FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S DESK......

Teachers and therapists have been engaged in a wide variety of Professional Learning this week.

On Monday and Tuesday, a small team participated in training for Signposts facilitators. Our first programs for parents will commence early in Term 2, so please let Joan know if you are interested in following this exciting approach to children’s behaviour.

On Wednesday, the student free day, there was a wide range of learning activities happening at Belmore. Teachers and therapists had an external trainer here to teach us about Accelerus, our new data based program that we will begin using to set student goals, assess progress and use for reporting. Judging by the buzz and questions asked everybody is excited about introducing this technology; by the end of this year, all of our student goals and reports will be in the new format.

Advanced practitioner training in Intensive Interaction is being offered at Belmore for some of our staff, and staff from other special schools. As most of you know, I.I. is part of the raft of communication strategies used for our students, and has given wonderful opportunities for students who don’t communicate formally to have their communication style recognised and acted upon.

This week, we say farewell to Peng [currently the teacher in Room 2] for a couple of years as she embarks on a new phase of her teaching career overseas. Peng has brought a wonderful wealth of expertise to her teaching programs over the last 5 years, developing fantastic learning for each and every one of her students, as well as being an integral member of the teaching team with her perceptive and interested comments during teacher discussions and professional development. We wish her well, and look forward to hearing from her via email.

If you are visiting the school in this last part of the term, I hope you make time to look at all of the wonderful projects each class has completed as part of their work and learning about “Family”.

Jan Welsh
Members of the Room 3 learning community 2012 have a busy timetable. These are some our activities...

- Sensory Room
- Oral Sensory Program
- Dancing
- Horse Riding
- Literacy/morning circle
- Outside play/social skills
- Technology
THERAPY CORNER

It was great to see many parents over the past few weeks at PSG Meetings and on Family Night. This is another good opportunity to remind families that OTs are also available to assist with issues that may arise at home regarding home set-up and equipment needs. This includes access, bathroom & bedroom set-up.

If a home assessment is required, efforts are made to arrange these during the school holidays where possible so that students don’t miss classes!

Please feel free to contact your child’s OT to discuss your concerns.

Kind regards, Yooralla OTs
Kelly Dang & Sarah Kidson

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Congratulations to Michael Havekotte, who was elected School Council President and to Andrew Jeffery who was elected Vice President at the last meeting.

Many thanks to retiring members of council, John Innocenzi, Lisa Evans and Janet Dedman. John was on School Council for 2 years as a parent member. Lisa was our School Council President for 2 years and Janet has completed a 10 year stint. Janet was firstly a DEECD representative and then a community member.

Many thanks to all the wonderful members of School Council, past and present who so magnificently represent the needs of our school community.

Peng Sim Eng is ready to head off to Asia in her role as a teacher trainer for teachers of students with physical disabilities in Vietnam.

She has her hat, which Jan Welsh made and her box of resources. This box will be filled with materials and aids as donations from Belmore staff, when Peng knows what she will be requiring.

Peng is on 2 years leave from Belmore. We wish her every success in this unknown venture and look forward to her return.
Signposts Invitation

What is Signposts?
Signposts for building better behaviour is a free program to help families of children with a developmental delay or intellectual disability. It is for families/carers with children aged between 3 and 18.

Why do Signposts?
Families learn:
• positive ways of coping with difficult behaviour
• ways to encourage better behaviour
• how to teach children new skills.

How is it run?
There are a minimum of six sessions, usually run on a fortnightly basis.
We will be delivering the program through small group sessions.
All materials (booklets, video/DVD) are free of charge.
All carers of your child are encouraged to attend, without children.
Bookings are essential.

This program has limited places, to secure yours, register to participate by returning the reply slip on your invitation sent home in your child’s bag last week. Thankyou.
Free Information Session

In March CPSN will be presenting information on:

“Accessible Holidays”

This session will showcase ideas on “barrier-free” holidays and Travel. Our guest speakers are all experienced in the travel market and we will have some fantastic products to showcase that will make your holidays more enjoyable.

“Accessible Holidays”

Event Date: Thursday 22nd March 2012
Event Time: 6:30-9:00pm
Where: NSS, Level 1, 30 Union St, Northcote
RSVP by calling 03 9445 7488 or by emailing csn@cpsn.info

This session is free but we ask you to RSVP so we know how many chairs to set up—and to ensure we have enough refreshments.

All Welcome


Balwyn Cerebral Palsy Support Group

Do you have a son or daughter with Cerebral Palsy?

As a parent you have normal stresses and the unique challenges of Cerebral Palsy

Want to know more?

During the month of March the CPSN will be presenting information on

“How to take care of yourself and safely transfer and move your child

Caring for your child can involve a great deal of physical activity and this session will cover the correct ways to carry these out and how to care for yourself.

Come along learn new techniques and share your experiences with other families.

Thursday March 22nd, 2011

There will also be a presentation by Belmore School on their

Signpost Program

The session is from 12.30pm to 2.30pm
Belmore School, Stroud St, Balwyn

Please RSVP by calling 03 9445 7488 or by emailing cpsn@cpsn.info


Sun smart message- A gentle reminder

Although Term One finishes at the end of March, the need for sun protection continues until the end of April.

The sun’s ultraviolet (UV) rays are still at damaging levels. You can check the Sun Smart UV Alert daily at www.sunsmart.com.au

Five SunSmart steps during UV alert times.

Slip on cool, covering clothing that covers as much skin as possible.
Slop on SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen. Make sure you apply a generous amount and keep reapplying it throughout the day. It normally only lasts around 2 hours. Make sure to check the use by date.
Slap on a wide brimmed hat that shades the face, neck and ears (Baseball or peak caps don’t provide adequate protection).
Seek shade – try a shady tree, veranda, pergola or shade sail!
Slide on some sunglasses (if practical for your setting). They should be labelled AS 1067 so you know they are UV protected.

Continue your SunSmart habits during term one holidays.
**Siblings in Sync**

*Special Needs Access Program*

*Siblings in Sync* is a unique and innovative school holiday program for children and young people with disabilities and their siblings.

It aims to foster relationships between siblings, provide positive shared experiences, and give children the opportunity to express themselves and communicate with their sibling through creative music-making.

The sessions are run by two Registered Music Therapists and are tailored to suit the individual needs of participants within small group settings.

Participants will have the opportunity to:
- Create music together
- Use music technology (including *The Special Access Kit™*)
- Record their own music and voices
- Create their own CD

A Music Therapist will be in contact with you prior to sessions commencing to obtain relevant information in order to plan for individual needs.

All participants must be accompanied by an adult for the duration of the sessions.

**REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW AS PLACES ARE LIMITED!**

Thank you to the generous donors who support the Special Needs Access Program:
- Anonymous
- Miss Betty Amsden OAM
- Mrs Barbara Haynes

For more information or to book, phone (03) 9281 8194, or email snap@artscentremelbourne.com.au

Music Therapy is the planned and creative use of music to attain and maintain health and wellbeing. It may address physical, psychological, emotional, cognitive and social needs of individuals within a therapeutic relationship. Music Therapy is a registered allied health profession.

**STOP PRESS!**

*Siblings in Sync* was recently awarded the Arts Portfolio Leadership Award for Leadership in Disability Access.

The Arts Portfolio Awards recognise outstanding achievement amongst Victoria’s arts institutions and agencies including Arts Centre Melbourne, NGV, the State Library of Victoria, ACMI, Museum Victoria and more.

**Suitability**
- Ages 5 – 15

**Venue**
- Arts Centre Melbourne’s Digital Learning Hub

**Times**
- 11am or 1pm

**Dates**
- Tuesday 3rd and Thursday 5th April

**Duration**
- 60 mins each day

**Cost**
- $25 per family

Please note: This is a two day program. It is expected that families will attend at their chosen time on both days.

artscentremelbourne.com.au/snap
Monday 26th March is PURPLE DAY
Promoting epilepsy awareness world wide.
Students and staff are requested to wear purple
and bring a gold coin donation on this day.

Wednesday 28 March.
African Drumming
10:00 a.m.
African Drumming is fantastic for promoting listening skills and interaction. It stimulates coordination and creativity ...encourages improvisation, concentration and relaxation.

Wednesday 28th Is Hairdressing Day.
If you would like your child to have their hair cut by our visiting hairdresser Bonnie, please send payment along with a note in your child’s diary.
Haircuts are $15

Friends of Belmore
Easter Raffle
The Friends of Belmore Easter raffle is on again to raise funds for our wonderful school. There are 4 prizes to win with tickets
$2 each or 3 for $5.
Raffle will be drawn on Thursday 29 March so please return all sold tickets by Thursday morning to the office.
Additional tickets will be available from the office.