



Bell PS Newsletter

End of Year Edition!

20 December 2023



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Principal: David Twite

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 our Principal:

Graduation

Last night we had the Graduation Ceremony at Northcote Theatre and what a special celebration it was. The student speeches told stories of their seven years at Bell and each student was presented with a graduation certificate to commemorate their time here. Performances by the Rock Band, a dance and a song by the entire group were more highlights. There were ten additional awards presented to recognise certain students' efforts in particular categories:



- Literacy Award: *Maya Truong*
- Numeracy Award: *Rosa Swinson*
- RSL Awards for dedication to the school values and community: *Nicholas Leventakis & Meg Webster*
- Ged Kearney Award for overall improvement in learning: *Abbey Wright*
- Kat Theophanous Book Award for demonstrating creativity and collaboration: *Sara Marsh*
- Art Award: *Eloise Pruscino*
- Italian Award: *Sam Miles*
- Music Award: *Xavier Down*
- Sport Award: *Carmen Cullen-Croke*

It was a delight to have both Kat and Ged there in person to say some insightful words and present their awards to the nominated students.

On behalf of the school community, we would like to congratulate the graduates and wish them all the best as they forge ahead to create a better future for themselves and those around them.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Dimi Efthymiou, Jack Fray and Ramzey Fayad for their outstanding organisation to deliver an amazing graduation ceremony, as well as their dedication throughout the year guiding the students throughout their final year of primary school.



Bell Families

The beautiful tradition of acknowledging those families of Year 6s who are leaving the school community is one of my favourite elements of the night. Each family are invited onto stage to receive a plant as a thank you gift and a collective round of applause. As said so eloquently by our School Council President Charles Beaton, it is a sad farewell but a huge thank you to the following families of the Bell School Community: *Athanasi, Barone-D'Amico, Caputi, Clarke, Collie, Cullen-Croke, Gibney, Down, Egonidis, Elzingre, Gilbert, Gurtman, Haselgrove, Hodda, Horwill, Holmes, Ingram, Lim-Chapple, Miles, Murphy, Oakley, Quinn, Rudd, Russell, Short, Stafford, Stewart-Corby, Tonderys, van Cuylenburg, Vincent, Webster, Wright and Zheng.*

Other families leaving the school from Prep to Grade 5 are: *Parry, Strongylos, Tacey, Thorpe and Yeo.*

Start of Next Year

A reminder that the state-wide pupil free day will be on *Monday 29 January*. For the remainder of the transition back to school, please scroll to page 3 for some of the key dates already set for 2024

End of Year Assembly

The weather will be perfect for our final assembly at 12.30 pm where we can celebrate the year that was. With presentations, awards, farewells and performances from the Rock Band, Senior Vocal Ensemble and the Grade 6 graduates, it will be a fitting end to our school year.

No need for plan B or C so it would be great to see parents/carers there to make it a whole school send off for the staff and Grade 6s who are leaving us.

End of the Year

Finally, we'd like to wish everyone in this special Bell Community a safe, relaxing or adventurous or whatever 'takes your fancy' summer break. Once refreshed, we can look forward to many initiatives taking shape including:

- The completion of the gym/hall (I promise) and an opening ceremony to celebrate this significant facility's milestone
- Continued work on our sustainability practices and infrastructure to support that vision
- More work in the diversity and inclusion space with a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) being a key piece of work
- Even stronger community connections via the Community Engagement and Fundraising group
- And a relentless drive to continue improving the learning and wellbeing outcomes for every student.

New Buddy Bench

A huge thank you to Leilani, one of this year's school captains, who has been working with the local Mens' Shed to create a very special Buddy Bench for our school. The bench will be installed in the northern play space ready for the start of next year.

The idea is if you are feeling a little bit lost in the yard and don't have a friend at the time, head to the buddy bench. Everyone else's responsibility when they see someone on the Buddy Bench, is to invite them to play with your group of friends so that no one feels alone at our school.

Leilani's idea of a buddy bench will be a lasting legacy to support all our students' wellbeing and social connections.



David Twite (Principal)

Emma Heywood (Assistant Principal)

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

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



January

- Mon 29: *Statewide Pupil Free Day*
- Tue 30: **Grades 1-6 First Day**
- Tue 30: **Prep Drop-in Day**
- Wed 31: **Group 1 Preps Start School**

February

- Thu 1: **Group 2 Preps Start School**
- Tue 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 JSC:

2023 Junior School Council Reflection

This year the JSC would firstly like to thank our school community for getting involved and supporting all the causes we have initiated this year. We would like to thank Claire and Hannah for guiding us this year. Also, thank you to all the staff for supporting the students get involved in different activities.

It was a proud moment for us all getting our badges and representing our classes. We appreciated our school responsibility role. The three things we enjoyed the most are:

- Helping to run all the events such as the World's Greatest Shave, Wear It Purple day, Wear It Yellow Day, Walk or Ride to School, and Fancy Hair Day.
- Making important speeches to promote initiatives and to share our ideas and including sharing with David & Emma, and getting their feedback.
- Gathering information from our class peers to collect ideas about school improvement.

Finally, we would like to wish next year's JSCs good luck in the role. Details about the process for elections will be happening at the start of Term 1 next year. Thank you!

2023 Members of the JSC



From the FUNdraising Team:

Icypole Day was a great way to celebrate a big year with 664 icy poles sold on the day! Big thanks to the students and Ms Corinne for the posters that were in the Newsletter and adorned all over the school. It was great to see the creativity and colour of our Bell students. Thanks also to our student helpers on the day: Evie P, Jonathan, Ethan S, Asha and Oscar B. Finally, thank you to our parent volunteers: Clancy Riddiford, Emily Prunty, Belinda Nicolazzo, Bridie Naughton, Alice McAvoy, Laura Hammett, Rachel Bohan, Motoe Bennell and Bridget Ah Ching.

Alice McAvoy

The Icy Pole FUNdraising Team Co-ordinator



fun-key[®] music Superheroes & Villians
presents... 2023
musical



CALL OUT FOR NEW PLAYERS!

JUNIOR & SENIOR

GIRLS' AND WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

CONTACT@FALCONS.ORG.AU

