

BELMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL

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BELMONT BULLETIN

No.10 23rd April 2020

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

How great it is to see all of the snapshots of our students at home doing their best to engage with the activities and learning that has been set for them over this first week and a bit. We've included as many as we could fit.

We are creating a display of the photos we received here at school and we would love to see a photo from as many families as possible added to it. Photos can be emailed to the school email address.

belmont.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Our staff have been proud of the efforts all of the students have been making at home to tackle the tasks that have been set for them. Our acknowledgement too, for our parents and carers who are also doing their best to support their children in their work.

Our on-site students too have been working well in such different conditions with between 8 and 16 students attending across two classes for partial and full days. These ratios and class arrangements help to maintain the social distancing required to help keep staff and students safe. Thank you to our teaching and Education Support Staff who are volunteering each day to support the onsite attendance supervision.

All schools are working their way through this new approach with their communities and by no means have it perfect yet. We are working hard to adapt and modify our approaches based on feedback from parents and our students. Over the next weeks we are planning to contact many of you directly to seek your feedback and collect your ideas and suggestions as to how we can continue to improve our approaches, communication and delivery. This contact may not be from a class teacher as we share the task of communicating directly with as many of you as possible.

As we shared last week it is very 'early days' and the progress we have made in just a week and a half or so since our official return, has given us confidence that we will be able to make this work for our families and importantly for all of our students.

Compass remains an important avenue of communication and **Seesaw**, a second platform currently in use by all of our grades. Facebook has also been a recent initiative, details appear at the top of this newsletter, and we have left more details in the newsletter content itself.

If you are having any problems with any of these platforms please contact your class teacher, contact the office or send us an email at belmont.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au . We'll persist until it is working for everyone.

As shared in Compass we are investigating how best to connect our students through a video/live platform. The Department have an approved system that we are looking at closely. We will give our parents as much notice about this and we are confident once established, it will be a great way for our students to reconnect with their classmates and teachers in a safe and monitored environment.

Anzac Day will be commemorated this Saturday. Although we cannot formally recognise this day on-site at school with all of our students we honour and remember the men and women who served.

Since around the 1920s Anzac Day became established as a National Day of Commemoration for the 60,000 Australians and 18,000 New Zealanders who died during the war. Commemorative ceremonies normally held at war memorials around both countries will be sure to look very different this year.

Here is one idea that you may have seen being proposed on social media.



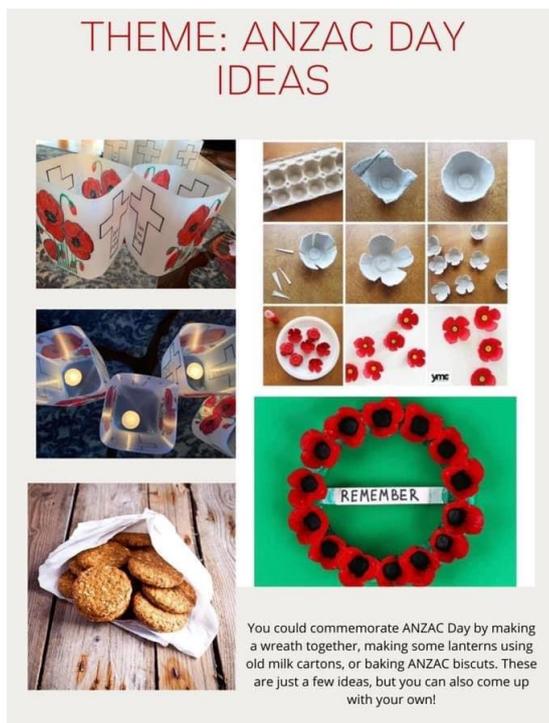
They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun,
And in the morning
We will remember them.

Laurence Binyon (1869-1943),

For the Fallen (1914)

This week our classroom teachers have been planning a range of different activities around the important theme of Anzac Day and have been sharing them with our students on Seesaw.

Here are some other great ideas that your family could choose to do to commemorate this important date in our history.



Please email us photos of your family's ideas for commemorating Anzac Day this year and we will use some in next week's newsletter.

You may also like to share them in the comments of the school's Anzac Day post if your family is comfortable in doing so. Our Facebook page is a public page and not a private group.

Remote Learning – Student Attendance

A reminder that we still need to be accounting for student attendance each day. Thank you to the families and students who have been interacting with their classroom teachers through Seesaw. Attendance in a nutshell...

Onsite Attendance

For students who have met eligibility and been approved for onsite learning for full or part days, our onsite staff will mark the roll once students are signed in at school.

Remote Learning Attendance

Our teachers are using Seesaw to provide a morning message and an afternoon message to all of our families. Through either the parent or the student log-in details, these messages need to be responded to for each student. This will either be by making a comment on the posted message or by liking the post. Our teachers will be monitoring the interaction of students on Seesaw each day and this will determine daily attendance. **We do ask that all families aim to have responded to the morning message by 1.30pm every day.** Our staff will then mark the roll based on this information.

Same-day notification

At 3.00pm each day Compass sends an SMS reminder to families whose children has been marked as absent for that day and you will be required to either:

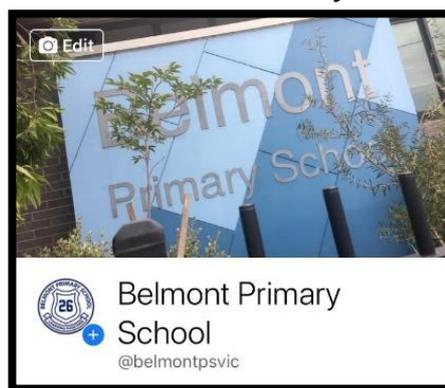
- add the attendance approval for the day or
- contact the classroom teacher via Seesaw to inform them that your child has been undertaking some learning tasks on that day.

Student Absences

If your child is unwell on any day or are unable to complete set learning tasks for the day for any other reason, please add an attendance approval note on Compass as is our usual school practice for any normal school day.

This is the same for students approved to undertake onsite attendance as well as those students learning remotely at home.

Have you found us on Facebook yet?



Thank you to the families who have looked us up and followed us in the past week. We love it when families comment and let us know how their children are doing during remote learning. Yesterday there was a chance to families to share photos of their pets who might be finding it unusual (or fantastic) to have everyone at home with them.

Find us at: www.facebook.com/belmontpsvic/

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos will be available for pick up from the school on Tuesday 28th April in the afternoon. Please keep an eye out on Compass for the time and location.

B.P.S HOME LEARNING SUPERSTARS



Our B.P.S Home Learning Superstars photo board. Please continue to send your photos to us via the school email address, belmont.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

FROM THE ART ROOM

Hello out there in home learning land, hope you enjoyed your first video from me. Look what I found in my letterbox on Tuesday night along with a lovely note from one of our year six students. Picked up on the shoreline of a local beach ... see, there is still treasure to be found!



CUP STACKING

Did you know that one of the cheapest and easiest ways to keep your children entertained during their time at home is to buy them a few packs of paper cups for cup stacking? Most students love doing this in the art room as an activity for early finishers. I decided to take it to the next level and try some cup stacking with a purpose. My creations are called "Upside Down Birthday Cup Cake", "Plant Stand" and "Daisy's Hat Rack". Give it a go, it's fun!

Yvonne McDonald
Art Specialist



