



*Bell Primary School is a caring community that fosters a love of learning in young people. At school and beyond, students are confident to think critically and empowered to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. We are grounded by our school values of **resilience, creativity, curiosity, collaboration and respect**.*

*Bell Primary School is a Child Safe School. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people, and have zero tolerance for child abuse.*

*Bell Primary School acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land the school is located upon, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.*



## From our Principal:

### Information Nights

It was wonderful to see a good number of parents/carers attend the face-to-face sessions this week and we appreciate the re-organisation of family life to attend. After some deep reflection and acknowledging there are some clear benefits to running the meetings online, we felt it was important to re-open the doors to families as a step towards re-connecting the Bell community. Teacher-parent/carer partnerships are grounded in meaningful relationships and being in the same room is far more personable.

A few key points to follow on from the sessions are:

- The slideshows and transcript of the Q&A are being posted by teams for each grade level as soon as practical after the session.
- The post will remain 'pinned' on your Compass home page for the entire term for easy access. Remember, the Term 1 Learning Support Document is embedded in the slides as a handy reference to promote questions and discussions at home about what topics are being taught in class. It will be posted on the website under the 'Communications' tab.
- The Parent Information post will remain near the top of your Compass Newsfeed for a period of time and is also on the website under 'Communications' tab; click [here](#) for the link.
- **Teacher emails** are listed at the end of the slides if you need them. Saving them in your contacts is always a good way to keep communications simple. We hope to circulate some guidelines around email communication soon as part of the ongoing work on our communication strategy.
- Think about joining the re-branded 'Community Engagement and FUNdraising Committee' that School Councillors, Vanessa and Ceinwen, spoke about at the meetings. A separate Newsfeed was sent to parents last night as a follow on from the meetings, and a repeated call out is included in this week's Newsletter.

### School Council Elections

There are three parent representative positions to be decided in the upcoming elections; self-nominations will be available at the office from Monday morning. The timeline for the election process is as follows:

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| • Notice of Election and call for Nominations:                  | Friday 16 February           |
| • Nomination forms available via email:                         | Monday 20 February           |
| • Closing date for Nominations:                                 | Monday 27 February at 4.00pm |
| • List of eligible candidates will be posted in our Newsletter: | Friday 3 March               |
| • Ballot papers will be prepared and distributed (if required): | Wednesday 8 March            |
| • Close of Ballot (if required):                                | Wednesday 15 March           |

If an election is required, more detailed information about the process and candidates' requirements will be distributed to the school community. For details about the role of School Council, see the attached *Fact Sheet 1: School Council elections –information for parents*.

Those parents/carers who require a self-nomination form, pick one up from the office or contact the admin staff who can email the PDF form. The office staff will also provide a document outlining roles and responsibilities of School Council. This gives details about the distinction between responsibilities of Council compared to the role of the Principal. Alternatively, feel free to contact me directly about council elections and related topics regarding school governance.

### **COVID/Infectious Disease Reminders**

A reminder about the key safety actions we are asked to employ as they are strongly recommended by DET. These include:

- Students and staff who test positive to COVID-19 stay home and isolate for five days, and do not attend school after five days if they are still symptomatic.
- Any student or staff member who is unwell should continue to remain at home unless symptoms are linked to a pre-existing condition such as hay fever.
- Free rapid antigen tests are available from the front office for those who need them.
- **Like last year, parents/carers should inform the school of a positive case so we can track numbers and report to DET within a confidential system.**

Further COVID-19 prevention measures employed daily at school include: basic hygiene strategies, air purifiers and increased ventilation, using outside spaces when practical, and optional mask wearing.

**David Twite**  
**Principal**

## **From our Assistant Principal:**

### **Getting to Know You Meetings**

A reminder that Getting to Know You Meetings are now open for Year 1-6 parents/carers to book with your child's classroom teacher. Parents/carers of Prep-6 students are also able to book an optional meeting with one or more specialist teacher.

Please click on the link within the post on your Compass dashboard to book a meeting time. A tutorial is available within this link to support parents/carers with completing this process.

Please note that **bookings will close on Wednesday 1 March at 4pm**. After this time, you will be able to view your confirmed booking times via the Conferences tab.

**Emma Heywood**  
**Assistant Principal**

## Appendix A

### Fact sheet 1: school council elections – information for parents

#### What is a school 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 broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

#### Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected parent member category** – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category according to Ministerial Order 1280. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.
- **A mandated elected school employee member category** – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional community member category** – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.
- A small number of school councils have nominee members.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

- **A mandated elected student member category, two positions.**

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.

#### Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

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

#### Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

#### Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty
- **act in good faith in the best interests of the school** – work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds
- **act fairly and impartially** – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest
- **use information appropriately** – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available
- **exercise due care, diligence and skill** – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school
- **use the position appropriately** – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage
- **act in a financially responsible manner** – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions
- **comply with relevant legislation and policies** – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law
- **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

### Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

- a. the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or
- b. the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

### How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council 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 consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

### What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same category that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate).

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

### Remember

- Consider standing for election to school council.
- Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.
- Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.
- Contact the principal if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process.



## From School Council:

### **Community Engagement and Fundraising Committee - Calling all Year 3 and 6 Parents!**

Many of you will have seen us at the Parent Information sessions this week, speaking about getting involved with the school community and joining the 2023 Committee! We're looking for 2 reps from each year level to represent that cohort on the Committee, to help with planning and managing the calendar of activities and events for the year. Our motto is 'The More the Merrier' and hopefully that results in lots of great events for the students and community.

So far we've got volunteers from years Prep, 1, 2, 4, and 5 - thank you so much to those people, we'll be in touch soon! - but we'd love a few people with children in years 3 and 6 to join us!

Email us for more information or if you'd like to put your hand up! We promise there might be chocolate and/or wine at the meetings. Or pink milk - suggestions for catering welcome!

***Vanessa Buck (Lucy, Year 5)***

[vjbuck@gmail.com](mailto:vjbuck@gmail.com)

***Ceinwen Jones (Juniper S, Year 5; Thomas S, Year 1)***

[ceinwenju@gmail.com](mailto:ceinwenju@gmail.com)

## Road Closure Information:

Please be advised that Interface Constructions require a partial road and footpath closure on **Scotia Street** to assist with completion of the storm water connection related to the school's Capital Works Project.

***This will occur on various days between Monday 20 and Friday 24 February.***

Thank you for your ongoing co-operation during these works.

Should you have any questions or queries, please feel free to contact Adam Boyce, Interface Constructions, on 0451 854 110, or MC Traffic Management on 9661 0500.

***MC Traffic Management P/L***

# 2023 Bell PS Calendar:

Enter the dates you need to remember in your diary, or take a photo each week for quick reference!

## FEBRUARY 2023

- Sun 19: [Last Orders – Scholastic Book Club – 9pm](#)
- Mon 20: SC nomination forms available via email/office
- Tue 21: Dr. Cranky's Bike Hospital: 8.30 and 3.00
- Wed 22: District Swimming Carnival (new date)
- Mon 27: Closing date for SC nominations @ 4pm

## MARCH 2023

- Wed 1: **Bookings close for GTKY Meetings**
- Fri 3: Eligible SC candidates posted in Newsletter
- Mon 6: Prep Information Session, 5.30, LC
- Mon 6: Year 1 Getting to Know You Meetings
- Mon 6: Year 6 Getting to Know You Meetings
- Tue 7: Year 3 Getting to Know You Meetings
- Tue 7: Year 4 Getting to Know You Meetings
- Wed 8: SC ballot papers prepared + distributed (if req)
- Wed 8: Year 5 Getting to Know You Meetings
- Tue 7: Specialists Getting to Know You Meetings
- Wed 8: Year 2 Getting to Know You Meetings
- Mon 13: Labour Day Public Holiday
- Tue 14: Curriculum Day #3 (Pupil Free Day)
- Wed 15: Close of SC Ballot (if required)
- Fri 24: Ride2School Day

## APRIL 2023

- Thu 6: Final Day Term 1, [2.30pm](#) dismissal
- Mon 24: First Day Term 2
- Tue 25: ANZAC Day Public Holiday

## MAY 2023

- Mon 22–Thu 25: Grade 6 Camp Jungai
- Mon 29: Photo Day

## JUNE 2023

- Mon 12: King's Birthday Public Holiday
- Fri 23: Final Day Term 2, [2.30pm](#) dismissal

## JULY 2023

- Mon 10: First Day Term 3

## AUGUST 2023

- Wed 30 – Fri 1.9: Grade 5 Waratah Bay Camp

## SEPTEMBER 2023

- Fri 15: Final Day Term 3, [2.30pm](#) dismissal

## OCTOBER 2023

- Mon 2: First Day Term 4

## NOVEMBER 2023

- Tue 7: Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday
- Wed 29 – Fri 1.12: Grade 4 Anglesea Camp

## DECEMBER 2023

- Wed 20: Final Day Term 4, [1.30pm](#) dismissal

## BOOK COVERING

We still have a number of books requiring covering before they can be added to our collection for student borrowing. If there are any parents/carers who would be willing to assist with covering some books, please call past the office anytime to collect what you need.

Please **bring a bag with you** and we will provide the books and a roll of contact so the job can be undertaken in the comfort of your own home!

Any assistance would be appreciated.

**Emma Heywood**  
Assistant Principal



## From the Admin Office:

OFFICE HOURS: 8.00AM – 4.20PM

**JO**: Mon/Wed/Fri : Finance, Excursions \* **JESSIE**: Mon-Fri : Attendance, Enrolments, Compass, Medical \* **TANIA**: Tue-Fri : Facilities, OHS, Communication

### **STUDENT ABSENCES, LATE ARRIVALS OR EARLY DEPARTURES**

**Whole Day Absence:** must be entered on your Compass Parent Portal.

**Late Arrival:** ONLY enter this on the Compass Kiosk at the office on your arrival.

**Early Departure:** ONLY enter this on the Compass Kiosk at the office on your arrival.

Please do not enter medical/dental appointments, etc, through your Compass Parent Portal – simply follow the early departure / late arrival procedure when you come in to drop off or collect your child.

### **COVID Reminder**

A reminder to Bell families to please continue to report your child's positive test result directly to the front office via phone or email. While the isolation guidelines have recently changed, we kindly ask that we are still informed of positive cases to keep track of absences and let your child's teacher know. **Rapid Antigen Tests are still available from the front office.**

Thank you for your continued co-operation.

### **Bell PS Uniforms**

1. **NEW** Bell PS uniforms can always be purchased from PSW.
2. **SECOND-HAND** Uniforms can be purchased from our Second Hand Uniform Shop run by a parent volunteer once per week. **IT WILL BE OPEN BY KATE EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 3.15-3.45PM DURING TERM 1.** Don't forget your gold coins – no credit or credit card facility is available.

### **SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB - ORDER DEADLINE SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY - 9PM**

Welcome to all the new Bell families! Bell students love to read and we participate in the Scholastic book club once per term. Your family should have received a catalogue by now. If you'd like to order, you'll need to register for LOOP on the Scholastic website which is Scholastic's online ordering system. A few things to remember:

- The catalogues are sent out once a Term.
- The only way to order is online. No cash or cheques accepted at School.
- There is no pressure to order anything. Don't feel any obligation.
- Books are delivered directly to your child's classroom.
- The book club is a fundraiser. 15% of all sales are returned to the Bell Primary School as vouchers so they can order educational materials and/or books for the school.
- Catalogues come home with the ELDEST child (to prevent excess paper wastage - war on waste!). If you've missed out on a catalogue, head to the office to pick one up.



Any questions, please email [louisegrays@gmail.com](mailto:louisegrays@gmail.com).

From the Specialist Team:

# SPECIALIST AWARD

The Specialist Award winners for this fortnight are:

## 3B!



A big congratulations to 3B for winning the Specialist Award this week.

They have been working hard at showing respect to each other,  
their teachers and the school community.

### Fabulous work 3B!

*The Specialists*





Small gift,  
big heart

A little thought can go a long way  
Give to the Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal

## Certificate of Appreciation

presented to

Bell Primary School

In recognition and appreciation of your support of the  
**Kmart Wishing Tree Appeal 2022**



*Ian Bailey*

**Ian Bailey**  
Managing Director Kmart Group



[kmart.com.au/kmartwishingtree](https://kmart.com.au/kmartwishingtree)



[kmartaus](https://www.instagram.com/kmartaus)



[kmartaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/kmartaustralia)

## For the Bell Community:



ABN 83 635 484 779

### Keyboard/Piano and Guitar Lessons

Group Piano/Keyboard and Guitar classes have commenced at Bell PS this week on Tuesdays/Thursdays.

There are a few limited places available to start now – in particular Prep and Grade 2 Keyboard/Piano classes and Grade 3 Guitar group.

Please send me an email if you are interested in your child starting lessons this term.

Jacinta Guerin

[melodicminors123@gmail.com](mailto:melodicminors123@gmail.com)

0423 921 412

## Bell French Club

**A small number of places are available for T1!**

Foreign language learning strengthens critical and creative thinking, informs one's mother tongue, and opens up a world of possibilities.

We have been operating at Bell PS for 10 years. We help foster curiosity and a sense of achievement.

Small group learning with a highly experienced teacher.



Children of all ages and experience welcome.

**Thursdays 3:45-4.45pm**

Jim Callahan

[jim.callahan@lcfclubs.com.au](mailto:jim.callahan@lcfclubs.com.au)

0432 719 034





## **BOOKINGS FOR SCHOOL TOURS ARE OPEN**

We warmly invite prospective Grade 6 students, families and carers to a tour of Northcote High School

Tours run for approximately an hour and are taken by our student leaders, with the support of a member of the Principal Team

Come and see what is on offer for your child at Northcote High School

[Click here for more information and to book](#)



# KARATE

**Just for Kicks!!**

**KARATE Classes:**

- Monday to Saturday for children & adults
- SPARRING & KATA
- Female-led sporting venue

**PLUS** High quality 'Prep' classes (5-6 yrs) in our special Kindy Karate program!

**Book a TRIAL**  
**okukan.com.au**

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Sensei Sandra Contreras

