PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parents/Carers

Last week I attended the launch of a book by Australian Council for Educational Research called ‘Partnering for School Improvement’. Berendale is featured as a case study in the book to exemplify community partnerships. The article describes our partnership with Elanora Aged Care Facility in running the coffee shop, the Barista training provided to students and the interaction with the residents. The program has been jointly funded through the NAB Schools First grant and Beyond the School Gates. It was pleasing to see the program we value so much being featured in a publication.

Performance and Awards Night and Art Show:

The night was well attended by parents and community members. The hall was beautifully decorated with student art and sculptures and the students performed brilliantly. A lot of hard work went into the evening and it was a whole school team approach involving decorating the hall, organising back stage props, technology, minding students, front of house, rehearsals, transport etc

Thank you so much to all staff for their hard work.

We have featured photos of the night in this Bulletin.

Garden Opening:

Our other big event since the last Bulletin was the Sub School 2 Garden Opening. The weather was really against us but we managed to squeeze everyone in to Sub School 2 and even had a brief visit to the garden after the official opening. Congratulations to all the students and staff who worked so hard on the project. In years to come I know it will flourish.

Early Finish:

Students aged 16 years and above may finish school on Friday 29th November. Notes have been sent out and parental permission is required for attendance audits. Normal programs will operate for students who wish to remain at school. Could parents please have these notes back to school by Wednesday 27th November.

Casey Robinson:

The School community are saddened to hear of the passing of Casey Robinson’s mother Jill.

We send our sympathies for the family and our thoughts are with you Casey.

Have a great week
Regards
Paula Barnett
WELFARE MATTERS

Christmas Party

A Christmas Party for Special Children will take place on Sunday 1st December at the Flemington Racecourse from 9:30 until 1:30pm. The party is free and will feature some great live entertainment, food, drinks, show bags and rides for children aged under 17. There are still tickets available so if you are interested please call 1300 730 066 or visit www.christmasparty.com.au to request tickets.

Bayside Youth Services- After School & Holiday Programs

A reminder that the brochure outlining the Bayside Youth Services Holiday Program ‘Xtreme Teen’ is now available. If you would like a copy please let us know or alternatively contact the Youth Services on 9599 4622 or visit www.bayside.vic.gov.au/youth for more information, or to book online.

ArtAbility 2013 ‘Destinations’

The annual Art Exhibition of works by people with disabilities will take place at the Atrium, Federation Square, City from 2nd to 15th December. The exhibition is well worth a look if you in the city during this period. A number of our students have showcased their works at this exhibition, with several works being sold.

Speech Pathology

A further reminder to parents that Carisse Matthews (speech pathologist), will continue with her weekly sessions at Berendale in 2014. If you would like to know more about her program, please contact Carisse on 0439 968 785 to discuss things e.g. assessments, further.

Student ID Cards

There has been a very good response so far for the free student ID card. This card is available through the office and contains photo ID and student details, including date of birth. Such a card can be very useful for students who are quizzed about their age when attending events or going to the movies etc. particularly during the holiday period. Alternatively senior students from age 16 can apply for a KeyPass, or at 18 a Proof of Age Card. Please give me a call if you would like more information or an application form.

Companion Card Victoria

The Companion Card has been developed to allow a person with a disability to participate in a wide range of recreational activities with the assistance of a ‘companion’. For more information call 1800 650 611 or visit www.companioncard.org.au or give me a call if you would like to know how the scheme operates.

Dr Maree McCutcheon
(Student Wellbeing & Family Support)
It’s coming up to the end of the year and you may have already noticed some retailers promoting their Christmas offerings, it’s probably a good time to start preparing for next year. I was reminded of this time by the recent awards night, it was a night to not only celebrate the achievements of everyone’s efforts over the past year, but also an entertaining display of our journey. What amazed me this year was the capacity for an original production, I gazed in amazement at the talent in every facet of each performance. Sincere appreciation goes out to Adam Kelly and Jennifer Tupper for the support and commitment they have given for such an achievement, thank you very much for another great show.

And to all of the those who were presented with awards on the night, well done and may you continue to do well.

It was very pleasing to celebrate the official opening of the garden to represent 100 years of special education. I must say that I’ve never actually had the experience of cutting such a beautifully presented ribbon before so I was very pleased to get those finely honed scissors around that blue band and release everyone into the beautifully crafted garden that will last another 100 years at least. We were all so very lucky to have been given a show bag with treats like olives, plants, sweets & assorted condiments that were all derived from the wonderful aspiring craft students at the school, I have already eaten all of my olives they were so yummy!

Please take care this time of year as everyone rushes around to close out their school, work & in some cases financial years. I look forward to our next council meeting and planning for the good things that are going to happen at Berendale in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Kon Peltekis
School Council President
Awards and Performance Night
Centennial Garden Open

[Images of the garden and people attending the open event]

CENTENNIAL GARDEN
CELEBRATING
100 YEARS of SPECIAL EDUCATION
2013

[Further images showing various activities and children involved]
We had a great time on Friday with Donna who ran a Hip Hop dance program supported by Beyond the School Gates. She took a group of 32 students from across the three sections of the school for a lesson in Hip Hop. Donna had us dancing in lines of eight and rotating so each row had a turn at the front.
Berendale is a very busy school. We often have to act at the last moment when we are offered opportunities to support our students’ learning programs and keeping our school community informed and up to date is a difficult task. This newsletter is one of the ways in which we try to do this, but the Konnective app is another way that we can help to keep information flowing.

Konnective are working closely with the department and the app in its current form is just the beginning – they are hoping that it will become a way for parents to give permission and consent for excursions and other new features in the future.

Many of you have already downloaded the app and have subscribed, we have also started to send messages and photos using the system.

We would like to encourage you to:

- Download the app from either the App Store or the Google Play store on to your device.
- Create an account on the Konnective app.
- Search for Berendale feeds on the Konnective app.
- You will automatically be able to receive the General Updates and you can also request to belong to feeds that are more specific to your student or connection with the school.

If anyone would like help, please feel free to give me a call or come to the office and I can help you to get up and running with Konnective.

Seth Willingham, Assistant Principal