commenting that we lack a suitable network to sustain a growing population. Furthermore, only two people, both from the 45 + age group want more motorways built. This suggests that the future decision makers like ourselves are looking ahead and see more benefit in public transport being our primary form of transport. These results are encouraging, but as highlighted by many tourists, we have a long way to go before we can rival other cities worldwide with our transport network.

BY Campbell Moss 13J11



OUR SCHOOL

GEOGRAPHY: THE GREEN AND GREY

For my research, I focused on how green and grey parks in central Auckland affect the well-being of individuals. Working with Yuzhang Tan, I went to two green parks, Myers Park and Albert Park and two grey parks, The Cloud and Aotea Square. Overall, the people whom we surveyed were all very supportive, which helped us to gather our data for this internal assessment with ease. From our survey, we found that most individuals stated that the parks had a positive effect on their mental well-being, whilst only a small number of individuals reported that there wasn't a change to their mental well-being. From this research I've learnt that the natural features as well as a peaceful atmosphere in a park can really help to improve ones mental well-being.

By Johnson Feng 13B1

SOUNDSCAPES

Walking along the city streets on a brisk Thursday morning, I stood out amongst the usual crowd of students, businessmen and women, as a clipboard replaced the steaming cup of coffee that should have been warming my hands.

With almost everyone in a rush to reach one destination or another, it was like picking a needle from a haystack to find someone with some time to spare to answer my survey.



My research was focused on the soundscapes of Auckland and how people perceive these acoustic environments. I collected recordings of the sounds in five different areas of the CBD: Takutai Square, Lorne Street, Aotea Square and two points along Queen Street. I also had to conduct surveys to understand how people perceived these sounds and whether they were impacted by their audible surroundings. Overall, I learnt that the most dominant sounds corresponded with the areas that they were found in i.e, mostly transport sounds heard along Queen Street, natural and human sounds in Aotea Square. My survey results also indicated that artificial sounds such as construction and transport were commonly perceived as being quite irritating and had a negative impact on one's mood, whilst more natural sounds such as nature and human chatter were found to be more agreeable. My work in the field has taught me that people generally tend to have a better mood as a result of the natural sounds in their environment as opposed to artificial sounds like construction and transport.

By Faizah Haroon 13D3

THE STREAM

Several Level 3 Geography students went to the stream beside the College to collect information for our research assessment. We were interested in finding out how different characteristics of the stream change as you move downstream. We measured many different aspects such as its width, depth, flow velocity, visual clarity, and the gradient of the stream channel, as well as taking lots of photos of the surrounding environment. One observation we made was that as you move from the source of the stream to Logan Carr Reserve, the stream channel gets wider and the flow velocity gets slower. This is a finding that we will be able to explain when we get further into completing

our work. Overall, it was a very successfully, muddy day!

By Alexa Sinclair 13K6

OUR PARKS

Some students chose to survey parks in the Botany area, collecting data on numerous factors relating to how well they serve the population and what makes a "good" park. We visited many local parks, including Barry Curtis Park and our very own Logan Carr Reserve, judging them on their facilities, usage, and noise levels. We noticed that while many parks have adequate exercise equipment for the public to use, some parks were positioned near main roads, making them quite noisy when compared to other nearby locations. By the end of the day, we were pleased to learn that good facilities are available to improve public health and exercise. We hope to come up with suggestions as to how we could get these high quality facilities to serve the local community even better in the future.

By Graham Mackintosh 13J11



OUR SCHOOL

ART DEPARTMENT NZ YOUNG INNOVATOR'S ART COMPETITION

Alex Su, 12K6, has recently won first place at the NZ Young Innovator's Art Competition with his painting titled 'Offbeat'. Alex depicted two portraits that represent his two identities as a Taiwanese and a New Zealand international student. His work explored the idea of being lost between the two worlds, with depiction of himself against the grey-toned, polluted sky of Taiwan and his impression of New Zealand's bright blue skies and white clouds. Alex is a talented Art student and we are very proud of his success in this competition.



STUDENTS NEW TO BLAKE IN 2017 LEAD STUDENT LUNCH

While the year nine students have a comprehensive orientation programme, those students who move college throughout the year may find it to be a traumatic experience despite the buddy system put in place at BDSC.

This year is the 4th year that the Blake Lead Students have invited all of the new students to our Whanau this year along to a lunch, prepared the food and spent the time getting to know the new students. This has proven a great way of getting over some of the issues associated with changing schools and it is a tradition that will continue in the future. When the new students were asked whether they feel equally as comfortable in Blake as they did in their previous school, two were unsure but the remainder said a resounding "yes".



E-SPORT

On Saturday 17 June, Adam Gamble (10K6) took part in a Pokemon DS tournament at the Civic Theatre in Auckland city, playing against other fans of the game. The crowd of about 200 participants was divided into three age brackets: Junior, Senior and Master players.

Adam came second in the Senior category, winning prizes to the value of four hundred dollars. He also received a handsome glass trophy. Well done, Adam!

LOST PROPERTY AT STUDENT SERVICES

If your student has lost an item of clothing this term, non-uniform items will be displayed in Student Services up until Thursday 6 July. Please note all non-uniform items unclaimed will be donated at the end of each term.

During break times, students are welcome to come and check the lost property should they have misplaced an item this term. School uniform handed in (not named) if unclaimed will go into a loan pool for such times when students arrive to school wet etc. Please ensure you name all items brought to school as we have an alarming amount of uniform items handed in daily that remains unnamed. If named it can be sent immediately back to the student.

For any enquiries or further information, please contact our Student Services Receptionist, Mrs Michelle Byers on extension 473 or via email m.byers@bdsc.school.nz

SPORTS

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SPORT

Thank you to all those involved in the BDSC winter sports season. Staff, Parents, ex-students, current students, and volunteers. We are very grateful for all your support of our school teams. Without the support of these wonderful people we could not field as many teams as we do.

There have been some awesome contests this season and each team is working hard to improve their performance each week.

As new director of sport I have been exceptionally happy with the hard work and effort our students are putting into their performances. I have had the opportunity this term to watch/support various teams, Hockey, Equestrian, Netball, Rugby, Football, Basketball. Our students are doing us proud.

A special mention to the Under 15 Rugby, 1st XV Rugby, U15 girls Football, Open Girls Basketball, 2nd XI girls football, 10A Netball, 9A Netball, U15 Boys Hockey **who are all unbeaten in their respective grade competitions.**

Thank you again to all who support our sports teams.

All the best for the second half of the winter sports season, playoffs and finals.

Karl McLennan, Director of Sport

AUCKLAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY

On Thursday 8 June 4 BDSC Students took part in the Auckland Secondary Schools Cross Country Champs after impressive results at the Eastern Zone event. All 4 students represented BDSC to the highest of standard and achieved great results on the day.

Ezra Bond (9S10) competed in the Junior Boys division and finished in 65th Place out of 122 competitors. Monique Prime (10D9) was the best performer of the day finishing in 17th place in the Intermediate girls Race out of 68 competitors. Brent Mouat (10K6) finished in 51st place in the Intermediate boys race out of 103 competitors and Aaron Mouat (13K6) finished in 27th place in the Senior boys race out of 58 competitors.



Ezra – Ezra Bond (9S10)



Monique Primer (10D9)



Brent Mouat (10K6)



Aaron Mouat (13K6)

AEROBICS - BROOKE DAVIES

Brooke Davies (11J5) has been selected to represent New Zealand in Aerobics this year. She will be competing for the New Zealand team at the Association of National Aerobics Championships in Phoenix Arizona in August. We wish Brooke all the best of luck for the competition.



OUR BASKETBALL PLAYERS ARE OFF TO AMERICA!

Four members of the U17A BDSC Basketball Team have just been to North Carolina for Basketball. Tremain Little (10D9), Josh Harrison (10K6), Ezekiel Ng (10E2) and Guy Burden (10S4) were all members of the Air Raiders Basketball Club who took 25 boys from the Auckland area to attend the 2017 University of North Carolina Elite Basketball Camp in North Carolina, United States.

The Boys from left to right: Tremain Little (10D9), Josh Harrison (10K6), Guy Burden (10S4) and Ezekiel Ng (10E2)



SPORTS

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHS:

Please be aware that the BDSC Sports photos are scheduled for the **first week back of Term 3** on Wednesday 26 July in the PAC. All sports teams will have a set time to come for their photo and must wear their sports uniform. A schedule of events will be posted around the school before the end of this term.

EQUESTRIAN

On Monday 19 June 4 BDSC Students competed at the Strathallan Equestrian event. The team was as follows: Ellie Cashmore (12J5), Eden Crenfeldt-Smith (11J11), Jasmine Goodwin (9J11) and Ella Hawkeswood (10J11). Ella and Cecil took out 2nd place in the Class 3 Pony 80cm Division. Eden and Downton Abby took out 2nd place in the Class 8 Horse 90cm division. Overall the team did very well and finished in 6th place in the team competition.

Ellie



Eden



Jasmine



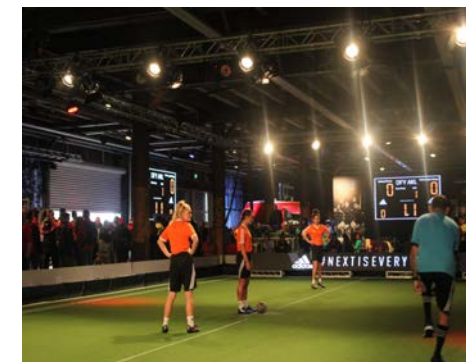
Ella



DFYAKL ADIDAS TOUCH TOURNAMENT

On Friday 23 June, BDSC took a team of students to the DFYAKL Adidas touch tournament at Queens Wharf, Auckland Central. The tournament was a 3v3 modified version of Touch Rugby which welcomed many school and club teams from across Auckland. The team was: Eliza Hay (12S4), Taylor Kennard (12D3), Kaitlyn Apaipora (11B7) and Jeannie Hill (12K6). The tournament was run alongside the All Blacks vs. Lions campaign. The girls were happy with the visitors that arrived at the tournament during the day from the All Blacks team. The team did very well during the day and had 1 win, 1 loss and 1 draw and a lot of fun.

The boys will compete in the same tournament in a couple of weeks' time.



CAREERS



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Courses start 9th of July 2017.

Auckland locations

- Botany Downs Secondary College
- Rangitoto College
- King's College
- Otahuhu College



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KEY DATES 2017

Friday 7 July	Term 2 Ends
Monday 24 July	Term 3 Starts
Friday 29 September	Term 3 Ends
Monday 16 October	Term 4 Starts
Monday 23 October	Labour Day
Thursday 14 December	Term 4 Ends (approx date tbc)