The Belmore News

Wednesday 24th October 2012

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon 22nd—Fri 26 OT Week at Belmore School
Thursday 25th October School Photo Day
Friday 26th October NDIS Morning Disabilitea
Tuesday 30th October Pupil Free Day (replacement day)
Tuesday 6th November Melbourne Cup Day Holiday
Thursday 8th November School Council
Tuesday 13th November Parent Support Group CPSN
Thursday 15th November Graduation Dinner
Tuesday 20th November Volunteers Morning Tea
Tuesday 11th December Awards Morning
Thursday 13th December School Council
Friday 21st December End Term 4, Buses Depart 1.30pm

Please Note:
All parents/carers please sign students in and out at the office every visit.
All visitors need to sign in and out as well. It may be easier for parents to phone the office from their child’s classroom, and ask the Kim or Rebecca (office staff) to fill in the book for you. If parents are remaining or arriving at the school for a meeting, please make sure you sign in and then out. Thank you!

Nurse Ali Says...

As I walk around the classrooms at lunch time I get to see the students all sitting and enjoying their lunches.

Healthy lunches and snacks are important for children. Eating healthy food helps children concentrate and learn, grow and develop. Healthy food provides the children with the vital minerals and vitamins they require.

Foods for lunch boxes should include fruit, vegetables, dairy foods eg cheese and yoghurts, breads that are wholemeal and high in fibre. Water. Foods that are sometimes foods like doughnuts, chips, sweet biscuits, ‘oven baked’ savoury biscuits, cordials and soft drinks, are best avoided everyday, and maybe limited to special treats or once a week.

... a healthy inside is a happy outside, Ali
Pupil free day next Tuesday 30th October
On our curriculum day next Tuesday the staff will be working together to develop and implement the new ABLES assessment and learning support system.

Thickener
Some students need to have all their drinks thickened. We are reviewing use of thickener across the school. A handful of parents are meeting to talk with their speech pathologist, either Grace or Yvonne, and teacher to clarify procedures. If you have any concerns, please get in touch with me or your classroom teacher.

Patrick Moody- one of the best
At a glittering ceremony at Etihad Stadium, Patrick was acknowledged as one of the best three secondary special ed teachers in the state. He was nominated by other teachers at this school, and shortlisted by an independent judging panel. Congratulations Patrick! This was very well deserved. We all know that he is outstanding. A bunch of people from Belmore had fun flocking up for the occasion to support him.

Signposts
The second parent course has just been completed this year. Many thanks to Sandy for the fantastic extra work she put in to run this last course. We plan to run signposts again in 2 years time.

Manual handling training review for staff.
Liz Martin has been busy preparing a new training procedure for staff. This will be implemented at the start of next year.

OT Week
The OT’s have planned lots of activities for students and staff this week. We have had special biscuits, pancakes, treasure hunting and dressing up in purple and gold.
Thanks to Sarah and Kelly who have put this together. Our OTs make an important contribution to the integrated service for our students.

Joan Anson
Time to Shine

In August this year Belmore school students were part of a large and colourful art exhibition called "Time to Shine", held at the Northcote Town Hall. This exhibition featured artworks from many special schools from across Victoria and was organised by Heatherwood and Ashwood Schools. I would like to personally thank Samantha Gillespie and Nick Keillor (ES staff from Room 8) who helped me get Belmore students’ artworks out to Northcote Town Hall and up on the walls. Sam, Nick and I enjoyed looking at the inspirational artworks from Belmore School, other schools and meeting staff from other schools.

Belmore School’s 50th Birthday Mural

Term 3 was a busy time for all students at Belmore School – they were all involved in the whole school mural project. The mural celebrates Belmore School’s 50th Birthday (1962-2012) and is on permanent display in the play-ground court yard. Every 2012 student contributed by either creating a hand print, foot print or an individual painted design onto a ceramic tile. The tiles were then clear glazed and fired here at Belmore school, in the kiln that resides in workshop. The big unveiling of the mural was part of Belmore School’s 50th Birthday Party, held on Tuesday 22 September. Shevaun, (Room 5) did the big unveiling. The mural has added some colour to the court yard and students have had fun finding their individually hand-made tile.

Well done Belmore students!!
Australian Aboriginal Culture and Art

We have been exploring the fascinating world of Australian Aboriginal culture and art in the Visual Arts Programme. We have been looking at different styles of Aboriginal art from all over Australia; from Western Australia, Northern Territory to Queensland and Victoria. Students have had a go at the famous Aboriginal ‘dot’ painting – using fibre stems as paint brushes and dabbing acrylic paint onto black paper. We have been making circular shapes and learning that this shape is symbolic of sacred sites. We have also explored Aboriginal rock art and we have made our own hand print paintings by spraying ink over our hands. It has been a messy but rewarding time in the Visual Arts Programme.
Junior Student Award

This certificate is awarded to

Jackson I

for

Staying calm when in a very stressful situation.

Senior Student Award

This certificate is awarded to

Molly C

for

Enthusiastic engagement in ‘Intensive Interaction’
PODD Communication Books

In August this year, classroom teacher in room 1 Kim Sacks and Speech Pathologist Grace Kircher attended a great workshop at CPEC on PODD communication books. PODD stands for:

- **Pragmatic** – the ways that we use language socially
- **Organisation** – words and symbols arranged in an ordered way
- **Dynamic Display** – changing pages

OR a fancy way to explain a communication book which is organised according to communication functions and natural conversation.

The workshop ran for 2 days, where we learnt all about these communication books. PODD is a way of organising whole word and symbol vocabulary in a communication book or speech generating device—to provide modelling for learning. The aim of a PODD is to provide vocabulary (words) for communication all the time, for a range of messages, across a range of topics and in multiple environments and settings (whether that be in the playground or on the bus to school). One interesting piece of information we learnt is that PODD books are expected to be modelled for up to 1 year before the child is expected to use it themselves! So LOTS of modelling is needed all the time.

Many students at Belmore School use communication books as their main mode of communication, and some use PODD communication books. If your child is currently using a communication book, and you feel you would like some more ideas on how to use and model them, please give Grace a call at the Yooralla office on 9819 7332.

Lastly, in November this year, both Yvonne and Grace will be attending different courses in Sydney and Brisbane about Paediatric Dysphagia, or children’s swallowing disorders. We are very excited to learn more in this area and come back to school with new ideas and techniques. We look forward to sharing our new knowledge with you soon!

Thanks,
Your friendly Speech Paths:

**Grace Kircher**
(grace.kircher@yooralla.com.au)

**Yvonne Chia**
(yvonne.chia@yooralla.com.au)
The Dad to Dad Program offers fathers (and other significant male carers) of people with a disability or chronic illness the opportunity to meet other dads to develop the confidence, skills and networks they need to take an active role in the support of their son/daughter.

The focus of Dad to Dad is not on disability or illness; but the strengths and capacity of men and the whole family

Weekends
We invite fathers of people with a disability or illness to join a small group of dads on a weekend away.
This weekend includes:

- Two night’s accommodation (Friday & Saturday), most meals
- Entry to an activity or event (eg. Fishing, rock climbing, music festival or tour)
- Sharing of stories and skill building

Weekends Away Term 4 2012

Friday 2\textsuperscript{nd} November – Sunday 4\textsuperscript{th} November – Avalon Extreme 4x4 Driving
Friday 16\textsuperscript{th} November – Sunday 18\textsuperscript{th} November – Cobram Golf

If you have any queries in regards to Dad to Dad weekends or would like to register for a weekend please do not hesitate in contacting me or our Program Coordinator John Page on the above numbers.

Kind Regards

Kylie Cleever
Administration Assistant
Dad to Dad
Briefing Notes for Schools and Organisations

DATE OF PARTY – Thursday December 13, 2012
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

- The first hour of the party will be for children with disabilities ONLY. This will give the children and their carers the opportunity to come to the party and not have to wait in queues. We will again be creating a chill out room and some extra activities for wheelchair bound children.
- Children with disabilities and carers will register from 9am for entry from 10am. Everyone else will register from 10am and enter the party from 11am. Santa will arrive at around 11.15 so if some children have had enough they can collect their gifts and leave. Everyone is welcome to stay at the party which will conclude at 1.30pm. Registration and Entry doors will close at 12.30.
- This year there will be completely separate entrances for each timing.
- Groups entering via the loading DOCK please note that entry time prior to 10am is for special schools only.

SECURITY
- Last year we had trouble with teenagers coming without parents/guardians. Parents/guardians must be over the age of 18 if they are bringing teenagers. This was an issue because they brought children that were not registered. Please inform your members that security will be tight this year and bad behaviour/violence will not be tolerated.

ATTENDEES
- Schools/Organisations can only nominate a maximum of 100 children.
- As this is a children’s party we cannot cater for whole family groups such as grandparents, aunts, uncles etc. Carers: Please try to keep the numbers of carers to a minimum eg 1 child to 1 carer per family unless the child is severely disabled and requires the help of more than one adult which we understand.
- Translators Please indicate in advance if you think your organisation will require a translator or if your organisation has a translator that can assist on the day.
- Children must be in attendance to receive gifts. Unborn children cannot receive gifts.
- The party is for the children, not the carers. Please do not send carers without children as they cannot attend the party or collect gifts without the children.
- Age groups this year will be from 1 day old to 13 years. This is actual age.
- No child over the age of 13 can attend the party even if their intellectual age is less than 13.
Response Form

- In your envelope there is a sample of the response form. Each form must have all sections completed. If you need assistance filling in the form please contact the office on (03) 8698 3900 to be walked through how to complete it. Incomplete forms will not be accepted and will be returned. There are a number of formulas used to assist with the nomination sheet, please complete as directed and do not modify.

Correct information is very important
- School/Organisation name – As some organisations have multiple offices please state suburb or department ie Angicare Broadmeadows if you are unsure please contact us.
- Contact name & number – must be the person who will be dealing with the registration and who will also be available by phone on the day of the party should any problems arise.
- Contact Email – All response forms will be sent via email and they must be returned via email, they will not be accepted by fax.
- Transport Type if coming as a group via the loading dock Very Important
- Surname/First name, we do understand due to protective reasons you may not be able to provide the child’s whole name but we do request either a whole first name then a letter from their last name or vice versa.
- Age / Intellectual Age – This refers to the gift the child will receive. Example a child aged 12 with an intellectual age of 7 will receive a 7 year old present. It is best to seek advice from parents.
- There is now a drop box on the form to select the child’s gender.
- Number of Carers a numeric ‘1’ must be placed in this column, if one carer is looking after 5 children you do not have to place their name in 5 times or a number one each time as this will throw the total out. Each carer’s name must be listed.
- Wheelchair – numeric response required.
- NO photo - if a child cannot be photographed for protective or other reasons, you need to mark it in the appropriate column. When they register they will be given a sticker to inform our photographer that they are not to be photographed.
- Age Group Summary (right hand side of sheet) – New for 2012 there is now a formula to calculate this for us.

The response forms will be sent out to you tomorrow. The Bike presentation forms will be sent out shortly so please make sure that the right forms are returned by the right date.

Once you send the response form back you should receive an automatic response to confirm your email has been received. If you do not receive this within 24 hours, first check your Junk email, then contact the Variety office to confirm if your nomination has been received. You will be advised within a week if your nomination has been accepted or rejected.

Present area The present area will be set up at one end of the building for children to collect their presents on leaving the party. MOST IMPORTANT ONCE A CHILD HAS RECEIVED THEIR PRESENT THEY CAN NOT RE-ENTER THE PARTY. Please note there are no pass outs from the party.

As you all know Variety’s Charter is to support children who are either disabled (physically or intellectually) or disadvantaged (Financially or socially) and we do this in many ways including the Christmas party and Bike Presentations

Please do not forward your Invitation email to external parties as you cannot register for the party if you are not registered with Variety. If you know of another school or organisation that may be interested please contact the Variety office.

Only 1 nomination form per School/Organisation, you can add or amend this list and resend. When doing so please advise that you are sending an amendment through.

We hope to make the 2012 Variety Children’s Christmas Party a happy and successful event and this can only be done with your assistance
AGOSCI is pleased to announce the 2013 AGOSCI Conference Scholarship Program

Funded by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) and AGOSCI Inc.

Closing date for applications: 24 December 2012

What is the scholarship for?
This scholarship is to enable individuals to increase their knowledge, understanding and/or skills in the area of complex communication needs by attending the AGOSCI 2013 National Conference.

Who can apply?
1. People with complex communication needs
   Parents/guardians of a person with complex communication needs
Priority will be given to applicants who have:
   • raised awareness or advocated on behalf of people with complex communication needs (e.g. support groups, government liaison);
   • not previously received AGOSCI scholarships or grants.

What expenses can the scholarship cover?
Due to reduced available funds, the 2013 scholarships will cover conference registration only. No pre-conference workshops, social event or any other expenses can be covered.

How do I apply?
For further information and application forms please see the AGOSCI website http://www.agosci.org.au/conf2013/scholarshipinfo.htm.

We hope to see you at the conference.

Diane Symons
on behalf of the AGOSCI scholarship committee
agoscitas@agosci.org.au