



BELMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL
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 Principal: David Houghton
 Assistant Principal: Sharon Liddle



BELMONT BULLETIN
NO. 4 21st February 2019

DATES TO REMEMBER			
Tuesday	5 th March		School Photo Day
Wednesday	6 th March	9:00am	Prep & New Families Parent Morning Tea run by Parents Club
Monday	11 th March		Labour Day Public Holiday
Tue - Fri	12 th - 22 nd Mar		Grade 5/6 Swimming Program
Wednesday	13 th March	7:30pm	Parents Club Meeting
Wednesday	20 th March	7:00-8:00pm	First Meeting of New School Council
Monday	25 th March		School Walk-a-thon – more info to come home shortly
Friday	29 th March		Grade 5/6 Summer Lightning Prem
Friday	29 th March		Parents Club Social Night – more details to come shortly
Tuesday	2 nd April		Grade 3-6 School Cross Country – Please note new date
Thursday	4 th April		Grade 5/6 Girls Football
Friday	5 th April	9:00-2:30pm	Last day of Term 1 – Please note early finish
TUESDAY	23 rd April		First day of Term 2
Thursday	25 th April		ANZAC Day Public Holiday
Wed-Fri	1 st May		Grade 5/6 Sovereign Hill Camp – More info to come home shortly

Student of the week		
Congratulations to the following students whose efforts, behaviour and attitude have been recognised		
Tully S	Prep G	For settling into Prep life so smoothly! You have enjoyed learning new sounds and I love that you always try your best! Keep up the awesome work Tully!
Hamish G	Prep V	For trying really hard to hear and record the sounds in words when he writes and for being a kind, caring and considerate classmate.
Maggie T	1/2 C	For improving in her confidence when writing. This week Maggie has been a superstar writer and began each session with a positive, confident attitude. WELL DONE Maggie!
Ella C	1/2 M	For being a great classroom leader, always producing her best work and caring for others with humour and fun.
Blake M	1/2 P	For working very hard during Maths this week when learning about two-digit number place value! Way to go Blakey!
Lachlan R	1/2 T	For using incredible adjectives to make his writing more interesting. Keep up the great work Lachlan!
Nate A	3/4 C	For his enthusiastic and consistent approach to all learning tasks this week. Keep up the great work Nate, you are a true leader of 3/4C
Esme L	3/4 E	For her dedication and focus during writing sessions. Keep up the amazing effort Esme! I'm so proud of your hard work.
Oliver St	3/4 L	For your amazing work in writing this week. You pushed yourself and tried your absolute best, finishing up to three paragraphs in one go. I was so proud of your work, keep it up Ollie!
Elise S	5/6 L	For an excellent start at Belmont PS! Well done for coming to school everyday with a happy and positive attitude You have settled in well to 5/6L & we are excited to welcome you to our school!
Maddy C	5/6 S	For being a responsible worker & striving hard to achieve her learning goals. Well done Maddy.
Evie M	5/6 T	For consistently displaying a high level of motivation and maturity towards her learning. Keep up the great work!
Lucy F	Italian	For her pronunciation of measurement results.

PRINCIPALS REPORT



The first **Parent Club Meeting** was well attended but we would love to see more parents get involved. One informal meeting a month is all that is required. Many friendships arise from involvement in school groups like this one. The Parents Club have a special **New Parents Morning Tea** coming up next week on Wednesday 6th March Perhaps consider coming along to the next one and see for yourself.



School Captains will be presented with their badges at tomorrow mornings School Assembly.

House Captains for 2019 will also be announced but formal badge presentations will not occur until later this term.

The formal aspect of our **School Review** is now completed. The review examines the schools progress over the last four years and importantly helps set new directions and goals for the next 4 year **Strategic Plan 2019-2022**.

Our independent reviewer Sharon Walker, School Council President Jo Manderson, Challenge partners Peter Knight (Acting Principal Moolap PS) and Jackie Haines (Senior Manager DET) and Department Senior Education Improvement Leader Mr Alan Davis along with all of our teaching staff were involved in this detailed process.

Parents and students views also played an important part in helping the school collect evidence around what we are doing well and what might be future focusses for the school. I will share parent feedback in the newsletter over the next few weeks. In all, around 80 families returned our surveys in hard copy or on-line and these *views and thoughts were summarised* as best we could.

[Note: x 4 means - 4 parents commented similarly]

In answer to 'What does the school do well?'

- **Good Communication x 18**
 - Family friendly Feel x 8
 - Family connection with teachers x 2
 - Skill building
 - Respect shown to parents and students
 - Parents opinions valued x 3
 - General learning
 - Transparency
 - Approachable / welcoming / friendly staff x 7
 - Well balanced engaging curriculum x 3
 - Parent interviews
 - Challenge students academically
 - Parent participation x 2
 - Student wellbeing x 4
- **Positive community, involvement and focus x 13**
- **Excellent, approachable staff / teaching x 13**

- Fun assembly x 2
- Core subjects
- **Grounds and facilities maintenance and improvement x 7**
- Camps / excursions and special activities x 5
- Music lessons
- Specialist Art and Italian
- Incursions, excursions and camps x 3
- Art classes
- Confidence building x2
- Interesting subjects
- School values x 5
- Relevant first aid and hospital training
- Child safety caring and supportive x 3
- Positive experience with enrolment process
- Academic development, outcomes and curriculum x 5
- Leadership programs x 2
- Garden club,
- Children feel safe & valued,
- Helps to raise happy / respectful kids,
- Buddies x 3
- Junior sport
- Visible / helpful hands principal x 3
- Strong community view
- Makes learning fun
- Lightning prem
- Students behaviour expectations
- School size
- Ipad program x 3
- Vintage Fair x 3

Last week we farewelled **Julie Keating** (pictured right) who we captured along with **Lucinda Eales** (left) who continues to support grades across the school. The send-off, complete with pink balloons and pink lamingtons, was a large clue for us all here at school.



Family holidays Where families take holidays during school terms, we would appreciate this in writing, in advance please. With our improving communication with families around unapproved absences, it will help us accurately record this absence and also help prevent families from receiving daily SMS messages or other contact from the school.

Choir restart In our continuing efforts to increase the music opportunities for our students we will be employing our current piano teacher Samantha Robinson to start up a new choir here at Belmont PS. It will run one lunchtime each week and involve around 20 students. If we have more than 20 students or so we will establish a waiting list. There is no cost this term as we look to trial this opportunity. Samantha has experience with choirs overseas and I hope we can get this one off the ground and 'in flight' successfully.

Students who expressed an interest in being part of our choir were provided with more information yesterday. Parents need to consent to their child's involvement and the commitment we are looking for from them to stay with the group for the 6-7 sessions this term. So far 21 students have expressed an interest. (Open to Years 3-6)

Should the choir prove successful under this new arrangement, we will hope to provide opportunities for them to perform at assemblies or perhaps even our **2019 School Concert** planned for Wednesday 11th of September 2019.

The school has also made some early inquiries about the **Music Bus**, which is a privately owned business that provides music lessons for groups of students on-site in a specially designed bus. It may be able to offer an opportunity for students to learn the drums but would require a minimum of 6 students. The cost is around \$16 per half hour lesson. If we have enough interest, we will explore this possibility further. Please let us know through your child's diary if you would like your child to learn the drums. So far just two students have expressed an interest.

Soundwaves Professional Development This week classroom staff joined in a virtual session looking more closely at our whole school program Soundwaves. The presenter on-line revisited some important background and then provided staff with ideas, approaches and available resources. Our thanks to Lucinda Eales who set this up for us.



Important reminder

All dogs (big and small) within school grounds must be under the control of an adult at all times. Part of our policy to keep students safe is a requirement for adults to be in charge of their dogs at all times please. At no time should students be in charge of pets within the school boundary please.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Food allergies Parents are advised that we have several students with food allergies and other allergy forms here at Belmont. In particular **nuts, eggs and kiwi fruit** are among the foods we would prefer are not sent to school due to the risk and potential for serious and life threatening results. Thank-you.

SLIP SLOP SLAP All parents are reminded that Term 1 all students must wear a broad brimmed school hat. These can be purchased from PSW, Malop Street Geelong.

Newsletter distribution update

Families can access our newsletter through COMPASS or by request for a hard copy. Our newsletter is also available on our website but no longer through Skoolbag, which will be closed fully in coming weeks as COMPASS fulfils this service. So far, we have just 37 orders for a hard copy with the remaining copies provided digitally on-line.



We accept that not all of our parents want a digital copy so for this term at least, we will continue to provide hard copies for families who tell us they would still like this.

In efforts to further reduce our paper usage we have also purchased software called **Papercut**. This software will help the school accurately track its photocopy paper use with the view to decreasing our staff and student needs in this area over time. This has been rolled out across all devices and copiers and is already providing our school with some great data for us to act on.

Stay cool.

Regards from Principal Team

David Houghton
Principal ☺

Sharon Liddle
and Assistant Principal ☺

Great Dads, Great Kids



When:

2 hours per week for eight weeks

Dates:

Program 1: Tuesday 20 Feb – 10 Apr

Program 2: Tuesday 23 Jul – 10 Sep

Program 3: Tuesday 15 Oct – 3 Dec

Time:

Evenings 5.30pm -7.30pm

Where:

Bethany, 16 Ballarat Rd Hamlyn Heights 3215

Cost: FREE

An **eight week** parenting program especially for Dads who want to build supportive, respectful and loving relationships with their kids.

- Changing role of fathers & different styles of fathering
- Child development and basic child care
- Being a responsive Dad
- Guidance and discipline
- Building healthy self esteem
- Family relationships
- Connecting through play
- Looking after myself

For Dads of children up to or about 12 years of age. Fun, interactive, reflective and supportive group for Dads of kids

Go to

www.bethany.org.au

Or

You need to register in advance – call us on (03) 5278 8122



Proud and generous sponsor of our
2019 Welcome BBQ/Picnic

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2019

School Council Elections 2019 – Information for Parents

What is a council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most school councils. There are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by decision of the council because of their special skill, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections. **We will have 6 Parent vacancies this year.**

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- Standing for election as a member of the school council
- Encourage another person to stand for election.

How can I nominate?

Nomination forms are now available at the office to nominate or you can self-nominate.

Then nominations will close in one week, 6th March 2019.

FROM THE ART ROOM

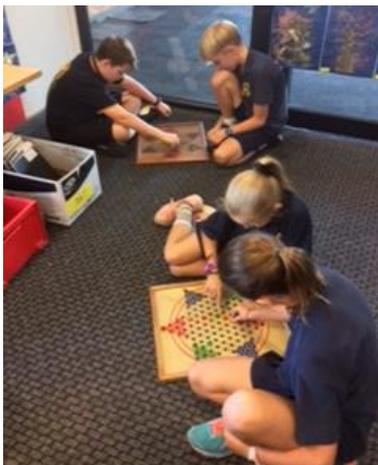
Four things to tell you this week.

ART SMOCKS

If you send an art smock to school with your child, which I highly recommend, I will do my best to make sure they are worn during messy activities. Most of the paint that we use will come out in the wash but METALLIC PAINTS DO NOT!!! I know this from personal experience as quite a few of my clothes have delightful markings of gold on them. P.V.A and other glues on clothing require a hot wash to come clean but it's so much easier to wear protective clothing in the first place.

CHINESE CHECKERS

This is such a fun game and I am currently teaching the children from grades 3 to 6 how to play it. Once you get the hang of it, the different strategies that you can use become really interesting. My Grandma Phoebe taught me how to play. We would sit playing it at the coffee table while my Grandads pug dog called Sox sat under the table making horrible smells!! Every time I play it now I think of Sox. Anyway, if you have this game at home it would be great if you could get it out now so that your children can hone their skills with you. If you have children in Preps or Years 1/2, you may like to teach them too.



COLOSSAL

During the last holidays I came across a website called COLOSSAL. It covers Art, Design and Visual Culture. I signed up for a weekly feed (you can opt for daily) and have found some amazing ideas, artists and information, some of which I will be sharing with the students. Have a look if you get a spare minute.

FUN WITH YEARS 1/2

This week I told the children the story of The Three Little Pigs. I told them the story rather than read it because this way you can embellish the story however the mood takes you and give it a different ending if you want to. After the story, the children chose from a variety of materials and in pairs made a house for their pig. They then made predictions about which houses the wolf would blow over. Now the best bit the wolf was all out of huff and puff so used his personal hairdryer to blow down the houses where he could. The students loved this (I had fun too.) It turned out that there were a few surprises as far as our predictions were concerned. Next week we create an artwork about this story.

* If your child comes home and asks where your hairdryer is kept you'll know why!

Yvonne McDonald

Art Specialist



PARENTS CLUB

Belmont Primary School has an active Parents Club and our purpose is to:

- Contribute to the wellbeing of the school community
- Encourage the participation of all parents in the life of the school and the education of their children
- Provide opportunities for parents to get to know each other and to be informed about their child's school
- Work in cooperation with the School Council
- Assist with fundraising activities

There are many ways you can become involved, so please join us at our next Parents Club meeting to learn more.

PARENTS CLUB MEETING

Wednesday 13th March 7.30pm in the Staffroom

The formal positions of President, Vice President and Secretary will be declared vacant at this meeting and we'll be seeking volunteers to fill these roles for 2019.

If you'd like to know more about what's required, you're welcome to call me on 0412 203 356 to have a chat. Otherwise, please let David Houghton know that you're interested!

WELCOME MORNING TEA for Prep and New Family Parents

Parents Club will be holding a Welcome Morning Tea on March 6th, in the staff room after drop off, for all Prep and New Family Parents. Please drop in for a chat, some morning tea and hopefully meet some new friends.

Thanks
Skye

GEELONG MUMS

The School Captains and Vice Captains this year are working to support a wonderful community group called the Geelong Mums. Geelong Mums supports disadvantaged mums (and dads) with essential needs and the group started just a few years ago with 5 mums donating some of their baby goods and volunteering their time.

Last year they organised the donation of nearly 17,000 items new and old worth almost \$2 million dollars.

As school Captains we met with one of the organisers and are planning to collect for the Geelong Mums in March. Our aim is to gather 286 items which is the current school student population.

These items can include:

Soap	Shampoo	Conditioner
Tooth brushes	Toothpaste	Moisturiser
Towels	Shaving cream	Deodorants
Perfume (boxed)		

Donations can be delivered to the BER each Monday or Friday from 8.45 am. We will be there to meet you.

Remember March is Geelong Mums.

Thanks, School Captains



ADVERTISEMENTS



The Orange Door is a new way for women, children and young people who are experiencing family violence or families who need assistance with the care and wellbeing of children to access the services they need to be safe and supported.



Contact The Orange Door if:

- Someone close to you is hurting you, controlling you or making you feel afraid, such as your partner, family member, housemate or carer
- You are concerned about the wellbeing of a child or young person
- You are concerned about the safety of a friend or family member
- You are struggling with parenting due to family conflict or personal, health, relationship or money issues

This is a free service

The Orange Door welcomes people of any age, gender, sexuality, culture and ability. The Orange Door works with local Aboriginal services and communities, multicultural services, LGBTI and disability services to meet the diverse needs of individuals and families.

The Orange Door will connect you to the services you need and work with you to support you and your family to stay safe.

orangedoor.vic.gov.au

Contact The Orange Door in Barwon

The Orange Door provides services to people living in Barwon, which includes Colac-Otway, Greater Geelong, Queenscliffe and Surf Coast shires.

Barwon

1800 312 820

83 Moorabool Street, Geelong VIC 3220

Opening hours

9am to 5pm Monday to Friday
(except public holidays)

Email

barwon@orangedoor.vic.gov.au

Or visit

orangedoor.vic.gov.au for more information

We take your privacy seriously. To find out how we will use your information, please refer to orangedoor.vic.gov.au

All images: Posed by models.

THE ORANGE DOOR – BARWON



Belmont High School

SELECT ENTRY ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM

2020 Year 7 Intake

Information Evening:

Thursday, 14th March 2019

Belmont High School, SEALP Learning Centre
(entry via Digby Avenue)
7.00pm

Information Booklets and Application Forms are available from Belmont High School, or online at www.bhs.vic.edu.au
Selection process details for 2020 can be viewed on the school website.

Please direct all enquiries to:
Leanne Purdy
Telephone: 5243 5355 (Belmont High School)
Email: belmont_hs@edumail.vic.gov.au