Dear Parents and Guardians

Host Families for Japanese Students: 19 - 23 March

Coinciding with Cultural Diversity Week in March, Braemar College in association with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, will be hosting a group of students from Tokai City, Japan. After the success of the 2012 and 2013 programs, we are looking forward to welcoming another group of 13 year old Japanese students to the Macedon Ranges.

Some components of the exchange program are being organised by the ATS Australian Educational Group Pty Ltd (ATS). Host families from the Braemar College community are currently being sought by ATS, to provide meals and accommodation for four nights from 19 - 23 March 2014. The place of pick up and return is Braemar College. Host families will be paid on a per night basis.

If you would like to register your interest in hosting a Japanese student, please complete an application form, which is available via the following link: https://home.braemar.vic.edu.au/pub/2014/Application%20Japanese%20Home%20Stay%202014.xlsx

Forms should be returned to: salesmanager@advancetutoringschool.com.au

In your application, please state whether you can accommodate a male or female student and list any pets (important for allergy purposes and fitting children into your home) and your Working With Children card status.

Whilst this visit will provide our Japanese visitors with a great opportunity to learn about Australian culture whilst practising their English skills, it is also an opportunity for your children to develop an understanding of a different culture and potentially make lifelong friends from Japan. The visiting students will participate in all school activities during the day with your child/ren acting as their buddies.

If you would like more information about participating in this program, please contact the ATS office on (03) 8610 6588; Catherine Howe-Nitz on 0413 880 895; or Lan Leanne Phan on 0413 880 892. Alternatively, please register your details in the “Contact Us” page of the ATS website: http://www.advancetutoringschool.com.au

Host family applications close on Wednesday 26 February 2014.
Reporting and Assessment

College teaching staff are currently reviewing our assessment and reporting practices and policies. In the near future I will be communicating information about comparative reporting which is available, but not often requested. As a team, we are reviewing the learning behaviour descriptors; the allocation of grades or results; and comparative reporting processes. I encourage parents to contact me with any comments you might have in this regard: principal@braemar.vic.edu.au

2014 Schoolies Alternative

Following the overwhelming success of our trip to Nepal in 2013, Braemar College is again proposing to offer Year 12 students the opportunity to participate in an overseas trip as a schoolies alternative.

An information evening will be held in Jackson Hall at 7:00pm on Tuesday 25 February. Year 12 students and their parents are invited to attend. RSVPs are not required for this event.

Campus Improvements

I am pleased to report that our Science laboratories have been fully refurbished and are now fully operational. The rooms are modern, functional spaces with a range of up-to-date technologies to enhance learning and teaching. Feedback from students has been excellent.

The College also has a new classroom for Visual Communication & Design (VCD), a subject of increasing popularity amongst our senior students. A previously under-utilised mezzanine level above one of the Art rooms has been converted and now houses computers and workspaces for the specialist Art subject.

Families who have attended the College lately may have noticed the wonderful display of students’ artwork lining the walls of Jackson Hall. These artworks have given this beautiful room something of the aura of an art gallery. We certainly have some very talented young artists at Braemar College.

These campus improvements have been completed in-house, utilising the skills of our own staff and regular contractors. This has provided cost savings and created a great deal of personal ownership of the various projects. This in turn generates pride in our current campus.

Upcoming Events

The College calendar is accessible via the website: www.braemar.vic.edu.au
I encourage you to monitor this on a regular basis. Please note the following events:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date, time and venue</th>
<th>Event name</th>
<th>Overview</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 24 – Friday 28 February</td>
<td>Year 7 Exeat Week</td>
<td>Details have been provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25 February 7:00pm Jackson Hall</td>
<td>Information Evening: 2014 Schoolies Alternative</td>
<td>Year 12 students and parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 1 March 8:45am – 12:30pm Heyward Hall</td>
<td>Scholarship Testing (Years 7 &amp; 10, 2015)</td>
<td>Registrations have closed. Information: Mrs Trudy Shepherd <a href="mailto:registrar@braemar.vic.edu.au">registrar@braemar.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5 March 7:00pm Jackson Hall</td>
<td>2013 Nepal Trip – Cake &amp; Coffee Slide Evening</td>
<td>Participants and their families welcome. RSVP: <a href="mailto:m.jones@braemar.vic.edu.au">m.jones@braemar.vic.edu.au</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 10 March</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
<td>College closed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 11 March 7:00pm Jackson Hall</td>
<td>Introductory iPad Workshop for Parents</td>
<td>Information: Mrs Christina Taylor <a href="mailto:c.taylor@braemar.vic.edu.au">c.taylor@braemar.vic.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 13 March 3:30pm – 8:00pm Heyward Hall</td>
<td>Parent-Teacher Conferences</td>
<td>Classes finish 2:30pm. Buses will run one hour early in the afternoon. Further information to follow.</td>
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Data Verification Forms

Parents/guardians who have not yet returned your child/ren’s Data Verification Forms, are urged to do so as soon as possible. It is essential that we have accurate medical and contact information for each of our students. There is also a provision on the forms for you to give consent to College excursions, use of photographs for publicity purposes and medical treatment options. Please ensure any outstanding forms are returned to the College Registrar, Mrs Trudy Shepherd, at your earliest convenience.

In closing

May I remind new families in particular to subscribe to the Braemar College Blog. This provides a wealth of information about College life including upcoming events, student achievement, important dates, etc. Please click here to subscribe: http://braemarcollege.wordpress.com/author/braemarcollege/

I look forward to your company this evening at our annual College picnic. This event has become increasingly popular over the years. Whilst it has a House focus and therefore an element of healthy competition, the atmosphere is relaxed and convivial. I hope to see you there.

Regards

Russell Deer
Principal
Braemar College