



20th March, 2008

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Dear Boarding Parents & Guardians,

As I write this, we have not yet reached the end of Term 1, but as you read it, your sons and daughters will be enjoying a well-earned rest after a short but frantic Term 1. On the new arrivals front, our two new GAP Assistants (Harriet Mason from New Zealand, who is resident in Hayhoe and Keegan Bizaare from South Africa, who is resident in Dart) have been wonderful pickups for the School. As they finish the first of their four terms here, they are integrating into and contributing to both the School and the boarding community in many ways.

It has been a terrific term in the boarding community in every area. Comments have even come from students indicating that food is better this year! There have been many anecdotal reports from teachers of a terrific attitude in class by boarders, and based on the approach of the boarders I teach, I would agree enthusiastically! I am confident that this will be confirmed at boarders' parent-teacher interviews, and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this important event.

There can also be no doubt that the mild February weather has made life easier in the boarders' rooms, but unusually, that has been balanced by the heat of the last two weeks of term. I am sure we all hope that the hot weather has made its last appearance for '08, and life (and night-time sleep) can resume normality!

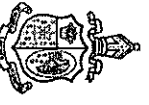
The House Swimming Sports saw strong efforts by all boarding houses. Although the boarding houses always compete with enormous team spirit, it was the Larrit girls, particularly, who were impressive as they went their separate ways and competed with passion and commitment for their senior houses.

Unfortunately, the House Entrances had to be postponed due to rain, but we are confident that these will be conducted at a later significant occasion where they can be witnessed by much of the whole school community.

Term 1 has also seen the establishment of the Boarders' Representative Council, chaired by Nick Huang (12Wn). This has replaced the Boarders Committee, which was chaired by a staff member, and it is run, moderated and managed by students. This body meets a number of times each term and this term has provided suggestions for weekend activities and also ideas for a number of areas of the day-to-day running of the boarding community. This body was the brainchild of Nick Huang and also Matt Milne (Wn '07). I am confident that it will provide a strong voice for student views in the boarding community.

On the subject of weekend activities, Chas Werner (husband of Karen Werner, Head of Larrit) took a group of students down to the Motor Show and a great time was had by all. The Acoustic Night on the Thursday before Exeunt was very well patronised by boarders, not just for the sausages on the barbeque, but also to support the many boarders playing on the night). It was warming to see the number of boarders involved in the Red Cross Door Knock last weekend.

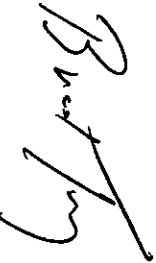
By the time you read this, the Boarders' Parent Teacher afternoon will have been conducted. This is an important event for boarding parents, who may have few opportunities to speak to their son's or daughter's teachers face-to-face. I hope that the timing and format of the afternoon suited you, but if not, can I ask that you email me (DepHead@bgs.vic.edu.au) to indicate improvements that you feel could be made to the afternoon to improve its effectiveness?



Email addresses are an immensely powerful and yet very two-sided tool. We would very much like to send out information to boarding parents particularly, by email. However, we are aware that we have an email address for only 60 to 70% of our families, and when we do send to those, we get a high proportion of 'bounces', indicating the mailbox is full or the address is no longer valid. Can I ask that if you have not received an email from the School in the last term, that you call or email the School to ensure that we have your current email address? If all boarding parents who have an email address can do this, it will enable us to email information directly and thus avoid the delays associated with surface mail delivery to many of our families.

Term 2 will bring no doubt changes of weather, winter sports in earnest, and mid-year examinations – it will be a testing time (as perhaps it always is in the boarding houses!).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bradley Fry', written in a cursive style.

BRADLEY FRY
Deputy Headmaster/Head of Senior School