DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday 20th December School Disco
Friday 21st December End Term 4, Buses Depart 1.30pm

Thursday 31st January 1st Day Term 1 2013
Monday 4th February Hairdresser Visit
Monday 11th March Labour Day Public Holiday
Thursday 28th March Last Day Term 1
Monday 15th April Term 2 Begins
Thursday 25th April Anzac Day Public Holiday
Monday 6th May Pupil Free Day
Monday 10th June Queen’s Birthday Public Holiday
Friday 28th June Term 2 Ends
Monday 15th July Term 3 Begins
Wednesday 24th July Reporting Day Parent/Teacher Meetings
(Please plan to come to a meeting on this day. Pupil Free Day)

Friday 20th September Term 3 Ends
Monday 7th October Term 4 Begins
Tuesday 5th November Melbourne Cup Day Public Holiday
Friday 20th December Term 4 Ends

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Please Note:
Date change for Pupil Free Day in Term 2
Now Monday 6th May

Last week we advised you that this Pupil Free Day would be on Wednesday 8th May.

Reminder
The last day of the school year school will finish early and buses will be loading at 1:30pm. Please ensure that you have made arrangements to receive your children at home, or collect from school 1½ hours earlier on Friday 21st December.
FROM THE PRINCIPALS’ DESK...

Last day of school year
The last day of school is this Friday 21st December. Buses will load earlier at 1.30pm. Please expect your children home approximately one and a half hours earlier on their run.
I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and holiday break. Thanks very much to all those people who have dropped into the office and acknowledged the efforts of the staff. Your wishes are reciprocated.
It has been my pleasure to help to create a safe and happy atmosphere and a rich educational environment for Belmore students.

Reports
As you may have heard in the media, there has been a union ban on teachers preparing reports with comments. However, all teachers at Belmore have prepared reports with very extensive comments, because they believe that comments are essential for parents to understand their child’s progress. This has involved each teacher in at least 20 hours of unpaid work outside their normal school hours. I salute them. It has been a difficult decision for many teachers. School Council has asked me to thank teachers for their dedication to the Belmore Community.

Please return the survey about the new report format. The new format represent a big change and we want to know how you feel about it.

Union Bans
The Australian Education Union has also recommended ongoing industrial action next year. I would like to flag some of the potential action for 2013 and the possible bans on school activities. This will affect: Camps, Concerts, Family nights, Information Nights. Teachers will be asked to work a 38 hour week. A proposed Strike day on 14th February. I will keep you informed.

Curriculum Day Change
Please note that the pupil free curriculum day previously advertised on Wednesday, May 8th has been changed to Monday 6th May. The change was made at the request of the presenter. You will see the full schedule in the diary dates on page 1.

Belmore School Yearbook
We are very proud to send home the Belmore 2012 School Yearbook. Congratulations to Nick on your editing design and all the staff who have contributed. I think you will agree that the yearbook does a great job in celebrating the work and achievements of Belmore Students.

Farewells
We are very sad to say goodbye to Sarah Kidson, Christina Williams, Fleur Squires and Tsering Sherpa. These people have all been wonderful staff members. We wish them well in the future.

Joan Anson

Christmas Wishes
Like most of you, I suppose, it seems that the school year has flown.
So many things, happy, sad and exciting have happened this year, but along the way all of our students have worked so very hard to maintain and learn new skills.
I’d like to thank families whose child goes to respite for promptly providing me with dates so that we can arrange for bus transport where possible; and to all who have accepted changes in runs and times when that has been necessary. I hope to get the new letters for 2013 to you all tomorrow, as usual there have been last minute adjustments to some runs.
We are all so proud of our students’ achievements, and it is very joyous at present being serenaded by a group of students singing Jingle Bells!!

My best wishes to all for a wonderful, safe holiday season.

Jan Welsh
FROM THE CLASSROOM...

Music Therapy has been an exciting place for the students to explore sound, communication, expression and movement as well as learning skills for social situations.

With some new instruments and some old favourites the Music Therapy Room has been resounding with a tremendous amount of sound each week!

Room 5 and 8 both worked hard to prepare items for the 2012 Awards Morning which were fantastically received last Tuesday morning in front of a large crowd of friends and family.

Well done to all the students and staff involved.

At the start of November a very excited group of students and staff went to hear the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

We travelled in the bus and had a backstage tour of the ABC Centre while entering the auditorium as the foyer was closed, this meant we got to meet some of the orchestra and see where they hang out before the concert.

The concert was narrated by Noni Hazlehurst and showcased the different sections of the orchestra through the story of Maximus Musicus; a mouse who fell asleep in a concert hall.

Students particularly enjoyed hearing the different sounds, dancing and marching with the orchestra and exploring the ABC Centre.

A big thankyou to all the staff who assisted with this trip, we are looking forward to doing more musical excursions next year!

Megan Spragg, RMT, Belmore School
Merry Christmas and a festive season to all from the Yooralla Staff here at Belmore. We say good bye to Sarah Kidson, OT this year and welcome back Leah Picking, OT in 2013

Viv Kostoglou
Yooralla
Manager Balwyn School Services
Belmore School

Hi all! Just a quick note to let you know that my OT position at Belmore will be coming to an end at the end of January. It's been short but sweet and I've enjoyed working with you and all of your little treasures! Thank you for your support and I wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year. I look forward to the possibility of crossing paths with you in the future! Cya!
Sarah

STOP PRESS

Siblings in Sync was recently awarded the Arts Access Victoria Disability Access Award. The project has also been successfully vetted by Victoria Arts Councils and was recently promoted at the Melbourne Fringe Festival. The project is run by two registered Music Therapists and aims to provide an opportunity for children to express themselves and communicate through music and movement. The project is funded through the Arts Access Victoria Disability Arts Fund and will provide five sessions to the children. All children in attendance will have their own music and voice teachers. Participants will have the opportunity to:

• Create music together
• Use music technology (Including the special needs of participants)

The Art of Portraiture: A beginner’s guide to painting. The course will be taught by Melbourne artist, Emma Watts. The course will run for six weeks and will be held in the gallery's air-conditioned studio. The course will cover basic techniques and will include an introduction to colour theory, shading, and composition. The course will be held on Thursday nights from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. The course is open to all levels of experience and is suitable for beginners. The course is limited to 10 participants. To book, please contact the gallery on 9654 4444 or email info@gallery.com.au.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK, CALL
03/9654 4444 OR EMAIL info@gallery.com.au

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THE ART OF PORTRAITURE
A BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO PAINTING

AGES 3–15

DIMENSIONS 30X40CM

TUESDAY 15 JANUARY AND THURSDAY 17 JANUARY

REGISTRATION NOW CLOSED

AS PLACES ARE LIMITED

Thank you to the generous donors who support the Siblings in Sync Program:

• Betty Amden OAM
• Max Bond
• Barbara Higgins

For more information or to book, phone
(03) 9654 4444, or email
Program@gallery.com.au
Tips for booking wheelchair accessible taxis on Christmas Day

The information below has been placed onto the Victorian Taxi Directorate (VTD) website.

Booking a wheelchair accessible taxi (WAT) on Christmas Day – tips on making a booking

Christmas Day is a busy day for taxis and particularly wheelchair accessible taxis (WATs).

To help you to book a WAT on Christmas Day the VTD has been in contact with both Silvertop Taxis and 13CABs. Their arrangements for booking a WAT in Metropolitan Melbourne on Christmas Day are below. Other tips on booking and using a WAT on Christmas Day is also provided.

**Silvertop Taxis.**
Christmas Day Bookings for WATs open on 3 December and close on 22 December.
When bookings close passengers are still able to call on Christmas Day and book for ‘the next available WAT’.
The number for booking a WAT at Silvertop Taxis is: 84137202

**13CABs**
Christmas Day bookings are now open. Depending on demand bookings for Christmas Day may close in the week before.
If bookings do close customers will be encouraged to ring on the day to request a booking and will be advised of any delays at the time.
The number for booking a WAT at 13CABs is: 136294

Both companies will take bookings for the outward and the return trip (if applicable).
If a booking can’t be covered on Christmas Day by Silvertop Taxis or 13CABs they have an arrangement in place to work with each other to cover the booking as quickly as possible.

Additional tips:
Can you be flexible?
While there are more WATs available in Melbourne than ever before Silvertop and 13CABs inform us that passengers can expect delays on Christmas Day.
There is peak demand between 11.00 – 3.00. Where possible consider varying your booking to a time outside of this peak period.

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**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**
**CONTACT IRABINA ON**
(03) 9720 1118 / autism@irabina.com

Payment is required prior to attending workshop.
Cancellation notice of less than 48 hours prior to the event – NO refund
Professional Development $50.00
External families $30.00
Irabina families $10.00

Ways to Register: Phone: (03) 9720 1118 / Fax: (03) 9720 6641
fill in workshop registration form, If you do not have a registration form please contact Irabina and we will forward one to you

**EDUCATION PROGRAM**

2013 January – June
Irabina Childhood Autism Services
193 Bayswater Rd. Bayswater Vic. 3153 / www.irabina.com

For course outlines and details go to www.irabina.com
LAST MINUTE NEWS

Nurse Ali Says...

Allergic reactions, occasional lice. Contusions and bruises and falls that need ice. I love being your nurse and I love all this “stuff”, but by Christmas vacation we’ve all had enough. Enjoy Christmas break, wipe your virus slate clear, and we’ll all start anew when we come back next year! Merry Christmas to you all and stay healthy, happy and safe.

Ps. Don’t forget to get the medical forms filled in for the start of next year. Thankyou.

Keep happy and healthy, Ali

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We Can Be There

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