



*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:

Gym/Hall Re-Start

It was a great relief to receive the news of a successful tender outcome for the completion of the gym/hall. I have no exact re-start or finish timeline other than a message from the VSBA advising the new contractor aims to set up as soon as practical. This means we should see a completion date sometime in the new year.

I have a start-up meeting next week with the Project Managers and ACR3, the new builders, so hope to get a better sense of the program for the remaining scope of works then. Once I have more information, I will provide details to everyone and we can start making plans for moving PE, Music and OSHclub into our new facility next year.



Camp Adventures

Grade 4s are having an amazing time at Anglesea despite the wet weather on Wednesday (day one). Weather on day two was better as it was dry and not too cold. A highlight so far is the bravery of many to go to the highest point on the giant swing, then plummet towards the ground and soar back into the sky. Special mention to Mr. Lakin who bravely went to the top after some loud chants from the students. Another worthy mention are the sing-a-longs started by parent camper Mark, which has morphed into bursts of traditional and newly composed camp songs at any time the group is together! The bush cooking has become a mix of collaboration and competition to make the perfect damper. Of course the bike riding on the tracks around the site is testing the skills of all riders - young and older.



Similar to other camps, the instructors have been very impressed with the attitude and care every camper shows towards each other and the activities they are attempting. Manners and patience have been duly noted and we should be proud of the way the children represent their school and families.

We look forward to heading home this afternoon with lots of stories to tell and memories of first camp experiences for a lifetime.

The final layer of the Camping Program will occur at the end of next week when the Grade 3s have their sleepover at school. Whilst not quite as adventurous as a 3-day camp down at the beach, it is an important stepping stone towards the Grade 4, 5 and 6 camps when students reach the older year levels at Bell PS.

Garden Bed Blitzes

With about 30 cubic metres of bush mulch still to spread, we have scheduled some gardening sessions over the next few weeks on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Scroll down to page 13 for more details from our Sustainability Leader, Ivy Callander. Come for an hour or more to help spruce up our garden beds and create some beautiful play spaces at the north and south ends of our school.

David Twite
Principal



2023 Bell PS Calendar:

Enter dates to remember in your diary, or take a screenshot each week for quick reference!



DECEMBER 2023

- Fri 1: Grade 6 Graduation Dance Session #3
- Fri 1: School Assembly (weather permitting) 2.50pm
- **Mon 4:** **FINAL DAY COMPASS CONSENT ONLY:**
****All Grade 6 Preston HS Transition Visit \$0****
- **Mon 4:** **FINAL DAY COMPASS PAYMENT/CONSENT:**
****Grade 3 Bounce + Sleepover****
- **Tue 5:** Whole School Transition #2/3
- **Tue 5:** Prep 2024 Parent/Carer Info Evening #2, 6pm
(A Day in the Life of a Prep, Q+A Face to Face, LC)
- **Wed 6:** Prep 2024 Transition #4, 9.30-11.00
(parents/carers to drop off and return)
- **Wed 6:** Funkey Music EOY Concert, Learning Centre
- **Thu 7:** ***Gr6 Graduation Mementoes via Qkr! CLOSE***
- **Thu 7-Fri 8:** Grade 3 Bounce + School Sleepover
- **Thu 7:** All Grade 6s - Preston HS Transition Visit
- **Fri 8:** Grade 6 Graduation Dance Session #4
- **Fri 8:** School Assembly (weather permitting) 2.50pm

- **Mon 11:** Grade 6 Kids Helpline Transition Session
- **Mon 11:** **FINAL DAY COMPASS PAYMENT/CONSENT:**
****Grade 6 Luna Park Big Day Out \$49****
- **Tue 12:** Whole School Transition #3/3
- **Tue 12:** Statewide Year 6→7 Transition
- **Tue 12:** Optional Welcome BBQ for Prep 2024 Families
(4.00pm-6.00pm)
- **Wed 13:** Grade 2 Celebration of Learning
- **Thu 14:** Grade 6 Luna Park Big Day Out
- **Fri 15:** Grade 6 Graduation Dance Session #5
- **Fri 15:** School Assembly (weather permitting) 2.50pm
- **Mon 18:** Grade 6 Colour Run + Picnic
- **Tue 19:** Grade 6 Graduation, Northcote Theatre
(doors open 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start)
- **Wed 20:** Final Day Term 4, 1.30pm dismissal



2024 Dates so far...to help with your planning:



January

- **Mon 29:** Statewide Pupil Free Day
- **Tue 30:** Grades 1-6 First Day
- **Tue 30:** Prep Drop In Day
- **Wed 31:** Prep Staggered Starts

February

- **Thu 1:** Prep Staggered Starts
- **Mon 20:** District Swimming, Northcote Pool

March

- **Mon 11:** Labour Day Public Holiday
- **Thu 28:** Last Day Term 1, 2.30pm dismissal

April

- **Mon 15:** First Day Term 2
- **Thu 25:** ANZAC Day Public Holiday

June

- **Mon 10:** King's Birthday Public Holiday
- **Fri 28:** Last Day Term 2, 2.30pm dismissal

July

- **Mon 15:** First Day Term 3

September

- **Fri 20:** Last Day Term 3, 2.30pm dismissal

October

- **Mon 7:** First Day Term 4
- **Mon 21-Thu 24:** Grade 6 Camp Jungai

November

- **Tue 5:** Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday

December

- **Fri 20:** Last Day Term 4, 1.30pm dismissal

2024 Swimming Lessons (exact dates to be confirmed):

Grades 3-5: Weeks 4, 5 + 6 of Term 1
Grades Prep-2: Weeks 2, 3 + 4 of Term 3

From the Admin Office:



ADMINISTRATION STAFF:

Lu Paglia: Business Manager (Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri) : **Jo Taylor:** Finance/Excursions (Mon/Wed/Fri)
Tania Levens: Facilities/OHS/Communication (Tue-Fri) : **Jessie Storm:** Attendance/Enrolments/Medical (Mon-Fri)
OFFICE HOURS: 8.00am – 4.30pm

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS PLEASE

A reminder for parents/carers who are volunteering at school in any capacity, ie: parent reading, fundraising events, excursions, incursions, etc, please arrange a Working With Children Check and provide a copy to the office.

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 Requirements Update

As of July 10, Victorian schools are no longer required to keep records of student COVID cases, however the DET recommendation remains in place that any staff or students who test positive for COVID should stay home for five days minimum and only return to school when they are symptom-free. We kindly ask that you continue to inform office staff or your child's teacher if your child tests positive for COVID. Free rapid antigen tests are still available at 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. *The Shop will now be open by Carita every FRIDAY afternoon from 3.15-3.45pm.* Don't forget your gold coins – no credit or credit card facility is available.



JOIN BELL PS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND FUNDRAISING 2024

About Us

This year the Bell Primary Community Engagement and Fundraising Group raised over \$30k which went towards furniture in the portables, and our fund to fit out the new gym hall. We're looking for new members for next year! CEF co-ordinates most social and fundraising events such as Cupcake Day, mango drive, special persons' day stalls, election day bbqs and stalls. There is also a Trivia subgroup.



you would...

- meet about once a term to discuss and plan current and future events
- communicate about events by being a leader in your year level's what's app channel
- lead and be involved in scheduled events (both fundraising and engagement) during the year

**WE HOPE
YOU CAN
JOIN US!**

We're particularly looking for yr 3 and 4 (2024) parents - but everyone is very welcome!!

If you're keen, please email Ceinwen Jones at ceinwenju@gmail.com or feel free to reach out to any of our members via your year level what's app channel



For ALL 2024 Families:



EDUCATIONAL ITEMS TO OWN

**Hurry, 1 week
remaining!**

Place your order by
8th December to
avoid additional
late fees.



LOGIN DETAILS:

Username: BELLP003

Password: Student4



Kookaburra
Educational Resources

www.kookaburra.com.au



From the Grade 6 Team:

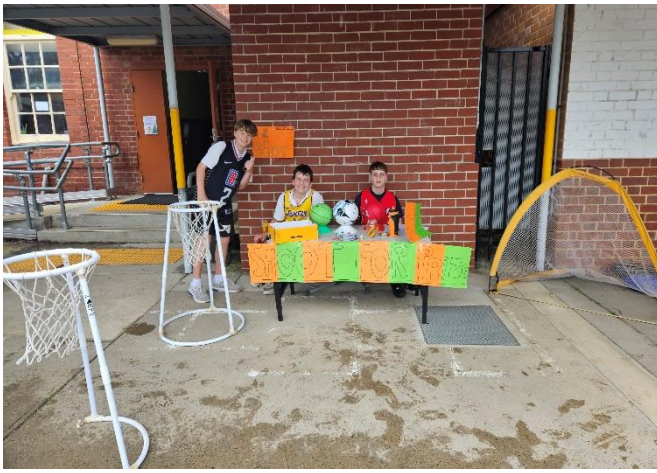


YEAR 6 MARKET DAY

Over the last few weeks, the Year 6s have been studying Economics. As part of their learning they had to create goods or services to sell at a market stall. Their Prep buddies were the target audience. Year 6s had to do some market research into products the Preps would be keen consumers of, decide on various advertising campaigns and the presentation of their stall to draw their buddies to their stalls. Year 6s had to make their own product or service – which they did amazingly!

Regardless of the rain, the show went on. Students set up their bright and colourful stores in the OSH Club room, hallway, library and outdoor walkways. The Preps were so excited to receive their Dollar Bucks and spend big! It was wonderful to see Year 6 parents come along and share in the joy! We definitely have a few up and coming entrepreneurs in our midst – well done Year 6s.





From the Music Department:

SENIOR VOCAL ENSEMBLE - LUNCHTIME CONCERT



Students from Prep through to Grade 6 were treated to a wonderful Lunchtime Concert by the Senior Vocal Ensemble in the Music Room last week. The students in the ensemble performed all the songs they have been working on during the year and made even more new fans! Rock on legends!



From the Sports Department:

3-6 SWIMMING CARNIVAL



On Friday the 17th of November, the Grade 3 to 6 students headed out to Oakpark Swimming Pool for Bell's 3rd Annual Swimming Carnival. The day was a fantastic celebration of school spirit and students having a go. I was delighted to see how many students were confident enough to put their hand up to have a go at a 50m race and the support students had for their peers, regardless of their grade.

The quote of the day was from a grade 3 student who had just got to the bottom of the water slide overheard saying to their friend *"This is the best day of my life!"*.

This is what the Swimming Carnival at Bell has always aimed to do. Offer a chance to build on school and house pride, give all students an opportunity to participate in a level of aquatic event or activity, and above all be FUN.

I would like to thank leadership, teachers and education support staff who made this event possible and such a successful day for all. A special thank you to the parents who gave up their time to support the event by timing at the finish line, handing out ribbons or cheering non-stop for all the students on the day. It has been amazing having the community back involved with school events and supporting these programs.

Finally, a big congratulations to Crocodile house who ended the Carnival in first place with 145 points. **GO CROCS!**





SPECIALIST AWARD

The Specialist Award winners for this fortnight are...

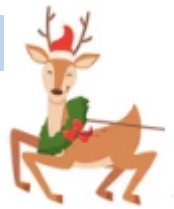
1C!!

A big CONGRATULATIONS to 1C. They have been showing Curiosity by thinking deeper and asking great questions about their learning.

Great work 1C!

The Specialist Team,
Josh, Ms S, Miss Corinne and Professoressa Sam





Grade 6 Parents – Compass Reminder

Please start thinking about printing off any school reports or documents you wish to keep **as your Grade 6 child will no longer have a Bell Compass Account after the last day of school this year.**

From the Sustainability Team:



WEEKDAY WORKING BEES...

In a final push to finish the work we've been doing around the grounds before the end of the year, we are weekdays working bees over the next two weeks!

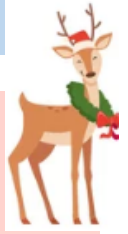
Working Bees will occur at the following times:

Day	Time	Dates	Captains	Meeting place
Wednesday afternoon	2:30pm – 4:30pm	6/12 and 13/12	Bonnie Grant and Libby Owens	Basketball court
Friday Morning	9:00am – 10:30am	8/12 and 15/12	Julie Garbutt and Gemma Cooke	Basketball court

There is still **SO** much mulch to move. It's going to take many hands to get the work done so if you can spare some time over the next two weeks, we would love to see you there!!

If you have any questions, please contact Ivy Callander: ivy.callander@education.vic.gov.au





BELL PRIMARY BOOK AUDIT



The Diversity and Inclusion Committee at Bell Primary School is embarking on a monumental project to audit and update our thousands of take-home readers, and we need your help!

By removing outdated, offensive, or unhelpful books, we can replace them with a wide range of contemporary literacy tools that will captivate and inspire our students. This project is not only about updating our reading materials but also about **fostering inclusivity and creating an environment where all students feel seen, heard, and represented.**

ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS **COLLECT SOME BOOKS** DURING THE FOLLOWING TIMES:
(no signing up required, just turn up!)

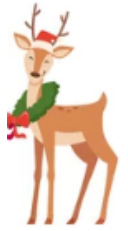
ALL WEEK:
Monday December 11 – December 15th
ROOM 10
BEFORE CLASS 8:50-9:05AM OR AFTER CLASS
3:20-3:45PM

PLEASE BYO carry bag or box.

Return books anytime during the first week back
(week commencing Monday January 29).

Further info please contact Mia
miamalamcdonald@gmail.com





#7 Finding Media Balance

When it's time to go to bed, sometimes we want to play one more game, send one more text, or write one more email, but we need to use media in the right balance with the activities that keep us healthy—like sleeping. Research shows that not getting enough sleep affects not only our physical health but also our emotions and how well we work. This is something that affects people of any age - but there are things we can do about it.

Using the checklist below can help us see if we're taking steps to make sure our devices don't steal our sleep! Go through this checklist as a family:

- ☐ We try to get a full night's sleep (around eight hours) even when we have lots of text, email, or social media notifications.
- ☐ We use an app or device settings to avoid blue light if we're using a device right before bedtime.
- ☐ We stop using devices about an hour before bedtime.
- ☐ We keep devices out of the bedroom and/or shut them off at bedtime.
- ☐ We use device settings or parental controls to shut off devices at bedtime.

Were you able to put a check mark by any of the statements? Talk about the results together. Do you think your media habits are in balance around sleep? Decide whether you want to make changes as a family since you're all on the same team—and you all need sleep!

Check out these 5 tips 🦌

1

Create screen-free times and zones.

Help tweens and teens take breaks from tech by limiting screen time in bedrooms, during study time, or at the dinner table. Consider carving out regular family time when screens are either put away or enjoyed together.

2

Explore built-in digital well-being tools.

Together with your kids, check out the features on their devices and in their apps that can help them use tech more intentionally. Consider turning off autoplay functions, limiting notifications from certain apps, using settings that turn off devices at a certain time each night, and more.

3

Model the behavior you want to see.

Tweens and teens learn more from watching adult behavior than listening to lectures. Consider how you use your devices and other media, and make changes if your use doesn't follow your expectations for your kids.

4

Help kids identify healthy behaviors.

Ask kids to notice their feelings, both physical and emotional, during screen and non-screen activities. Does their heart rate increase when their phone vibrates? Does their self-esteem dip after viewing a friend's Instagram feed? Do they feel good when they get positive feedback on a post? Encourage kids to keep the constructive activities and let go of the rest.

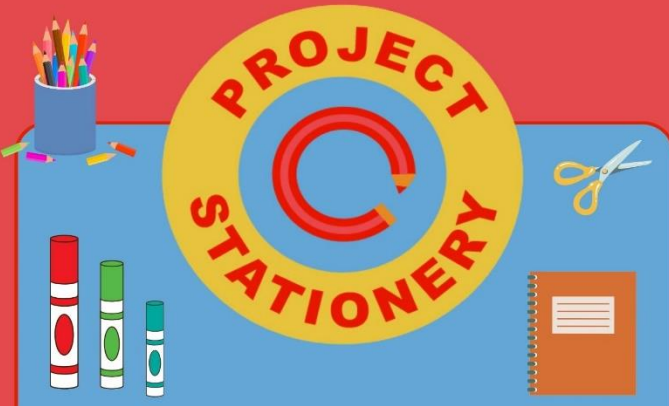

5

Understand how tech companies make money.

Along with your tween and teen, research how digital devices, social media platforms, and apps and games get paid. Do they sell ads? Do they sell kids' data? Discuss why companies might want kids to spend more time on their platforms and what tricks they use to keep their attention.



End of Year = Excess Stationery? Exercise books, pencils, rulers, etc?



Do you have excess stationery?

Why not donate it to Project Stationery?

When: December, January & February

Where: Shop front at the Alphington Farmer's Market.
Melbourne Innovation Centre, 2 Wingrove St, Alphington VIC 3078

Accepting: All types of new & used stationery in good condition including half-used exercise books.
No lever arch folders or binders please.
Please see list for all accepted items.

Opening Hours from December 3rd to February 28th:
Sundays 9am - 1pm
Wednesdays 9am - 1pm

Stationery will be collated & redistributed to not-for-profit organisations.
Our aim is to share resources and minimise waste.



ITEMS WE ACCEPT

YES PLEASE: NEW & USED	NO THANK YOU
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• pens• pencils• textas• highlighters• board markers• rulers• glue sticks• erasers• sharpeners• exercise books*• sketch books*• scrapbooks*• notepads *	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• binders• lever arch folders• broken or damaged stationery

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!
projectsharestationery@gmail.com



*Please tear out any used pages



Bell Primary will be collecting stationery for the Project Stationery drive to redistribute surplus supplies via not-for-profit organisations for the remainder of Term 4. Please see the list above for what can and cannot be donated.

When?

From Monday 27 November to the end of Term 4.

Where?

In marked tubs in the Office Foyer.

Can you help?

Are you able to help deliver collected stationery to the Alphington Farmer's Market collection point on Wednesdays or Sundays?

Thank you! Please complete this form to get in touch:

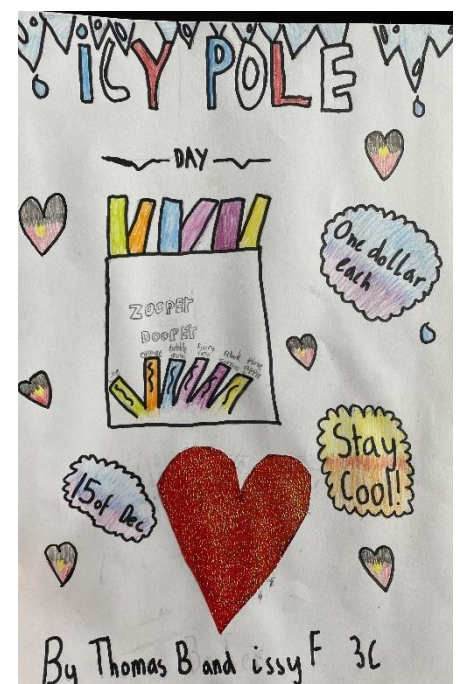
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoi8cJySMtYcELJ9GpkrMqioMQo-KEv55y8o6FvyA_pL0fw/viewform?usp=pp_url

From the FUNdraising Team:



ICY POLE DAY

Icy Pole Day is happening again on **Friday 15 December**. Students will be able to buy zooper doopers or sugar-free Icy Poles for \$1 during second break. We are looking for ten adult volunteers to help us run the event. Please sign up to volunteer at <https://signup.com/go/eCHvQKU> or by scanning the QR code on the poster below. Thanks to our talented student illustrators who made posters, some of which are shown here, and others which will be displayed around the school in the lead up.



For the Bell Community:



Please see below photos of display cabinets we are very keen to give away free to a good home.

The three cabinets have been stored away for a few years so are pretty dirty and dusty (as you can see in the photos) but are in good condition. The very solid cabinets each have a glass top, front, sides and shelves. The base is timber and the back has two sliding timber doors. (Shells not included)

The dimensions of the cabinets are 1790mm W x 980mm H x 520mm D.

The only catch is that you must provide (i) your own muscle power team and (ii) your own truck/ute/trailer to take them away as they are **extremely** heavy.

The scenario is **first in-best dressed** so please make contact at bell.ps@education.vic.gov.au with any queries or to accept our offer!



In a world where technology touches every aspect of our lives, it is crucial that our children understand how it works. To accomplish this objective, there is an exciting coding club running at the school.



DEVELOP SKILLS

- Creativity
- Logical thinking
- Problem solving



LEARN

- Computer Science Concepts
- Fundamentals of programming
Loops, Events, Randomness and more

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

- Scratch
- Python
- Javascript
- ... and many more



MAKE

- Games
- Web pages
- Apps

Digimaker structured program runs each term and is charged on a per-term basis.
Students to bring their own device for the lesson.

8 WEEK TERM PROGRAM

Program for **Term1 2024** is as follows:

Year levels: 3 to 6

Term Fee: \$240 incl GST

AFTER SCHOOL

3:40pm – 4:40pm

BATCH

Thursdays 1st Feb to 21st Mar 2024

Fill out the form online by
Thursday 14th Dec 2023



www.digimaker.com.au/enrol

Digimaker will confirm your child's spot via email**

** All important emails from Digimaker will be sent from info@digimaker.com.au. Please ensure this address is whitelisted in your Junk Email filters or added as a Trusted contact.

HOLIDAY E-LEARNING PROGRAM

2 HOURS OF FUN FILLED CODING
FULLY SUPERVISED OVER ZOOM
(5 DAYS A WEEK!)

<https://www.digimaker.com.au/events/school-holiday-coding-program/>



nab AFL Auskick

JOIN THE FUN!



NAB AFL Auskick is for everyone and is one of the best, first experiences for kids aged 5-12, wanting to learn all about Australian Football.

Find your closest centre today.

play.afl/auskick



NORTHERN PARX NETBALL CLUB

CALLING ALL 8-11 YEAR OLDS



COME & TRY NETBALL

FOR OUR UNDER 9 & 11 TEAMS

**TRAINING HELD ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 5:00PM-
6:00PM AT J.E. MOORE PARK, RESERVOIR**

**GAMES PLAYED ON SATURDAYS AT 8:20AM & 9:10AM
AT NARRANDJERI STADIUM, THORNBURY**

BOYS AND GIRLS WELCOME



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL MAGGIE

NORTHERNPARXNETBALLCLUB@GMAIL.COM