The Belmore News

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday 5th February - Meet the Principal evening
Thursday 6th February - Meet the Principal morning
Thursday 13th February - School Council
Friday 28th February - Dr Reddihough Clinic
Thursday 13th March - School Council AGM
Monday 17th March—Hairdresser Visit
Friday 4th April - Last day Term 1 (2.30pm finish)
Tuesday 22nd April - First Day of Term 2

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Documents sent home at the end of 2013 must be completed and returned asap:
• Student Information Full Details
• Medical Details
• Medical Plans
• Hydro Therapy Form
• Yooralla Form
• Local Excursion Form/ Parent Directory
• EMA application form (if applicable)
Welcome to the first Belmore News for 2014. This is an important means of connecting with our school community – particularly the parents and carers of our students. Please take the time to read the newsletter and take note of the important information or dates included, reflect on the wonderful programs or activities outlined or take pride in the achievements of our students which are highlighted.

Our students were all happy to return to school, refreshed and ready to learn after their five week Christmas holiday break. The first week has been spent settling the students into their new classes, supporting them get to know their teachers, assistants and class mates and introducing them into new programs. The therapy team have been extremely supportive of this process, ensuring that all students have the correct equipment to best assist them in their classrooms and programs.

The Belmore School staff have been very welcoming and supportive of me as the sole new staff member to the school. I would particularly like to acknowledge Jan, Lynda and Cassie who have been very generous with their time and knowledge to induct me into the Belmore way. I am delighted to be here at Belmore and can already appreciate the strong school culture which exists throughout the school. My goal as principal is to build on this culture, ensuring that student learning is a priority and consequently programs are developed to supplement and build upon the individual ability of each student.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Darcy to Belmore School. Darcy has transferred from Monash SDS and has settled into Room 3 with Connie, Ai May and Jess very nicely. If a beaming smile is any indication Darcy is delighted to be at our school.
Meet the Principal Sessions
The first of these meetings will be held tonight and I look forward to the opportunity to meet the parents/carers of our students and present our initial plans for the 2014 school year. This meeting will be duplicated on Thursday at 11.00am. Even if you have not sent back your reply slip please feel free to attend if you are able.

SSG Meetings
You will have already received information regarding our first Student Support Group (SSG) meetings for the year. We greatly value the partnership between school and home and it is extremely important that you attend these meetings for us to work together to finalise your child’s specific goals for the year. These goals will then be incorporated into your child’s individual learning plan which underpins the teaching and learning focus for the year. Jan or I will be participating in these meeting along with a representative from the therapy team to ensure we are all aware of and have input into fine-tuning the goals and priorities for each student.

If my first two weeks at Belmore School are any indication I know that I have been given the responsibility to lead a wonderful school with a strong culture which has student learning at the forefront of all decision making. I look forward to working with the entire Belmore School Community to continue to introduce new initiatives and build upon best practice in special education.

Karen Overall

Next visit by our hairdresser is
Monday 17th March
WHAT IS HAPPENING?

News from Room 1

Room 1 students are

Eliza, Jake, Joshua, Josh, Max, Megan, Rebecca and Zara

We enjoy our bright and spacious room, especially the access to the courtyard. Students and staff have commenced tidying the courtyard, we have swept the ground collecting the leaves and putting them into big baskets. Some of us watered the garden beds. Everyone is involved and enjoys this outdoor activity.

We are adjusting into our 2014 classroom routine, beside the usual programs such as art, music, hydrotherapy, food preparation with Kelly (our occupational therapist), gross and fine motor programs. We will have our ‘Feel, Smell and Taste’ program which we work closely with Yvonne, our speech therapist.

We welcome Julia, our physiotherapist who will join us on Mondays.

Josh swept the leaves.
Room 1 students are planning to organise and run a shop as part of our vocational program. This year we will organise herbs and soap. We look forward to having support from staff and parents.

To enhance and strengthen our senior student’s independence and sense of responsibility, each student will be assigned and taken up a role, such as Megan who will deliver the class roll to the office every Friday. Zara will deliver the Herald-Sun newspaper to Armanda in the Bay area and Josh is taking Fiona’s newspaper to her office every morning, etc.

More roles will be designated as the routine and classroom programs are all in place.

From Room 1 Team
Rose, Nick and Sam
Back to School in 2014! Be prepared for an Asthma Spike

What is the February asthma spike?
Throughout the year there are significant increases, or ‘spikes’, in asthma presentations to hospitals and emergency departments. Approximately 1 in 10 children in Australia have asthma, and for children and adolescents with asthma these ‘spikes’ usually occur towards the end of holiday periods as they return to school and preschool. A significant ‘spike’ in asthma presentations and admissions to hospital of children and adolescents, experiencing severe asthma exacerbations, occurs throughout the first few weeks of February.

Triggers that can be encountered are:
- Dust and mould spores from poorly ventilated, or insufficiently cleaned school rooms
- Respiratory viruses, such as cold and flu viruses
- Cleaning products that leave behind strong smells, aerosols or airborne dust
- Anxiety and stress due to returning to school

What can we do to avoid asthma exacerbations in our school?
- Ensure your school has a sufficient number of Asthma Emergency Kits
- Ensure that each Asthma Emergency Kits contain fresh and in-date reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin, Asmol or Alromir), spacers, record sheet and instructions detailing the emergency procedure
- Ensure student Asthma Action Plans are updated and returned to school
- Ensure staff education and training is current, arranging a free staff asthma education session as required for all new and ongoing staff
- Ensure your school’s asthma policy is current for both onsite and offsite situations, and first aid posters are displayed in key locations
- Ensure staff are aware of which students in their class have asthma, and know where Asthma Emergency Kits are stored
- Ensure all classrooms are opened, cleaned and aired out in the weeks before students return to school. A helpful technique can be to turn on all fans, as well as any heating/cooling systems, to begin to clear dust before students arrive

Why does the spike occur?
While there have not been direct links established, the February ‘asthma spike’ is believed to be largely due to children and adolescents coming into contact with asthma triggers that they have had time away from, as they are now returning to school. Forgetting to take their medication, and poor medication adherence, also places students at an increased risk of asthma attacks when exposed to triggers.
FOR IMMEDIATE PRIVATE SALE

HOLDEN COMBO FREEWHEELER, WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VAN

2004 HOLDEN XC COMBO, Conversion for wheelchair access by FLEETWORKS MOBILITY PTY LTD

- Suitable for MANUAL and ELECTRIC Wheelchairs
- Seating for one wheelchair passenger + driver and two passengers
  - Manually operated, Spring-loaded fold down rear ramp, via ‘barn doors’
  - Retractable securing seatbelts for ALL occupants
  - Sliding left hand door giving access to rear passenger seating
- Excellent visibility for driver and occupants
- 1.6 L Automatic
- Central Locking
- Remote Keyless entry, 2 sets of keys
- Air conditioning
- CD Radio
- Silver Metallic
- Full service record
- Exterior and Interior in excellent condition
- Approx. 85,000 km
- 12 Months Registration, expiry December 2014
- RWC
- Inspection Welcome
- $24,000 ono

Current owner purchased the vehicle in August 2012, with one previous owner. It is with regret, due to bereavement that the vehicle needs to find a new home. Careful ownership of both parties and low mileage are indications of near new condition.

Contact: Simon 0410 484 317 Bayside Melbourne
LAST MINUTE NEWS

Welcome back to Belmore for 2014

It was great to see all of the students arriving on their first day full of smiles and ready for the new school year.

Many of our students and staff are new to each other, but seem to be settling in really well. I guess that reflects the fact that we are a smallish school community, and all staff and students meet up during the school week, either in shared programs or at recess times.

I am putting out a request for help in some of our programs.

As you know, we have a wonderful group of volunteers who help in programs such as hydrotherapy or on excursions.

Some of the volunteers who have been dedicated supporters of Belmore students are no longer able to keep up that commitment.

If you know of anyone who would like to become a regular volunteer at Belmore, please ask them to contact me.

We are holding an induction session for new volunteers and casual staff on Thursday, February 27th, from 9:00am to 12:00pm, so would love to see some new faces.

Jan Welsh