Dear Parents/ Carers

Thank you to everybody who attended our Welcome BBQ and Information Night. I hope you found the night useful and managed to meet some other parents.

This Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Seth and I will be attending the Inner South Principal Network conference. Kylie Scott and Maree McCutcheon will be in charge of the school.

Maree McCutcheon will now be working on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday as she has reduced her time. She will still be a valuable asset to the school, however please be aware that she may not be able to get back to you if you ring on the days she is not in.

School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship:

We welcome Sam Yeats from St Bedes Mentone to our school who will be completing a traineeship in office work at Berendale School. Sam has a visual disability and it will be necessary to carry out some small modifications to the school to accommodate his vision problem. These will be paid for through the Traineeship scheme. He will be with us for the rest of the year. As a school that believes in all students with disabilities having potential to work we see Sams employment as a model to our students and to other schools. Sam will complete his orientation this Tuesday and start work shortly after modifications are complete.

Beyond the School Gates:

As this is our last year of funding through the Extended School Hub program we are getting ready to approach the Department and Philanthropic Trusts. One of our promotional materials will be a new film which we have asked Seth to produce. He did a great job on our last film and has good knowledge of the program. Consequently he will be involved in this activity for a three week period starting on Tuesday 11th March. Mandy Thomas will be stepping up to take on his usual duties. This is Mandy's first time as Assistant Principal and she is looking forward to the challenges of the role. Please direct queries to Mandy rather than Seth during this period.

Reminder: Annual General Meeting School Council:

Don’t forget the AGM on Wednesday 26th March from 6pm. Our students will be presenting and performing activities they have been involved over the last 12 months. New students will be included in these activities. It is a real celebration of the work that happens at Berendale. Please make sure you put this date in your diary. School Council Office bearers will be elected and School Captains and new councillors announced.

Partnerships for Learning:

We are having a combined Forum with Yarrabah, Southern Autistic, and Montague School on Thursday 29th May. During this forum we will be focusing on employability for students with disabilities. All schools involved in the forum will close at 1.00pm on the day so could you please note the early finish.

Have a great week

Regards

Paula Barnett
Student Wellbeing

If your student missed having their immunisation last Wednesday you will have been notified by the council of community sessions they could attend. Alternatively you could make arrangements with your family doctor to have your son or daughter immunised.

Bayside Youth Services

Services are offered to young people and their families, who live, work or attend school in Bayside. As well as counselling and individual support Youth Services conduct a number of programs during the school term and holidays.

An afternoon program ‘Hang Out’ is held at the Peterson Youth Centre in Highett Road, Highett from 3 until 5 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The program is staffed by youth workers and is recreational with opportunities also to cook and prepare snacks. The program is cost free.

This Wednesday a girls self defence class ‘Kapow’ commences after school at the Peterson Centre. Open to girls in Years 8, 9 and 10, there is no charge and the program runs for 8 weeks during term time. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like your daughter to participate. We can assist in getting students to the venue if you are interested.

Tickets to Razza-Ma-Tazz

Berendale students and their families have again been offered free tickets to ‘Razz-Ma-Tazz’, a wonderful live theatre show featuring clowns, jugglers, acrobats, puppetry and much, much more. Further information and a request for tickets will be sent home later this week.

Parent Support & Information

Parents may be aware that you have access to carer respite and support. Please visit www.respitesouth.org.au for more information. The website is a resource for parents providing options for respite, or call 1800 052 222 to discuss your needs. We also have brochures available at school if you would like further information.

Two excellent publications are also available from the school or online at www.moira.org.au ‘Time for a Break’ is a comprehensive guide to respite care and recreational services, while ‘Compass’ is a guide to a range of services and support options for young people with disabilities and their families. Just let us know if you would like a copy of either or both booklets.

Student Transport

A reminder to our parents that it is your responsibility to notify the bus company if your student does not require the bus for any reason. Contact Crown Coaches on 9845 1455 for the Frankston, Dandenong or Port Melbourne runs or Bayside Coaches on 9532 2225 for the Caulfield run. Early notification would be appreciated.

Dr Maree McCutcheon         (Student Wellbeing & Family Support)
To all our friends, families & staff at Berendale,

I would like to apologise for my recent absence which took me to some interesting places in Asia.

Taiwan was found to be a particularly advanced country in public transport, fashion, technology, etc. The most interesting thing I found was a group of children that were on an outing who were from the local special needs educational centre. When I asked about where the school was, I was driven past something that looked like a university campus – it was huge! I was glad that our school is not this large and I wondered how difficult it would be to run an establishment of that size. So, I am pleased to say that in my opinion, we have a wonderfully sized school with a personality of its own. The traffic made me wonder if there was a school bus, but amongst the thousands of buses, it was hard to determine if this was apparent.

We then departed to Vietnam where I saw people begging in the streets that clearly had special needs and that made me grateful for where we live and that our children will never need to beg for food. The sight of seeing disabled people and those with special needs begging made me sad and made me realise how lucky we are to have our schools and especially, Berendale for our children.

I would be happy to talk to anyone about my experiences in Asia.

Sincerely,
Kon Peltekis
School Council President

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPORTANT DATES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 26th March</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 4th April 2014</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 22nd April 2014</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 5th May</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 29th May</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 3rd June 2014</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 27th June 2014</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 14th July 2014</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 19th September 2014</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday 6th October 2014</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday 19th December 2014</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sub School Two

Travel Training Program

The students visited Old Melbourne Gaol and HMAS Castlemaine in Williamstown as part of the Travel Training Program.

HMAS Castlemaine Bathurst-class corvette - HMAS Castlemaine, named for the city of Castlemaine, Victoria, was one of 60 Bathurst class corvettes constructed during World War II, and one of 36 initially manned and commissioned solely by the Royal Australian Navy. Wikipedia Address: Gem Pier/Syme St, Williamstown VIC 3016

Construction started: February 17, 1941
Launched: August 7, 1941
The Old Melbourne Gaol is a museum and former prison located in Russell Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. It consists of a bluestone building and courtyard, and is located next to the old City Police Watch House and City Courts buildings. Wikipedia
Welcome BBQ 2014
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