

05 March 2021

bell.ps@education.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:

School Council Elections

We have four nominations for the one remaining vacancy in this election process, which is a healthy sign that parents/carers are keen to get involved in the formal aspect of school governance to support the school improvement agenda. The following candidates have the opportunity to write a short statement about themselves which will be attached to the ballot papers sent home next Wednesday with your eldest child:

Nicholas Carrington
Ellen Corovic
Nina Cullen
Gerard Fennessy

The process and timeline for the election process is as follows:

- Ballot papers, candidate's statements and two envelopes sent home with eldest child on Wednesday 10 March;
- Ballot closes at 4.00pm on Wednesday 17 March;
- Votes counted on **Thursday 18 March** with the declaration of the poll before COB on that day. Candidates will be informed by the Principal that afternoon.
- Community will be notified on **Friday 19 March** in the newsletter;
- The new School Council will hold their first meeting on Thursday 25 March.

Solar Panels Grant

Key members of the Sustainability Working Party have been successful in a grant application, meaning the school will receive funding for a significant amount of solar panels to add the bank that are already installed on the roof of the Learning Centre. This is part of the Victorian Schools Building Authority's (VSBA) 'Greener Government School Buildings' initiative, and these additional solar panels will align well with the Sustainability group's long term plans to improve in key areas of environmental practice at Bell.

Many thanks to the following members of the group for their efforts preparing the grant: Meaghan Block, Natalie Funtera, Liz Waygood, Nina Cullen and Brett Allen (Grade 2 teacher).

<u>School Review – Stakeholders Focus Groups</u>

Validation Day 1 of the review process has been completed with rigorous discussions, as well as celebrating some of our highlights over the last four years. Day 2 is the Fieldwork Day where school reviewer, Robert Miller, and regional office representative, Graham Stevenson, will facilitate some stakeholder focus groups. The aim is to dig deep and explore key themes from the Terms of Reference, seeking feedback across samples of students, teachers and parents/carers.

We are inviting any parents and carers who are keen to be involved and are available on Thursday 18 March from 2.15-3.15pm to register at the office. There will be face to face focus groups with COVID safe practices in place.

David Twite Principal

From the Assistant Principal:

Getting to Know You Meetings

These vital 1:1 meetings between parents/carers and teachers are scheduled for next week and firstly, thank you to the vast majority of families who have booked in via Compass. The booking system is now closed but you can still check your times beforehand. If you missed the deadline, please contact the office staff who will help you with a time allocation.

A reminder that Getting To Know You Meetings will take place in your child's classroom, while Specialist Getting To Know You Meetings will take place in the Learning Centre.

Face to face meetings will allow more production and deeper conversations at school and are allowed under current DET guidelines, however there are still some COVID safe practices that need to be adhered to:

- Keeping the minimum 1.5m physical distancing inside the classrooms and also outside when waiting;
- Sanitising at the door when entering;
- Arriving at the school only a few minutes before the scheduled time will help reduce the number of people on the school site at any one time. Please refrain from forming larger social groups during this time at school;
- Whilst masks are not required, they are always an option if that helps people feel more comfortable with face to face conversations.

Getting to Know You Meetings facilitate individual time for parents/carers to share information about their child. These meetings are an important opportunity for you to:

- meet and get to know your child's teacher(s);
- help your child's teacher(s) understand more about your child;
- exchange information to support your child's learning, social and emotional needs;
- make plans with the teacher(s) about how you can both support your child;
- continue to strengthen the crucial home-school partnership.

These meetings, whilst about your child as a learner, are not designed to give detailed progress reports of student achievement given the early scheduling, but rather a snapshot at this point in time. Given the disruptive year in 2020, the staff are doing their best to identify learning gaps, providing differentiated learning activities and other targeted supports where required. It has never been more important than now that we all focus on <u>working closely together</u> in respectful ways to support every child at Bell along the learning continuum.

Library Books

A big thank you to Andrea Kneen, Brooke Campbell, Shelley Tennant and any other parents/carers who have recently covered books for our Library. If you are willing to assist with covering books, please drop past the office at any time to collect the books and a roll of contact. Whether it be two or twenty – any assistance would be much appreciated.

Emma Heywood Assistant Principal

From the Office:

Important Dates 2021



MARCH

IVIARCH	
• Mon 8:	Labour Day Public Holiday
• Tue 9:	Prep Getting to Know You Meetings
• Tue 9:	Grade 6 Getting to Know You Meetings
• Wed 10	Grade 2 Getting to Know You Meetings
• Wed 10	Grade 5 Getting to Know You Meetings
• Wed 10	Specialists Getting to Know You Meetings
• Thu 11:	Grade 1 Getting to Know You Meetings
• Thu 11:	Grade 3 Getting to Know You Meetings
• Thu 11:	Grade 4 Getting to Know you Meetings
• Mon 15	: Harmony Day – wear something orange!
• Fri 19:	Orders close for Carnevale Treats via Qkr!
• Fri 19:	Gr6 Sport v Wales Street (H)
• Fri 19:	National Day of Action against Bullying + Violence

APRIL

Thu 25:

• Thu 1:	Curriculum Day #3 (Student Free)
• Mon 19:	First Day Term 2

Wed 31: Last Day Term 1 for Students, <u>3.30pm</u> dismissal

Bell PS Whole School Carnevale

MAY

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

JUNE	
• Tue 1:	School Photos
• 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, 2.30pm dismissal

JULY

• Mon 12:	First Day Term
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AUGUST

• Thu 19: **District Athletics**

SEPTEMBER

• Fri 3:	District Basketball
• Wed 15 – Fri 17:	Proposed Gr5 Camp
• Fri 17:	Last Day Term 3, 2.30pm dismissal

OCTOBER

• Mon 4: First Day Term 4

NOVEMBER

• Tue 2:	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
• Wed 10:	District Triathlon

DECEMBER

Thu 9: Bell Swimming Carr	
• Fri 17:	Final Day Term 4 2021

2021 STUDENT TERM DATES:

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

Payments Due or Outstanding

ITEM: (under Payments in Qkr!)	DUE BY:	AMOUNT:	METHOD:
All Grades: Bell PS Carnevale Day Treats (Bombolone or Pancakes)	Fri 19 Mar	\$2.50	Qkr!
ITEM: (under <i>Excursions</i> in Qkr!)	DUE BY:	AMOUNT:	METHOD:

Parent Messages for Students

To ensure 'change of plan' messages are communicated to your child/ren in time, please ensure you contact the office as early in the day as possible. Ideally, 'end of day' messages (3.20-3.30pm) via the office should be avoided as much as possible, given the challenge of communicating details to students in the midst of busy packing-up time in a classroom.

Messages to remind students to attend OSH Club are unnecessary as OSH Club staff always make 'reminder' announcements for students who are booked in but have not yet shown up.

External Providers

Details regarding lessons offered by our External Providers, eg: keyboard, violin, guitar, French, sport, singing/dancing, can be found on our website under the 'Community', 'External Providers' tab. Please make direct contact.

Missed Calls

Please do not call the school if you have received a 'missed call' notification. Bell PS Staff are advised they must leave a message where possible which may take a minute or two to arrive on your phone, so please wait to check. Many messages are just a 'courtesy' call and do not require a reply.

Arriving Late? Leaving Early?

PLEASE DON'T TOUCH YOUR COMPASS APP!

The ONLY thing we need you to do is either sign in LATE at the office (WITH YOUR CHILD), or sign out EARLY at the office. Emailing the teach to advise details is TOTALLY OPTIONAL.

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.

Uniforms - New

All Bell Primary School uniform pieces, including hats and bags, can be purchased from **PSW**, 12 Strathalbyn Street, Kew East, or anytime online at **PSW**. You can contact PSW on 9768 0381.



Uniforms - Second Hand

Our Second Hand Uniform Shop is currently open on Mondays (volunteer Nicole) and Wednesdays (volunteer Kim) from 9.00am. The following regulations currently 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 <u>only</u>, or non-branded dresses/shorts/pants – in good condition - can be made to the office at any time.

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.

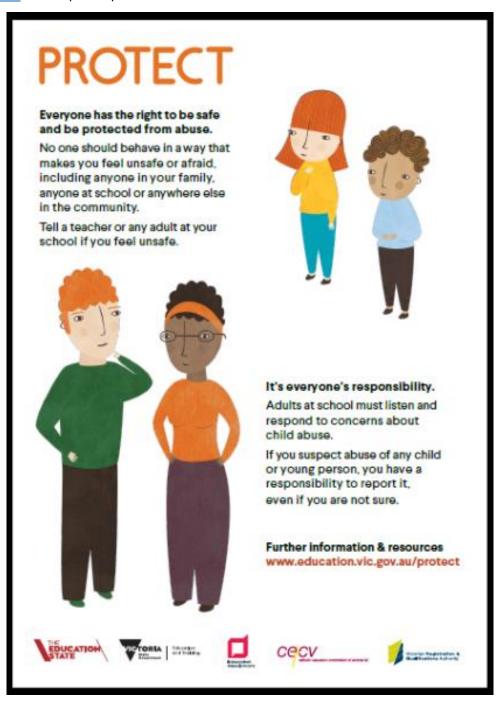
Bell Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

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.





THIS YEAR, BELL PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS
WILL BE CELEBRATING
CARNEVALE ON THURSDAY, 25TH MARCH.

CARNEVALE IS AN ANNUAL FESTIVAL MOST NOTABLY HELD IN VENICE, ITALY. THE FESTIVAL IS RENOWNED FOR ITS INTRICATE AND ELABORATELY STYLED MASKS.

AS PART OF OUR CELEBRATIONS, STUDENTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN A WHOLE-SCHOOL CARNEVALE PARADE. ALL STUDENTS WILL CREATE A MASK DURING THEIR SCHEDULED ART CLASSES AND WEAR THEIR INDIVIDUAL MASK DURING THE PARADE.

DUE TO CURRENT RESTRICTIONS, THE PARADE WILL BE FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ONLY. HOWEVER, THE PARADE WILL BE FILMED AND SHARED WITH FAMILIES VIA COMPASS.

Northcote District Swimming Carnival

On the 23rd of February, 24 young athletes set off to the Northcote Aquatic centre for the Northcote District Swimming Carnival. In the first District event in over a year it was safe to say the excitement was high and everyone was very happy to be there. The students at represented Bell amazingly with all students giving it 110%. I was extremely proud of all the students efforts and how supportive they were with each other and the students from the other schools.

There were some fantastic results on the day including four of our students moving on to the Divisional Carnival that was held on the 1st of March, where again they represented Bell with pride. Both David and I are very excited to see swimming at Bell grow with the

introduction of our own year 3-6 swimming carnival later in the year.

Finally, congratulations to all the students who represented Bell, also a special thank you to Dimi for her help on the day and Leadership for their support getting sport back up and running.



The *National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence* (NDA) is on <u>Friday 19 March 2021</u>. Bell Primary is a NDA School and will stand united against bullying and violence with school communities across the nation. The NDA gives schools the chance to take action and empower young people to be part of the solution when addressing bullying in their school community.

It provides an opportunity to focus on bullying prevention and the big changes we can make to create safer communities for everyone. As a school we will be implementing student-led activities in bullying prevention and to promote student wellbeing.



On Monday 15 March we are celebrating Harmony Day at Bell PS. Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Students will be having conversations in their classrooms about celebrating our differences and how these topics fit in with our school values. Please show your support by wearing something orange at school to acknowledge everyone belonging (for example a hair ribbon, t-shirt, or socks etc!)

For the Community:





NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL ACE PROGRAM

Information for Grade 6 parents who may wish to apply for the Year 7 ACE Program at Northcote HS for 2022:

8 Feb 2021: Applications open for Year 7 2022 ACE program

• 23 April 2021: Applications close at 4pm

• 8 May 2021: ACE Testing Day onsite at NHS commencing at 9am

All details are on the Northcote High School website: https://www.nhs.vic.edu.au/enrol/apply-ace-program/

Funkey Glee Club @ Bell Primary School!



Tuesday afternoons – 3.00pm – 4.30pm \$15.50 per child, \$9.50 for siblings – payable per term Get in touch with Rachel on 0417 008 074 or rachel.chetcuti@heydeeho.com.au

