



*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:

Wellbeing Safety Networks

As part of the Start-Up program each year, students are asked to create a safety network in the shape of their hand identifying five adults at school they feel comfortable approaching if they need social or emotional support. This year, we have taken an extra step by organising times this week for students to move through the school and locate their five safety people. This consolidates the strategy in their minds, makes an even stronger connection between those child/ren and their support people, as well as practicing where to find one of them in a time of need.

With Wellbeing continuing to be one of our highest priorities, we are always looking at ways to build on the Berry Street and Respectful Relationships approaches being implemented at the school.



Up-coming Curriculum Day

The next Curriculum Day is scheduled straight after the Labour Day long weekend on **Tuesday 14 March**. The focus will be on professional learning for all staff as we launch the full version of the Social and Emotional Learning curriculum. This is the key improvement strategy in Goal 3 within our current School Strategic Plan being: to 'enhance the health and wellbeing of all students.'

School Council Elections

There are **three** parent representative positions to be decided in the upcoming elections; self-nomination forms and other council information are available at the office. Key dates for the election process is as follows:

- 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.
- First meeting of the new council will be Thursday 23 March at 7.00pm

For details about the role of School Council, see the page 5 Fact Sheet 1: School Council elections –information for parents. I am always available to answer questions about Council elections and related topics regarding school governance.

Active Travel with Safe Routes to School

It was great to see such a positive response to Dr Cranky's Bike Hospital on Tuesday. This is one aspect of a comprehensive action plan being developed in collaboration with Darebin Council. The Safe Routes to School Program that we are now part of aims to develop designated routes and safer pathways to school over time to support as much active travel as possible within our community.

The key actions within the four main categories are: Education, Engagement, Engineering and Enforcement. While many of the Engineering actions rely on funding from Darebin Council and Vic Roads, there are some quick wins in the early stages that are possible to build momentum. Watch out for more details soon from the Safe Routes Leader at Bell, Josh Grogan. Scroll down to page 7 for some pictures of the first Dr. Cranky day.

David Twite
Principal

From our Assistant Principal:

Getting to Know You Meetings

A reminder that Getting to Know You Meetings are 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

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

- 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

Around the Grounds:

Please take note **and advise your children** that the organisation below has priority use of the designated areas in our School Grounds on the following dates and times, as a formal arrangement has been made with the Principal and School Council. This table will be updated as other bookings are approved.

Just a reminder that UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES are footy or soccer boots to be worn on our ovals.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2023							
Darebin Falcons Women's Soccer Training	South Oval 5.30-7.30pm 20 Feb-31 Mar APPROVED	South Oval 5.30-7.30pm 20 Feb-31 Mar APPROVED	South Oval 5.30-7.30pm 20 Feb-31 Mar APPROVED	South Oval 5.30-7.30pm 20 Feb-31 Mar APPROVED	South Oval 5.30-7.30pm 20 Feb-31 Mar APPROVED		

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

LATE ARRIVALS, EARLY DEPARTURES OR STUDENT ABSENCES

1. **Late Arrival:** **ONLY** enter this on the Compass Kiosk at the office on arrival.
2. **Early Departure:** **ONLY** enter this on the Compass Kiosk at the office on arrival.
3. **Whole Day Absence:** **MUST** be entered on your Compass Parent Portal either in advance, or on the day by clicking the absence SMS link.

Please help the Admin Team out by NOT entering 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.

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 the Sports Department:

A Visit From Dr. Cranky!

A tremendous day on Tuesday, almost overwhelming! Below are a few highlights from the day:

- We want to thank Oanh Tran and Paul Jones for your support on the day and volunteering your time.
- We would also like to thank all of the parents and carers who supported the day in one way or another.
- Dr. Cranky did 28 bike checks. No major defects found though we did replace or install about 10 bells, one tube, and a few reflectors. Pumped many underinflated tyres.
- Dr. Cranky gave away 4 donated bikes, 3 to Bell PS students and one to a Coburg HS sibling.
- Dr. Cranky gave away 4 helmets – 3 to bike recipients.

The team at Dr. Cranky said “It was the best first day we have been involved in so far. Let’s hope for more!”

Josh Grogan
PE Teacher



District Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday 22 February, 31 Bell students ventured out to Fitzroy Swimming Pool for the 2023 Northcote District Swimming Carnival.

The students all performed amazingly and their behaviour is a credit to themselves and their families. Bell had a number of fantastic results including two 1st places, four 2nd place and ten 3rd place ribbons. A particular mention to our relay teams, with 7 of the teams placing in the top 3.

These results have shown the success of the introduction of the Bell Swimming Carnival that is held in term four. We aim to continue to give our students the opportunity to represent the school and continue to develop the extracurricular sport opportunities at Bell.

A particular thank you to Dimi and Mr Lakin for their support on the day and all the family members and friends who came out to support the students.

Josh Grogan
P.E. Teacher





How to enrol



What You'll Need:

- Centrelink Customer Reference Numbers (CRNs) for yourself and your child if you would like to claim Child Care Subsidy (CCS). Note that the person completing the enrolment must be the same person linked to the child for CCS
- Bank account details or card for direct debit
- One or more emergency contacts
- Doctor's contact information, management plan for any relevant medical conditions and your child's immunisation record

Steps:

- 1 Scan QR Code above or head to oshclub.com.au/register and click on Get Started to register as a new Kidsoft user
- 2 Validate your registered email address (you will receive an email)
- 3 Create your account password
- 4 Select your service in 'Find a Place'
- 5 Complete the 'Waitlist' form by adding your child's details (separate one for each child)
- 6 Complete the enrolment form and your local service team will be in touch

Tips:

- Please allow 10-15 minutes to enrol, so it's a great time to grab a cuppa!
- Your email address will be your username and the main point of contact.
- Download the Kidsoft app on your mobile to manage your bookings!

We're here to help!

Our friendly customer service team is here to assist with any enquiries.

✉ oshaccounts@junioradventuresgroup.com.au

☎ 1300 395 735

For service specific information and contact details, head to oshclub.com.au and search for your school.





ABN 83 635 484 779

Keyboard/Piano and Guitar Lessons

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

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

0423 921 412

Bell French Club

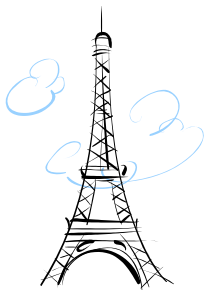
A small number of places are available for T1!

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

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](#)



PLAY FIELD HOCKEY

ALL AGES & SKILL LEVELS



Chat to us at
latrobeunihockey.com

MISSING SCOOTER

Please contact the Bell PS office **urgently** on 9480 5622 if you have seen this scooter:

- Last seen Thursday 16 February near the Grade 3 portables
- Silver scooter with a light blue and orange deck, light blue handlebars, 1 light blue wheel, 1 orange wheel
- Light blue helmet with the scooter



It is very much missed so thank you for your help.

What's been happening...

What a busy few weeks we've had! We would like to thank everyone for their understanding and patience for the last few Thursday afternoons. We have very, very high numbers on a Thursday and we reached our full capacity yesterday! We love having so many children with us in the afternoons, but as you can imagine it becomes very busy, very quickly. Thank you again for working with us, while we make changes to our routine/environments in order to best support all children in the afternoons. There will be communication on a Thursday morning about the rooms/spaces we will be using in the afternoon, and what room your child's belongings will be in at the end of the day.

We have started many new adventures/activities during both before and afternoon sessions which we are beginning to refer to as "Rise then Shine" and "Stay and Play". The children have been engaged in water painting and clay sculpting adventures, where we have loved watching the children explore their own creativity and imagination. We have also been busy making yummy snacks in the afternoon such as apple and cinnamon muffins, scones and smoothies.

On Tuesday afternoon, the children get to partake in their Extra Curriculum Activity of Soccer with Mini Roo's Football Australia. This will be occurring for the next three Tuesday afternoons, where the children will be learning new skills and tricks, as well as engaging in games of soccer.

We look forward to many new adventures to come within the next few weeks. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out 😊

Have a lovely weekend,

Warm regards, Celeste & Olivia

BSC: 7:00-9:00am
ASC: 3:30-6:30pm
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1300 395 735