Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe that it is already the 4th week of Term 3. Students and staff have made a great start to the term with everyone working very hard. We are all pleased to hear that Paula is making good progress and we expect to see her back at school in the coming weeks.

A reminder to parents that you now need to access the Bulletin online at www.berendale.vic.edu.au unless you have contacted the office and arranged for a hard copy to be sent home. We are concerned that some parents are not receiving the important information contained in the Bulletin. Please give us a call if there are any difficulties in getting your copy of the Berendale Bulletin.

Parent Opinion Surveys

Thank you to the parents who have returned their surveys as requested. There are still a few outstanding, so we would appreciate it if they can be returned within the next day or so. Once again, please contact the office if you have experienced any difficulties with the survey.

School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBATS)

A further reminder that applications and interviews for SBATs for 2013 are now underway. Please contact Rob Sands (Acting Assistant Principal) as soon as possible if you are interested in your son or daughter participating in the SBATs.

Student Wellbeing: Cyber Safety

Attached to this Bulletin is advice to parents and carers about social networking sites which includes Facebook. We ask that all parents read this information carefully and contact school with any concerns. Our students can be vulnerable and need our help in keeping them safe, while still allowing them to use technology responsibly.

Curriculum Day

Our next Curriculum Day will be held on Monday 13th August. We are working with the Katandra staff on curriculum, student wellbeing and shared concerns. We are looking forward to a productive day and will report on the day in the next Bulletin.

Parent to Parent support Training

MOIRA (Youth & Disability Services) are well known to many parents for their excellent work with young people with disabilities and their families. MOIRA are offering training for parents as Peer Support Parents. Training runs over 5 sessions and will be held at MOIRA in Hampton East. Please contact Kerri Rolfe (Parent Support Coordinator) at MOIRA 8552 2222, or give me a call for further information.

Regards

Dr Maree McCutcheon (Acting Principal)
WELFARE MATTERS

AFL Tickets

The response to the free AFL tickets was overwhelming. There were three times the number of requests as we had tickets! Therefore they were issued in order in which they were received. My apologies to the many disappointed students and their families, however those who missed out this time have been recorded and will be given preference the next time around.

JCAAAA Term 3 Programs

A reminder that the Joint Councils Access for All Abilities (JCAAAA) program booklet for Term 3, 2012, is available from the school. This booklet lists a range of exciting recreational and sporting activities which are held during term time, at weekends and during the holidays. Please contact school or JCAAAA direct on 9209 6159 for more information.

Variety Bikes

Each year Variety Victoria offers Berendale students along with other special school students the opportunity of a new bike for Christmas. This generous offer is only available once for each student, with a maximum of ten bikes donated each year. Please let me know if you would like your son or daughter considered for a new bike this year. Again requests will be processed in the order in which they are received so please be prompt!

Commonwealth Bank Support

The Hampton and Moorabbin branches of the Commonwealth Bank combined to donate $2,000 worth of sports gear to Berendale. This very generous gift was received from Vicky (manager, Moorabbin) at a whole school assembly. Our school captains thanked Hampton and Moorabbin staff for the wonderful equipment. We now have new footballs, soccer balls, netballs, tunnel balls, water polo balls, touch footballs, indoor hockey sticks, table tennis gear, tackle bags, pool equipment and games, an indoor mega ball and much more! We are indeed lucky……

Woolworths Earn & Learn Program & Coles Sports for Schools

Both these programs will end next week. We again welcome your help to get as many points as possible towards classroom resources and sporting gear for Berendale before the programs finish.

Parent Education

Many of our parents have expressed an interest in learning more about legal and financial considerations and the support available for their son or daughter as they become young adults. The response to the upcoming information evening to be held at Berendale on Wednesday 29th August from 7:00 until 8:30 pm has been very good. A consultant (experienced in the disability field) from a local legal firm, Lakeside, will conduct this evening which is free and without any obligation. Please give me a call if you wish to attend, and to assist us with catering for the evening. All parents are most welcome.

Head Lice

Unfortunately those pesky head lice have been detected again! Could parents please check their student’s hair and treat immediately if required. Students are permitted to attend school once treatment has commenced. Please give me a call if you would like further information and thanks for your co-operation.

Maree McCutcheon
Brendan, Riley and Jack are working very hard in Horticulture planting plants and shrubs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 13th August</td>
<td>No students to attend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 15th August</td>
<td>6.00 pm School Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19th September</td>
<td>6.00 pm School Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 21st September</td>
<td>Finish 2.00 pm End of Term 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 8th October</td>
<td>Start of Term 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th October</td>
<td>6.00 pm School Council Meeting</td>
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<td>Tuesday 6th November</td>
<td>Public Holiday Melbourne Cup Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20th November</td>
<td>School Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 21st November</td>
<td>No students to attend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 28th November</td>
<td>6.00 pm School Council Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 21st December</td>
<td>Finish 12.00 pm End of Term 4</td>
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Bayside Film Festival

On Friday night I went to the Bayside Film Festival. There were snacks and drinks provided. My Dad and brother went with me as my film was being showcased. Once we were all seated in the cinema the host welcomed us and then they started my movie. I was presented with an award for best digital story in our category. Other than me, thirteen other kids got awards as well. The program went for two hours and I had a fantastic time. I got to watch Yo’el’s, Rebecca’s and Arnold’s Digital story on the big screen too and they were really good. By the time we got home it was 9.30 pm.

By Sheraton Browne 9B
Dear Parents,

RE: SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

We are all well aware of the growing phenomenon of social networking its attraction for children and young people. Social networking is here to stay and is very important to young people.

Most young people have Facebook accounts and use them regularly. Parents and teachers need to make sure that all young people learn to use the technology safely and responsibly and understand the underlying risks.

To many of us the social networking phenomenon is strange and unfamiliar. This letter is an attempt to provide information, advice and strategies to parents that will help keep our young people safe and allow them to become responsible users of technology.

Information about Facebook

- It is against the Facebook Rules for children under the age of 13 to use Facebook. Are you aware that your children may be using false dates of birth in order to create their accounts?

- Some young people may not understand the issues around privacy and have inadequate privacy settings allowing anyone, anywhere to search the sites for photos or participate in conversations with them potentially exposing themselves to approaches by online predators.

- Some young people use inappropriate language (swearing, name calling, bullying) on their pages. Once posted it can be seen by all of their ‘friends’ on Facebook and depending on the privacy settings of their ‘friends’, potentially be seen by thousands of ‘friends of friends’. Children do not understand that this becomes a permanent record available to thousands of people.

- Some young people use Facebook to bully or tease others with inappropriate comments or ‘put-downs’. Other young people then post comments such as “I agree”, “LOL” or click on the thumbs-up button to indicate that they ‘like’ the comment or picture. This compounds the bullying or harassment and can be very damaging to the target of the bullying.

- Under Australian law, inappropriate use of a carriage service (internet, PDA, mobile phone) can be a ‘criminal offence’ if used to “cause offence, bully, harass or embarrass”. Any person 10 years of age or older can be charged and convicted.

- Section 21A of the Victorian Crimes Act (1958) also known as Brodie’s Law, states that it is an offence to act in any “...way that could reasonably be expected to arouse apprehension or fear in the victim” or acting with the “...intention of causing physical or mental harm to the victim”.

- Some young people’s Facebook pages include photos of other young people at school or at school camp. This is dangerous practice and should not be done without the permission of the subject/s of the photo. Posting photos and ‘tagging’ friends in photos potentially identifies the subjects to a large number of people some of whom are trolling Facebook and other sites for predatory reasons.

The concept of ‘Friends’ on Facebook

Parents should be monitoring who their children’s Facebook ‘friends’ are. Young people brag about the number of ‘friends’ they have on Facebook and can be indiscriminate in who they add as a ‘friend’. This leads to “friendships” with unknown people or people pretending to be someone else whose motives for using Facebook are frightening.

Advice for parents

- Take an interest in your child’s online activities including Facebook ask them to explain things to you.
• Ask to be listed as a Facebook ‘friend’ so that you can see what is on your child’s page at any time.

• Check at least weekly what your child is posting on their page and who they are talking about (or to) ‘on-line’. Monitor ‘conversations’ that are posted in reference to photos and may not be obvious on your child’s ‘wall’.

• Monitor their Facebook friends list. Who are they accepting as a friend?

• Many users are unaware that “checking in” to somewhere actually provides enough information for most people to work out exactly where you are. For example, tag yourself “at home, on the couch” and your friends and your friends’ friends can probably identify your home address if they don’t already know it.

• This is called ‘Geo tagging’ and Geo tagging or ‘checking in’ can give people on the web enough information to pretend familiarity with younger more vulnerable people.

• Geo tagging photos can also be a problem posting a picture of a new TV or a nice new pushbike might well attract a thief.

• Be careful of inadvertently providing information that should be kept private. “Three more sleeps til we go to FIJI!!!” alerts people to the fact that your house may be empty and vulnerable. Announce your holiday once you return, post any photos you wish but be careful what access you give to others, make accessible to friends only, especially photos of children.

• Some young people give their passwords to friends; sometimes it’s to access games or for other reasons. It is considered a measure of trust. Sharing passwords is fraught with danger. Warn your children strongly against it. Friendships come and go; today’s best friend can become tomorrow’s worst enemy. All too frequently “friends” log into their “friends’ account and post offensive and abusive messages on someone else’s page under your child’s name.

**Bullying on-line**

If you find that your child is being harassed threatened or bullied on-line, please report it to police and to the school. Print out a hard-copy of the page/s. Never ever, respond! Delete or block the offending ‘friend’ and use the ‘Report this Page’ link on Facebook/YouTube. In Facebook, the ‘Help Centre’ is located under the ‘Account’ tab.

We verify the allegation by getting a hard copy of the offending comments. Sometimes young people will ‘sign-on’ to their account and show us the relevant comments that have been posted. If you are listed as a friend, you can see and print anything offensive. The school treats incidents of on-line harassment very seriously. We follow up with parents immediately and in some cases are obliged to report matters to the Police.

Every child and family signs the *Digital Users Agreement* at the start of each year. This agreement clearly states that children agree that they will not use the Internet, email or mobile phones for teasing or bullying or any other inappropriate use. Children are not permitted to use Facebook at school and access is blocked by the school IT system.

The Internet is an increasingly important part of our day to day communication with others. It provides us with enormous opportunities. It is important that we ensure our children use the Internet responsibly and safely at home and at school.

Should you want further information on this topic or need advice or assistance please contact your class teacher, sub school manager or myself on 9555 5555.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Maree McCutcheon
Acting Principal
Additional Information

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) guidelines on acceptable use of the internet is available at:


A fact sheet for parents and carers has been designed to provide useful strategies and tips for parents in dealing with incidents of bullying and unacceptable behaviour. It is available in multiple languages:


The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) have a great website to help parents understand and deal with cyber safety matters. http://www.cybersmart.gov.au

Lifeline cyberbullying support materials


Other useful websites

www.reachout.com.au
www.kidshelp.com.au
www.netalert.gov.au
www.wiseuptoit.com.au -