

CONTENTS

3	PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE
4	2017 YEAR 11 AWARD WINNERS
5	2017 YEAR 12 AWARD WINNERS
6-7	2017 YEAR 13 AWARD WINNERS
8	OUR SCHOOL Mental Health Awareness Week YES East Auckland Social Enterprise
9	OUR SCHOOL Enviroschools Biology Metagenomics Day
10	OUR SCHOOL Beats 2017 Production of Aladdin Jr.
11	OUR SCHOOL Botany Festival BizTech Lab 2017
12	KEY DATES



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Secondary College

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear parents and caregivers

The last few weeks have been extremely busy as we prepared to celebrate our senior student achievements, contributions and commitment to the wider life of the college. We congratulate the worthy recipients of the senior awards. Special congratulations to Alexa Sinclair, our Proxime Accessit (runner-up) and Aman Sethi, Dux for 2017 (top academic achiever).

The students of this college are great young people and I congratulate them on their achievements to date but also remind them that these upcoming exams are a chance to have their hard work recognized formally. The NCEA external examinations commence this Thursday (9 November). Please double-check with your son/ daughter on which days they have their examination(s) and in particular whether it is a morning or afternoon examination.

I am proud of the students who have worked day after day to make this a great school that is known for its academic achievements and caring sense of community. I thank the students for always staying positive aiming to maximize their learning and the opportunities afforded to them. I wish them well with the upcoming examinations.

Warm regards
Karen Brinsden
Principal



Board of Trustees
Student Trustee Report 2017

The roles and responsibilities I have come to experience through my position as the student trustee of Botany Downs Secondary College have been very beneficial in my development as an individual.

Part of such development occurred when I attended a workshop hosted by the New Zealand School Trustees Association, where I learned about the duties of the role and gained stronger understanding of the school system. It was interesting and inspiring to be part of a program, but overall it was comforting to know that there were others like me and I was not the only one being thrown into the unknown.

During the monthly meetings of the board, I often felt overpowered by the sheer passion that each board member brings for the well-being of the school. It is truly astounding to not only watch, but be a part of the ongoing discussions made in the boardroom.

I feel as if the sacrifice of the numerous hours that each individual board member puts into the planning and execution of activities go unnoticed and are unappreciated by the student body, however I would like to personally thank the board for their unnoticed actions for 2017.

I would like to thank everyone in the school who gave me the opportunity to be a member of the board. I would also like to give my sincerest appreciation to those on the board, who have made me proud to be a student of Botany Downs Secondary College and given me newfound respect for the "behind-the-scenes" workings of the school.

Hao Chen Li 12J5



2017 YEAR 11 AWARD WINNERS

ARTS CUP



Pui Hei Athena Shiu

CULTURAL CUP



Akshat Sharma

SERVICE CUP



Benjamin Beach

SPORTSWOMEN



Caitlin Nauer

SPORTSMAN



Finley Dixon

ALL ROUNDER



Joshua Dheda

ALL ROUNDER



Wei-Xuen Chan

ACADEMIC HONOUR ROLL



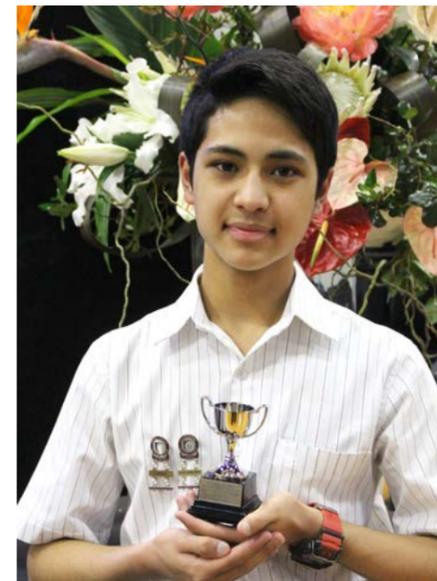
Olivia Kieser



Owen Eng



Mukund Karthik



Yash Shahri



Grace Li

2017 YEAR 12 AWARD WINNERS

ARTS CUP



Tabarek Al-Jebouri

CULTURAL CUP



Daniel Wu

SERVICE CUP



Jamie Harford

SPORTSWOMEN



Ngapipi Herewini

SPORTSMAN



Oliver Burnett

ALL ROUNDER



Derek Long

ALL ROUNDER



Wei-Ting Lee

ACADEMIC HONOUR ROLL



Angel Guan



Wei-ting Lee



Zi Le Loh



Harry Zhang

2017 YEAR 13 AWARD WINNERS

ARTS CUP



Alexandra Page

CULTURAL CUP



Tian Fong

SERVICE CUP



Xi Yue Wang

SPORTSWOMEN



Sophie Skelton

SPORTSMEN OF THE YEAR



Harry Valk



Corne Ludick

ALL ROUNDER



Max Gurr

ALL ROUNDER



Clarissa Gouw

ACADEMIC HONOUR ROLL



Hirzi Rafli Putra-Laksana



Aman Sethi



Alexa Sinclair



Xi Yue Wang

2017 YEAR 13 AWARD WINNERS

CITIZENSHIP CUP



Xi Yue Wang

DEREK WIGZELL
AWARD



Megan Godkin-Hall

DUX



Aman Sethi

PROXIME ACCESSIT



Alexa Sinclair

OUR SCHOOL

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

The 2017 Health Council ran Botany's first ever Mental Health Awareness Week. The initiative was dedicated towards getting students to acknowledge the importance of their mental health during the stressful period of exams. Each day of the week had a theme with specially run activities to coincide. We began the week with 'Motivational Monday' where students walked into a school full of encouraging quotes chalked across the floor. As students walked to class and up the stairs, they were reminded not to give up, to push through and to always try their best. This message was enforced with 'Take note Tuesday' where students were addressed by the leaders of our school who spoke to them about the importance of looking after yourself during exams. 'Wellness Wednesday' saw students join a flash mob of jump jam. 'Thankful Thursday' was full of gratitude. Students wrote on post it notes to express what they were thankful for. These post it notes were plastered across a whiteboard to create a collage that was left on display. We concluded the week with 'Fun Friday', the aim being to emphasize the importance of physical activity. We had two friendly staff vs student games; one of futsal and the other of touch. The games drew quite a crowd and it was awesome to see so many students and teachers come down to support.

Mental Health is an issue many students in the health council felt strongly about and we thoroughly enjoyed leading the initiative. We hope to only build on this and make next year even bigger and better.

Ayesha Ali, 12S10



YES EAST AUCKLAND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

REGIONAL AWARD WINNERS

On 20 October our business Pink Purpose attended the Auckland YES regional awards.

The evening was very enjoyable and it was great to celebrate the success of our business and many other Auckland student businesses. We are so honoured to have been able to represent BDSC in gaining the East Auckland social enterprise award for our support in raising awareness and funds for the breast cancer foundation NZ. Many thanks to everyone who has supported us and helped us along the way.

Crystal Turner, 13S10



OUR SCHOOL

ENVIROSCHOOLS

THE BOTANY ORCHARD

2017 is the second year that the Howick Local Board of the Auckland Council has worked with Botany Kings Plant Barn to distribute fruit trees to schools in the Howick Local Board area. Twenty six schools are participating in this programme and each school has been given 10 free fruit trees. BDSC joined the programme this year.

Our trees include pears, prunes and cherry trees. Thank you to Mr Dave Shapcott, our gardener, who was responsible for planting the trees and planning and planting the landscaping around them. The attractive looking "Botany Orchard" is located at the northern end of the College. Thank you also to the Howick Local Board and to Kings Plant Barn (Botany) for the gift of these trees.

Miss S Brodie



KEEPING TRACK OF PESTS

Late last term, the Kilkenny Group of Enviroschools students, placed pest tracking tunnels at eight locations in Logan Carr Reserve. These were left for a month so that wild life living in the reserve could get used to their presence. Recently, after checking the weather forecast (looking for two consecutive dry days), we placed ink tracking pads in each tunnel. These were left overnight and the following afternoon we retrieved the ink pads.

Each ink pad had a spoonful of peanut butter in the centre of the pad to entice creatures into it. As creatures moved across the ink they left a trail of footprints on the blank card either side of the ink. We got prints from rats, mice, cockroaches and skinks. While it was exciting for the group to find prints on seven out of eight ink pads, these findings are not necessarily positive for the reserve.

Next year the Kilkenny group would like to be able to start pest trapping in the Logan Carr Reserve. For us to be able to do this we should know what is in the reserve in the first place. This allows us to determine how many traps we should use and where to put them. By doing this tracking we should be able to determine this for next year. Thanks to Miss Brodie and Mrs Williamson for helping us on these days.

Abi Low 11E8

BIOLOGY METAGENOMICS DAY

On 30 September, a few Biology students travelled to the Massey University campus in Albany to take part in a "Metagenomics Day". It was a fantastic opportunity for students interested in the sciences to take part in real world applications of scientific methods. Starting the day off was a series of procedures called the Polymerase Chain Reaction technique involving the extraction of DNA from soil – the genetic codes of a PhD student collaborating with Massey hoped to use in her PhD thesis on the effects of soil bacteria on agricultural farming.

After collecting these DNA samples, genetics professors from Massey gave students a talk on the profound impacts computer sciences had on genetic processing - allowing advancements in natural sciences to occur at a faster rate than ever – and the dangers of using antibiotics habitually to treat minor illnesses, which has led to strains of flu that aren't affected by currently available medicine. If not contained in scientific labs, these new strains mean sicknesses that cannot be cured and lead to death. To combat this universities around the world, including Massey, are researching methods to combat viruses through other bacteria, called 'phages'. Metagenomics Day was extremely helpful in giving students insight into what it was like to be a biological scientist – discovering new methods to fight issues modern people face.

Thank you Mrs Hein for supervising and transporting us on the day.

Ryan Chen, 12E8



OUR SCHOOL

PAGE 10



BEATS 2017 **MONSTERS AND BEASTS**

YEAR 10 DANCE PERFORMANCE

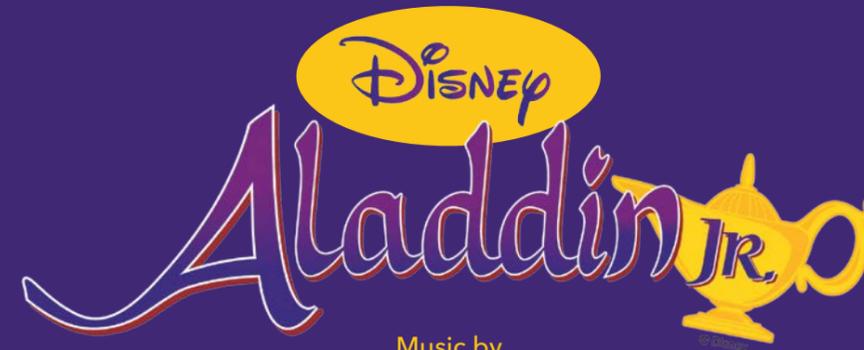
WEDNESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER
THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

SHOW STARTS 6:00PM – IN THE P.A.C
(DOORS CLOSE 5:55PM)

TICKETS - \$10 FROM THE FINANCE CENTRE
TICKETS ON SALE FROM 30TH OCTOBER



The Botany Downs Secondary College
production of



Music by
Alan Menken

Lyrics by
Howard Ashman and Tim Rice

Book Adapted and Additional Lyrics by
Jim Luigs

Music Adapted and Arranged by
Brian Louiselle

Based on the Screenplay by
Ron Clements and John Musker
Ted Elliot Terry Rossio

By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd,
exclusive agent for Music Theatre International, NY



22nd, 23rd, 24th November
Doors open 6:30pm, 7:00pm start

\$15.00
Tickets at Finance Centre

OUR SCHOOL



Botany Festival

Part of the great pest free Howick project for students and their families in Howick

We invite **you and your parents** to an evening to learn why and how you can be pest trapping in your backyards! Our urban environment is an important habitat for birds, insects and reptiles. They can only thrive if pest numbers are low. On this evening, Auckland Council will provide:

- a rat trap for you to take home to use in your backyard for the duration of the project
- a demonstration of how to set/unset the traps and give you a chance to practice
- advice on placing traps at home and disposal of the pests caught
- instructions on how to record your pest programme data

This school pest free project is a first in Auckland. You will pilot what is to be a city wide collaborative effort towards the vision of Pest Free Auckland and help bring back biodiversity to your gardens!

Details of workshop:

When: 13th November, 2017 **Time:** 7.30-8.30 pm (tea coffee and networking from 7pm)

Presenters: Brett Butland, Ron Matthews, Cate Jessep, Richard Carter, Chris Kean
(Members of Auckland Council Biosecurity and sustainable Schools teams)

Where: Botany Downs Secondary College Conference Centre, 575 Chapel Rd, Howick, Auckland 2016.

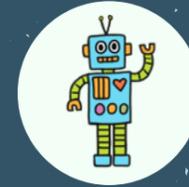
Registration: click on and follow the prompts...<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13lb6PfxJZXEpfJsN6aclAhX8v4NB84Lr8LG3aS4CBk/edit>

by Friday Nov 10

To find out more please contact:

Cate Jessep cate.jessep@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz 021 2467134 or

Chris Kean christinek.ck50@gmail.com 021 715 584



BizTech Labs 2017

Are you keen on being an entrepreneur? Do you have what it takes to design a technology-rich solution to solve a modern-day issue?

This competition is open for all keen Year 9 and 10 designers, business student and budding technologist.

No prior knowledge of programming required.

Tuesday 28th November

9:00am - 3:30pm

Botany Downs Secondary College

Prizes to be won

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/y7oskebv>



Our Sponsors



KEY DATES 2018

Monday 1 January	New Year's Day
Tuesday 2 January	Day after New Year's Day
Monday 29 January	Auckland Anniversary Day – Public Holiday
Wednesday 31 January	Term 1 Starts Year 9 students
Thursday 1 February	Year 10 students
Friday 2 February	College starts on full timetable for ALL year levels. Arrive at 8:30am for an 8:40am start.
Tuesday 6 February	Waitangi Day
Friday 30 March	Good Friday
Monday 2 April	Easter Monday
Tuesday 3 April	Easter Tuesday
Friday 13 April	Term 1 Ends
Wednesday 25 April	ANZAC Day
Monday 30 April	Term 2 Starts
Monday 4 June	Queen's Birthday
Friday 6 July	Term 2 Ends
Monday 23 July	Term 3 Starts
Friday 28 Sep	Term 3 Ends
Monday 15 October	Term 4 Starts
Monday 22 October	Labour Day
Friday 14 December	Term 4 Ends
Tuesday 25 December	Christmas Day
Wednesday 26 December	Boxing Day