

Principal reduced to tears by school captain

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CAMBERWELL High School captain Claire Graham is the first student to make principal Elida Brereton cry in the nine years she has been at the school.

However, they were tears of joy as Graham announced to 1,000 students at a school assembly that the newly refurbished library would be named in honour of their principal.

Graham said she was thrilled to have let out the well-kept secret to the entire school community.

"It was pretty cool because there were only three people in the school that knew on the day and we announced it to 1000 people," she said.

Assistant principal Glen Linton was the driving force behind the naming of the library.

"The school community was very pleased to recognise the efforts of the current principal Elida Brereton," he said.

"Over the past four years [she] has been able to obtain approximately \$5 million worth of funding to upgrade the school, in terms of a new arts technology building and a VCE centre. Also to refurbish two existing buildings at the school."

Linton said one of Brereton's burning passions had been to improve the old library facilities.

"The new library would be about twice the size and well equipped in terms of computers and resources," he said.

"It is a tribute to her in her efforts to obtain that sort of funding for the school."



Assistant Principal Glen Linton, left, with Principal Elida Brereton and School Captain Claire Graham in the Brereton Library at Camberwell High School.

Brereton said she was overcome with emotion and burst into tears as soon as she heard the news.

"I didn't expect it and I feel very grateful that it has been named in my honour even though it's been a partnership," she said.

"My assistant principals have both

been outstanding in seeking the improvement of the school.

"I'm hoping that after I've gone the students and staff will have a lot of joy from this library over many, many years.

"I felt really humbled because I had no knowledge that this was being

planned and that the school captain, the staff and school council had been consulted," she said.

The new Brereton Library has maintained some of the old 1940s features including, metal work on the staircase and parts of the old brick work and ceiling.