The last two weeks have been full of activity at Brooks. Last week saw all our Grade 7 and 9 students sitting their NAPLAN assessments. These tests have been widely publicised in the media in recent times. The tests are comprised of Reading Comprehension, Writing, Language Conventions and Numeracy (calculator and non-calculator). These tests have now been completed and are being marked by a team of assessors from around the state. Results will be sent back to the school and to parents later this year. The grade seven and nine teams need to be congratulated for the way the students actively participated in the tests and the professional manner in which the teaching teams administered these tests.

We recently had the pleasure of a visit from “The Peoples Poet” Geoff Goodfellow. Geoff, from Sydney, worked with our grade 9 and 10 students, sharing his poetry and stories about his life, growing up, working in a disadvantaged community and his recent struggle with cancer. Geoff is a straight forward, often confronting and very entertaining performer who brings with him a strong message of hope for young people. Geoff also worked with one of our writing classes to inspire creativity and an appreciation of poetry.

Our recent school cross-country was run with a large number of participants from all grades. Congratulations to all those who competed and to the HPE staff involved with organising this event.

As winter draws near our students commence their involvement with the Winter Sports Roster. This year we have managed to reduce the price of participation down to $40 per student. This has resulted in more teams sports being offered with a senior football team hitting the ground for the first time in several years. Other team sports this season include Netball, Soccer, Indoor Cricket and Indoor Soccer. A reminder to all students to come prepared with the appropriate gear for Wednesday and to meet your commitment to be at the Gym ready to go whether competing at Brooks or out of the school each week.

We are still working as a school community to improve our attendance rates and ensure every student is at school for every day possible this year. I ask for continued support from parents to ensure no days are missed unnecessarily especially as we move towards winter. If you are having issues or concerns about your son or daughter’s attendance then please contact me at school so we can work on a solution together.

Rob Fleming
The Brooks High School **Wall of Pride** is a pictorial record of students who have achieved outstanding success in their chosen field of endeavour since leaving our school. It recognises positive contributions made in society, and achievement in its broadest sense.

The essential criteria that all nominees must meet is the nominee must have completed Grade 10 at Brooks High School.

If you know of someone you would like to nominate whose achievements, and personal qualities are deserving of this special award please contact our office (6324 7200) or call in to obtain more information and an application form.

**Nominations close Friday, 28th May, 2010**
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Dear Parent / Guardian,

The phone user guidelines have been developed by the school to hopefully ensure students with phones use them in an appropriate manner.

As we are aware mobile phones are part of your child’s everyday life and they consider usage of a phone at school as a right. However, when their phone is used inappropriately this causes serious problems for the school in regards to ensuring student safety and duty of care.

Examples of the problems recently encountered by the school regarding inappropriate phone usage are as follows:

- One student recently sent a text to their mother asking them to pick them up as the teacher was not listening to them. The parent arrived at the office expecting their child to be there. After 15 minutes spent getting them from class it was discovered that the student had become cold at recess and simply wanted to go home. The parent was furious with the school that they had been dragged away from work which was absolutely nothing to do with the school. Of interest the student was in a room with a heat pump turned on and was a very comfortable temperature.
- Another student recently sent a text and said they were being bullied. The parent arrived at the office in a furious state demanding to see their child. After searching the school it had become aware that the child had truanted school and bullying had not taken place. They had wanted to deflect back to the school, blame for their truanting.
- Recently a parent arrived at the office after receiving a text message from their child who said they were not allowed to go to the toilet. The parent was very upset, which you would expect. When followed up the student wanted to get back at a teacher for not allowing her to join her friends who had walked past the window and beckoned her to meet them in the toilet.
- A sick child sent a text to her mother as she was unwell and asked that she be collected from the office. The parent became upset when they arrived at the office and their child was not waiting. The child had not told the teacher she was unwell and thought it was ok to simply text her mother to be collected.
- A student messaged their mother that she was bullied on her phone. The parent arrived at school not happy with what had been happening. The cyber bullying was coming from the child’s friends from outside the school who did not even attend Brooks!
- A boy messaged his father to say he was being picked on by the teacher. When the student was brought to the office it became clear they were not interested in the maths lesson and simply wanted to go home.

In all these instances the school had to deal with an angry / aggressive / upset parent who had been set up by their own child. The parents needless to say were very embarrassed when they realised what had occurred and were angry with their child.

If your child texts / phones you in regards to matters like those mentioned above could you please phone the school for confirmation of the message and be reassured the school will immediately follow up the matter.

This action will save you becoming upset, the school unnecessarily having to talk to an upset parent and help teach your child how to become a responsible phone user at school.

Yours sincerely

Kelly Hudson (Assistant Principal)
BROOKS HIGH SCHOOL
PHONE USER GUIDELINES 2010

BACKGROUND:
This Phone User Guidelines Document has been developed in consultation with staff, students and the School Association to ensure that mobile phones do not interfere with our time at school for teaching and learning, meetings and assemblies and social interaction. Major issues have also arisen with theft and bullying via text messages.

STUDENTS
Be a Learner
• Use your phone in class if requested by your teacher for learning purposes

Be Respectful
• Phones to be turned off in class, assemblies, internal room and on excursions
• Phones checked into the office should be turned off

Be Responsible
• Phones can be bought to school for the day if necessary
• Use of your phone to be restricted to using for work and contacting parents for appointments, meeting times
• Only use your phone at recess or lunch if necessary
• Inform others of the phone user guidelines to ensure phones are used appropriately
• Students who want to bring a phone to school sign the Phone User Guidelines agreement

Be Safe
• Students are encouraged to sign phones into the office to ensure they are not lost / stolen at school
Lending phones to friends can lead to you being accused of using a phone inappropriately – you are legally responsible for your phone.

Be a Friend
• Use your phone only for friendly texting, not bullying or harassment
Suggest to your friends they sign their phone into the office

CONSEQUENCES FOR:-
• If a phone is used inappropriately students will be reminded of the user guidelines. If violations of the phone user agreement continue an incident report will be written and the student will have their phone banned from school for a specified period of time. The period of time will be an outcome of a Fair Go process.
• Students whose phone rings in class or an assembly will be required to take their phone to the office.
• Phoning 000 from the school will lead to a total phone ban for the student

The sequence of consequences for non-cooperation with this Phone User Guidelines will be the same as for other uncooperative, disruptive or defiant behaviour.

STAFF
Staff can carry mobile phones with them during the school day. During instructional times including assembly’s phones are to be turned off. At meetings phones are to be turned to silent.

EXCURSIONS
Staff supervising a school excursion are requested to carry with them a mobile phone, the number of which needs to be recorded on the excursion form.

MANAGEMENT OF PHONE USER GUIDELINES
Monitoring and management of non-compliance with this Phone User Guidelines by students is the responsibility of the Team Leaders/Support Teacher. Monitoring and management of non-compliance with this Phone User Guidelines by staff is the responsibility of the Principal.
**No Dole** began at Brooks in 1995. It was the brainchild of the then Principal Peter Hutchinson and Bill Lawson of the Beacon Foundation. No Dole has since been adopted by over 120 schools in every state and territory. In 2010, after 16 years, the program is being rebranded as the **Positive Futures Program**. Underpinning the program is our belief that every student is capable of making a positive contribution to our community and society, for their own well being and that of others. At Brooks we offer personalised learning for all, according to interest and need.

On the **30th of April 2010** Brooks High School held their annual **Beacon Foundation Positive Futures** (Formerly No Dole) Charter Signing Ceremony. The charter signing ceremony is the opportunity for the students to pledge their commitment to “achieving personal success through the Brooks High School Positive Futures Program and pursue a positive pathway in further education, training or employment.” in front of their parents, teachers, community and peers. This year was a fantastic event with guest speakers Wylie J - Melbourne based entertainer and Anna Medling, Hip-Hop Dancer and Founder of the Funk Factory. Both Anna and Wylie J provided us with entertainment and their own personal inspiring stories with some key messages to help us believe in ourselves and that against adversity we can achieve.
Brooks High School held the Cross Country Carnival on Thursday 6 May, 2010. The day consisted of a Grade 7 and 8 carnival in block 2 and 9 and 10 carnival in block 3.

Results are below. Some special mentions must be made of the Grade 8 boys race which was hotly contested.

<table>
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Final house points were 1st Fletcher, 2nd Hughes, 3rd Cosgrove and 4th McIntyre., WELL DONE FLETCHER!!
CONGRATULATIONS
To our Inter High Cross Country Team
On Tuesday 18 May Brooks High School participated in the Inter High Cross Country Carnival at Kings Meadows High School.

Participants are listed below. Special mention must be made of Brad Choveaux who finished 12th in the Grade 8 boys event. This assisted his team mates into 3rd place for Grade 8 boys.

WELL DONE Brad and his team mates.
We had a full compliment of runners in every age groups except grade 8 girls.
Well done all team members who put themselves out there and challenged themselves.

Michelle Lyons—HPE Teacher

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<td>Toni Senior</td>
<td>Amilla Bokha</td>
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<td>Maddison Holmes</td>
<td>Kamala Acharya</td>
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<td>Shinash Tumzghi</td>
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<td>Mohamed Issac</td>
<td>Jack Rushton</td>
<td>Jesse Smits</td>
<td>Dalvin Shergill</td>
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<td>Nathan Denney</td>
<td>Mitch Goss</td>
<td>Mitchell Norquay</td>
<td>Brandon Denney</td>
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<td>Pramesh Rai</td>
<td>Liam Peck</td>
<td>Jack Ball</td>
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<td>Dean Saunders</td>
<td>Kaiden Cox Goodyer</td>
<td>Elliott Norquay</td>
<td>Abdul Nor</td>
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A MESSAGE FROM METRO

AMAZING RACE CHALLENGE

On Tuesday 25th May, a group of 45 Grade 8 students will be visiting the University of Tasmania (Newnham Campus) to participate in an Amazing Race Challenge. Students will be leaving after lunch and returning at the end of the day.

A SAFETY ISSUE!

Students who wish to bring their scooters to school and travel with Metro must have it folded up at all times whilst travelling on the bus. Failure to do so could mean a long scooter ride to school.

MAY

Monday 24th -26th  Grade 7 Camp at Camp Clayton
Tuesday 25th  Grade 8—Amazing Race Challenge
Tuesday 25th  Grade 10—Mock Interviews
Friday 28th  Last Day for Term 1

JUNE

Tuesday 15th  TERM 2 - First Day & Early Tuesday
Tuesday 29th  Early Tuesday

JULY

Thursday 1st  AGM—Brooks High Association Inc
Monday 12th  Launceston College visits Grade 10
Tuesday 13th  Early Tuesday
Tuesday 20th  Grade 10 Immunisations (9.30 - 11.30)
Thursday 22nd  Newstead Transition Day for Grade 10
Monday 26th  Grade 10 Orientation Day for L'ton College

Ways to Improve Reading Skills

Nothing is more important to academic achievement than literacy skills. Parents know their children best and can provide the one-on-one time and attention that will lead them to success in reading and writing.

Each week on the newsletter we will include tips for parents and students to become more effective readers and writers.

TIP NO. 1

Set aside a regular time to read to your children every day.

Studies show that regularly reading out loud to children will produce significant gains in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and the decoding of words. Whether your children are in primary school or high school, it will increase their desire to read independently.

by Peggy Gisler, Ed.S. & Marge Eberts, Ed.S.