Welcome back to school for term 4. I hope you all enjoyed the holidays as much as we did in our house. Our priority was to rest and relax. It was fantastic!

We have a few things happening this term, so we need a meeting to get things moving.

**Meeting Date:** **Thursday 14th October, 10.30**

On the agenda will be: cake/craft stall for the November State Election, Bunnings BBQ, Christmas Raffle, Christmas stall, plans for 2011, social events for term 4.

**Everyone most welcome!**

Hope to see you there,

Kelly

0425 739 307 kelly.lloyd@optusnet.com.au
Welcome back after the term 3 holidays. I hope everyone is refreshed after the break. Congratulations to the administrative team who managed everything so capably during my absence. Well done and thank you to Rose, Maria and especially Jan.

I had a great time in Alaska, Canada and New York, and I did see lots of bears and the salmon run. I have returned with a new appreciation that Melbourne is a wonderful city, and that Belmore is a superb school.

Senior Dance Performance
I heard that this was a wonderful success. The senior corridor is emblazoned with fabulous photos of the students looking very cool in sunglasses and hats during their performance. Lots of families and friends attended and I understand were delighted with the quality of the performance. The students thoroughly enjoyed their individual and group parts in the performance. They worked hard every Wednesday all term with Howard. Howard's outstanding skills as a dance therapist enabled him to develop each student's personality and abilities. This was evident to all who attended as they watched the student's pride in their achievements. Comments from parents and staff alike have indicated that this was a great achievement for our students. Thanks to Rose for her implementation and coordination of the program. Thanks also to all the staff who helped to make it happen. We are planning to extend this program so that younger students can participate.

Construction work
Work on the new staffroom has begun and new offices for room 6 and the new classroom are in place but not yet usable. If you are in the area, drive past the Belmore Rd end of the school and check it out. Room 5 has some delightful and unexpected new skylights and ventilation while the work is in progress. However these holes are small and temporary and students cannot use them as exits!

Staff news
Jess Worland has had her baby boy. She has called him Jack! She has decided to resign to be a full time mum to her 2 young boys. We wish her family very well.

Pam Galbraith has also decided to resign. Pam has been an institution in the school after almost 25 years service for the Belmore School Community. These outstanding assistants will both be missed.

Joan Anson
**STUDENT AWARDS**

**Kaspar—Room 3**
For pushing the scissors up and down to cut paper by himself.
Fantastic effort.

**Tom—Room 3**
For very good participation during morning circle.
Tom indicated with his eyes which friends he wanted to say hello to.

**Zara—Room 1**
During speech therapy Zara concentrated very well while looking at letters of the alphabet. Zara used her voice to try to copy her assistant.

**Brittany—Room 7**
For independently initiating different activities in the classroom e.g. Brittany would ask for help to get onto the computer. She would also help her classmates to move their chairs to the front of the class for a circle activity.

**Eliza—Room 7**
For demonstrating increased self-confidence. Eliza was fantastic in her participation during the dance concert. She was very excited and together with her friends, danced for the audience. Eliza is also expressing herself, asking questions and anticipating events during story reading time.

**Max—Room 7**
For increased physical activity by moving himself around in the classroom e.g. Max used his table to move from a sitting position on the floor, to standing. Max did this with only verbal prompts.

**Andrew—Room 7**
For fantastic focus and participation during dance therapy. Andrew used his walker to navigate through the “garden” and used his hands to “plant seeds and grow flowers”.

**Simon—Room 8**
For working attentively and independently in accessing the switching program. Simon pressed the switch when prompted by the auditory cues from the computer program. He attended and enjoyed the sound effects from the graphics.

**Jake—Room 7**
For fantastic focus and participation during dance therapy. Andrew used his walker to navigate through the “garden” and used his hands to “plant seeds and grow flowers”.
WHAT IS HAPPENING?

ROOM 3 AT BELMORE SCHOOL

There are 10 members of the Room 3 learning community
Ben, Stephanie, Kaspar, Tom, Leila, Zara, Rhiley, Betty, Sue and Hannah.

We have had many great experiences during our learning journey so far this year. The first terms theme (Transport) led to the sailing and (unfortunately in some instances) the sinking of our home made boats! The students helped to make a story book about our sailing adventures.

Last term, the weather theme led us to participate in ‘snow day’ to celebrate winter. Some of us liked the cold snow better than others but we all had a great day. Again the students helped to make a story book about our special day.

When we were celebrating the season of spring, we organised and participated in a fantastic fashions on the field event. We looked wonderful!
We have also planted a vegetable for each season. Growing in their gardens the students have tomatoes, peas, silver beet and lettuce. The students are in the process of making a book about how to plant vegetables.

We are looking forward to more exciting learning times ahead.

...and introducing our new friend Rhiley who is enjoying karaoke with Dewi.
WHAT IS HAPPENING?

DANCE THERAPY

Students experienced and explored different movements in tune with different music. They were swung around in big circles by a strong elastic band around their waist, enjoying the speeding feeling. They were tied to each other’s wheelchair by a rope and moved in a line like a train. Students ‘rescued’ each other from the ‘storm’ by pulling a rope tied to a student’s wheelchair. They went under a wide stretchy material as if swimming under water, and searched through the different strips of silky materials hanging from the ceiling as if going through the rain.

Students were highly motivated and attended to the different activities which Howard unfolded for them every week. They had a great sensory experience. Some students moved and danced to the music, demonstrating the gross motor skills with great confidence.

There was a Music and Dance Performance on September 10 to share our wonderful dance experience with the school community. Room 9 students had designed the flyer and named the concert, “The Musical Thunderstorm”. The presentation revolves round the “Weather” theme. There were the scenes of the ‘beach’, the storm, dancing in the rain, and the flowers blooming. Students had demonstrated great confidence in their performance and were proud of their achievement.

The second part of the performance was the music playing. Each class presented a piece of music, such as singing using their own voice or via using a switch, and playing musical instrument using a modified switching mechanism. The performance was coordinated by Dewi and Amy Howden (our short-term music therapist). Students had extra small group music sessions working with Amy, practising their performance. This has been a great opportunity for our students to work with Amy who had supported them and had highlighted their talents and interests in such a short time.

We have filmed the performance which will be copied onto a CD disc for those students to share and enjoy with their family members.

Rose Ngai, Senior Coordinator
HOSKEN STREET RESPITE SERVICE - RESERVOIR

Who can be referred;

- People between 15 and 24 years of age who have a mild intellectual disability and/or a mild physical disability
- Reside with a carer in the Northern or Western Metropolitan Regions of Melbourne
- Hosken Street specialize in supporting people who display behaviours of concern – the service can be locked if abscondment is a risk and fridges, cupboards and drawers can be locked if required
- Priority will be given to families from:
  - Culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
  - Ageing carers or carers who have health issues
  - Indigenous families
  - Families whose care arrangements are at risk of breaking down
  - Clients who do not have access to appropriate facility based respite but who have a significant need for developing social and community networks with other young people with disabilities who share common skills and interests

Service specific information;

- The service can accommodate 5 respite users
- The service does not provide a transport service
- The service model is based on 2 staff during operating times with one Sleepover staff person
- The service is closed between 9.30am and 3.00pm during weekdays in school terms
- The service has a strong recreational and community access focus

For more information or an application form, please contact Lachlan Hodgson on 9496 0000 or email: lachlan.hodgson@yooralla.com.au
ADVANCE NOTICE

The ‘SAVy’ Network Presents the Inaugural

“SIBLINGS VICTORIA”
PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE &
PARENT SEMINAR 2010

A full day conference, networking & training opportunity for professionals who work in Early Childhood Intervention, disability, youth, education, and the mental health sector.

This day will be followed by a separate, free evening seminar for parents who have children with disabilities or special needs who wish to support their siblings ....

When: Thursday, 21st October 2010
Where: The Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville

Key Note Speakers:

✓ Dr Tim Moore, Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children’s Hospital
✓ Kate Strohm, Director, Siblings Australia

Conference Focus:

Whole family & sibling support issues in the current service sector and an interactive workshop focusing on practical applications, the Sibworks model & ways to support siblings across a variety of settings.

Panels:

What is Effective Sibling Support? Adult siblings reflecting on their experiences

Who’s Active in Sibling Support in Victoria? Meet service providers, researchers and other practitioners. Join & contribute to the network.

Full information & registration forms will be available mid September 2010. If you are interested in this professional conference or parent seminar, & want to have details sent to you, please email or phone:

Meg Moorhouse, T.I.M.E. Out Sibling Program Coordinator
Melbourne Citymission, 123 Albion Street, Brunswick 3056
Tel. 9385 3211 Email: siblingprogram@mcm.org.au

Leave your name, agency/title, address/email, telephone and you’ll be forwarded the full details & registration information.

Forward this advance notice via your networks and contacts please
NOTICE BOARD

SPRING FAIR

Wide range of quality plants at great prices
Cake stall
Morning & afternoon teas
Barbecue
Kids Corner

SATURDAY 16TH OCT
9.00 AM - 3.00PM
39 WETHERBY ROAD
DONCASTER

KEVIN HEINZE GARDEN CENTRE INC-

ph 98483695
Email: khgc@unite.com.au
www.kevinheinzegardencentre.com
McCain Veggie Patches

THANKYOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS SENT IN BARCODES FOR OUR VEGGIE PATCH.

Our tally of points is increasing. So.....please continue to send in barcodes from McCain vegetable packages....because the more barcodes.....the more points.....the more equipment for growing veggies here at school!

If you would like to join the email list to receive this Newsletter electronically, please contact allen.fiona.a@edumail.vic.gov.au