

Bell PS Newsletter

5 February 2021

www.bellps.vic.edu.au

Principal: David Twite

bell.ps@education.vic.gov.au

vic.gov.au Phone: 9480 5622

Assistant Principal: Emma Heywood

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 the Principal:

Start of Year Happenings

As we officially finish week 2 of the term, grades are completing the last of many Start-Up activities designed to set the scene with the teacher and students building a positive and productive classroom environment together. This ensures everyone is clear on the expected behaviours and attitudes centred around our school values and all classes unpacking them using the students' language within the School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) Matrix. Key Berry Street strategies are interwoven with the SWPBS approach to bring an important mental health and wellbeing lens to all the daily conversations.

There have been many 'getting to know everyone' activities to build relationships not just between the teacher and each child but also to re-inforce peer connections. And of course, there has been a focus on developing good learning habits and setting up classroom routines that help everyone get on with daily tasks efficiently throughout the year.

Home-School Partnerships

Conversations with your child's teacher are vital to create a learning partnership, as well as supporting wellbeing and engagement matters. Along with the formal meetings/interviews at various times during the year, there are always opportunities for specific meetings or shorter conversations during the school week. Please be aware <u>staff</u> have meeting commitments every Monday and Thursday straight after learning time finishes at 3.30pm.

Staff will do their best to be available for <u>short chats about straight forward matters</u> in the 8.50-9.00am organisation time, as well as after school on nights when there are no meetings. However, more complex conversations must always be booked in advance at a negotiated time that suits both parties. Video conferences using WebEx or Google Meet are still an option when face to face is problematic.

Capital Works Update

The initial planning stage for the \$7.2M upgrade to the main building and construction of the gym/community hall has started with the Project Control Group (PCG) meeting to select the architects. Members from School Council, Amber Griffiths (President) and Meaghan Block (Infrastructure Committee) are working with VSBA project manager Bruno Imeneo to oversee the entire process; Emma Heywood and myself are other PCG members providing that constant educational lens throughout the process from the site review, design, tendering and construction phases.

Whilst we all want the building works to happen as quickly as possible, the key to a successful outcome is in the consultation and planning stages, therefore the majority of 2021 will see little or no actual works. There will be some heavy thinking and planning by the range of experts engaged to support this exciting project. I will update the community as more precise timelines are established. In the meantime, we must be patient.

Curriculum Day 3

A reminder that the third pupil free day will be on <u>Thursday 1 April</u> being the last day of term 1. This date was confirmed with the Berry Street organisation late last year. In collaboration along with two other local schools, our staff will participate in professional learning for the final domain - Character.

Plans are also in motion to conduct a parent session early in term 2 to present key information on all five Berry Street Domains (Body, Relationships, Engagement, Stamina and Character) and where the Berry Street Educational Model will fit into our overall approach as we develop a whole school student wellbeing and engagement framework.

Visitors on School Grounds

Until further notice, all adult visitors to the school must wear a mask in any indoor environment. There is no need to wear a mask outside unless you cannot maintain a 1.5m distance. If you are visiting the school for more than 15 minutes, you <u>must</u> come past the office to sign in and complete a map, as we are mandated to track and record your movements around the school.

Monday Morning Assemblies

Due to the gathering limits, time restrictions and tracking movements of visitors, we **will not** be holding regular Monday whole school assemblies until further notice. School Captains will run a short Google Meet assembly directly into classrooms each Monday to provide a run-down of the week ahead.

David Twite Principal

From the Assistant Principal:

Image Permission Forms

At times, to document and promote the excellent work of Bell Primary School, photographs or digital images of students or their school work are shared with the community through student shared learning platforms e.g. Google Classroom, Bell Newsletters, the school website and local papers.

Upon enrolment at Bell Primary School, parents/carers are provided with a consent form for the publication of their child's work and image.

A reminder that this form is valid for the duration of your child's primary school years. If you wish to change your consent/non-consent to publish photographs, digital images and school work of the student at any time, we ask that you please notify the school in writing.

Tutoring for 2021

As outlined in a newsletter at the end of last year, the 2020 school year was an extraordinary and challenging one for every school community. The remote learning experience was different for every student. While some students thrived, some students continued progressing to the expected level, however others will benefit from additional intensive learning support in 2021.

Maria Tevelis and Elyssa Agnoletti, our Intervention/Tutoring staff for this year, will provide additional targeted teaching to identified students in need of extra assistance with their learning in either Reading or Mathematics. Maria will concentrate four days a week on providing this targeted support, with Elyssa providing support the equivalent of one day per week.

Intervention staff, alongside teachers and year level teams, are currently work together to identify students in need of tutoring support. These judgements will be based on multiple sources of evidence including Victorian Curriculum achievement levels and classroom-based assessments.

Within the constraints of the additional funding, not all students achieving below the expected level in a learning area will receive additional support with an intervention/tutoring teacher. Data will continue to be monitored in an ongoing manner as students' progress throughout the year and appropriate adjustments to the program will be made.

Throughout the year all students, regardless of their achievement level, will continue to receive high quality classroom instruction though their classroom teacher who will teach to each student's point of need, that is key to differentiation and ensuring learning growth and success for every student.

Identified students will begin intervention/tutoring in the coming weeks and further information will be communicated directly to families.

Every Minute, Every Day Counts

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school can put them behind. The importance of daily attendance, particularly in response to the disruptive learning time we had in 2020, is a priority for our school. The building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school. Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Being on time to school is also an important routine to establish in the early years and continue through to the senior years. For example, a child who is late to school for 15 minutes, 3 times per week will miss about 30 hours of learning time over the year.

While at times there may be legitimate reasons for your child to be absent e.g. illness, please do you best to avoid routine appointments during the school day, taking days of for birthdays or other events or planning extended family holidays during the term.

Grade Level Information Nights

Please see table below for the annual Parent/Carer Information Night dates. More information regarding the format of the night will be communicated via a Compass Newsfeed next week.

	Monday 15 Feb	Tuesday 16 Feb	Wednesday 17 Feb	Thursday 18 Feb	
5:30-6:30pm	Prep	Year 1	Year 5	Year 3	
6:35-7:35pm	Year 2	Year 6	Year 6		

Emma Heywood Assistant Principal

From the Office:

Important Dates 2021



FEBRUARY	
• Wed 10:	Preps to attend for interview time only
• Mon 15:	Prep Information Night, 5.30pm
• Mon 15:	Grade 2 Information Night, 6.35pm
• Tue 16:	Grade 1 Information Night, 5.30pm
• Tue 16:	Grade 6 Information Night, 6.35pm
• Wed 17:	Preps to attend for interview time only
• Wed 17:	Grade 5 Information Night, 5.30pm
• Thu 18:	Grade 3 Information Night, 5.30pm
• Thu 18:	Grade 4 Information Night, 6.35pm
• Fri 19:	Gr6 Sport v Northcote (A)
• Tue 23:	District Swimming
• Wed 24:	Preps to attend for interview time only
• Fri 26:	Gr6 Sport v Fairfield (H)
MARCH	

• Wed 3:	Preps to attend for interview time only
• Fri 5:	Gr6 Sport v Preston South (A)
• Mon 8:	Labour Day Public Holiday
• Fri 19:	Gr6 Sport v Wales Street (H)
• Wed 31:	Last Day Term 1 (for Students)

APRIL	
• Thu 1:	Curriculum Day #3 (Student Free)
• Mon 19:	First Day Term 2
• Mon 26:	Observed ANZAC Day Public Holiday

• Thu 20:	District Cross Country
• Tue 25 – Fri 28:	Proposed Gr6 Camp

MAY

JUNE	
• Fri 11:	Winter Sport Carnival
• Mon 14:	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
• Mon 21 – Fri 25:	Proposed Gr4 Camp
• Fri 25:	Last Day Term 2
JULY	
• Mon 12:	First Day Term 3
AUGUST	
• Thu 19:	District Athletics
SEPTEMBER	
• Fri 3:	District Basketball
• Wed 15 – Fri 17:	Proposed Gr5 Camp
• Fri 17:	Last Day Term 3
OCTOBER	
• Mon 4:	First Day Term 4
NOVEMBER	
• Tue 2:	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
• Wed 10:	District Triathlon
DECEMBER	
Thu 9:	Bell Swimming Carnival

2021 STUDENT TERM DATES:

• Fri 17:

Term 1: Friday 29 January — Thursday 1 April Term 2: Monday 19 April — Friday 25 June Term 3: Monday 12 July — Friday 17 September Term 4: Monday 4 October — Friday 17 December

Final Day Term 4 2021

PAYMENTS DUE or OUTSTANDING

ITEM:	DUE BY:	AMOUNT:	METHOD:
Prep, 1, 2, 3: Essential Student Learning Items (stationery) per child	Fri 19 Feb	\$125	Qkr!
Prep, 1, 2, 3: Essential Learning Items (bulk/online) per child	Fri 19 Feb	\$105	Qkr!
Gr 4, 5, 6: Essential Student Learning Items (stationery) per child	Fri 19 Feb	\$115	Qkr!
Gr 4, 5, 6: Essential Learning Items (bulk/online) per child	Fri 19 Feb	\$95	Qkr!
All Levels: Educational Program Voluntary Contribution	Fri 19 Feb	\$50	Qkr!
Grade 6: Polo Tops	Fri 19 Feb	\$35	Qkr!
Grade 6: Bomber Jackets	Fri 19 Feb	\$72	Qkr!

Classroom Cuisine Lunch Orders

Important note to Parents/Carers: lunch orders cannot be guaranteed to arrive in time for the 11.30am eating time. As the next eating time is at 2.00pm, it is important to put extra food/snacks in your child's lunchbox just in case they have to wait until 2.00pm to eat their lunch order.



Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund applications

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund 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 contact the school office on 9480 5622 to request an application form. 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 as soon as possible.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

Good news! Our Second Hand Uniform Shop will be opening again at 9.00am – on Mondays (volunteer Nicole) and Wednesdays (volunteer Kim) – from Monday 8 February. The following regulations apply:

- Bookings must be made via the office on 9480 5622;
- No walk-ups;
- Bookings are for up to 10 minutes in length;
- STRICTLY CASH ONLY (gold coins and small notes);
- One adult per visit;
- Masks must be worn.

<u>UNIFORM DONATIONS</u>: Donations of 'Bell-branded' tops only, or non-branded dresses/shorts/pants – in good condition - can be made to the office at any time.

GOLD COIN DONATIONS: All monies raised from the Second Hand Uniform Shop is donated to State School Relief.

Arriving Late? Leaving Early? Don't touch your Compass App!

The <u>ONLY</u> thing we need you to do is either sign in <u>late</u> at the office (WITH YOUR CHILD), or sign out <u>early</u> at the office. Emailing the teacher to advise details is <u>totally optional</u>.

Junior School Council News:

After a disrupted year by our JSC in 2020, we are keen to get the ball rolling for this year. JSC elections will be held in the next two weeks.

If your child is interested in participating in this year's elections, please have a chat to them about the role and skills required to be a JSC rep (see below), as well as the commitment to weekly meetings. A meeting will be held during class time each fortnight and during a lunchtime every alternate week so as to minimise disruptions to learning and play times. Individual classes will hold elections at different times throughout week 4 – class teachers will advise their students on specific dates.

Role of JSC rep:

- Be a positive role model for all students at the school
- Attend meetings each week (lunchtime or classtime)
- Lead class meetings & complete a Parking Lot fortnightly
- Provide a voice for students in your grade at meetings
- Clearly present discussions and decisions that Junior School Council has made to your class
- Work collaboratively to implement initiatives such as fundraisers, awareness campaigns & whole



Skills required:

- Excellent speaking and listening skills
- Works well with others
- Always displays Bell PS values
- Commitment
- Organisation
- Responsibility



Junior School Council Guidelines:

Rationale

The Junior School Council will provide an opportunity for students to develop leadership, communication and interpersonal skills and have empowerment in the decision making process of Bell Primary School. The Junior School Council aims to:

- Develop caring and responsible attitudes within the children
- Provide an avenue for the development of student voice and agency within the school
- Provide students with a sense of pride and achievement
- Raise student awareness of local and global issues and associated support options.

Definitions

- **Student Voice** provides opportunities for students to collaborate and make decisions with adults around what and how they learn, and how we can improve the school environment together.
- **Student Agency** gives students the power to direct and take responsibility for their learning and actioning improvements to the school environment. This supports students to become independent and self-regulated learners and members of the community.
- **Student Leadership** includes listening to and being able to clarify the issues of the students they represent and advocating on their behalf. Student leaders have an increased sense of responsibility to help others and to model Bell values.

Guidelines

- Junior School councillors are recognised as leaders in the school community.
- One Junior School Council representative is elected from each grade from years 3-6, using the democratic process. (see references at the end of this policy)
- Regular meetings are held weekly where possible
- Representatives will be made aware of their roles and responsibilities as school leaders.
- Decisions made are reported to all students, teachers and parents.
- 'Vice representatives' attend meetings in the absence of leaders.
- A notice will be placed in Bell News and on grade level Compass posts to inform parents and the community
 of the timeline for the process.

Implementation

- One student from each grade (Year 3 to Year 6) is elected by their peers to be classroom delegates at Junior School Council meetings. (see 'Steps for Selection' at the end of this document).
- Elected Junior School Council representatives are presented with a badge of office in recognition of their important role in the school community. Their names will be published in Bell News.
- Weekly meetings are held with the Junior School Council teacher support team.
- An agenda is set at the beginning of each meeting. Students have the opportunity to raise issues as part of each meeting agenda.
- At the first meeting of each school semester Junior School Council will discuss individual and collective roles and responsibilities.
- Minutes will be taken, then two/three reps will report to leadership, minuting their responses to queries.
 These minutes will be published and provided to all classes in the school.
- Representatives will report against minutes taken and discuss with their class peers, issues raised at the
 meetings. Items can also be raised which may be brought to subsequent Junior School Council meetings.
 Students will be selected to report back to classes without a representative (Prep/Grade 1/2)
- 'Vice representatives' will represent leaders when unavailable due to absence.
- Junior School Councillors will be required, on occasion, to represent the school community at informal and formal occasions.
- Students will have opportunities to support various foundations or by contributing to fundraising activities arranged within the school community or by outside agencies.
- A Social Service fundraiser may be undertaken once a term. The focus of this will be decided by Junior School Council representatives after discussion with supervising teachers, and after feedback from classes and staff.

Selection of JSC Representative Process:

- 1. Discuss the role of the Junior School Council.
- 2. Discuss the role of Junior School Council representatives.
- 3. Discuss the responsibilities of the representatives.
- 4. Call for nominations.
- 5. Students to be given time to prepare a speech or presentation. Elections will be held in **week 4 Monday 15 – Friday 19**th **February**.
- 6. Collect votes via a 'secret' ballot. Remind students they can vote for themselves.
- 7. The student with the most votes will be elected Junior School Council representative for the class. The student with the second most will be elected 'Vice Representative.
- 8. Badges will be presented at a whole school assembly to the JSC representative (date to be confirmed).

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.



For the Community:



Instrumental Music Lessons On School Campus!







Small Group & Private Lessons

- Primary Music Institute offer instrumental music lessons right here on school campus!
- To find out all about the music lessons please visit PMI's website. You can check which instruments are available, get up to date program details and apply for lessons online
- Please ENROL TODAY via PMI's website
- Lessons are held once per week on school campus with lessons typically during & outside school hours
- Only \$18.50 per child per small group lesson (2-5 students for 30 minutes)
- Our small group lessons provide a fun and affordable opportunity to learn instrumental music
- Private lessons (1-on-1) and pair lessons (max 2 students) are also available
- Instrumental music can improve your child's school results including for reading, maths, coordination, IQ, abstract reasoning, performance confidence... and is great fun!

P: 1300 362 824

E: admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au

www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au





French Club is back!
Thursdays: 3.45 – 4.45pm

We have 2 places available starting T1 – this is VERY rare!

We have been operating at Bell PS for 10 years, almost always at capacity. We help foster curiosity and a sense of achievement. Our early cohorts are now in Years 11 and 12 and embracing French at VCE level.

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

Small group learning with a highly experienced teacher.

Children of all ages and experience welcome.

Jim Callahan jim.callahan@lcfclubs.com.au 0432 719 034





Northcote Junior Football Club

The NJFC caters for all ages, with both boys and girls teams across most age groups. More information can be found here at njfc.com.au

2021 Registrations: We are open for registrations, with pre-season training starting next week for High School aged kids. Register via this <u>link</u> - <u>https://njfc.com.au/register-afl-northcote/</u> Our season proper starts with Round 1 after the Easter Holidays.

2021 Open Day: We are running our Annual Open Day BBQ on Sunday February 28th from 3pm at McDonell Park, all are welcome.

If you wish to get in touch, please contact me directly, I'd love to chat, happy to take any parent inquiries too.

Chris Niall
NJFC President

Email: president@njfc.com.au

Web: <u>njfc.com.au</u> Mob: 0419 011 628



GIRLS JUNIOR FOOTBALL

CALL OUT FOR NEW PLAYERS!







WE OFFER UNDER 10, UNDER 12, UNDER 14, UNDER 16 & UNDER 18

CONTACT: JUNIORFOOTY@FALCONS.ORG.AU

COMMUNITY DAY FEB 14 - COME & TRY





Preston Under-12s Ultimate Frisbee (Disc)

Sundays practice and match from 9:30-10:45am.

Bell Primary Oval.

See <u>fb</u> for more information.

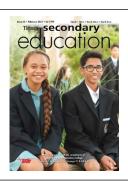
Or contact Bryony, 0431 284 283.



Secondary Education Guide

To assist your decision making in relation to your child's education for 2022 and beyond, please find below a link to the 80 page **February 2021** edition of the **Secondary Education Guide**.

CLICK HERE: victoriaschoolguides.starcommunity.com.au/secondary-education-west





SealPony Football is a developmental & participation program that introduces boys and girls aged between 5-10 to the game of football (soccer). It focuses on teaching the basic/intermediate skills.

* Fun games & activities * Great giveaways
For more information, call 0415-388-028
or visit www.sealpony.com.au

Time: Every Sunday Morning

Starting Date: 7th March 2021

Finishing Date: Late May

Register in-person: Sunday 10 - 11 am

28th February 2021

Address: James Street Reserve

Heidelberg Heights 3081

St Marks Calisthenics Club Come join Calisthenics!

Are you looking for a fun new sport?

SMCC is an all inclusive family orientated club offering classes from ages 3 years - 26 years & over

We welcome new members of all ages & ab<mark>ilities</mark>
First two classes are free!

5/159 Newlands Road, Coburg







An experience that goes far beyond the stage!

We believe in growing girls through the hidden elements of our curriculum; your daughter will develop confidence, public speaking and presentation skills, resilience and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Over 200 girls recently shared the stage with Hugh Jackman in The Man. The Music. The Show. Arena Tour to sold-out audiences around the country. We're proud to have represented Qantas in the '1 Still Call Australia Home' advertisements and at live events for the past 20 years.

Now accepting 2021 enrolments for our rehearsal venues in Berwick, Burwood East, Caulfield North, Cheltenham, Essendon, Greensborough, Ivanhoe, Kew, Ringwood and Yarraville.



Join us at our free OPEN DAY on February 13 or 20 Register now at ausgirlschoir.com.au/febopenday or phone 9859 6499



