3 March 2016

The Belmore News

Diary Dates
Thursday 10 March  School Council Annual General Meeting
Thursday 17 March  Family Night
Tuesday 22 March  NDIS Forum—10.00am
Wednesday 23 March  Manningham Function Centre
Thursday 24 March  PJ Day — gold coin donation
Thursday 24 March  Whole School Assembly at 2.00pm
Thursday 24 March  End Term 1
Friday 25 March  Good Friday
Monday 11 April  Term 2 Commences
Wednesday 20 July  Reporting to Parents Day
Monday 29 August  Communication Conference
(Teacher free day)
Tuesday 30 August  Communication Conference
(Teacher free day)

Learning To Achieve

Inside this issue:

Principal’s Desk  2-3
School Council  4-5
PJ Day  6
Pop Up Cinema  7
NDIS News  8-9

Students Learning To Achieve

“We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to the elders both past, present and future for they hold the memory, traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal Australia. We must always remember that land and asphalt this has always been traditional An

Supporting students with physical disabilities and/or health impairments to learn since 1962
Principal’s Desk

School Council
Unfortunately at the close of call for School Council nominations on Monday afternoon, only two nominations had been submitted for the three parent vacancies. It is extremely important that we have the full complement of four parents and two DET staff on the School Council for it to operate effectively and fulfil its statutory obligations. All parents who have been on School Council find the experience to be both informative and rewarding and with eight meetings held over the school year, it does not take up too much of your time. Our School Council members are friendly and supportive and will assist you to transition into the role. I have included additional information on the role of School Council to assist your understanding of the role you would fulfil as a parent member. Please take the time to consider this opportunity and contact me directly via email overall.karen.g@edumail.vic.gov.au or phone 9859 8762, if you would like to nominate or if you would like additional information.

NDIS
On Wednesday evening I attended a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) information session provided by the Victorian Government. Martin Foley, the State Minister for Disability, Housing and Ageing spoke very passionately about the NDIS and the provision of support it would provide to improve the lives of the 105,000 disabled people residing in Victoria. While many details are still being finalised prior to the first role out in July this year, the five main facts I gained from the evening were:

- The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is the organisation responsible for the implementation of the NDIS.
- All Belmore School students will be eligible for the scheme through their participation in the DET Program for Students with a Disability. Subsequently their names will be provided by the DET to the NDIA for registration with the NDIS.
- The first rollout of the NDIS will take place in North East Melbourne which covers the local council areas of Banyule, Darebin, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Yarra. While the role out will commence on 1st July 2016, it will take the full twelve months to transition all participants in this area onto the NDIS. In the meantime, the current provision of services and support received will remain in place.
- Participants will be contacted directly approximately three months prior to the commencement of their transition to the NDIS.
- The impact of the NDIS on the provision of support in schools is still being worked through between the relevant Government authorities.

I have included an overview of the NDIS taken from the Participant Information Pack which was referred to on the evening. The full document can be found on the website via this link: http://www.ndis.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/our-sites/NDIS-Victoria-roll-out-Participant-pack.pdf

I have also included a brochure on an information session being organised by the Manningham Council on Tuesday 22nd March.
New Appointment of Occupational Therapist
I am pleased to announce that Naomi Greenwood has been successful with her application for the role of Occupational Therapist. Naomi has spent the last three years in Vietnam where she worked at a special school supporting children with complex physical disabilities. Her duties at the special school also included the provision of support and up skilling the local therapists and teachers about disabilities and how to work with children with physical disabilities. Prior to this, Naomi has worked in a range of positions as an Occupational Therapist at the Austin Hospital in Melbourne. Naomi will commence her role on Monday 7th March and will be working on a Monday and Wednesday. We look forward to welcoming Naomi into the Belmore School community.

Family Night
This week you will receive an invitation to our Family Night to be held on Thursday 17th March between 5.00pm and 7.00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to bring along their parents, siblings and important family members to school, to share in a variety of fun Easter themed activities, enjoy dinner and meet with other members of our Belmore School community.
Childcare arrangements will be in place after school for those families who may find it easier to arrive by 5.00pm without having to wait and collect their child from the school bus at the end of the day.

Take care ..... Karen

YES we will / NO we will not be attending the Family Night

Student’s Name_______________________________________

Number of Adults______            Number of Children________

YES we will / NO we will not require childcare
Belmore School Council 2016 - Information for Parents

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

* A mandated elected Parent category - more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.

* A mandated elected DET employee category - members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

* An optional Community member category - members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.
**School Council**

**How can you become involved?**

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

* standing for election as a member of the school council
* encouraging another person to stand for election

**Do I need special experience to be on school council?**

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

**What do you need to do to stand for election?**

A Notice of Election and Call for Nominations. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

**Remember**

* Ask us for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
* Consider standing for election to council this year
* Be sure to vote in the elections.
BELMORE SCHOOL
PJ DAY
Bring a gold coin to support the work of The Royal Children’s Hospital.
on
Wednesday 23 March 2016
Good Friday Appeal
FREE OUTDOOR EVENT

POP UP CINEMA @Heide
SUNDAY 13 MARCH

Heide Museum of Modern Art
7 Templestowe Road, Bulleen

5pm–7.30pm Gallery & Cafe Vue Open, Free Kids Arts Play
7.30pm “ Tomorrow Fest” Short Films
7.45pm FREE outdoor movie: Paper Planes (G)

LIGHTS ON LATER

Explore the Heide galleries with Two for One entry (5–7.30pm).
Children under 12 FREE.

Families can play Art Detective and interact with the current exhibitions.

Takeaway beverages and food available at Cafe Vue at Heide until 7.30pm.

For more information, phone 9840 9246
or visit www.manningham.vic.gov.au/cinema
NDIS News

National Disability Insurance Scheme Forum
- Your questions answered -

People with disability, families, carers and professionals across Eastern Metro Melbourne are invited to attend a FREE forum on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The Forum aims to:
- Increase participants’ awareness and understanding of the NDIS
- Increase capacity of people with disability and their families/carers to make informed choices to achieve their goals, access appropriate services and self-manage their lives
- Increase awareness of rights and entitlements/supports available under the NDIS.

DATE: Tuesday 22 March 2016
TIME: 9:30am for 10am start
10am - 12:30pm
WHERE: Manningham Function Centre, Room 1
699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster
COST: FREE - bookings essential as places are limited. Register your attendance via:
www.eventbrite.com/e/the-ndis-your-questions-answered-tickets-21743083147

For Further information contact:
Effie Kapsalos (IMVC) ekapsalos@imvc.com.au or phone: 03 9686 2354
Jon Adams (Manningham City Council) Jon.Adams@manningham.vic.gov.au or phone: 03 9840 9317
Janice O’Connor (Onemda) jocconnor@onemda.com.au or phone: 03 9842 1955

This project is supported by Manningham City Council’s Community Development Grant Program and is a joint partnership between
Inner Melbourne VET Cluster (IMVC), Onemda and Manningham City Council.
Five things you need to know about the NDIS in VIC

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new way of providing individualised support for people with disability, their families and carers. The NDIS is the insurance that gives us all peace of mind. Disability could affect anyone and having the right support makes a big difference.

The NDIS provides eligible people a flexible, whole-of-life approach to the support needed to pursue their goals and aspirations and participate in daily life.

1. What
The Commonwealth and Victorian governments have agreed on how the NDIS will be rolled out across Victoria. In Victoria, the NDIS will be operating state-wide by July 2019. The NDIS already has a trial site in the Barwon region.

2. When
The NDIS is a big change and will be progressively rolled out across Victoria over three years. People currently receiving support through the Commonwealth and Victorian Government will be moving to the NDIS at different times depending on the type of support they are receiving and where they live.

3. Where

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 July 2016</th>
<th>30 June 2017</th>
<th>1 July 2017</th>
<th>30 June 2018</th>
<th>1 July 2018</th>
<th>30 June 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North East Melbourne</td>
<td>Central Highlands</td>
<td>Loddon</td>
<td>Outer East Melbourne</td>
<td>Inner East Melbourne</td>
<td>Goulburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western District</td>
<td>Bayside Peninsula</td>
<td>Hume Moreland</td>
<td>Brimbank Melton</td>
<td>Western Melbourne</td>
<td>Outer Gippsland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. How
The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is working closely with relevant Commonwealth and Victorian government departments to ensure there is a smooth transition to the NDIS for new and existing clients, their families, carers and providers.

5. What can I do to prepare?
Before your area transitions, if you currently access services you will be contacted to discuss the process of entering the NDIS. If you are not currently receiving support, check the information and resources available at www.ndis.gov.au/vic.

Visit our website at www.ndis.gov.au/vic
Call us on 1800 800 110