Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back to term 4 which is the busy term. The school Performance and Awards Night is on the 20th November. Year 9&10 will be going on camp and there is the Senior Sailing Camp later in the term. In addition we have the Year 12 Graduation on 4th December. Orientation for new students will begin later in October. Staff will be preparing reports, the school magazine completing class allocations and school organisation. All in all a busy time for everyone.

Applied Learning Awards:

Tomorrow Night is the Applied Learning Awards. We have a number of students nominated for awards and Janet Smith is nominated for the Vet Trainer Award. The school has been nominated for Experienced Provider of V.E.T. and Experienced Provider of VCAL, as well as the Champion School Award. Berendale will be competing against all other large secondary schools in the area, so any awards won will be well deserved. We will report back on our success in the next Bulletin.

Beyond the School Gates:

If you haven’t checked out our website please go to www.beyondtheschoolgates.org.au We have a number of programs for students. A new program is a Sailing program on Thursdays which will be conducted at Blackrock Sailing Club from 4.00pm. Please see the website for details. Parents are reminded that you need to book online for all of our events.

Dance Party:

Another Beyond the School Gates initiative is the dance party which will be held this Friday from 5.00pm – 7.30pm. This is a special event for students from Specialist Schools in the Bayside, GlenEira and Kingston areas. We hope to make this a regular event. Thank you to the parents who have volunteered to help out. This is a strictly booking only event. We have had replies of over 75 students from a number of special schools.

Showcase Day:

On Monday 22nd October we have a number of important people visiting the school to look at our vocational education programs and Beyond the School Gates initiative. Our visitors include the Head of Student Wellbeing, the Head of Special Curriculum, and National Representatives from Extended School Hubs. We will be having a special VET day so students will be involved in a range of training areas. We have developed a short film to highlight Beyond the School Gate programs not operating on the day.

EMA:

There have been some changes to the payment of EMA 2013. Please read the circular attached for more information.

School Fees:

School Fees for term 4 are now due. We ask you to make payment by Friday 2nd November. The issue of school fees for 2013 will be discussed at School Council this Wednesday. If you have any input about this area please contact the school.

Have a great week,
Regards
Parent Education & Support

The Beyond the School Gates initiative which is providing some wonderful programs and opportunities for our students, is also developing family support programs. Please visit the website at: www.beyondbeyondtheschoolgates.org.au to see what is currently available and the upcoming programs. If you have any suggestions for parent programs please let us know. At present we are looking at providing a pamper program for our mothers, and a fishing day for fathers and sons. Any ideas are most welcome.

Leading: the next steps

How you can think, plan and achieve goals for your young person and the family, building on your strengths and skills as a parent? The Association for Children with a Disability are hosting a workshop to answer those questions on Wednesday 24th October (9:30am – 2:45pm) at the Caulfield Park Pavilion, 280 Balaclava Road, Caulfield. Places are limited so book now at www.trybooking.com/32010 or contact ACD on 9818 200 for more information or to make a booking.

V8 Supercars – Sandown 500

Thank you to the parents who came along to Sandown and joined in the fun of the day. Your assistance on the day was greatly appreciated by staff and students alike. See you again in 2013.

Life Education

The Life Education Program was once again a great success. It was quite an experience for those parents who were able to attend the parents’ session and become involved in the hands on learning about our students’ wellbeing and decision making. Due to the huge demand from schools across the state we will next have a visit from Life Education Van in 2014.

Carers Week 14 – 20 October

Are you a carer in Glen Eira or Port Phillip LGA? You are invited to a free event to be held at Caulfield Park Pavilion, Balaclava Road, Caulfield on Thursday 18th October from 10am – 3:00pm. For further information or to register please contact Lesley on 9076 6752. It sounds like a great day and an acknowledgement of the wonderful support and care of parents and families for those with special needs.

JCAAA Term 4 Programs

Joint Councils Access for All Abilities (JCAAA) have published their program booklet for Term 4, 2012. The booklet includes a range of exciting recreational and sporting activities which are held during term time, at weekends and during the holidays. We have copies available at school or contact JCAAA direct on 9209 6159 for more information or to request that you be placed on their mailing list for the future.

Festival of Magic

Could all requests for tickets please be sent to school ASAP to secure your tickets for this excellent show. My apologies for the earlier and confusing form that was sent out by mistake. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this world class show.

Maree McCutcheon
Education Maintenance Allowance - information for parents currently receiving EMA

Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:

The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school.

New EMA payment option

From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.
  
  * i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Installment One) and 15 July 2013 (Installment Two).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 - 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Instalment One</strong></td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Instalment Two</strong></td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual Total</strong></td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
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**Payment Amounts - 2013:**

*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

**Contact:** School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is **28 February 2013**.

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### The Peterson Youth Centre

The Peterson Youth Centre is located on the corner of Highett Rd and Peterson St, Highett. Open for students every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2.30 pm—5.30 pm where we offer healthy snacks, free internet, Nintendo Wii, art & craft, sports.

For more information, please contact Youth Services on 95994622

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**IMPORTANT DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th October</td>
<td>6.00 pm</td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 6th November</td>
<td></td>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20th November</td>
<td></td>
<td>School Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 21st November</td>
<td></td>
<td>No students to attend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 28th November</td>
<td>6.00 pm</td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4th December</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 12 Graduation Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 21st December</td>
<td>Finish 12.00 pm</td>
<td>End of Term 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grand Opening
Berendale Opportunity Shop

SS3 VCAL Room

Tuesday 16th of October at 10am—12.15 and by appointment until 26th of October

Students are invited to bring some pocket money to purchase items at the Op Shop

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Menswear</th>
<th>Ladies wear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tshirts $ 1</td>
<td>Tops $2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirts $ 2</td>
<td>Skirts $3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jumpers and hoodies $ 3</td>
<td>Dresses $5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coats $5</td>
<td>Pants $4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men Pants $3</td>
<td>Shoes from $1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorts $1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toys, hats and handbags and Jewellery from 50 cents</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Association for Children with a Disability

Leading: the next steps
How you can think, plan and achieve goals for your child and family

How can you create a fulfilling life with choices, purpose, friendship and happiness? If you want to take the lead in achieving these goals for your child (0-18) and family, then this workshop is for you!

Build on the strengths and skills you already have as a parent to better identify, plan and achieve your goals.

Southern region workshop
Date: Wed 24th October, 2012
Time: 9.30am – 2.45pm
Venue: Caulfield Park Pavilion, 280 Balaclava Road, Caulfield (melway map ref: 59 C12).
Cost: $20 per person- members $40 per person - non-members.*
Morning tea and a light lunch included.

Start by learning to turn small possibilities into realities through our ‘Leading: the next steps’ workshop:

- Planning and goal setting
- Tips and strategies in learning to take the lead
- Growing your knowledge and resources
- Building positive relationships with professionals
- Developing your advocacy skills

Our workshop is designed for parents/primary carers of children with a disability, and our presenters are parents or siblings of a person with a disability themselves so they understand issues from a family perspective.

Places are limited so book now at: http://www.trybooking.com/32010 or contact our office.

*Membership is free for the first 12 months, so ring the office to apply.

For more information contact the Association for Children with a Disability on 9818 2000 or 1800 654 013 (rural callers), by email to mail@acd.org.au or visit our website www.acd.org.au

“No one else understands my child the way I do. If I don’t stand up and say what she needs no one else will do it.”