DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday 22nd November  
Volunteers Morning tea

Thursday 24th November  
Support Network Mtg

Tuesday 13th December  
Awards morning

Thursday 15th December  
School Council

Thursday 22nd December  
End Term 4

Inside this issue:
Graduation Dinner 2-3
Therapy Corner 4
Notice Board 5-7
Last Minute News 8

Graduation

What a gala event. The show was stolen by our confident young adults. Their personalities shone through.

Mark accepted everybody’s applause and then had a nap. Renee cheered at every opportunity. Steph sang her award winning song. Ibbie made his own speech, and rated a personal best in clear communication. Baruch did a lap of honour at the end of his presentation. There was lots of high spirits, and high self esteem in evidence from our young graduates.

The room 9 students need to be congratulated on the portfolios that they prepared themselves.

We wish all our graduates, and their families the very best for the future.

Joan Anson
WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Graduation 2011
WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Staff enjoying the evening
SPECTRONICS WORKSHOP

Last week we (along with several Belmore staff members) attended a two day workshop held by Spectronics. The first day consisted of information relating to AAC in the Special Education Classroom, and the second day was based on Literacy in Special Education Classrooms. Both days were very informative, and the team has lots of new ideas and strategies to use within the Belmore community.

One particular area of interest that we would like to present is the idea of ‘small talk’ within an AAC system. Small talk refers to general chit chat, greetings, farewells, and storytelling. Even general comments such as ‘Really?!, Yeah, Great! Cool!’ can make AAC users become included in various conversations. This form of communication makes up about 50% of communication each day. See below for an example of a small talk communication board.

Small talk is often the first step towards social closeness and developing relationships with others. Many AAC users use little or no small talk, which prevents them from developing such relationships.

Please feel free to talk to your Speech Therapist in regards to including such ‘small talk’ pages in your child’s communication book/device.

Modelling AAC across all settings is critical for a student to develop their skill in using AAC. Research shows that if an AAC user only has exposure to their symbol set two times a week, for 20-30 minutes each time, it will take them 84 years to have the same experience with their AAC that the typically developing child has with the spoken word at 18 months!!! (Jane Korsten, 2011)

Article by Yvonne Chia and Jenny Ayers
WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Last Chance to buy tickets!!!
The raffle will be drawn on
Wednesday 23rd November

Room 5’s Raffle

Help us to buy a ‘Badge Maker’.

The Badge maker we are looking to buy is a second hand one. We would like to use it for all occasions for example: sports day, family night, mothers and fathers day, christmas activities and school events.

Tickets are $2 each OR 3 for $5

Tickets can be purchased in school from Room 5 OR from the raffle booklets in each school diary.
Information session for parents on Puberty and Menstrual Management for girls with disabilities

At Vermont South Special School On 14th December at 1pm

It will include a power point presentation and question and answer time. There will be another session run at RCH in the evening but the date is yet to be confirmed.

For parents interested in attending this session it is asked that you email your interest to Orla Neylon at RCH (www.orla.neylon@rch.org.au) so they can cater for numbers.
International Day for People with Disabilities

Morning tea

10.30am to 12noon, Friday 2 December, Multipurpose Room 1, Boroondara Sports Complex, 271C Belmore Road, Balwyn North

Celebrate the love and hard work of parents who care for children with a wide range of disabilities.

Join us for:
- delicious morning tea
- an opportunity to meet other local parents
- hear a speaker who understands your challenges
- fun children's activities provided by YMCA
- share your thoughts about what Council does well - or could do better - to support you and your family.

RSVP:
- phone Clara: 9278 4613
- email: Clara.Yip@boroondara.vic.gov.au
- tell us your catering and childcare needs
LAST MINUTE NEWS

Sick Kids

This is a plea direct from nurse Ali.
If your child is sick, please keep them at home.
We have lots of coughs and colds at the moment.

Support network meeting
Please let us know if you are coming
so we can order lunch
Next Thursday 24th November 12.30