



**BELMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
 Mt Pleasant Road, Belmont  
 Phone 5243 2972 Fax 5241 1182  
[www.belmontps.vic.edu.au](http://www.belmontps.vic.edu.au)  
 e-mail: [belmont.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:belmont.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)  
 Principal: David Houghton



**BELMONT BULLETIN**  
**NO.21 21st July, 2016**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Friday	22 <sup>nd</sup> July - Tomorrow	9:00am	Bookclub orders due
Friday	29 <sup>th</sup> July		School Athletics Day Grades 3-6
Thursday	28 <sup>th</sup> July	7:30pm	Parents Club Meeting
Thursday	11 <sup>th</sup> Aug		Bravehearts Incursion, Prep – Grade 2
Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> August	9:00-10:00am	Book Week Parade
Friday	26 <sup>th</sup> Aug, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> Sep		Gymnastics Prep – Grade 4
Tuesday	30 <sup>th</sup> August	12:30-1:30pm	V.I.P. Day
Friday	16 <sup>th</sup> September		Footy Colours Casual Dress Day, gold coin donation

**Student of the week**

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

Abby A Keene P	P/H	For making such brilliant progress with her writing! You have started Term 3 with a super attitude towards learning - well done! For making such a positive start to Term 3! Seeing your smiley face ready to learn each day is wonderful!
Atharva P Eve S	P/M	For always having a smile on his face and making a great start to Term 3. For making a wonderful start to Term 3 and always working hard on her writing.
Albie S Harry E	1/2C	For working extremely hard on his reading and writing! You wrote an amazing Holiday Recount that the grade loved to read! Well done! For displaying his amazing mathematical skills every day. Harry, you are a great problem solver and an incredible Time Teller! Well done!
Caleb S	1/2D	For listening to all instructions, trying hard with his spelling AND having a good attitude to learning. Keep up the good work Caleb!
Ashley M Jake S	1/2G	For working well in all areas this week and being a super star helper in 1/2 G. Great Job Ashley! For his great improvement in his handwriting and trying his best when sounding out difficult words. Well done Jake!
Grace B	1/2M	For reading with great expressions and assisting others with difficult words in her reading group! Well done!
Christian K	3/4E	For working so hard to improve the presentation of his writing. Keep up the impressive work Christian!
Cordelia L	3/4M	For doing a great job sharing her place value ideas with the grade.
Liam B	3/4T	For being an excellent participant in all class discussions this week! You have fantastic ideas to share Liam, keep up the wonderful work!
Will J	5/6C	For his incredible problem solving skills when working out the percentage of difficult numbers.
Skye A	5/6L	For a great start to the term! Well Done Skye for always putting a lot of thought and an impressive effort into everything you do!
Emily M	5/6M	For having a fantastic attitude towards her learning while writing & editing her recount.
Jem D	5/6P	For showing so much improvement in the presentation of his bookwork. Keep it up!
Esther H	Italian	For making an amazing bunting to decorate the Italian room.

**PRINCIPALS REPORT**



**Students of the week**



**Aussies of the month**

### Aussie of the month

APRIL – **Mary C** for being an all round outstanding BPS citizen who is always willing to lend a helping hand.

MAY – **Michael M** for his outstanding attitude towards learning and being a responsible role model to those around him.

JUNE – **Hudson L** for displaying great initiative with taking on the role as an ICT Leader.

Next Monday we will be sending out the **2016 Parent Opinion Survey**.

Each year the Department of Education request all schools conduct this survey with 15 per cent of the school community or around 40 families in most cases. Our school has elected to survey 25% of our parents or around 50 families. Parents are randomly selected by our CASES software program to participate and we use the information gathered by the survey to inform and direct our future school planning and improvement as we do now with our regular feedback sheets each term.

The survey is designed to take **no more than 20 minutes to complete** and your feedback and opinions play an important role in making our school the best it can possibly be. Please be assured that your responses are completely confidential.

If you receive a survey I ask you to please take the time to complete it as your opinions are important to us and will contribute to the future management and organisation of our school. Feedback from parents helped to change the way we ran our swimming program and placed yard duty teachers in fluoro jackets as two examples.



### Social Media article provide by VPA. Victorian Principal's Association.

#### **Overview**

Facebook, YouTube, Pinterest, Instagram, Hosted Communities, Wikipedia, LinkedIn, Virtual Worlds, Google+, Blogs, Twitter, ... the list is endless. From relative obscurity ten years ago, what we know collectively as 'social media' has become the largest, most rapidly growing form of communication.

#### **The social media phenomenon**

If you've ever wondered just how pervasive social media is, take five minutes to watch Eric Qualman's Social Media Video 2013. It's part of a continuously updated series that highlights the extent of the social media revolution.

#### **Amongst Qualman's current statistics:**

- Social Media has become the #1 activity on the Web.
- Facebook has the world's largest population, ahead of China and India (in Australia, as at April 2015, Facebook has 14,000,000 steady users – social media news.com.au).
- More people own a mobile device than a toothbrush.
- 1 in 5 couples meet online, 1 on 5 divorces are blamed on Facebook.
- Generation Y and Z consider email passé (some universities have even stopped distributing email accounts).
- 92% of children under the age of two have a digital shadow.
- Grandparents are the fastest growing demographic on twitter.
- 90% of buyers trust peer recommendations - only 14 % trust advertisements.

Social media connects people like never before and there are plenty of inspiring examples of its positive impact. Think of the Baked Relief blog that launched a movement to help Queensland flood victims; or the message, I'll ride with you, which was tweeted 150,000 times in four hours following the Sydney siege. But these extraordinary benefits, and the freedom of speech social media brings, have been severely challenged by those who choose not to exercise restraint but speak without inhibition, or care.

#### **So what does this mean for schools?**

A healthy reputation and confidence in your leadership and teaching teams are essential to the success of any school. While both have always been susceptible to rumour and misinformation, the rapid rise of social media has now turned 'word of mouth' into what Qualman terms "world of mouth". Conversations, which once took place on a one-to-one basis, now happen before potentially huge audiences.

Social media has supercharged harassment, bullying and defamation and those who find themselves attacked on social media can face a difficult process in seeking redress.

Fortunately our school experiences very few social media events which raise concern for us but it is a timely reminder to us all that what we choose to publish on social media can have a widespread impact.

I encourage all of our parents to continue to approach class teachers or the administration at any time if they are concerned about any matter as it relates to the school. More often than not this respectful discussion at the source resolves 99% of those matters that are raised.

Belmont PS will from time to time of course make decisions that are not popular with all of our parents. This is 'life'. Parents should have every confidence however, that important decisions made by the school involve strong consultation, adequate and informed discussion and a level of compromise where required. All decisions always return to the common denominator: **'What will be best for our students?'**.

**RACV visited our P-2 classes** this week with some important messages about road safety. Thanks to Ms Hosking for helping to arrange this incursion.



**Parking has changed** The rules for the parking area near the new Mod 5 changed last term. We have had the City of Greater Geelong rezone this area to become a **drop off and pick up zone**. It remains the schools preference that parents do not park long term

in this area but remain with their cars to drop off or pick up students within a few minutes.



#### **IN BRIEF:**

- **Vintage Fair** We are about to ramp up work in preparation for the Vintage Fair set for early November. Meetings will begin soon.
- **Long jump pit** is still waiting for the weather to improve so that equipment can be used to finish this project.

#### **SPECIAL DAYS**

##### **Next week**

- Teddy Bear Hospital incursion Grades Prep -2

##### **What is the Teddy Bear Hospital Program?**

The Program is designed to reduce children's anxiety associated with hospitals and health professions and encourage healthy lifestyles.

The Program is run by Deakin University medical and allied health students, providing them the opportunity to enhance their communication skills when working with young children. The program consists of a rotation of 7 stations that explore different aspects of a healthy lifestyle and provide children with the chance to be familiarized with medical equipment, terminology and personnel.

• Children are encouraged to bring a soft toy from home to the session so they feel they are participating in bringing their toy to the hospital.

##### **Coming Up:**

- **Book Week Parade** Tuesday 23rd August 9.00 am-10.00am 'Country Theme' more details soon.
- **VIP Day** Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August Grandparents and special others 12.30-1.30 pm then perhaps stay for lunch.
- **Footy Colours** Casual Dress -JSC Fundraiser Gold Coin donation Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September

## Frog fundraiser

On the last day of term Junior School Council held a Green Frog Day to help raise our awareness of the plight of frogs across the world. The problem of chemical use and general human impact on frogs is leading to a significant decline in populations across the world.

We raised a total of **\$ 373.20** which will be forwarded this week to an Australian based group called 'Frog safe'.



Many students and staff braved the very cold conditions (which if we were 'cold blooded' might not have mattered at all).

**Feedback** from Term 2. My thanks to the many families who provided us with some feedback late last term and last week. I cannot fit all responses in but have selected a range. Overwhelmingly parents have been constructive and positive in their remarks. This is appreciated.

## This week:

### Spelling and homework changes

- A reasonable amount of homework is great however not too much especially for the younger year levels.
- Positive response to spelling words being adjusted to the students level of learning.
- Good balance for students to use some home time to do homework.
- More frequent overview of the learning plan for upcoming weeks to help parents reinforce and encourage students at home.
- Not as many words to learn therefore easier to handle.
- 5 words per week are better than the magic words especially for grades 1 /2 as they seem to be remembered easier.
- Preferred weekly testing of spelling words, children start to lose interest otherwise.
- Spelling for preps is a great way to get them started on homework and applying learning outside the classroom.
- Confused as to how the process works. This is made more confusing by having children in different year levels.
- Like the focus on reading for grades 1/2. The spelling is hard to keep up with – prefer old system.
- Simpler approach to grade 1/2 this year, a lot less stressful.
- Undecided yet about this
- Like what changes have been made, feel they work well.

- Great having the spelling words given on a Monday so that children are able to practice during the week.
- Like spelling homework although unaware of other homework given. Too much homework on maths and not enough on interactive homework like research and projects.
- More warning of when the spelling tests will be so that they can be practiced prior to testing.
- We do not feel the homework is excessive. It is good for the children to get used to it and see it as normal.
- Prep – so far have found the reader program and weekly spelling words fine.

## Feedback response

Main response to this feedback is that it is early in the process for both spelling and homework changes. With some additional time should come improved understanding for our students and parents alike.

If you have continued concerns or a question about how it all works please contact your class teacher through the diary.

**Next week feedback about :** Swimming Year 3 /4 moved to leisure link.

This weeks challenge is to create a vegie and/or fruit creature. All entries will be donated to our schools worm farm.



Regards,  
**David Houghton** Principal ☺

## An interesting read

### RESULTS OF ONE-TO-ONE LAPTOP PROGRAMS

*"1-to-1 Laptop Initiatives Boost Student Scores, Study Finds" by Leo Doran and Benjamin Herold in Education Week, May 18, 2016*

A first-of-its-kind meta-analysis of 15 years of research on the impact of one-to-one school laptop initiatives has found a statistically significant positive im-pact on student test scores in writing, maths and science when students were given one-to-one access to laptops.

A further review found modest evidence of more student-centred and project-based instruction,

improved student engagement, better teacher-student relationships and increased student use of technology for reading, writing, Internet research, note-taking, and completing assignments.

Students expressed very positive attitudes about using laptops in school and studies consistently found higher student engagement, motivation, and persistence when laptops were used. (The researchers cautioned that their study applied only to laptops, not tablets, smartphones, and desktop computers.) Laptop results are small but noteworthy. The real benefit of using laptops is going beyond instructive electronic-worksheet activities to constructive learning, from teaching students to remember something to teaching them how to figure something out.

## FROM THE ART ROOM

Welcome to term three, back for two weeks now with the holidays just a memory! That's okay though because we've got lots of interesting things to do this term.

### GRADES FIVE & SIX

The children in this area have been finishing off some exciting artwork begun last term involving dragons eyes, they look fantastic and I'm hoping to have them on display for next week. Those finished have been working on an art challenge where each child has to complete an artwork of their own choosing with the only proviso being that it has to include one or more spirals. It's always interesting to see what they come up with when left to their own devices.

### GRADES THREE & FOUR

We have been looking at mirror images and reflections and having a go at drawing these. This week we also tried double drawing where you crease the centre of your paper then draw from the middle using both hands at once, finishing with a symmetrical drawing. Ask your children at this level to show you how so that you can try it too. It's good fun and is meant as an exercise to promote using both sides of your brain simultaneously.

### GRADES ONE & TWO

Last week the children in this area made small sculptures using chenille pipe cleaners and beads with a base of play dough. The idea was to have it balancing and with no pipe cleaners touching the table. Some very interesting creations were made. This week we took inspiration from zebras and printed using corrugated cardboard for our stripes with black and white paint on brown wrapping paper. We might add some colour to these next week as an accent when they are dry.

### PREPS

The preps mixed wonderful colours last week using only red, blue, yellow and white then used them to paint a picture of their choice....you'll see these on display soon. This week I posed the question "How can you tell if an animal has been around even if it's

not there anymore?" After discussing this with both groups this is what they came up with

- tracks / footprints / snail trails
- droppings /scats (cool word isn't it)
- dropped feathers / nests
- fur / hair on bushes
- flattened grass / broken twigs
- bones / snake skins
- dropped food

We then looked at a range of stampers made with paw prints , horse shoes etc and used them to print animal tracks onto a coloured background. Next time you're at the beach or on a bush track perhaps they could play animal detectives and see what they can track down.

**Yvonne McDonald**

Art Specialist

## STATE CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Megan D & Sarah D recently competed in the State Cross Country Championships. This is an amazing achievement in itself.

Sarah competed in the 10 year old age group, finishing 47<sup>th</sup>. This is outstanding as she still has another year in this age group.

Megan came 5<sup>th</sup> in her age group. What an awesome achievement. She is now off to the National Championship in Canberra in August. Good Luck Megan!

The school will help support some associated costs through the sale of raffle tickets. More info. soon.



## ITALIAN

My apologies for not being available on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, P/T night.

I would like to extend a welcome to any parents who may be interested in visiting the Italian Room and/or viewing their child's activity book. Feel free to visit on the 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> of July either before school from 8.30am-9am or after school from 3.30pm -4pm. Hoping to see some smiling faces.

Ciao **Signora Rosa**.

## FRIDAY NIGHT BASKETBALL

BELMONT STARS	play at	4:20pm
BELMONT BOOMERS	play at	5:05pm
BELMONT 26s	play at	4:20pm

## BOOKCLUB

Bookclub orders are due back no later than **tomorrow, Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 9:00am.**

Thanks

**Michelle & Jo**

## ICY POLE SALES

Icy poles are available for students to buy on **Tuesday** and **Fridays** every week at lunchtime.

Fruit stick	50c
Paddle Pops	\$1.00

## ADVERTISEMENT

### CHRIS O'LEARY PROFESSIONAL PIANO TUITION

I am a passionate and dedicated piano teacher with many years experience in teaching all ages and styles of music which allows me to cater to individual needs and insuring that all lessons are interesting and enjoyable. I teach beginners to advanced and I offer your first lesson free. You can contact me on 5241 6323 or 0428 178 987 Email: [pianoman711711@hotmail.com](mailto:pianoman711711@hotmail.com)



*To the Children at  
Belmont Primary*

Thank you very kindly for thinking about frogs up here in tropical Queensland. They need lots of caring people to help them.

We are looking after many frogs right now - a photo of one is below. The money you raised for us will be used to buy the live bugs that we feed to the frogs (because live bugs are all frogs eat!). We normally spend about \$60 every week on crickets for the frogs we are recovering so your help will enable us to feed all our frogs here for several weeks.

Thanks again for doing a fundraiser to help us.

Sincerely,

all the frogs at the Cairns Frog Hospital  
and their "nurses"



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P. O. BOX 949, EDMONTON, QLD 4869 PH: (07) 4045-0373  
[www.frogSAFE.org.au](http://www.frogSAFE.org.au) ABN 20 283 137 035