STUDENT ABSENCES
Absences so far this year - 273
Absences same time last year - 285

DATES TO REMEMBER
15th February - No Preps
20th February - District Swimming
20th February - Parent Teacher Meetings
21st February - Parent Teacher Meetings
22nd February - No Preps
2nd March - Gr 6 Secondary School Experience Day (HCSC)
3rd March - Parent Helper Course
8th March - No Preps
13th March - Labour Day
16th March - Division Swimming
17th March - National Ride2School Day
24th March - School Carnival
31st March - Last Day Term 1

>>> IMPORTANT NEWS <<<
During the assembly this Friday 17th February at 1.50pm, the students from Grades 3 to 6 that have been elected Student Representative Council members for 2017 will be issued with their badges.

PRINCIPAL WRITES

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
We have four vacancies for parent positions on School Council and will be seeking nominations from parents to participate in an election process in order to fill these positions.
The notices for the election of new School Council members have been posted around the school.
Nomination forms have been included in this newsletter and need to be returned to the Office by 4:00pm, Wednesday, March 1st.
PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS (Meet & Greet) – Monday, February 20th/Tuesday, February 21st
We will be having Parent Teacher meetings on Monday, February 20th (2:50 – 6:30pm) and Tuesday, February 21st, (2:50 - 4:30 pm). This is an opportunity to establish a shared relationship and build on the home school partnership with your child’s teacher. It is also important for parents to share information that is specific to their child’s needs.

We look forward to having conversations with all parents at these meetings so we can start the year with shared expectations.

Some information that can be shared at the interview may include:
- Your child’s current health situation, e.g. allergies, asthma (which require a management plan)
- Changed family circumstances
- Dates for any extended absences that are being planned (e.g. holiday overseas)
- Issues that may impact on the completion of homework

When teachers are aware of special circumstances in a child’s life they are able to understand and support the student in a variety of ways and your timely communication allows us all to work as a team.

LOG IN TO COMPASS TO BOOK YOUR PARENT-TEACHER MEETING
COMPASS is our online portal used for parents to:
- Access your child's Semester Reports
- View up-to-date attendance information, and add approvals or explanations for absences (before or after the absence)
- Access information regarding upcoming events and news, including a school calendar
- Update your registered email and mobile number (used for SMS alerts) details
- Receive alerts via text message or email
- Provide information and online consent functionality for sports, camps and excursions
- Make most payments online
- Make bookings for Parent/Student/Teacher conferences

The bookings for Term 1 Parent-Teacher Meetings are now open. Families with multiple children at our school are advised to book early to ensure the time slots can be made around the same time. We recommend that you do not book time slots immediately following each other - just to be sure you have time to move from one classroom to the next.

Login to Compass using the mobile app or Compass weblink on our school homepage. (https://bellbridgeps-vic.compass.education/)

One FAMILY CODE (LOGIN) is provided per home address for parents/guardians. Where both parents live with a student, they share the same login. Separated parents living in different addresses may wish to have a unique login code for each parent. In this instance, an "alternative family" form should be obtained from the school office.

1:1 NETBOOK PROGRAM
The Grade 4 - 6 teams and the ICT Team have worked hard to once again implement our 1:1 Netbook Program for all students in Grades 4 - 6. Our 1:1 Netbook Coordinator, Mr Sisson and our Assistant Principal, Mrs Hunt, have made sure that the program provides parents with the best value for money, as well as having the best possible technical support from our full time technician, Helena Kasem.

Students in Grades 4 - 6 will be using their netbooks on a daily basis to support and enrich their learning in all areas of the curriculum, as well as providing engaging homework tasks. We are very proud of this program because ALL students receive a personal netbook to use at school every day, allowing teachers to implement consistent, rich and engaging learning experiences for everyone.

*We also appreciate the effort made by parents to attend the official Grade 4 Handover Session last week where parents signed an agreement about safe use of the netbook at home.*
BELLBRIDGE STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2017

Congratulations to the recently elected Grade 6 student leaders.

STUDENT LEADERS:

School Captain: Lara CRUZ (6B)
School Captain: Sithuli SIRIWARDHANA (6B)
Vinay KALER (6A)
Yusuf IBRAHIM (6C)
Isabelle DAWSON (6D)
Maddy HAYWOOD (6B)

HOUSE CAPTAINS

Coker: Moe AUNG (6A)   Hughes: Lahni SMITH (6D)
Hayden BATE (6C)   Nathan MELVILLE (6D)

Middleton: Shiana O'BRIEN (6C)
Taylah MONRO (6C)

Gillard: Emily CALLEGHER (6B)
Jarrod JOHNSTONE (6C)

SAFE USE of the PLAYGROUND and SCHOOL WIDE POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS SUPPORT (SWPBS)

A feature of the SWPBS program at Bellbridge includes explicitly teaching students about how to behave in our playground. As part of on-going learning, our teachers discuss and clarify consistent understandings in relation to safe, respectful and responsible use of all areas of the playground.

Some basic school wide expectations are:

- Students may play anywhere they wish as long as they engage in safe and responsible behaviour
- Playgrounds are for climbing, swinging, sliding, balancing, etc – NOT chasing games
- Games that involve running and chasing should be played on the oval – NOT around buildings
- The front of the school is out of bounds at all times
- The seating around the school is for passive activities (no standing or jumping on them)
- The courtyard is a passive area for sitting or playing less active games – NO running or ball games
- The soccer field is used according to a roster: Monday (Gr 6); Tuesday (Gr 5); Wednesday (Gr 4; Thursday (Gr 2 & 3); Friday (Prep & Gr 1)

EXPECTATIONS about the Use of the Playground AFTER SCHOOL

We are fortunate to have wonderful play equipment at Bellbridge and understand that the children really enjoy playing on it, but at the end of the school day it is essential that our staff can identify any child who has not been collected from school. This is impossible to do when we have lots of children on our playgrounds.

Therefore we have implemented the following expectations:

- NO pre-school children or toddlers are to play on the playground equipment at any time as it has not been designed for pre-school age children. Parents or carers who choose to allow their pre-schoolers and toddlers to play on the school playgrounds, do so at their own risk and it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to provide supervision.
- Students who walk or ride bikes/scooters home from school are NOT to play on the playground after school as all students are to make their way home or to their designated meeting place where they are picked up by a parent as soon as the bell goes at 2:40pm.
- Parents or carers are responsible for the supervision of their children if they choose to allow them to play on the playground after 2:40pm.

STUDENT DIARIES are an IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION TOOL at BELLBRIDGE

Prep and Grade 1 students receive a Reading Log/Journal to record their daily reading at home and all students in Grades 2 – 6 receive a Student Diary at the start of the year as part of their book box. The regular use of Student Diaries is a consistent, school wide expectation. It is a tool for regular communication between home and school and must be at school every day. We ask that parents support this expectation by checking their child’s diary each day and sign it daily or weekly as required by classroom teachers.
HOMEWORK
Bellbridge has a Homework Policy that supports students and their families by providing activities that support classroom learning, foster good study habits and provide an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

*Please note: Homework is not compulsory at Bellbridge Primary School – it is a parental choice.*

If parents do not wish to support homework activities or find that some homework tasks cannot be completed due to other family commitments, we request that parents write and sign a short note to the teacher (e.g. in the Student Diary).

Our approach to homework at Bellbridge includes:

**Prep – Grade 3**
- Reading activities to, with and by parents.
- Simple extension tasks associated with classroom activities.
- Gathering of additional information or materials.
- Homework will generally not exceed 20 - 30 minutes per day.

**Grade 4 – 6**
- Independent reading on a daily basis.
- Tasks such as continuation of classroom work.
- Other tasks linked to Inquiry Learning and Integrated Studies.
- Homework will generally not exceed 45 minutes per day.

HOW PARENTS can RAISE CONCERNS with the SCHOOL
At times, parents may have queries or concerns related to their child, a situation, a teacher or the school environment. In order to maintain a respectful, responsible and supportive home school partnership, our leadership team and staff make themselves available for open communication about these issues.

- Parents are advised to make a time to meet with a TEACHER to discuss issues related to their child’s learning and/or social, emotional or behaviour concerns.
- Parents are advised to make a time to meet with the PRINCIPAL (or an Assistant Principal) to discuss issues related to the governance of the school, the safety or welfare of the community, or if a meeting with a teacher is not deemed to have been resolved with an acceptable level of satisfaction.
- Our Principal and Assistant Principals are highly visible within and about the school grounds before and after school, and are very approachable when they are on supervision duty during these times.
- Parents can also contact the Office to make appointments with Teachers and the Principal Class.

We look forward to continuing our positive and productive partnerships with all families at Bellbridge.

**BELLBRIDGE TWILIGHT CARNIVAL – Friday, March 24th (mark it in your diary!)**
Our major annual fundraising event is the School Carnival which is being held on Friday, March 24th from 2:45 – 6:00pm. Each class and/or team has the responsibility of preparing a stall or activity to host on the day and our School Council organises and oversees a Food Stall with the support of parent volunteers.

If any parents or their family or friends have contacts with businesses and/or are able to provide our school with donations it would be very much appreciated.

More information about donations, pre-ordering of show bags and rides and other important news will be sent home via a weekly Carnival Newsletter.

You can also check out our Facebook Page for information and updates.

**ACTING PRINCIPAL – TANIA HUNT – FOR THE REMAINDER OF TERM 1**
During Term 4 of last year, our Assistant Principal – Mrs Tania Hunt – intermittently assumed the role of Acting Principal while I was following doctor’s orders to manage back pain, often with reduced hours. Tania, myself and the rest of the leadership team continued to remain in close contact throughout this time, and the school enjoyed a smooth finish to 2016.

Please note that I will be on leave from today until the end of Term 1 due to spinal surgery and the subsequent rehabilitation period, during which time Tania Hunt will be the Acting Principal. I have every confidence that the school will continue to operate smoothly in my absence, and I will be remaining in regular contact during these weeks.

*Debbie Clancy*
Principal
PLAY GROUP at BELLBRIDGE

For the past two years we have provided a space in our school for parents and their pre-schoolers to have a Play Group. We are prepared to provide this opportunity again and are seeking expressions of interest from parents who are keen to participate in a school-based Play Group this year.

The Play Group will begin in Term 2 on Wednesday mornings between 8:30 – 10:00am.

This year we intend to start the program with a meeting of Play Group parents where a general program will be developed in consultation with staff.

*Please return the following Expression of Interest to the Office by Friday 24th.*

>| PLAY GROUP |
| NAME: __________________________ PHONE: __________________ |
| Number of pre-school children who will attend: __________________ |

ESSENTIAL EDUCATION ITEMS

Thank you to all parents/guardians who have paid their Essential Learning Items fee of $175.00 per student.
This fee is set by School Council and is used for activities and services that are essential to support student learning of the standard curriculum.
A reminder that payments can be made on Compass or at the office via cash or EFTPOS.
COMPASS
*Please note* that Compass is now our preferred payment option for fees and charges and is also being used for Parent/Teacher Conference bookings.
Letters were posted last Friday to those parents who have not yet accessed Compass.
We ask that all families log on ASAP using the details provided in the letter and familiarise themselves with the program.
If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the office.

CSEF
If you have a health care card or a pension card you may be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) payment.
You can obtain an application from the office.
A copy of your health care card or pension card will be required.
Applications close on 23 June 2017.

ART ROOM

If anyone has magazines at home that they are no longer using could you please send them to the art room, especially children’s magazines. Thanks, Ms Bennett – Visual Arts Teacher
CHANGE OF PERSONAL DETAILS

It is of the utmost importance that all family contact details are kept up to date. SMS, via Compass is regularly used to inform parents/guardians of an upcoming event that requires consent and payment and will be used to inform families in emergency situations. A Change of Details form can be obtained from the office. Please note that changes to email addresses and mobile numbers can be updated on Compass.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is absent from school for any reason, we require parents/guardians to notify the school office that they won’t be attending. When your child returns to school, a note must be given to their teacher detailing the date and the reason for the absence.

If your child has any long term absences from school, (eg. holidays, extended illness etc) a note is required to be given to their teacher informing them of the absence prior to them commencing the absence.

NUDE FOOD

Every Wednesday at Bellbridge Primary School, we run a Nude Food Campaign. The purpose of Nude Food is to encourage healthy eating habits, as well as reduce the amount of rubbish going into landfill. **What is nude food?** Nude food is simply food that is not wrapped in single use plastic, foil or other commercial packaging. We understand that food often needs to be packaged for easy transport, but we like to reduce, reuse and recycle wherever possible.

Each **Wednesday**, students are encouraged to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PACK</th>
<th>AVOID</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Snacks in reusable containers</td>
<td>• Lunches packed in plastic bags, cling film or foil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Drinks in reusable bottles</td>
<td>• Disposable drink boxes, cans, cartons and bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reusable utensils when needed</td>
<td>• Disposable forks and spoons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A reusable lunchbox</td>
<td>• Other single use items</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last week, the classes that achieved the highest Nude Food rate within each year level were; 1B (71%), 2E (42%), 3D (50%), 4D (32%), 5A (32%), and 6B (43%). Well done to everyone that made healthy choices and brought food without packaging!

**Did you know…?**

You, along with all other living beings, have a right to live in a healthy environment. So do your future children and their future children. To make this possible, we all have a personal responsibility to take part in helping preserve and improve the environment, as well as help repair any damage that has already caused. Let’s start by bringing Nude Food to school each Wednesday. Some delicious options include; bananas, apples, strawberries, veggie sticks, and sandwiches or wraps – all in reusable containers of course! It is actually a fun challenge to become more environmentally friendly. Try making more mindful choices with your family. Your body, your wallet, and the planet will thank you!
Bellbridge Primary School 2017 Term One
Early Years Literacy and Numeracy
Parent Helpers Course
ALL WELCOME (parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles etc)
Runs for 3 weeks

SESSION ONE  Friday 3rd March 8.40 – 10.20 Staffroom
Literacy - Speaking and Listening
Numeracy - How children learn Maths

SESSION TWO  Friday 10th March 8.40 – 10.20 Staffroom
Literacy - Reading
Maths- Pause Prompt Praise strategies

SESSION THREE Friday 17th 8.40 – 10.20 Staffroom
Literacy-Writing
Maths-Helping with maths in the classroom or at home

Find out how Numeracy and Literacy are taught in school and how you can help your child at home, and at school.

Please fill out the form below and return it to your child’s teacher.

Early Years LITERACY & NUMERACY PARENT HELPERS COURSE 2017 Term 1

I would like to attend the Early Years Parent Helpers Course
I understand there are 3 sessions in the Course.

Name ______________________Contact Number __________________________

Child’s Name ___________________ Child’s GRADE (eg 2B) _____

PLEASE RETURN AND GIVE TO YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER

Thankyou
Helen Baldock
Assistant Principal
SWIMMING COMPETITION

On Monday, 13th February 2017, 55 students from Grade 3 to 6 participated in the annual Bellbridge Swimming Competition. It was a great day and everyone competed well and showed off their wonderful swimming skills. The students were also competing for House Points. After 41 races and a House verse House relay the scores were as follows: Coker 420, Hughes 530, Gillard 660 and Middleton were winners on 735 points. Congratulations Middleton House. As a result of the day, 29 students have been selected to progress through to the District Level to represent Bellbridge on Monday the 20th February at Werribee Outdoor Pool. Good Luck to all those students!

LATE ARRIVAL/EARLY LEAVERS

Any child arriving to school after 8.30am is required to attend the office, with a parent/guardian, to obtain a late pass. If your child is leaving school early, the parent/guardian is required to send a note with their child on the morning informing the classroom teacher of the time they will be collected and who will be collecting them. The parent/guardian is required to sign the child out at the office, where arrangements will be made for the child to come up to office.

ASTHMA PLANS

we appreciate the Returned Asthma plans that we have received and remind all parents to please continue to send these back to school.

We would also like to remind you that a Ventolin and spacer is required to be kept in the class room for you child that has Asthma.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Mrs Biles
School Nurse

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to the children named below for receiving Awards.

Be a Learner
Ryda Francis, Jade Westbury, Jayden Jukes, Maddi Rowe, William Whiley, Khoi Nguyen, Kiana Dunlop, Joey Citro, Ebony Raudino, Malakai Katene.

Be Responsible
Chayse Thompson, Kaldia El Hawli, Sarayu Hulsoor, Zahra Odewahn, Ashton Arts, Arabella Jones, Nate Slattery, Sukirat Kaur, Ella Taylor, Breanna Johnstone, Jack Clarke, Damian Matthews, Caleb Rigby, Parker Grunwald, Macy Sherriff, Sarah Lawson.

Be Safe
Reef Gildea.

Be Respectful
Kaitlynn Whiley, Kyah Williams, Mia Sobing, Maurya Patel, Tahlia Shaw, Ashton Barnett.
COMMUNITY NEWS

A Life Saving Event:
We are getting a new Critical Care Unit at the Mercy Werribee Hospital but government funds only provide the building and basic equipment. We need to raise $2 million within the city to equip it with the latest equipment - such things as respirators, cardiac monitors, EEG machines, isoletes. Your students, staff and their families will all benefit.
The Wyndham Rotary FunRun/Walk on Sunday 5th March aims to raise $30,000 for the above project.
You can provide practical help in one or more of the following ways:
- Enter a team, or encourage individuals to run/walk...go to www.wyndhamfunrun.org
- include the attached brochure in your school newsletter over the next two weeks, and/or pin it on noticeboards
- Provide volunteers to help conduct the event ...we need 80 marshals.

Together, we can help ensure the Wyndham community has the best equipped Critical Care Unit in Melbourne.

SINGLE PARENTS ACTIVE KIDS PROUDLY PRESENTS:
FREE FAMILY FUN DAY, LOGAN RESERVE IN ALTONA, SUNDAY 26TH OF MARCH, STARTING 1 PM
FREE BBQ, ENTERTAINMENT, ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS: MEMBERSHIP SPECIALS AND MORE.
EVEN IF YOU CAN'T ATTEND THERE ARE PLENTY MORE OPPORTUNITIES, HERE IS A LINK TO OUR VERY
ACTIVE WEBSITE http://www.singleparentsactivekids.org/
LIKE MINDED SINGLE PARENTS TO CHAT WITH, ACTIVE KIDS WANTING TO PLAY WITH YOUR ACTIVE KIDS,
WIN WIN! “SINGLE DOES NOT MEAN ALONE”
PLEASE RSVP TO info@singleparentsactivekids.org or call Moush on 0430 504 119.

WERRIBEE HOCKEY CLUB:
HOEY PLAYERS WANTED!!! INTERESTED IN PLAYING HOCKEY?
The Werribee Hockey Club is seeking players for season 2017. The Club is the only hockey club in the Wyndham area, and provides opportunities for all ages and all abilities, from beginners to experienced players. We have teams for juniors, seniors and masters and are conveniently located at Presidents Park. We have a great family and social atmosphere, and a history of on field success with a number of teams regularly playing finals.

Competitions available:
WDHL—Tuesday night 5-6pm aimed at primary school children beginning the game
Email: whdl.whc@gmail.com
Junior interclub for boys and girls: U10, U12, U14 & U18,
Email Junior Convenor: juniors.whc@gmail.com
Senior Men, Women’s and Masters teams
Email Men’s Convenor: mens.whc@gmail.com
Email Women’s Convenor: womens.whc@gmail.com For more information email info.werribeehc@gmail.com, check out our website @ www.werribeehockeyclub.com.au, or find us on Fb!
PARENTING CHILDREN WHO WORRY TOO MUCH
FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGED 2–10 YEARS

Come along to find out more about anxiety and strategies to help your child worry less and help your child to stay positive.

Free Seminar
Thurs 23rd Feb 7-8.30pm

Free Group
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd March
Thursdays 10-12pm (4 weeks)
Come for seminar or all sessions!
Wyndham Private Medical Centre
Level 1, 242 Hoppers Lane, Werribee

Free childcare if you book early on 9663 6733

This seminar is FREE but BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL
SWPBS: School Wide Positive Behaviours


CONGRATULATIONS to the following students for earning 10 or more ‘Bee Tokens’ for their positive behaviours in the classroom and the playground. They have traded their tokens for a prize at the Rewards Shops.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Classroom</th>
<th>Bee Tokens</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kaidyn 2A</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xavier 6B</td>
<td>(30)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jawad 2A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ipshita 2A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack 2B</td>
<td>(30)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Briolette 2B</td>
<td>(20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlotte 1A</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Josh 1A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam 2D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leilah 2A</td>
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<td>Teddy 3D</td>
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<td>Louay 1A</td>
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<td>Nicky 2B</td>
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<td>Jiawen 2B</td>
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<td>Willow 2B</td>
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<td>Kobe 2D</td>
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<td>Kacee 3D</td>
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<td>Anna 2A</td>
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<td>Ella 2D</td>
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<td>Boston 2B</td>
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<td>Brandon 6B</td>
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<td>Moussa 1A</td>
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<td>Sienna 1A</td>
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<td>Sonya 2D</td>
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<td>Jack C 2B</td>
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<td>Nicole 2B</td>
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<td>Joe 3D</td>
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<td>Denver 3D</td>
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<td>Charlotte 2B</td>
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<td>Vinay 6A</td>
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<td>Estelle 3B</td>
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<td>Mahmoud 2B</td>
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<td>Joshua 3A</td>
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<td>Haider 3D</td>
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<td>Junia 3D</td>
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<td>Moustafa 5B</td>
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<td>Jessica 4D</td>
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<td>Ebony 4D</td>
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<td>Ari 6B</td>
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<td>Kiara 2B</td>
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<td>Johanna 2A</td>
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<td>Jack 4D</td>
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<td>Liam 3C</td>
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<td>Kayla 4B</td>
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<td>Elise PC</td>
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<td>Chloe 5D</td>
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<td>Zilyah 3B</td>
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<td>Ethan 3B</td>
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<td>Mitchell 5B</td>
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<td>Jiamo 5B</td>
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<td>Tahlia 3A</td>
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<td>Parth 6B</td>
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<td>Will 2B</td>
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<td>Brodie 2A</td>
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<td>Ryder 2B</td>
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<td>Jasper 2A</td>
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DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY INFO SESSION

Re: Thunderstorm asthma

The Department of Health and Human Services is running community information sessions to give Victorians an opportunity to hear directly from experts about what thunderstorm asthma is and what steps you can take to help you and your family for the next pollen season.

Information will also be provided about the emotional reactions experienced by people during and after emergencies and where additional help is available.

An information session will be held at Auditorium, Building 6, Victoria University, Hoppers Lane, Werribee on Thursday 16 February. Registration closes at 6.30pm with the seminar running from 7.00pm – 9.00pm
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 inform and shape the direction of the school.

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

DO I NEED SPECIAL EXPERIENCE TO BE ON SCHOOL COUNCIL?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. 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.

HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

The most obvious way is to vote in the school council 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.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO STAND FOR ELECTION?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. 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 at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to school council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.
BELLBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
SCHEDULE 5A: SELF-NOMINATION FORM FOR PARENT MEMBER CATEGORY

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent member on the BELLBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL, School Council.

Name:

_______________________________________________________________

Residential address:

_______________________________________________________________

Contact phone (mobile or landline):

_______________________________________________________________

Email:

_______________________________________________________________

I am the parent/guardian of ______________________________________________________, who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

I am an employee of the Department of Education and Training but not engaged in work at and for the school

Yes / No (please circle)

I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not:

• an undischarged bankrupt
• of unsound mind
• currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence; or
• a registrable offender within the meaning of the Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004.

Signature of Candidate ___________________________________________ Date _____ / _____ / _____

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

Personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used to determine your eligibility as a candidate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable).

Further, the name, membership category, gender, term of office, office held (if any) of school council members and notification whether the member is an employee of the Department will be forwarded to the Department of Education and Training by the principal by 30 April each year as a record of council membership and may be used for statistical purposes.

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on ________________________________________________

If you choose not to give some or all of the information requested your nomination may not be accepted. If you have any queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.

Principals Guide to School Council Elections 2017

31
I wish to nominate. ___________________________ for an elected position as a parent member on the ___________________________ school council.

CANDIDATE’S DETAILS

Name ________________________________________

Residential address ________________________________________

Contact phone (mobile or landline) ____________________________

Email _____________________________________________

I am the parent/guardian of ____________________________, who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

The person I have nominated is the parent/guardian of ____________________________, who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

The person I have nominated is an employee of the Department of Education and Training but not engaged in work at and for the school.

Yes / No (please circle) Name of Nominator

Signature of Nominator ____________________________ Date _____ / _____ / _____

CANDIDATE TO COMPLETE:

I accept the nomination and I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that I am not:

• an undischarged bankrupt
• of unsound mind
• currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence
• a registrable offender within the meaning of the Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004.

Signature of Candidate ____________________________ Date _____ / _____ / _____

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

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