**The Belmore News**

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **Wednesday 29th June**
  - Hairdresser’s visit
- **Friday 1st July**
  - “Tracky Dacks” Day
  - Friends of Belmore
- **Thursday 30th June**
  - FOB craft morning
- **Friday 1st July**
  - End of Term 2,
  - Students home early
- **Monday 18th July**
  - Therapy Corner
- **Wednesday 27th July**
  - Notice Board
  - Term 3 commences
  - Pupil Free Day
  (Reporting/Meetings)
- **Sunday 9th October**
  - Bunnings Barbeque

**Thursday 16th June 2011**

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**Friday 1st July is “Tracky Dack Day”**

Staff and students can participate in this fundraiser by wearing ‘tracky dacks’ on 1st July to promote awareness of kids battling illness and injuries in hospital.

A gold coin donation, and all money raised will go to TLC for Kids, a national charity that provide emergency distractions to nurture emotional well-being of kids undergoing medical treatment.

*For further information parents can go to [www.tlcforkids.org.au](http://www.tlcforkids.org.au).*

Why Trackies? Because 1.8million kids undergo treatment in hospitals each year, in hospital the kids are encouraged to change out of their pyjamas to keep a healthy mindset.

Trackies represent recovery. Thanks for your support.
FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK......

Very small article this week!
Today is our BER Special Ceremony Day and the entire school is very busy.
A special BER edition of the newsletter will be produced next, with photo’s and articles.

Attention and activity profiles in children with different developmental disabilities

This project is being conducted by Ms Nerelie Freeman, school psychologist and Ph.D student, at Monash University.
All primary families should have received information about this study in the mail this week. We encourage you to consider participating in this important study, which is examining how attention and activity levels differ across children with different diagnoses.
The study will involve your child’s teacher completing some rating scales about your child. In some cases it may also involve a cognitive (IQ) assessment with your child.
A reply paid envelope is included with the consent form. Please mail this form back to the University if you are interested in participating. No stamp is required.
If you have any questions about the study, you can call Nerelie on 9594-1301 or email her at nerelie.freeman@monash.edu.
I would encourage you to participate in this research. It will add to the body of information regarding the most appropriate teaching strategies for our students.

Joan Anson
Collingwood Children's Farm

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Room 7

Exercising
Laughing
Gardening
Reading
Art
Sensory Stories
Cooking
Relaxing
Walking
Dancing with Howard
Standing
WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Senator Chris Evans  
Leader of the Government in the Senate  
Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs  
and Workplace Relations

TO THE COMMUNITY OF BELMORE SCHOOL

On behalf of the Australian Government, I would like to congratulate Belmore School on the opening of the multipurpose facility, built under the Building the Education Revolution (BER) program.

I regret I cannot be with you today. I look forward to seeing first-hand the great benefits that this much-needed revitalisation will bring.

It has been a busy time for your school and the education sector in Australia as we see the BER, a critical component of the Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan, deliver new infrastructure and resources to meet the needs of 21st Century learning, while supporting Australian jobs.

Whether a project involves the refurbishment of a classroom, the construction of a covered outdoor learning area or a new library or science centre, each is a valuable addition to a school's learning environment and to the quality of the education Australia provides.

I would like to acknowledge the work and effort that your school has invested. I believe this effort and the wider Education Revolution that we are all working on together will benefit the school and broader communities for many years to come.

I extend my gratitude to the staff at Belmore School for constantly meeting the demands that are placed upon you in nurturing your students.

The Australian Government is committed to working with schools to ensure that students have the opportunity to achieve to the very best of their ability.

Yours sincerely

CHRIS EVANS
16 June 2011
Art Craft morning tea

I have a cupboard full of beautiful sample fabrics that I want to turn into shapes, strips & pieces for Sandy to use with our children at Belmore.

So bring your good scissors and come along to:
16 Eram Rd, Box Hill North, 3129.
10 am onwards, Thursday 30/06/11.
p.s. you are most welcome without your scissors!

Karen Jeffery
9898 1019 or 0432 325080,
kazjef@optusnet.com.au

The Bunnings Box Hill Sausage Sizzle is happening on Sunday the 9th of October and we need volunteers to man the stall and talk to local retailers for supplies.

If anyone is interested in helping out please contact Andrew: 0434 729 338 or 98981019
belmorebbq@gmail.com
Announcing changes within the Therapy Team

Congratulations Leah Picking, OT on her locum appointment as Yooralla’s Clinical Advisor, for 10 weeks commencing July 1st.

Dikla Baram will be filling the locum in her absence.

Unfortunately Marie Claire Ryan will be staying with Yooralla’s Early Childhood Services till the end of the year.

Alisha Mann who was replacing Marie Claire during the first 2 terms has resigned.

Supporting the social participation of families who have a child with a severe physical disability

What activities do parents and families with a child with a severe physical disability, do to relax, socialise or to enjoy family life together?

Here is an opportunity for 30 parents to give their views on how they and their families socialise and participate in recreation and leisure activities. We hope to learn about what families need and want so that appropriate services may be planned.

If you are the parent (or primary caregiver) of a young person aged 10-18 years with a severe physical disability, we invite you to talk to us in a confidential interview (approximately 75 minutes). A ‘severe disability’ means your child uses wheeled mobility and requires assistance to perform all daily activities. We hope to interview parents as soon as possible at a time and place convenient to you.

For more information contact Dr Christine Imms at La Trobe University on telephone: 9479 5667 or c.imms@latrobe.edu.au
Cassie Kenyon (Speech Therapist) attended the AGOSCI conference in Adelaide from 11th to 14th May. The focus of the conference was “Taking It to the Streets”, and it was designed to increase understanding and awareness of persons with complex communication needs and their use of alternative and augmentative communication (AAC).

There were a number of interesting presentations but one I thought was particularly relevant to some of the students at Belmore School. The presentation was given by Gayle Porter from CPEC in Melbourne and was called “Developing Habits for Autonomous Communication”. Gayle said that unless a person is literate and able to type the words they want to say, they are reliant on others to choose the vocabulary they can use and they are therefore not truly autonomous. She gave us a great example of the implications of this. We were shown a picture similar to this one:

We were asked to think of the one word we would use to describe the photo. (Please do this now).
Six options were then given to us and we had to choose one. They might have been: pretty, talented, weird, singer, cool and bad. Gayle then asked how many of us were able to select the exact word we first thought of, how many chose a different word with a similar meaning, how many chose a word with a different meaning but which we still thought applied to the picture and how many of us chose not to put our hands up at all. It was interesting to see that the majority of us could not indicate the one word we had thought of and most of us choose a word with a completely different meaning. The implications of this are very real for most of the AAC users at Belmore.

Gayle used this example to stress that it is our responsibility as therapists, teachers and parents to make sure we do everything we can to make sure the words the student wants to use are available to them. She even said that the choices adults make can have implications for social skills for students. For example if all students of a certain age are saying everything is “awesome” and an AAC user does not have access to this word, it may affect their social group acceptance. I felt this highlighted the importance of the words we all select to be on AAC systems and the need to include the students in the selection of vocabulary wherever possible.
Tell us what you think

We are investigating “Universal Access” in the City of Melbourne. Universal Access is how easy it is for all people to get around and access activities, businesses and day-to-day life within the Melbourne metro area. We would like to talk to people who sometimes have access issues—maybe due to mobility or sensory impairments in order to find out what are the barriers to access for you. This information will be confidential.

If you would like to find out more about having your say then please contact us

We will come and talk with you for about an hour

For More information, please contact Rachael McDonald rachael.mcdonald@monash.edu or 99024473 or Nikos Thomacos Nikos.thomacos@monash.edu 990 44873

We are from the Occupational Therapy Department at Monash University
NOTICE BOARD

HOPECITY MISSION

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

Movie Theme

TRIVIA NIGHT & Silent Auction

$20 per head

* Tables of 10
* Prizes for best decorated movie themed table!

51 Lusher Road, CROYDON
24TH JUNE 2011
7.15 PM SHARP!
BOOK TODAY
PHONE 9761 6778

* BYO drinks and nibbles
* Hot & Cold drinks on sale
Belmore School Fundraising

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

We need people willing to distribute and collect fundraising tins to shops in your local area. There is not much time involved in this. It would simply mean collecting the tin from school, leaving with shops in your area and then calling in every month or so to monitor whether the tin needs to be changed over.

Remember this is for our kids!!!!!!!!

Please contact Wendy or Kim at the school office on 9859 8762 to arrange a time to pick up the collection tins.