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Blakeview

eNews

Edition 1 – Friday 10 February 2012

Year 6 Swimming Carnival

Week 1 of 2012 was an exciting initiation for our new Year 6 students as they participated in their first Middle School event, the swimming carnival. I was also the first opportunity for Year 6 students to meet the older Middle School students from their Houses, the House Tutors and Heads of House.

The day started with all students meeting as a House, at Blakeview, before taking a bus ride to STARplex as a House group. Once they arrived, they quickly established their House area with banners before moving to the formal swimming events in the large pool, novelty events in the small pool and outdoor events on the grassed area. In the morning session, events were based on age and required groups to rotate through different areas.

Maximum participation, in as many events as possible, is the essential for House success on the day. Events at the carnival were tailored to suit all levels of swimmers and non-swimmers. If students couldn't swim 25 metres, then they could play volleyball, join in the tug of war or run the dress up relay in the toddler pool.

The students enjoyed the independence given on the day. Choosing what to watch, when they weren't participating, mixing with students from Year 6 and the Middle School and making their way to events.

If there were any nerves or trepidation, at the start of the day, these were soon gone. Many students were walking around smiling and chatting. When asked if they were having a good day, the response was always, "You bet!" or similar.

The afternoon saw U11, U12 and U13 students compete in House relays and the tube stack event.



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It was extremely pleasing to see the way the Year 6 students supported and represented their houses on the day. Their participation ensured their House gained the most points they could. It was especially pleasing to see those less confident in their abilities make such a strong commitment to their House.

After a day of swimming and competing many of the returning buses were subdued in nature, although happy, with many students wanting to have a rest.

The Year 6 students were a credit in the way they supported their houses, earning valuable points in all events on the day. It was a fantastic way to start the students' transition into the House system and the Middle School. Well done everybody!

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