



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



BELMONT BULLETIN
No.01 6TH February 2020



DATES TO REMEMBER

Tomorrow	7 th February	9:00am	School Assembly
Tomorrow	7 th February	After Assembly	Fresh Fruit Friday fruit cutting in the staffroom
Tomorrow	7 th February		Icy Pole Sales Commence
Tomorrow	7 th February		Lunch Orders Commence
Thursday	13 th February	9:00am	Scholastic Book Club Orders Due
Wednesday	19 th February	7:00pm	School Council Meeting
Tuesday	25 th February	4:00pm – 7:00pm	School Welcome Picnic/BBQ – More info to come shortly
Tuesday	3 rd March		School Photo Day - More info to come shortly
Wednesday	4 th March	3:40pm – 5:30pm	Meet the Teacher

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Welcome to the 2020 School Year! It is such an honour to be working with the Belmont Primary Community as Acting Principal this term. It has been lovely to catch up with so many families in the yard and to chat to our students about their summer break.

Our students have made an impressive start to the term, with all classes getting straight into learning in their classrooms last week and enjoying our beautiful playground spaces during the breaks. We started with two incredibly hot days which was tough for everyone but I am very proud of the resilience and persistence demonstrated by both our students and staff to make the most of those days last week.

Our Preps are Superstar Learners!

We extend a very big welcome to 45 wonderful new Prep students who this week started full days of school. They are looking very grown up in their school uniforms and are establishing some very positive learning routines already. They have been amazing, already beginning to learn the sounds that letters can make in their Sound Waves sessions and I love the delightful number walls they have worked together to create whilst learning how to be a kind, co-operative and helpful friend. Soooo much learning in only a few short school days.



Welcome new students and families to Belmont PS

We welcome 20 new prep families to our school this year, along with the following new students and their families - James J Yr 1, Sarah J Yr3, Pippa N Yr 1, Zainab F Yr 2, Yousuf F Yr 3, Summer K Yr 5, Lisette D Yr 5, Bowen S Yr 6 and Aaron B Yr 1.

I know our BPS parents will warmly welcome you all into our wonderful community.

Welcome Staff

We extend a very warm welcome to our new teaching staff – Miss Madison MacDonald (from Tarneit P-9 College) and Miss Amy Ralph (from Mandama PS) who join our staff team this year.

We are also delighted to welcome back a number of our staff who are returning part-time from family leave this year: Georgina Edgar, Lucinda Eales, Julie Keating and Temae Moorfoot (Miss Mac).

Our 2020 Staff Team:

Foundation (Prep)

Shanelle Craven (L) Phoebe Gowers

Year 1/2

Susie Lewis – M-Th (L)
Emma Johnson – Fri Paul McArdle
Megan Leishman Jemma Treloar

Year 3/4

Craig Corker (L) Madison MacDonald
Lorann Elkington

Year 5/6

Grant Thompson (L) Amy Ralph
Sharon Long (M/Tu/Thu) Georgina Edgar (W/F)

Specialists

Yvonne Mc Donald Visual Arts/STEM
Helen McNab LOTE (Italian)
Julie Keating PE
Lucinda Eales PE
Temae Moorfoot Performing Arts

(L) - Professional Learning Community Leader

ES staff:

Maree Koch, Fiona De Paoli, Bec Gillett,
Deb Krupa & Naomi Barnes.

Administration Staff

Jacqui Eddy, Kelly Wilde and Rhonda Mason

IT Support

Pete Williams, Terese Sellars

ASSEMBLY remains on Friday mornings with a slightly later start around 9.10 am to allow staff to mark rolls under our improved Compass attendance system.

A **Welcome Picnic / BBQ** has been planned for Tuesday 25th February. It is a relaxed affair with parents welcome to visit any and all classrooms between 4-5pm before we all gather on the oval for a relaxed BBQ/Picnic. Parents can bring their own food and drinks but we will do our best to provide some sausages/bread, soft drinks and water. No pets please and a reminder that there is no smoking within school grounds.

A belated welcome also to two Deakin Students: Chloe Burns (Prep C) and Caitlyn Richardson (5/6T). The primary aim of this placement is to enable PSTs (Pre Service Teachers) to gain an insight into school and class procedures at the start of the year. Chloe and Caitlin have completed the first five days of their teaching blocks and will return on two further occasions this year to work with our staff and students.

Meet the Teacher

We have set aside Wednesday 4th February 3.40 – 5.30pm (10 minute timeslots) for parents who would like to make a specific appointment with their child's class teacher.

*These appointments are for parents to share important information with class teachers and **are optional**. For the majority of our parents, the welcome picnic and open classroom provide the opportunity for you to introduce yourself and meet your children's 2020 classroom teachers.*

However, they are being made available again this year after feedback from parents who wanted an opportunity to share specific information with the class teacher concerning important matters like special medical conditions, physical conditions or diagnosis of conditions which might impact their child's learning.

There is only a limited number of appointments for each teacher and for those interested we will be using Compass to book times. More information regarding this process will be coming out shortly.

Advice on Coronavirus:

We will continue to utilise the Compass newsfeed to update our community on any further developments or advice regarding the Coronavirus. This includes fact sheets from the Australian Health Department and a number of other resources.

Further information can also be found at the following website which has a link to providing information in a number of different languages.

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/novelcoronavirus>

In response to a small number of queries from our community, I have included some information relevant to our local context at the end today's newsletter. If you have any concerns or questions about the coronavirus, please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss these.

Buildings and Grounds

Our school remains committed to providing a clean, safe and functional buildings and grounds for our students.

Many of the improvements we continue to make not only improve the look and functionality of the buildings and grounds but importantly improve the **safety** and amenity for our students. We thank parents for the voluntary contributions which help support this kind of work and development.

There was a significant amount of work completed over the Summer holidays which is an absolute credit to our Buildings and Grounds Committee and the extremely hard work of our principal, Mr Houghton as none of this happens without his time in organisation and being available for the many tradespeople.

Buildings and Grounds works update:

- Replacement of multiple light fittings to LED in Prep room areas
- New concrete apron for approach to Playpod to reduce tripping hazards in this area and small addition to grassed landscaping has completed this area.
- New sails measured up and installed over both playgrounds.
- Retaining wall footings poured and almost complete – we are waiting on the top capping to arrive.
- Cleaning 100 hours completed. All areas of the school looking great.
- Security lighting rear of Mod 5s should be sorted soon.
- Removal of corroded basketball backboard in Mini Village area.
- All carpets steam cleaned.
- All vinyl areas stripped and cleaned
- Grounds clean up completed.





THE VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS

SPECTACULAR

In 2020 we are a SPECTACULAR School. I have a long time passion for the Victorian Schools Spectacular and this year Belmont PS is going to be part of its 25th anniversary celebrations. Up to sixteen years 5/6 students will be spending weekly rehearsals learning and practising choreography to be part of our mass dance troupe who will perform at Melbourne Arena on Saturday 12 September alongside thousands of other students from Victorian Government schools.

Get excited Belmont! This is HUGE and very, very EXCITING for our students and school community. A wonderful opportunity that I am so proud to have been able to gain for our students and community.

This week interested students have been coming along to audition for the very limited 16 spaces that we have. Stay tuned in coming weeks as we introduce the very lucky crew who will represent Belmont PS at Victorian State Schools Spectacular (VSSS) for the **first time**.

Don't know anything about VSSS? Google Vic State School Spectacular and see what you can find on Youtube, or view last year's advertising promo from this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuoTjbRiAXY>

We certainly have a very exciting year ahead of us. I look forward to seeing many of you at assembly tomorrow morning as we come together for the first time to celebrate *'learning together'* at Belmont PS.

Have a wonderful week ahead.

Kinds regards

Sharon Liddle

Acting Principal ☺



Compass

Parents are reminded that we use the Compass Management system to manage student absences and our reporting to parents processes, such as booking parent –teacher meetings, sharing learning tasks and providing end of Semester reports. Our newsletter and other regular updates are also provided via Compass which can be accessed on your phone via an app or through the Compass website.

Our new families will have received their access details this week so it is important that you log-on and become familiar with this communication process as quickly as possible. It's the easiest (and the preferred) way for you to notify us of any absences and of course, to stay up to date with school information. In 2020 we will continue to expand ways that we can maximise the functions of Compass to provide more efficient and also more sustainable ways of working together as a community. Please see our very friendly and helpful office staff if you need any assistance.



FROM THE ART ROOM

Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to our preps and other new students throughout the school.

At the beginning of each year in the art room we always celebrate Chinese New Year, also known as The Spring Festival or The Lunar New Year. We do this because our curriculum promotes learning about the art of other cultures and also because it is very colourful and fun and involves animals .. one of my favourite things.

2020 is The Year of the Rat. Years of the Rat include 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008 and 2020. Most of our grade sixes were born in this year. According to tradition, people born in The Year of the Rat are clever and quick at understanding things. They can adapt to changes and are kind and lively. They have good imaginations and are observant. They are curious and are happy to try new things. All pretty good qualities to have I think. The students at all levels will complete artworks around this topic to begin the year so stay tuned.

ART SMOCKS

I will do my best to keep your children as spotless as possible but an art smock certainly helps especially for the younger grades. Thick material smocks or even plastic ones are the best because I find that the thinner smocks still allow the paint through onto clothes. It doesn't have to be expensive, see what clothing you have at home first that may be suitable.

FYI .. Most paints and other products that we use in the art room come out in a normal wash. Gold and silver paint never comes out (my wardrobe is testament to this) and inks are hard to get out too. Glue, including PVA needs a HOT wash to disappear. Hope this helps.

*Yvonne McDonald
Art Specialist*



ALLERGIES

At Belmont Primary School we have several students with food allergies and other allergy forms. In particular nuts and eggs are among the foods we prefer are not sent to school due to the risk and potential for serious and life threatening results. Thank you

PARENTS CLUB

Hello everyone, my name is Skye and I am currently the President of the BPS Parents Club.

Our school has an active Parents Club which runs, and also helps out with, a number of events throughout the school year. We organise social nights for the parents, Mothers and Father's Day stalls, the school disco and help with fundraising for the school.

Our first meeting of the year will be on Thursday the 20th of February at 7:30pm in the staffroom. Everyone is welcome to come along and learn more about what the Club does and how to get involved.

Meetings are usually held on a Wednesday or Thursday evening about once a month, often in the staff room but last year we managed a few nights which included dinner out somewhere in Belmont.

If you need any further information please feel free to message me on 0412 203 356.

Thanks
Skye

GROW AND GOBBLE

Grow and Gobble is up and running for term 1. Yesterday we were kept very busy tidying up pathways, composting, watering and doing some summer planting. Then we enjoyed a harvest of our own fresh strawberries and nectarines. YUM.

We have put together a rotating parent volunteer roster. But we are looking to fill gaps. Can you spare 1 hour on a Wednesday 1.30pm - 2.30pm? We would love to have you. Even one Wednesday a term would be a huge help to our gardeners. Also any donation of seeds, seedlings, pots, will be appreciated.

*Happy Gardening
Wendy Berens 0421115692*

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY

Fresh Fruit Fridays are back for Term 1 this year. We are looking for volunteers to help chop and distribute fruit platters just after assembly each Friday. If you have a spare half hour we would appreciate your help. Everyone is welcome.

ICY POLES

Icy poles will be available each Tuesday & Friday from the canteen window starting tomorrow, Friday 7th Feb.
Paddle Pops \$1.00
Quelch Icy Poles .50c

LUNCH ORDERS

Lunch orders will resume tomorrow and be available each Friday from Zen Bakery. Please refer to the price list attached for pricing.

SCHOLASTIC BOOKCLUB

Welcome back to another year of school and another year of Scholastic Book Club! For our new families, or for those who'd like a refresher course, here is some information:

What is Scholastic Book Club?

Twice a term, a Scholastic Book Club catalogue is distributed to students via their class teacher. You can purchase from a variety of quality books which appeal to a range of reading levels and interests. Any purchases made earn our school Scholastic Rewards which our staff can use to buy new books for our Library and resources for classrooms! Scholastic Book Club books are great ideas for gifts and help our kids catch the reading bug!

How it works:

If you would like to order from Book Club, it's very easy.

Issue 1 is due on Thursday 13th February and catalogues will have already made their way home with students.

You can order with a credit card through the Scholastic LOOP system on the Scholastic website (www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP) or download the app from the App Store or Google Play. You don't have to return anything to school. It's super quick, convenient, and saves having to dig around for cash!

OR

You can enclose cash with your completed order form and return it to school before the due date (reminders will be in the school newsletter).

Books you have ordered will be delivered to school and distributed to the students in the following week. Generally, all orders will arrive at the same time, so if you order early through LOOP, the books will arrive after the Book Club cut-off date. If you have a book order as a GIFT, you can flag this in the LOOP order system or if ordering with cash, simply write "GIFT" clearly on the order form and it will be held at the office for you to collect discreetly!

If you have any questions, please ask!

Kind regards, Rochelle Wiltshire (Book Club Parent Helper) ph: 0418320876

SCHOOL CROSSING

The School Crossing on Mt Pleasant Road is manned during the below times during the school term.

For the safety of all parents and students please do not park in between the flags during these times.

8:15 – 9:15 in the morning

3:20 – 3:50 in the afternoon

MEDICATIONS

Any medication that your child needs whilst at school needs to be bought to the office by an adult and paperwork completed. If you have any questions please see the office staff.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - CSEF

PAYMENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes. CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum. CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2019, you do not need to complete an application form in 2020 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- new student enrolments**; your child has started or changed schools in 2020 or you did not apply in 2019.
- changed family circumstances**; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2020.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

OUTSTANDING EFFORT!

During the school holidays two of our students, Mai L and Tahlia S, showed great initiative and compassion during our bushfire crisis by raising money for Wildlife Victoria. They came up with the idea of running a cupcake stall where they also sold homemade lemonade and brownies and even thought of selling dog treats so that no one missed out. Handwritten invitations went out into the neighbouring streets the day before and the stall was a roaring success with \$360 dollars raised. As mentioned, this money was donated to Wildlife Victoria who were highly appreciative and sent the girls a certificate acknowledging their efforts.



Novel Coronavirus Information

What risk is there to my child attending Belmont Primary school?

Students at Belmont Primary School are at no greater risk attending our school than at any other school or if they are out and about in public.

Australian health authorities have declared the people at highest risk of developing novel coronavirus are:

- People who have travelled from mainland China to Australia since 1 February 2020
- People who have traveled to Hubei Province, China in the past 14 days
- Close contacts of confirmed cases of novel coronavirus
- People who have attended a healthcare facility in China in the past 14 days.

The Department of Education is ensuring that Principals are being kept updated as further information is received and our school is passing on the latest information and advice to our families.

Has the school checked to see if any attending student, teacher or their family members have recently travelled to China (including the Chinese Sunday School)?

Our school is working closely with the Chinese Language School who has delayed the start of their school year until February 16. The Chinese Language School has also put measures in place to ensure that all students, staff or parents returning from China will not attend the weekend program for at least two weeks after their individual return date to Australia.

In terms of our families, we appreciate that many of those that have travelled overseas during the holidays have already been in contact with us and we are working individually with these families to ensure the health of their own children and our community at large.

Current advice is that people in the following groups are advised to **self-isolate at home** and we ask families in our school community to inform us if this applies to them:

- People who were in Hubei Province until 14 days after they were last in Hubei Province;
- People who were in mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 until 14 days after they were last in mainland China;
- Close contacts of confirmed cases until 14 days after last close contact with the confirmed case.

If any family is unsure if this applies to their children, then please call the school office so that we can work individually with your family.

What measures has or will the school put in place to keep children safe?

Our school has followed DET advice and ensured that parents have been provided with the latest fact sheets and advice provided by the Department. This included access to the posters regarding healthy hygiene practices.

We have ensured all students have access to soap near our hand basins and the 'Wash Your Hands' poster has been displayed. Teachers have been provided with the latest information from the Department and will continue to regularly revise healthy hygiene practices with their students and all classrooms have been provided with health sanitisers.

Health authorities have advised that the wearing of face masks is not necessary by the Victorian public nor by students or staff in schools. Our school will continue to monitor the situation as advised by the Department of Education and Government Health authorities and ensure that recommended universal measures for infection prevention are maintained throughout the school.

Where can I find more information?

As fact sheets can be regularly updated, parents and families can find the latest information at:
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/novelcoronavirus>

Who do I contact if I have a question or concern?

Please call the school office on 5243 2972 to speak to the Acting Principal, Sharon Liddle.