Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a busy start to the year but we are well organised and all programs are fully operating.

Thank you to the parents who attended the new parent afternoon tea. Unfortunately we couldn’t have it in the Kiosk as it was one of our frequent hot days. All new parents have also been asked to attend a session with our Welfare Coordinator Maree McCutcheon as a way of us better understanding your needs.

For this term our Newsletter will go out in hard copy however in Term 2 the Newsletter will be electronic and can be accessed from the web site.

Welcome BBQ and Information Night:

Don’t forget the BBQ and Information Night next Monday 24th February. We are still chasing up some responses so could you please send back numbers attending as soon as possible.

Partnership for Learning Funding:

We were successful in gaining $25,000 funding to work in partnership with Yarrabah, Southern Autistic, and Montague on Post School Transition and employability. We are planning a combined forum to look at best practice next term.

School Council Elections:

We are still looking at one more nominations for School Council.

The following councillor position will conclude in March

Kon Peltekis       Mark Fisher       Max Verbene

Parents may self-nominate for School Council

Advance Notice Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of School Council will be held on Wednesday 26th March. All parents are invited to attend. The night is a show case of student work and we have student performances, digital stories and student reports. It is a great way to learn about what the school does. Please put this one in your diary.

Curriculum Fees:

Curriculum Fees are now due. Could you please make payments as soon as possible. Parents facing financial problems can phone me to discuss other options.

Have a great week

Regards

Paula Barnett
WELFARE MATTERS

Student Wellbeing

A reminder to parents to please inform the school of any changes in your student’s medication, medical status, or their emergency medical management. It is vital that the school has up to date information, including any changes in your contact details. It does appear that sometimes changes in mobile phone details are sometimes overlooked. Thank you for your cooperation.

Thank you to our Year 7, 9 and 10 parents who have returned the immunisation cards. There are however a number still to be returned. A reminder that even if your student is not being immunised, that the card needs to be returned for inclusion in the statewide data base.

Parent Support

Some limited funding assistance is available for school camps. Please contact me well in advance of the camp if you would like to apply for funding support as the process and accessing funds can take some weeks. Please give me a call if you would like to know more.

A reminder that students who receive the Disability Support Pension, are also entitled to an additional payment (Pensioner Education Supplement) while they are attending school. A recent verification by the school indicates that a number of our students are not accessing this payment which is available to assist with school costs. Applications for Terms 1 and 2 close on the 31st March, so please give me a call if you need some help in applying to Centrelink for this payment. You will require a letter confirming enrolment and attendance at school to support the application.

Speech Pathology

Carisse Matthews (speech pathologist) still has a few vacancies for 2014. Carisse visits Berendale fortnightly and conducts both individual and group sessions. If you would like to know more about her program, please contact Carisse direct on 0439 968 785. This is a fee for service arrangement, and can be accessed through a Health Care Plan from your family doctor.

Student ID

If your student requires a photo ID you can apply for a KEYPASS from age 16, or from age 17yrs and 11 months, the Proof of Age Card. Forms are available from my office. Younger students can obtain a photo ID from the office on a parent’s request.

Companion Card

The Companion Card was developed for people who need assistance to access venues and activities. The card provides the carer with free or reduced price entry so that they can support the young person. While not all our students will qualify, you may wish to look at the requirements and process. Please let me know if you would like an application form, or download a copy at the Companion Card Website: www.companioncard.org.au

Dr Maree McCutcheon (Student Wellbeing & Family Support)
We have started our school year and nominations for school council have already begun to roll in, it is fantastic to see the interest that is been shown at this early stage. It is also impressive to see the early payment of school fees, thank you to all of the parents who have done so, a wonderful start to the year.

Get ready for camps, excursions, shows, games, fun & friendship amongst young and old as we look forward to another great year at Berendale. All of the staff have been doing a lot of planning and preparation to make every year better and better. Introduce yourself to each other and everyone else around you, tell each other what makes you happy so that we all know what it is that we can work at. It will be my pleasure to meet each and every one of you throughout the year.

Yours Sincerely,

Kon Peltekis
School Council President
Education Maintenance Allowance

Eligibility:
To be eligible for the EMA in 2014, 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 28 January 2014 (Instalment One) and 1st August 2014 (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts - 2014:

- In 2014, the EMA payments to eligible parents will be:
  - $200 for parents of eligible Prep students
  - $150 for parents of all other eligible primary school students
  - $300 for parents of eligible Year 7 students

Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2014 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 2014. Please either send a copy of your health care card or bring it in and either Bev or I will photocopy it.
Chris Gaud, Derrion, Perrin and I are having a great time working on a Wednesday at Disability Media Australia. We worked on cameras, made our own radio show and getting to know the other people from other schools that joined this course. I have been enjoying the course with everyone who is Nick, Lucy, Daniel, Tanara, Shaun and Yasmine. This has been my favourite work experience courses that I have been involved for. I am hoping someday I can become an actor so I can entertain kids and families and have a life of career of performance fear and square.

By Jack Anderson
Year 12
This year on Mondays and Tuesdays I am in the SBAT program. We are doing Horticulture with some other students from this school and other schools. We are learning how to use a mower, blower and the whipper snipper and how to put fuel in the mower and check the oil if it’s full or empty. We clean the front of the school and the steps near the swimming pool. After we finished cleaning outside we went to the RTO and did some paperwork. The paperwork I did is OH&S and learning about the environment. We have 15 units to complete by the end of the year to get a Certificate II in Horticulture. I will be really happy to get the Certificate by the end of the year.
For the first trip for 2014 a group of Year 9 and 10 students went to Flinders Street Station and Federation Square. The students had learned a little of the history of the station in class so they looked at the building with fresh eyes.

At Federation Square they visited the information centre and the Ian Potter Gallery where they were very impressed by the “Melbourne Now’ exhibition, especially the room that had furnishings created with icing.

Jenny Tupper
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
Welcome BBQ and Information

Date: Monday 24th February
Time: 5.00 pm – 6.15 pm
Supplied: Meat, Salad, Bread, Sweets, Cordial

Information Night

Time: 6.15—7.15 pm
Location: Sub School 1—Hall
Sub School 2—Sub 2 Building
Sub School 3—Music Room

Information: Curriculum emphasis
Handy Tips
Question Time

Who will attend: All Family members
Reply slip—To be returned by Monday 10 February

Reply Slip BBQ and Information Night

Name: ________________________________

Students name: ______________________

Number of Adults: _________________
Number of Children: _______________
Any special dietary requirements:
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________