DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday 12th December  School Council
Monday 16th December  Hairdresser Visit (Alex)
Friday 20th December  Last Day of Term 4
* (Early Departure) 1.30pm

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Joan’s Retirement Party

Last Thursday evening, we celebrated Joan’s retirement with a function held at the school. There were nearly 90 guests here, including parents, staff, past School Councillors colleagues from school networks and from Joan’s previous schools.

School Council and parents contributed towards Joan’s gift, an iPad, something she will find useful in her retirement.

For those unable to attend last week, below is a synopsis of one of the speeches at her presentation:

The experience and talents developed along Joan’s career path leading to Belmore were at such an outstanding level that her appointment here was well justified, as evidenced by her achievements on behalf of Belmore and its’ students over the last fifteen years.

Joan has brought to Belmore her incredible energy and passion for supporting students with disabilities. She has been at the forefront of special educators who have instigated the changing attitudes of the education and wider community from a practice of working and nurturing and caring for students with complex disabilities to one where we know that all students can learn and achieve educational outcomes - while they are still being nurtured and cared for in a supportive school environment.

It has been a common occurrence for Joan to arrive on a Monday, fresh from a weekend working physically in the vineyard, and step straight into educational leadership mode as she negotiates at a high level with organisations such as DEECD for an initiative which will improve the education of her students, whether it be for improved facilities, funding for equipment, or taking on board initiatives which provide professional opportunities for staff to implement new programs or adapt current practices for their students.

Her work with PASS [the Principals’ Association], the local network of schools and disability support organisations has always been to advocate for Belmore students and their families, as well as to benefit students with disabilities in general.

Joan’s involvement with students and wish to support class programs meant that she would often
Jan Welsh

Ali and Marcia say...

Hi Everyone,

Just a reminder, as we head into Summer to remember to be Sun Smart. With some of our first days of December already over 30 degrees, the UV levels are very high (including when it’s cloudy) and we are all aware of the dangers of the harsh Australian sun.

We encourage our school parents to ensure their child’s school hat is broad brim to provide the best coverage and don’t forget the sunscreen.

Stay Happy and Healthy! Ali & Marcia
This morning the following students received awards for making outstanding progress in particular areas of their curriculum development as indicated by the list below

**Junior Student Achievement Awards**

Jed Shelley, Junior Boy
Elizabeth Man Tuang, Junior Girl
Henry Wallwork, Communication
Leila Elhan, Intensive Interaction
Molly Carter, Literacy
Jackson Ingall, Visual Arts
Hannah Galhenage, Hydrotherapy
Natham Appleby, Physical Education
Zoe Innocenzi, Conductive Education

**Senior Student Achievement Awards**

Stephanie Avil, Music
Max Petruccelli, Communication
Oliver Doughty, Conductive Education
Aidan Havekotte, Communication
Ben Fazzino, Intensive Interaction
Rebecca Agisilaou, Technology
Eliza Robbins-Brown, Literacy
Joshua Lenowry, Life Skills

Students, staff and parents are so proud of these outstanding efforts in 2013. Congratulations to the recipients for exceeding the challenges set in their learning programs.

Carol and Hannah recently borrowed the Hippocampe ‘Beach Buggy’. Its manoeuvrability meant that Hannah was able to experience different terrain and an unusual experience.

“It was fun and easy to use giving Hannah the freedom of movement that you can’t get with a wheelchair. Hannah really enjoyed her time in the Beach Buggy especially the faster movement and the sandy terrain on which we went.

Next time you are planning to head outdoors find out if the Beach Buggy is available to borrow. I recommend it.”

Carol G.

*The Hippocampe Beach Buggy will be available again in the New Year. If you would like to borrow this or any other equipment please speak to your Classroom Teacher or Therapist ASAP.*
Room 7 students and staff visited the Melbourne Zoo on November 29th.

This Adventure is part of their Bridge Award commitment. Students were involved in the planning and organisation of the event.

We had discussions about the animals which we would visit, looking for the animal pictures and marking them on the location map.

We had walked for 2 hours looking for the different animals, such as lions, elephants, orang-utans, giraffes, zebras and kangaroos.
Room 7 students have food preparation on Wednesday. Everyone is encouraged to feel, smell and taste the ingredients of the recipe before the cooking process. Students follow the OH&S procedure by washing hands and putting on their apron. Following the recipe, students collect all the necessary cooking utensils. They will measure all the ingredients carefully before any mixing, stirring and slicing process.

Students get to taste their own cooking or they can take them home to share with their family members.
GRAND OPENING OF THE MODIFIED INDEPENDENT TOILETS at Belmore School

Thanks to Carli Subel our dynamic Occupational Therapist the Independent toilets at Belmore School are now fitted with Automatic soap dispenser and easy pull paper towels.
Here’s what the students had to say about...
“Now the paper towel roll doesn’t get put into the dispenser the wrong way. Thanks Carli!” Taylor Murphy
“I like the new soap because you just put your hand under it and it squirts out.” Hannah Goldsmith
“I liked how the room has been painted because it looks new” Jackson Inggall
“Thank you Carli for putting in the soap and the paper. It is great” Molly Carter
“The new independent bathroom enables us to be more independent and do more things for ourselves. Thank you very much Carli!” Angela Motherwell
“Thank you very much for all the work you did to make the independent bathroom independent!” Blake Corby
“I like the new toilet.” Elizabeth Man Tuang

Carli opens the new Independent toilet
HOLIDAY SPEECH AND LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES!

The Christmas and summer holidays are coming soon! Holidays provide a great opportunity to work on vocabulary and language development with children.

Here are some language activity ideas that you may find helpful:

**Talk about events or trips in advance.** Make a simple calendar to help your child understand when you are going. Talk about who they might see, what they might do. Find books or pictures that are related to the event. Use pictures or objects to help your child understand what you say. For example, if you’re going to the zoo, you could read a book such as ‘Dear Zoo’. Look at pictures of zoo animals and sing animal themed songs!

**Include your child in everyday activities where possible** (eg washing, setting the table, putting up decorations, putting away shopping). For example,

- **Groceries** - label each object being unpacked. Talk briefly about what the item is used for, how it tastes, feels, smells
- **Setting the table**—label the cutleries being placed on the table, talk about what it is used for
- **Washing**—Talk about the process (ie first put the clothes in, then turn on the machine)

**Take lots of pictures of the day and talk about them!**

**Use the following strategies below to help your child understand what you say:**

---

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** and **HAPPY NEW YEAR** to everyone!

From the Yooralla team

---

THERAPEUTIC CORNER

Will you need Equipment for home during school holidays?

If you require any of your child's school equipment to be sent home for the school break, please inform your therapist or classroom teacher as soon as possible.

It is not always possible to have equipment sent home on the bus on the last day of term.

Thanks.

Please let your therapist or classroom teacher know by Friday 13th December if you would like equipment to come home for the holidays.

SWEP Communique for Christmas and New Year Break

The State-wide Equipment Program (SWEP) will be closed over the Christmas period from COB on Tuesday, 24 December until 8.30 a.m. on Thursday, 2 January, 2014.

An emergency breakdown service will be available during this period, by phoning SWEP on 1300 747 937 and selecting the ‘press 2’ option. If your query is not urgent, you can leave a message on our message bank by selecting the ‘press 1’ option and we will call you back when we return.

We wish you all a safe and happy festive season.

Warmest regards and best wishes,

SWEP Management and Staff

Belmore School
Stroud Street
Balwyn Vic 3103
Tel: (03) 9859 8762
Fax: (03) 9819 7591
belmore.sch@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.belmoresc.vic.edu.au

11/12/2013