



*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:

Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)

The next round of RATs are yet to be delivered which could be problematic if the delay extends well into next week, however if families have one or two left from their children's previous allocation, they can be used until the new supply arrives. As soon as they turn up, we will send out a Compass Newsfeed and arrange pick up stations as previously done. At the school assembly last Monday, I re-enforced the importance of continuing with the home testing and reminded the children that both staff and students play a role in this regime to help keep as many of us as possible engaged in face to face teaching and learning. I urge everyone to see this through so we can get back to greater normality at school and home in the near future.

Fundraising and Community Engagement

We are seeking one or two additional FUNdraising leaders to support our solo convenor Bridget Ah Ching who has done an amazing job navigating through the past year with the many COVID challenges. Whilst she is happy to continue in a lead role, we are desperate for at least one other to support the co-ordination and communication with event captains. Bridget is hoping for some support in this area so she can develop more detailed documents on the processes and procedures for events, thus making it easier for future FUNdraising convenors and event captain.

For each activity, captains are appointed to organise the details of their event but without a small team of leaders, the effectiveness cannot be guaranteed. If you have communication and organisational skills and want to be a **co-driver** of community fundraising and engagement, please contact me or informally sound out our vice-president Charles Beaton on 0427 820 283, or email charles@interconsult.com.au.

School Council Elections

A reminder that there are five parent representative positions to be decided in the upcoming elections; self-nominations will be available at the office or it can be emailed. The timeline for the election process is as follows:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| • Notice of Election and call for Nominations: | Friday 18 February |
| • Nomination forms available via email: | Monday 21 February |
| • Closing date for Nominations: | Monday 28 February at 4.00pm |
| • List of eligible candidates will be posted in our Newsletter: | Friday 4 March |
| • Ballot papers will be prepared and distributed (if required): | Wednesday 9 March |
| • Close of Ballot (if required): | Wednesday 16 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 pick up a self-nomination form from the office will also be given a document outlining roles and responsibilities of School Council. This provides greater 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.

Community Skills on Offer

There are times when specific skill sets and expertise from our community can make a real difference in our ongoing efforts to make Bell a better place for learning and teaching. If you have not previously entered your skills sets into the [Bell PS Skills and Experiences Survey](#), I urge you to do so here.

This information can be used by School Council and/or sub-committees, the leadership team, fundraising leaders or teachers to follow up with adults with specific skills, talents or experiences that can support particular projects or learning initiatives. There is no obligation to commit if contacted, as we know people are often busy, but there are other times when assistance can be offered. At no time is personal or professional information entered used for commercial purposes.

We plan to re-start a range of school-based initiatives including projects to improve the grounds and sub-committees/working parties of School Council to re-launch, therefore bringing talented parents/carers back into our school to help us. Please add to the skills register so we know what you might be able to offer at a classroom, facilities, special events or a governance level.

Curriculum Days in 2022:

Another reminder that our second pupil free day has been allocated for **Friday 11 March** for teacher professional development day on 2022 priorities related to our school strategic plan. There are two more curriculum days yet to be allocated and this will be determined as soon as practical.

David Twite
Principal

From our Assistant Principal:

Getting to Know You Meetings

A reminder that Getting to Know You Meetings can now be booked on Compass via the link (green banner) at the top of your Newsfeeds. A tutorial is available within this link to support parents/carers with completing this process.

These meetings facilitate individual time for parents/carers to share information about their child and are an important opportunity for us to continue to strengthen the crucial home-school partnership.

Getting to Know You Meetings will occur **onsite** in your child's classroom. As DET restrictions are currently being reviewed, further information regarding required COVID safe practices will be communicated prior.

Parents/carers will be able to book 1 x 10 minute time slot to see their child's classroom teacher/s and an optional meeting with Specialist teacher/s. Please note that teachers will have a scheduled break between 5:00-5:30pm and will not be available to meet during this time.

Bookings will close at 4:00pm on Wednesday 2 March.

Prep Information Evening

The Prep Information Evening will occur on Thursday 10 March from 5:30-6:30pm. Due to the large number of adults, this event will take place **online** with the link sent out the day prior.

MASKS

Please remember to send your child/ren to school each day with a mask. It is **compulsory** for students in Grades 3-6, and **highly recommended** for students in Grades Prep-2. Maybe a mask could be placed near a lunchbox or water bottle each morning so it is not forgotten.

We have a moderate supply of disposable masks but our supply is always limited.



From the Department of Education & Training (DET):

It's been really fantastic to see such excitement around the return to school and we want to keep it that way. A crucial part of that is getting as many students vaccinated as possible. Alongside ventilation and other vital COVIDSafe steps such as regular rapid antigen testing, supporting as many students as possible to be vaccinated will help make our school as safe as possible.

Bookings for children aged 5 to 11 to receive the paediatric Pfizer vaccine are open and we encourage parents and carers to get your child vaccinated, if you haven't already done so.

The [Pfizer vaccine is safe and recommended for children](#). The vaccine will help protect your child from getting sick from COVID-19, help to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and help ensure kids can have more time at school and playing with their friends.

Vaccinations for children aged 5-11 years old are delivered at 2 appointments, 8 weeks apart. Children with specific medical vulnerabilities can access their second dose 3 weeks after their first dose.

If you'd like more information about this, you can read a recent statement from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI): <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-update-following-weekly-covid-19-meeting-19-january-2022>

To book an appointment

You can book at your local GP or pharmacy: <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking>

You can also book at a family-friendly vaccination centre by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.

You can also make vaccination centre bookings for your children online, though you will need to use an email address that has not been used in the system before: <https://portal.cvms.vic.gov.au/>

Helping children to get their vaccination

Vaccination centres understand that children may feel anxious about vaccination or have other support needs. A range of options are available to help children get vaccinated. Please discuss your child's needs with the vaccination centre when you book an appointment.

Appointments are also available at Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations.

👉 Find out more about vaccination for kids: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-children-and-teenagers>

Around the Grounds:

Please take note **and advise your children** that the organisations below have priority use of the designated areas in our School Grounds on the following dates and times, as a formal arrangement has been made with 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
2022							
Darebin Falcons Women's Soccer Training	South Oval 5.00-8.00pm 14 Feb-8 Apr APPROVED						

Diary Dates:

2022 Calendar – Term 1:

FEBRUARY

- Mon 28: Closing date for SC Nominations @ 4pm

MARCH

- Tue 1: Divisional Swimming Carnival
- Fri 4: Summer Sport v Fairfield (H)
- Fri 4: [List of eligible SC candidates posted in Newsletter](#)
- Mon 7: Year 2 Getting To Know You Meetings
- Mon 7: Year 6 Getting To Know You Meetings
- Tue 8: Year 4 Getting To Know You Meetings
- Tue 8: Year 5 Getting To Know You Meetings
- Wed 9: [SC Ballot papers prepared/distributed \(if req.\)](#)
- Wed 9: Year 1 Getting To Know You Meetings
- Wed 9: Year 3 Getting To Know You Meetings
- Wed 9: Specialist Getting To Know You Meetings
- Thu 10: Prep Information Evening (online) 5.30-6.30
- Fri 11: **Curriculum Day #2 – Pupil Free Day**
- Mon 14: **Labour Day Public Holiday**
- Wed 16: [Close of Ballot \(if req.\)](#)
- Fri 18: Summer Sport v Thornbury (A)
- Tue 22: Regional Swimming, WaterMarc
- Wed 23: Young Leaders Conference
- Thu 24: GRIP Leadership Conference
- Fri 25: Summer Sport v Wales Street (H)

APRIL

- Fri 1: Summer Sport v Northcote (A)
- Mon 4: Regional Tennis
- Fri 8: **Final Day Term 1, 2.30pm dismissal**
- Tue 26: **First Day Term 2**

MAY

- Tue 24: District Cross Country, Bundoora Park
- Tue 24-Fri 27: Grade 6 Camp Rubicon

JUNE

- Wed 8: Green Group Winter Sport, CT Barling Res.
- Fri 10: Yellow Group Winter Sport, CT Barling Res.
- Mon 13: **Queen's Birthday Public Holiday**
- Wed 15: Regional Cross Country, Bundoora Park
- Wed 22-Fri 24: Grade 4 Camp Maldon
- Fri 24: **Final Day Term 2, 2.30pm dismissal**

JULY

- Mon 11: **First Day Term 3**

AUGUST

- Tue 23: Athletics

SEPTEMBER

- Mon 12-Wed 14: Grade 5 Camp Waratah Bay
- Fri 16: **Final Day Term 3, 2.30pm dismissal**

OCTOBER

- Mon 3: **First Day Term 4**

NOVEMBER

- Tue 1: **Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday**

DECEMBER

- Tue 20: **Final Day Term 4, 1.30pm dismissal**

From the Office:

New School Uniforms:

To purchase new Bell PS School Uniforms, please see the PSW website [here](#) or phone 9768 0381 with any enquiries.



Second Hand School Uniforms:

The Second Hand Uniform Shop will be open each Monday morning in Term 1. Call past and see Nicole around drop off time (9.00am-ish) with your **gold coins** ready. Please wear a mask, social distance while waiting your turn, and check in on the QR code on the door. There is no credit card facility available. You can also drop off Bell-branded donations too!

Lost School Uniforms:

Please come in at any time and look for your child's lost clothing on the hooks in the main Admin Building (just through the foyer and turn left). **PLEASE REMEMBER TO NAME ALL CLOTHING – especially anything that can be taken off - hats, jumpers, hoodies, jackets, etc - SO IT HAS SOME CHANCE OF BEING REUNITED WITH YOUR CHILD/REN.**

Arriving Late or Leaving Early – STOP WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

Please **DO NOT** enter late arrivals or early departures on your Compass Parent Portal. They must be entered on the **FRONT DESK KIOSK ONLY**. Please help the admin staff out with this request.



Missed Calls



A reminder to all parents and carers to **please** wait a minute or two before reacting to a 'Missed Call' from this number on your mobile. Staff will leave a message for you, often just a courtesy call which requires no call back at all.

Calls can be made from every room/office at Bell, so it is difficult to guess the location of the 'Missed Call' maker!

New / Updated Medical Plans

Anytime your child has a new or updated medical plan, please ensure **IT IS ALWAYS DELIVERED TO THE OFFICE**. There are processes in place which involve admin staff updating your child's medical information across the school.

It is in your child's best interest that everybody involved can easily access the most up to date medical information **at all times**.



Online Lunch Order – Friday Reminder:

A reminder to always *pack some extra snacks* for your child/ren if you have ordered a Classroom Cuisine lunch order. More often than not, the delivery arrives in time for the **11.30am** eating time, but as Fridays are the busiest day for lunch orders Melbourne-wide, delivery can sometimes be much later. This is where the snacks come in handy for the first break! **The next eating time is not until 2.00pm.**



Classroom Cuisine lunch orders are available every day **except Tuesdays**.

CSEF Application Form:

The **C**amps, **S**ports and **E**xcursions **F**und helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a **Veterans Affairs Gold Card**, **Centrelink Health Care Card** or **Pensioner Concession Card**, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families.

The payment amount this year is **\$125** for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to Camps, Excursions and Sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please download the [CSEF Application Form](#) or contact the school office. You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page. Please return completed forms to the school office by Friday 24 June at the latest.

From the Wellbeing Office: Child Safe

Bell Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

Bell Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

We are committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability and children who are vulnerable.

Every person involved in Bell Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

On arrival at Bell Primary School, all volunteers, visitors and contractors **must** make contact with the office, sign in at the front desk and wear a visitor's badge while on site.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to see specific policies on our website.



Parentline:

Parentline is a phone service for parents and carers of children from birth to 18 years old. They offer confidential and anonymous counselling and support on parenting issues.

What they do:

The qualified counsellors are available to:

- talk about any issues to do with parenting and relationships
- help with ways to cope and be a positive parent
- help with families' wellbeing and resilience
- connect parents with services in their area.

Your call:

- Calls are confidential and anonymous.
- Calls are not time limited and parents can call back as often as needed.
- Qualified and experienced counsellors have social work or psychology backgrounds.

Some reasons to ring Parentline include:

- child behaviour and development
- parent / carer child relationships
- education
- bullying
- living with teenagers
- family violence
- family breakdown
- parental stress





OPEN MORNING

WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2022

**9.15am – 11.30am:
Our school in action**

- Student-led tours
- Principal's presentation (9.20am and 10.20am)
- Information hub
11am – 11.30am

6.20pm: Presentation
(repeat session from morning)

**YEAR 7 2023
ACE PROGRAM
APPLICATIONS NOW
OPEN**

Closing date Friday 6 May

See website for details:
nhs.vic.edu.au



The Show Court within Narrandjeri Stadium is ready to be named.

Let us know what you think!

Voting closes on 21 March 2022



Narrandjeri Stadium will be completed in April. The stadium will hold four indoor courts which can be used for basketball, netball, volleyball, badminton and more.

Please give us your feedback on the name of the Show Court!

After consultation with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Darebin Council proposes to use the name **Patricia Ockwell** for the Show Court to better recognise and reflect the Wurundjeri history of the local area and promote female participation in sport.

Patricia Ockwell is a respected Elder and proud Wurundjeri woman who had a great passion for Wurundjeri people and Country through her work in

hostels, housing and justice. Aunty Pat was a great runner and was on track to attend the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

Please let us know if you support the name and vote on the 3 proposed options:

- 1. Ockwell Court**
- 2. Patricia Court**
- 3. Patricia Ockwell Court**

HOW TO VOTE

For more information and to register your vote, visit yoursaydarebin.vic.gov.au/naming-showcourt-narrandjeri-stadium

For a hard copy voting form please call 8470 8303.

CITY OF DAREBIN
 274 Gower Street, Preston
 PO Box 91, Preston, Vic 3072
 T 8470 8888 F 8470 8877
 E mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au
darebin.vic.gov.au

 **National Relay Service**
relayservice.gov.au

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service.

 **Speak Your Language**
 T 8470 8470

العربية	नेपाली	हिंदी	Español
繁體中文	Italiano	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	اردو
Ελληνικά	Македонски	Soomaali	Tiếng Việt