

**BELMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
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 Principal: David Houghton



**BELMONT BULLETIN**  
**NO.13 11th May, 2017**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<b>Friday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> May</b>		<b>3/4 Bollard Walk</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> May</b>		<b>Application for Year 7 Placement forms due back</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> May</b>		<b>Mother's Day Stall</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> May</b>		<b>Winter Lightning Premiership</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> June</b>		<b>Report Writing Day, No students required at school</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> June</b>		<b>Prep Lego Excursion</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> June</b>		<b>Queen's Birthday Public Holiday</b>

**Student of the week**

**Congratulations to the following students whose efforts, behaviour and attitude have been recognised**

James G	<b>Prep H</b>	For building an amazing shelter that protected Foxy from the sun and let him watch his friends surf! What a wonderful design you created!
James T	<b>Prep P</b>	For building an amazing shelter that protected Foxy from the sun and let him watch his friends surf! What a wonderful design you created!
Grace B	<b>1/2C</b>	For working hard on reading the punctuation and improving her expressive voice when reading to an audience.
Harry N	<b>1/2D</b>	For always working with excellent determination and approaching all his learning with fabulous focus. Great job Harry!
Jack C	<b>1/2G</b>	For blowing me away with his amazing reading this week and being confident to have a go at spelling difficult words. Keep up the great work Jack!
Charlie M	<b>1/2J</b>	For writing a fantastic descriptive piece about Jurassic, the fierce monster. You used great adjectives and included some great information about what your monster looks like & likes to do.
Alexie P	<b>3/4E</b>	For concentrating when working independently, putting her very best effort into all learning tasks and producing some incredible finished pieces of work. Wow!
Laura I	<b>3/4P</b>	For leading by example by always trying her personal best & listening attentively! Well done legend!
Mai L	<b>3/4T</b>	Her outstanding addition skills when working with money! Wow Mai, you made a lot of 'cents' when you were calculating some pretty pricey problems! Fabulous work!
Ella H	<b>5/6C</b>	For a very persuasive letter written to her parents. I also strongly believe your puppies should sleep inside :- ) Great writing Ella!
Jewelea M	<b>5/6K</b>	For her enthusiastic participation in our Biolab excursion and for her AMAZING reaction time! Well done Jewelea.
Jake B	<b>5/6L</b>	For making a SUPER effort to finish tasks and present them in a neat and organised manner. Keep up the fantastic effort Jake!

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2017**



**NAPLAN** finishes today in grades 3 and 5. We have done our best again this year managing this mandatory testing. National testing was introduced way back in 2008 before half of our current students were even born. Since then the Government have used this snapshot in time to collect student data, which is then used as a measure by which to compare schools and measure student growth. World opinion as to the value of this kind of testing in education circles is mixed. More on this next week.

For our mid-sized school it is a difficult program to manage. In order to maximise the *best possible conditions and environment* for our grade 3 and 5 students we remove all our Grade 4 and 6s during the

tests. We leave class teachers in place however as this helps students manage these tests better. As a result we have large numbers of students and restricted staffing and work areas to use for this group. Even outdoor pursuits can create unnecessary noise or distraction during important test times.

This week the normal program for our Grade 4s and 6s for the 4 hours of testing over three days changes slightly. We have enjoyed a G rated video together, games involving public speaking, drawing and design and a quiz answered in mixed teams. Specialist programs have continued to run to an altered timetable as do all other normal class hours over NAPLAN week.

Our 4s and 6s understand these circumstances and any inconvenience they experience across the three days is balanced against the knowledge that these same advantages were afforded to them last year and will be provided for this years Grade 2s and 4s again next year.

Our NAPLAN school results last year were among the best in our Region and placed us in the top four Primary Schools in Geelong.

**First Aid update** Many of our staff attended a CPR refresher course this week after school ensuring many hold the necessary and important First Aid qualifications that help to ensure we keep our students safe particularly on excursions and camps. Yearly the school trains up new staff to Level 2. Four staff will complete this larger course this term.



**Winter chill** With cooler mornings now becoming common we have had all of our gas heaters serviced, cleaned and checked across the school to ensure student and staff safety.

**Jolly Giovedì Gelato Day** today. More on this next week. Early thanks to Mrs Carollo (LOTE-Italian) and her band of helpers who have made this fun activity come to life !!

### Aussie of the Month recipients



**February, Jackson M** - for always being a respectful student who always ensures he is a good role model to others.

**March, Chloe R** - for always making the effort to help her class mates and school at every opportunity.

**Kids Dental service update** So far 33 of the 57 student forms (up 10 from last week thanks) have been returned for this service we are trying to establish for some of our families. We need a minimum of 50 returns to have the Dental van on-site. If your child/family is eligible and you were provided with a form please return these as soon as possible. Replacement forms are available at the office, on Skoolbag or on request through your child's diary.



Forms  
please

### Parent Feedback from Term 1

Think or consider doing:

- Shelter at Prep room entrances
- Blinds and air conditioning in the hotter classrooms like the Artroom and Arkinstall Hall
- End of year picnic
- More excursions
- Parent Teacher Interviews in the first half on the year
- Brief parent teacher interview prior to end of Term 1 to discuss child's progress, settling in etc

- Ban all balls games at entry areas, main quadrangle area and prep areas before and after school.
- Contracting a gardener to carry out maintenance in the school grounds rather than principal and teaching staff – more development would be great to see especially of some of the small 'wasted' spaces. Eg. Timber tepee, stepping stone paths, cosy spaces.
- Stop free fruit Friday – isn't worth the amount that's provided and this money spent could go into other aspects of the school
- Grade 3-6 Cross Country to be held somewhere other than the school (possibly Barwon Valley Fun Park)
- Create special groups within class times for children who struggle with reading aloud and public speaking.
- Introduce coding – this is occurring in some other schools
- Bring back music – it assists with maths and logic. It's also fun and creates/ builds confidence.

### Response

Across any school will always be a wide range of varied viewpoints and opinions and although the school cannot possibly act on all feedback from parents we do listen. Feedback from previous surveys has resulted in change. We continue to work toward improving aspects of our school that our feedback, data or staff team identify.

Shelter is a point of discussion at School Council with the possible use of some monies from a grant the school has received for grounds work that may be able to provide additional shelter.

Ball games in busy entry areas are not encouraged. If parents find this a continuing problem please mention this to our duty teachers before or after school. The school tries to find a balance between providing just the right number/level of excursions and incursions against the associated costs for parents. Parents would note the schools use of many visiting groups, which we can access at a small cost or free of charge. Pet Safety, Healthy Bodies, BioLab, Sporting Schools and many more. Quotes for additional blinds have been done for several rooms we have identified as problem areas.

The purchase of A/Cs and then the resulting increase to power requirements is an on-going discussion point for the school. The Department have intentionally not provided schools with A/Cs south of Swan Hill in any school and it becomes a local decision if schools wish to install ACs across the school but then meet the increased costs for maintenance/repair and power.

Basic Coding is being taught in some of our classrooms this year using school selected APPs. Coding, in the simplest of terms, is telling a computer what you want it to do, which involves typing in step-by-step commands for the computer to follow. Computers are not clever things, however they are very obedient. They will do exactly what you want

them to do, so long as you tell them how to do it correctly.

Music continues here at Belmont but not as a specialist area. This decision was made at the end of 2016 based on a number of sound financial and staffing grounds. Parents I hope would have already noticed our commitment at assemblies for example to an increase of grade performances. Next Monday all of our 1/2s for example will be performing. Our School Concert will also go ahead this year which is great news.

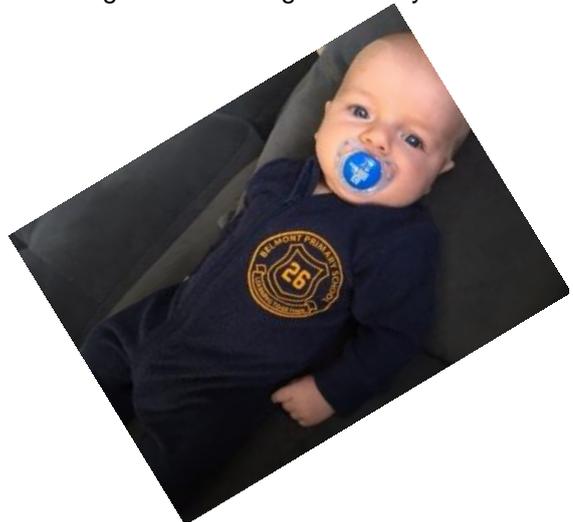
The school has a contracted gardener who has been unavailable of late. Parents should see continued improvement however in our grounds as projects already in planning are realized. Issues of safety, if they ever arise, are always acted upon immediately.

Free fruit Friday has been a point of discussion at School Council last year but it was decided on balance that the current benefits of this weekly activity outweigh the low costs that the school absorbs. We will again revisit this at the end of 2017.

Although formal Parent Teacher interviews were not offered this year, any parent can request such a meeting at any time and some parents do. Staff welcome these opportunities.

Next weeks Parent feedback continues: Communication. How are we doing?

**School fan** Pictured here Miss Papasavvas's youngest son has been quick to 'don' the Belmont colours- a gift from a thoughtful family.



### Prep enrolment for 2018

If you have a child who is starting next year in Prep and you have not yet contacted the school please do so. We have strong demand for places at the school. School tours are welcome. If you have friends with school age children who are in our area please encourage them to contact the school. Current enrolment at Prep stands at 32 students and a large Prep waiting list for students outside our local neighbourhood.

## Tenderbridge

You may already be aware of the link below regarding possible funding opportunities. We may have a parent or two out there who likes 'trawling' through these kinds of sites. If you are such a parent who enjoys this please have a regular dig for our school, your local community group or organisation. It can be a way for our school (or your club) to access additional funds for a range of projects.

<https://tenderbridge.acer.edu.au/Pages/Public/Home.aspx>

Its free to subscribe and if you click on the funds tab you can pop in key words and search all the different funding available.

**Woorabinda Camp 5 day camp update** The school has forwarded our expressions of interest for this additional camping experience offered recently to our Year 4 and 5 students. 5 boys and 16 girls expressed their interest. The school has been allocated 2 places for boys and 4 places for girls. These names will be drawn soon and parents of selected students notified.

### **Chinese proverb of the Week**

'A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.'

Enjoy the rest of your week.

Regards

**David Houghton**

Principal

## DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May our Cross Country runners travelled to Barwon Valley Park to compete against other school in our district. Students were extremely well behaved and competed to the best of their ability. Congratulations to our top 8 finishers who will be moving onto Division Cross Country at Eastern Beach on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May.

**10 year old Girls** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sarah D, 3<sup>rd</sup> Eve M, 5<sup>th</sup> Mackenzie W and 7<sup>th</sup> Sophie N.

**11 year old Boys** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Cohen W and 7<sup>th</sup> Angus H.

**11 year old Girls** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Ida L, 3<sup>rd</sup> Skye A & 7<sup>th</sup> Ariella H.

**12/13 year old Boys** – 4<sup>th</sup> Riley A

**12/13 year old Boys** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Rose M, 6<sup>th</sup> Amalie A and 7<sup>th</sup> Maggie C



## PARENTS CLUB

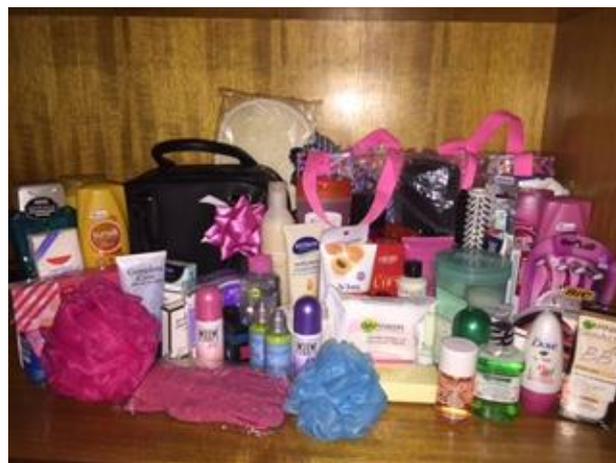
Our April meeting saw the 2017 BPS Parents Club Committee confirmed:

President	Rebekah Hughes
Vice President	Fiona Martin
Secretary	Emily Jolley / Emily Emerson

I'd like to thank all new and returning Committee members, along with a special mention to Leah Walker for her dedication to the role of Vice President in 2016. In addition, to each and every parent who participated in a Parents Club activity in 2016, THANK YOU!!

### **ONE MOTHER TO ANOTHER**

Thank you to those families who contributed to the *One Mother to Another* campaign. Your gifts will be distributed by Social Workers and Maternal and Child Health Nurses to mums in need. She might be living in a refuge; she may have fled family violence; she might be homeless. She needs your help, so thank you for making her Mother's Day a little brighter.



### **PARENTS CLUB MEETING**

Tonight 7.30pm in the Staffroom

Agenda:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Principal's Report
3. Mother's Day Stall
4. Fundraising Ideas for 2017
5. General business

We aim to finish by 8.30pm and you're welcome to stay on for a cuppa and a chat. Now that the pressure of Committee elections is gone, hopefully we'll see plenty of new and familiar faces attend this evening!

### MOTHERS DAY STALL - Friday 12 May

For new families, this is how our Mother's Day Stall works:

- Parents Club organise the purchase of a selection of gifts (this year, we have 5 choices with the theme of *locally made*), all of which cost us the same amount, although sometimes the value may appear different. This is because we often receive generous discounts from local businesses who are willing to support us.
- Each student pays \$5 and receives a paper gift bag to decorate in class.
- All students attend the Mother's Day Stall to choose a gift. Siblings attend together to prevent any double-ups (although this is not guaranteed as some sibling groups aren't keen to negotiate, which is very funny to watch!) If you have multiple children at school, feel free to encourage them to choose different gifts!

We hope you love the gift your child has so thoughtfully chosen.

BPS Parents Club is for you...if you have any ideas, suggestions or feedback, we'd love to hear from you! You can contact us at [belmontpsparentsclub@gmail.com](mailto:belmontpsparentsclub@gmail.com) or call Rebekah on 0438 316 240.

Have a terrific week,

Rebekah Hughes  
BPS Parents Club



SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE

### Open your child's mind to another world

Give your children an opportunity to learn a new language and develop an interest in other parts of the world, by becoming a host family to an exchange student.

For more information, contact us:

- ☎ 1800 500 501
- ✉ [cheryl.p@sce.com.au](mailto:cheryl.p@sce.com.au)
- 🌐 [www.sce.com.au](http://www.sce.com.au)

Flexible, short-term host family options are available!

We're fundraising with 

Belmont Primary School is raising funds. Here's how you can help... Support our fundraising by buying the NEW 2017 | 2018 Entertainment Membership for your Mum, other family members, or even spoil yourself this Mother's Day. Entertainment Memberships are filled with hundreds of valuable offers for everything you love to do, and you'll be helping our fundraising at the same time!

BUY FROM US NOW,  
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With just a few of these offers, the cost of the Membership will quickly be covered.



## ADVERTISEMENTS



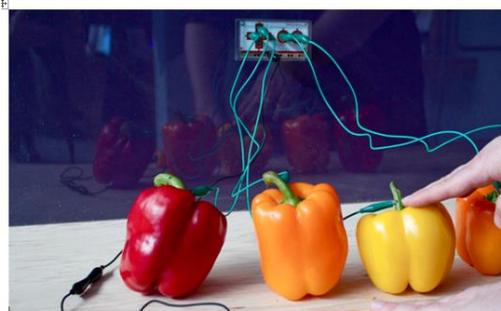
### CHRIS O'LEARY – PROFESSIONAL PIANO TUITION

I am an enthusiastic and dedicated piano teacher with over 25 years' experience in teaching all ages and styles of music.

I have a vast catalogue of sheet music including classical, pop, rock, blues and jazz, which allows me to cater to individual needs and ensure that all lessons are interesting and enjoyable. I teach beginners to advance, and have taken a number of students for AMEB examinations. I teach the traditional method and offer your first lesson free.

For further information or to arrange your first free lesson, please contact me via telephone on 5241 6323 or mobile 0428 178 987 or via email at [pianoman711711@hotmail.com](mailto:pianoman711711@hotmail.com)

### ALL ABOUT KIDS!



#### MAKEY MAKEY CHALLENGE

Celebrate Library and Information Week with us and learn how to use a Makey Makey Invention Kit. Please ensure an accompanying adult is present during children's library events. Strictly Ages 8+

**Monday 22 May**  
Belmont  
5.00 - 6.00pm  
Ages 8+  
**BOOK NOW!**