Dear Parents/Carers

This is the last Newsletter for 2013 so I thank the staff, students and school community for another productive year at Berendale.

Congratulations to our Year 12’s who graduated last Tuesday at our celebration at Milano’s. Each student made a speech and showed a power point of their time at Berendale. It was a wonderful night and many thanks go to the Sub School 3 staff who organised the night.

To our students who are leaving, we wish you all the best for the future in your various post school options. Please come back and visit so that we can keep in touch. Next year is our 50th anniversary so we look forward to seeing you at the celebration.

Bruce McPhate:

Congratulations to Bruce McPhate who has officially picked up the principal position at Katandra. As you would know Bruce was one of our Assistant Principals and has been on loan to Katandra for quite some time. Bruce was a diligent, sincere leader who supported students’ staff and parents in an efficient and effective way. Thank you Bruce for your time at Berendale and in particular the support you gave to me. I wish you the very best for the future and know you will be an excellent leader.

Lil’ Flicks:

Last Thursday night some of our students attended the Kingston screening of student films. We had a number of our student films shown on the night and each student received a voucher. Alex Skaftouros won third prize for his charming film the ‘Holden Family’ and picked up a $500 prize. Well done to all and special thanks to our volunteers who work with our students on a weekly basis.

We are hoping to hear soon whether we will be successful in our submission for an Artist in School. We have applied to have a film animator working in the school next.

School Transport- Travel Training Trial:

We received $20,000 earlier this year to participate in the travel training trial. During this time we have trained 7 students who are now independent. Congratulations to Cathy Euvard who has been our travel trainer. She has done a remarkable job and next year Cathy will work four days a week in the program. The Department has given us $75,000 for 2014 and another $ 75,000 for 2015. During this time we will rationalise our bus transport. We understand that not all students will be able to be travel trained and that the school bus system will be important for many families.

If you are interested in your son or daughter being travel trained in 2014 please contact me during office hours.

Partnering for Schools:

We have applied for a $30,000 grant to work with Monatgue, Southern Autistic and Yarrabah on Post School Transitions. I spoke to the Department last week who said we would hear shortly regarding our success. A favourable response was indicated but it will be confirmed prior to the end of the year.

School Fees:

Please do not to forget to pay your 2013 fees in full prior to the end of the year.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe festive season

Regards

Paula Barnett
World Festival of Magic  (Saturday 21st December)

For those parents who have ordered tickets to the World Festival of Magic, the tickets will be sent home this week. Please let me know if you do not receive the tickets you ordered. Also if any family is now unable to make the performance, could you please let us know as soon as possible so we can give those tickets to families on the waiting list. Thanks for your cooperation.

Bayside Youth Services- After School & Holiday Programs

A final reminder that bookings for the Bayside Youth Services Holiday Program ‘Xtreme Teen’ are now underway and will close on Friday 20th December. However some of the most popular programs have already booked out so please don’t hesitate if you intend making a booking. All bookings are online so visit www.bayside.vic.gov.au/youth to book.

Respite South

If you would like to talk with someone about respite needs and options please call 1800 052 222 (24 hours per day) or visit www.respitesouth.org.au You may also like to sign up for their free newsletter which contains a range of information about the services and programs that are currently available.

Speech Pathology

Carisse Matthews (speech pathologist), will continue with her sessions at Berendale in 2014, however next year her visits will be fortnightly. If you would like to know more about her program, please contact Carisse direct on 0439 968 785.

Medicare Teen Dental Program  (2 – 17 Years)

From 1st January 2014 the Medicare Teen Dental Program will be replaced with the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. The same eligibility applies and services include basic dental treatment with benefits capped at $1,000 per child over a two year period. Appointments can be made with either a private or public dental provider. For more information please go to the Department of Health website www.health.gov.au/dental

Home Doctor Service

Home visiting doctors provide a service when your own GP may not be available. Weekends, week nights and public holidays you can contact the Home Doctor Service on 13 7425 or 13 SICK for medical attention. Bulk billing is available and your patient records are updated.

Very best wishes for a wonderful festive season, and happy and safe holidays.

Dr Maree McCutcheon
(Student Wellbeing & Family Support)
Dear parents, students, teachers, staff, councillors, sponsors & spouses,

I would like to sign off the year by letting you all know how enriching it has been for my family and myself to be the school council president of Berendale. I have learnt so much from each and every one of you that I and can only hope I have given something back in return. This year has been a resounding success and I thank you all for the hard work and efforts that you have made towards the future of our children, I would also like thank the children for their courage and determination that has allowed them to uncover parts of their lives that everyone has wanted them to do.

We all hope to have another year like this one, so join me and all the new comers as well as those leaving to wish each other a beautiful Christmas and wonderful 2014.

Yours Sincerely,

Kon Peltekis
School Council President
Students from Sub School 1 and 2 who sail on Friday mornings as part of the school recreation and leisure program enjoyed the opportunity to meet and talk to Jessica Watson, a truly inspirational young Australian woman. The students found out that apart from being the youngest person in the world to sail around single handed continuously in 2010, she was also ‘Young Australian of the year’ in 2011 and received the ‘Order of Australia’ medal in 2012.

These great opportunities only happen with the wonderful support of the volunteers and staff from the Black Rock Yacht Club and Berendale School.

The students who have participated in sailing this year would like to thank BRYC and Berendale for that support.
Two new units will be available next year for students in Bike Education. These units offer very practical, useful skills such as repairing a puncture and fitting bicycle accessories. The units will be part of the automotive course and have been added for students who want to undertake some practical hands-on units but do not wish to follow an automotive career. Students wishing to undertake the bicycle units will still be completing some automotive units as well, which will also be useful and practical, such as ‘Read in the Workplace’ and ‘Use Numbers in the Workplace’.

Many thanks to Peter Micallef, Manager of South Pacific Gym at Williamstown for the kind donation of 2 exercise bikes. The students have enjoyed some healthy exercise and had some fun on the bikes. Berendale School wishes the staff and members at South Pacific a safe and happy festive season.
Last Tuesday evening the Year 12 students participated in their graduation. It was a wonderful event that was attended by Parents, Families, Staff and Special Guests. All of the students prepared and presented a great speech, which outlined their personal highlights, while at Berendale. The maturity displayed by all of the graduates on the night, under the pressure of presenting to a large audience, contributed to making this one of the most significant nights in their educational experience. Thank you to all who helped make this a great night.
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