

School Bell



Bellbridge Primary School
Individual Paths, United Journey

Bellbridge Primary School
Bellbridge Drive, Hoppers Crossing, 3029

Telephone 9749 6161

Out of School Care

Mob 0419 594 841

Email Address: bellbridge.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Website Address: <http://www.bellbridgeps.vic.edu.au>

STUDENT ABSENCES

Absences so far this year _____ 131
Absences same time last year _____ 86

DATES TO REMEMBER

5th February..... Prep Free Day
12th February..... Prep Free Day
14th February.....Swimming Trials
17th & 18th February..... Parent/Teacher Interview
19th February..... Prep Free Day
26th February..... Prep Free Day
3rd March..... Curriculum Day
5th March..... Prep Free Day
6th March.....School Photos
10th March.....Labour Day Holiday
14th March.....Swimming Carnival
28th March.....School Carnival
4th April.....Last day of Term 1

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is absent from school, you will need to call the school office to let us know that they won't be attending. When your child returns to school, a note will need to be given to their teacher explaining the absence.

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

STAFF CAR PARK

Parents are reminded that the Staff Car Park is for STAFF ONLY.

Our staff arrive at different times throughout the school day and require the parking space.

There are dedicated disabled parking spaces on Bellbridge Drive and Matlock Street.

PRINCIPAL WRITES

Home School Partnerships are Important at Bellbridge

Our staff have been setting clear and achievable expectations with all students so that we are all clear about our roles and responsibilities. In order for students to receive a clear and consistent message we feel it is also important for families to support these expectations through conversations and actions at home. Some ways you can support a strong home school partnership include:

- Reading the newsletter with your child every week
- Asking for and checking your child's student diary or communication book each day
- Talking about sensible and safe play at home and school
- Monitoring homework tasks on a regular basis
- Attending meetings with teachers where necessary

A major success in our partnership so far this year has been the support demonstrated by our parents who have provided their children with the necessary resources and positive attitude to have an extremely organised and settled start to the school year.

Parent Teacher Meetings – Monday, February 17th / Tuesday, February 18th

We will be having Parent Teacher Interviews on Monday, February 17th (2:50 – 6:30pm) and Tuesday, February 18th, (2:50 - 4:30 pm). This is an opportunity to establish a relationship and build on the home school partnership with your child's teacher. It is where parents can share information that is specific to their child's needs. ***Notes have already been sent home with the eldest child in the family and need to be completed and returned to school by Friday, February 7th.***

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

Some information that may 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 an extended absence (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.

Does your child have ASTHMA? This is important information re Spacers

Schools/preschools in Victoria have been informed by the Asthma Foundation of Victoria about new guidelines regarding the use of spacers for children with asthma. Spacers are essential equipment when following Asthma First Aid best practice, however schools/preschools will no longer be able to wash, sterilise and re-use spacers from their asthma emergency kits when assisting students with asthma symptoms.

If your child has an Asthma Plan (which should be signed by a doctor and handed to the Office for filing with our First Aid Coordinator) you will need to supply a spacer to be stored at the office in case of emergency. If we do not have a spacer and need to use one for your child from the school supply we will need to charge parents for the replacement fee (\$10.00). Please help us to be prepared to look after your child's asthma needs if they arise.

Make sure you tell your child's teacher of any other medical conditions or special needs or requirements at the Parent Teacher meeting on Monday, February 17th and Tuesday, February 18th.

Shared Values at Bellbridge

We are very proud of our strong culture of good civics and citizenship at Bellbridge Primary School. This is actively demonstrated by our commitment to living out a set of shared values which are:

- We are individuals
- We aim, we achieve
- We are responsible citizens, and
- We value team work

School Wide Positive Behaviour Strategies

The SWPBS approach at Bellbridge was developed in 2012. It is a whole school approach designed to promote and maintain a safe and orderly learning environment for all students and staff.

It focuses on everyone and all settings within the school and promotes a positive focus on academic and behavioural outcomes across the school.

It clearly defines our core expected behaviours, which are:

- **Be safe**
- **Be Respectful**
- **Be Responsible**
- **Be a Learner**

Expected behaviours are acknowledged and rewarded at both an individual and class level.

Students can earn 'bee tokens' as an individual and these can be traded for prizes at a Reward Shop.

Class groups can earn 'bee hive tokens' for positive behaviour which they can trade for whole class rewards. They also have an opportunity to earn 'bee hive tokens' in their classroom, at Specialist classes and in the yard. Expectations are clearly displayed in each classroom in the form of a Matrix.

It's Not Okay to be Away

Our school has a strong commitment to maximum student attendance at school because it generally contributes to successful relationships between students and staff, strong feelings of connectedness to school and increased student learning outcomes. We also enjoy acknowledging students and families who are making an effort to attend school on a regular basis with certificates and awards at Assembly.

Riding Bikes and Scooters to School

We support and encourage students to ride their bikes and scooters to school as it is a healthy and environmentally conscious choice, BUT:

- Bikes and scooters must be in a condition that complies with safety expectations (e.g. size, brakes, tyres)
- Students must have parents' permission to ride to/from school
- Students must wear a helmet when riding a bike and are strongly encouraged to do the same when riding a scooter
- Students are strongly encouraged to lock their bikes and scooters in the bike enclosure
- Bikes and scooters must be 'walked' within the school grounds when entering and exiting the school

Please note: A 'Bike & Scooter Agreement' will be handed out during the Parent Teacher information sessions and will need to be signed by students and their parents.

IMPORTANT - Bringing Valuable Items to School

I feel it is important to remind parents/guardians that we strongly discourage students from bringing valuable items to school. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, iPods, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. It is very sad and disappointing when valuable items are lost or damaged and we urge parents and children to make responsible choices when considering bringing any valuable items to school. Students who bring mobile phones and/or electronic devices to school must:

- Have their parents' permission
- Leave them at the office when they arrive at school (for safe keeping)
- Pick them up from the office at the end of the school day

Student Safety around our School

The safety of students is very important to us.

A few parents have been using the Staff Car Parks as a drop off area for students. We understand that at times it may feel convenient for parents to use the car park but it does not comply with safety guidelines. For safety reasons, **students are not to be in the Staff Car Park at any time**, unless under the supervision of a teacher.

Please help us to make sure your children are safe when arriving and leaving school by doing the following, where applicable:

- Drop them off using the footpath as an exit point at a parking bay on Bellbridge Drive or Matlock Street.
- Make sure your children use the School Crossing if/when they need to cross Bellbridge Drive or Matlock Street in order to enter the school.
- Do not call them across the street when you are not parked on the school side of the road.
- If students do not use the School Crossing they need to be closely supervised by a parent or adult as they cross the street, e.g. holding hands.

School Council Elections

We currently have some vacancies for 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 will be posted around the school soon.

- School Council meets once a month on the third Monday of each month at 7:00pm.
- Members of School Council contribute to many of the decisions that govern the operations of the school.
- The term of office is generally for two years with the ability to nominate again as often as you like.

Since 2008 it has been possible for people to self nominate for School Council without the need to be seconded by another parent. We will advise parents when the nomination forms are ready and the official process is underway. These successful nominees will take office as of our March meeting.

Debbie Clancy

Principal

Meet the Principal

Monday, February 10th

9:00 – 9:30 in the staff room

Parents are invited to meet with our Principal, Debbie Clancy and the Leadership Team (Lisa Conibeer, Tania Hunt, Gail Pomfret) after Assembly on Monday, February 10th.

This will be an informal gathering where parents have the opportunity to learn more about our school whilst getting to know other parents as well.

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 come to the office to sign their child out, prior to going to the classroom.

PAYMENT OF MONIES

All money received at school, whether through the office or classroom, needs to be enclosed in a sealed envelope with the relevant information written on it. EG:

John Smith Grade Prep A
Melbourne Zoo
\$25.00 enclosed

GRAFFITI AND VANDALISM

If you see anyone behaving suspiciously or inappropriately in our school grounds please contact the following numbers:

Police: 9742 9444

WMR Emergency Management: 9589 6266

ONLINE RESOURCES USED AT BELLBRIDGE AND THE STUDENT INFORMATION REQUIRED

At Bellbridge Primary School, we use technology to engage our students in many areas of learning. As part of our ICT program, we carefully review and select quality websites that our students can access in their classrooms, and sometimes at home. Some of these are sites use the same login for all students across the school, and other sites use individual logins to enable us to set up class groupings – where teachers can set tasks and view progress reports on their students.

In order to maximise the use of these online resources, students/teachers/class details are being set up ready for use. As part of this process, students' first names, surnames, and grades are required to be provided to the following websites. We do not provide dates of birth, addresses, phone numbers, or other contact details. If you have any concerns about this, please contact our Acting Assistant Principal (and ICT Leader), Mrs Tania Hunt to discuss them.

Mathletics (owned by 3P Learning – previously subsidised by the DEECD.)

First name, surname and grade. In the public view, the students are identified as follows: “Tania H – Bellbridge Primary School” (i.e. only the first letter of the surname will display).

Privacy policy: <http://www.3plearning.com/privacy-policy/>

ABC Reading Eggs and Reading Eggspress (also now owned by 3P Learning)

First name and surname – then attached to the class teacher.

Privacy policy: <http://readingeggs.com.au/privacy/>

SumDog

First name, surname and grade.

Privacy policy: http://www.sumdog.com/en/Privacy_Policy/

From time to time, individual classes may wish to use a site other than these, and teachers will send home the necessary information/permission if any personal information is required in order to use it.

COMMUNITY NEWS

GLEN ORDEN SPORTS CLUB: Glen Orden Sports Club are desperately seeking Juniors who are interested in joining their sports club. They are looking for children from the ages of 4 years old to 18 years old to come and register for either a football team or for Auskick. They offer cheap yearly fees of \$50.00 per child or \$130.00 per family to join a football team. Auskick is \$70.00 per child and every child registered will receive a backpack with a football, drink bottle etc.

They will be having a registration day for families to attend and gather more information on the 14th February from 5pm to 7pm. The Club will also be putting on a sausage sizzle for those families interested. For further information contact Kerry on 0413 926 708.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN: St James the Apostle Catholic Church, Hoppers Crossing North will be holding classes for children wishing to prepare for Confirmation, Eucharist and Reconciliation. If you require further information and live within the Parish Boundaries of St James, please contact Sacramental Coordinator, Rachele Revell on 0411 774 636

| SACRAMENT | START DATE | REGISTRATIONS CLOSE |
|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Confirmation | 15 th February 2014 | 8 th February 2014 |
| Eucharist | 24 th May 2014 | 17 th May 2014 |
| Reconciliation | 6 th September 2014 | 30 th August 2014 |

BAHASA INDONESIA SCHOOL IN VICTORIA: BISA will be running Indonesian language and culture sessions from Saturday 8 February 2014 at Jamieson Way Community Centre Point Cook from 1pm – 4pm. Session activities include language, arts & crafts and angklung. The sessions targets Grade 1 – 4 children. Fees are \$175.00 per term. This includes books and materials. Enrol 3 get 1 free. Sessions will also be held for students completing Indonesian in VCE. They run from 1pm – 3pm each Saturday during the school term at a cost of \$20.00 per session. For more information call 0401 065 790 Email bahasaindonesiaschool@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/BahasaIndonesiaSchool

WYNDHAM SUNS FOOTBALL CLUB: Wyndham Suns' new home will be at Goddard Street Reserve, Tarneit. (off Leakes Road)

They are looking for interested players, parents, assistants, trainers, volunteers and supporters to be part of an exciting new community minded sports club and be part of the fun and excitement that comes from being involved in Australian Rules Football. Wyndham Suns will be fielding teams in: WRFL: U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15, U16, Youth Girls and Women VAFA: U19, Club 18, Seniors.

The Club will be holding its **Season Launch** (our new jumper will be on display and the release of our Club Song) and **Registration Day** on: **Sunday 9 February** at the **Tarneit Community Centre** on the corner of Leakes Rd and Sunset Views Boulevard. The day will run from 1.30pm to 4pm.

Club Launch will be from 1.30-2.15pm (everyone)

Special General Meeting from 2.15-2.30pm

Registration from 2.30-4.00pm (all players, incl. seniors)

This year our **Junior* fees are \$220 per player**. This includes registration with the Club, insurance from the WRFL, a pair of Wyndham Suns Socks, a Wyndham Suns 2014 Bumper Sticker and a Wyndham Suns training singlet.

Payment of your fees can be made online during the registration process, however this is by Credit Card only and the full amount must be paid (no part payments can be accepted on line).

Note: For families with *more than one player*, we offer a discount on shorts.

Payments for registration will be available on the day via EFTPOS, cash or cheque. If required, a payment arrangement can be made (please see Jenny Mangan (Treasurer) on the day or contact her at treasurer@wyndhamsunsfc.com.au or 0421 014213). Full payment of fees is required on or before Friday 4th April (before Round 1).

If you have any queries please email secretary@wyndhamsunsfc.com.au

* U19 and Senior players (VAFA) are still required to register on the day. Final fees and process to be confirmed

NEWSLETTER PRIZE – Read the newsletter and you might win a prize!

The school newsletter is a very important form of communication between home and school. We would like to think that all families read the newsletter so they can keep up to date with information and special events. As an incentive and/or reward for reading the newsletter we offer a prize (e.g. movie tickets, vouchers) that is drawn at every Assembly that occurs after the newsletter has been distributed. To be in the running for this prize you need to answer a question about some information in the newsletter. When you return the slip with the correct answer and a parent's signature to the Office it is included in the special draw for a prize.

Good luck!

Newsletter Prize

Question: Why are students not allowed in the staff car park?

Answer: _____

Parent's signature: _____

Return to the office by 8:20am Monday, February 10th – to be drawn at Assembly



SPACERS AND SCHOOLS/PRESCHOOLS: REMINDER FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Schools/preschools in Victoria have been informed by The Asthma Foundation of Victoria about new guidelines regarding the use of spacers for children with asthma. Spacers are essential equipment when following Asthma First Aid best practice, however schools/preschools will no longer be able to wash, sterilise and re-use spacers from their asthma emergency kits when assisting students with asthma symptoms.

Asthma first aid kits should only ever be used as a back-up for when a student does not have their own spacer available, if it is a first asthma attack or the cause of breathing difficulty is unknown. If your child has an Asthma Plan (which should be signed by a doctor and handed to the Office for filing with our First Aid Coordinator) you will need to supply a spacer to be stored at the office in case of emergency. If we do not have a spacer and need to use one for your child from the school supply we will need to charge parents for the replacement fee (\$10.00)

Even if your child has mild asthma, it is essential that their medication and spacer is always available to school/preschool staff. Please make sure your child always brings a spacer with them to school, or has one that stays at school.

For more information, please contact the Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or email schools@asthma.org.au

Keeping focus on the 2013 school year

As the kids settle into the new school year, did you remember to tick off 'see the optometrist' on your 'back to school' list? Many young people experience undetected vision problems as they often assume that how they see is normal.

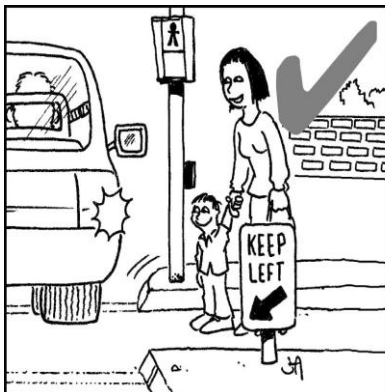
It is estimated that 80% of learning is experienced through vision and so children with undetected vision problems can have trouble keeping up and as a consequence might become impatient, lose focus and start misbehaving or not enjoying school.

The most frequent vision problems experienced by children are those affecting the ability to see clearly and sharply. These include **short-sightedness** (blurred distance vision), **long-sightedness** (difficulty focusing up close) and **astigmatism** (the distortion of vision due to the irregular shape of the eye). These conditions can be very easy to correct, with a simple measure: glasses. Other vision problems need to be detected and addressed early to reduce risk of long-term vision concerns such as a **turned eye (strabismus)**, or a so-called **lazy eye (amblyopia)**. These conditions require management by an eye health professional, such as an optometrist. Untreated amblyopia can even lead to permanently reduced vision in the affected eye.

Incorporating regular eye examinations with an optometrist into your child's health routine can give peace of mind and the best start to the school year – you don't need a referral from a doctor and most consultations attract a Medicare rebate. For more information or to find an optometrist in your local area, visit www.optometrists.asn.au/victoria.

5 interesting facts about your eyes:

- Your eyes are made up of more than 2 million working parts.
- The human eye will focus on about 50 things per second.
- Your eyes actually 'see' images upside down and then they send these images to the brain where they are flipped around correctly for us.
- The human eye can distinguish about 2.7 million different colours and 500 shades of grey.
- The human eye can process 36 000 pieces of information every hour.



Safe crossing procedure

Choose a safe place to cross, either at a **pedestrian facility** or where you have a **good view of approaching traffic** and where drivers can easily **see you**. **STOP, LOOK, LISTEN and THINK** whenever you cross a road.

ROAD SAFETY AROUND SCHOOLS BEGINS WITH **YOU!**