Dear Parents/ Carers

Another busy term is coming to an end and we are looking forward to the break. Just a reminder that we finish at 2.00pm on Friday and that school resumes on Tuesday 22nd April. The first week will be short as the Friday is also a holiday which makes it a 3 day week.

Thank you to the staff for running all the beneficial programs for our students and to the students for being enthusiastic learners.

Thank you also to our School Captains who have already started running lunch time sessions. I am very pleased with the responsibility they have shown already.

Annual General Meeting:

The AGM was well attended and it was wonderful to see students showcasing our programs and explaining school highlights from the last 12 months. The School Captains made sincere and meaningful speeches and our new School Councillors received their badges. Photos of the night are featured in this edition.

Caulfield Community School Band / Casual Dress:

Next Thursday 3rd April we will have a lunch time concert by the Caulfield Community School Band. This will be to celebrate the end of term. Students may wear casual dress on this day and make a gold coin donation to State Schools Relief. Student should dress in an appropriate manner for school.

Student Support Groups:

By the end of term all parents should have had the opportunity to meet with staff and discuss Individual Learning Plans. If you were unable to attend a time in term 1 could you please make a time with your child’s teacher for early term two.

Travel Training:

The Travel Training program is going well. We have trained 6 students this term and have a waiting list for term 2. This makes a total of 14 students to date. If you would like your son or daughter to participate in the program please contact me during working hours.

Mandy Thomas:

This week Seth Willingham is returning to regular duties so Mandy Thomas will be returning to her class. I thank her very much for the way she has taken on the Acting Principal role. It has been much appreciated. Seth has almost completed the new Beyond the School Gates film and I thank him very much for the countless hours he has put into this project. The new film will be a central part of sourcing funding for the program beyond 2014. I meet with Sonia Sharp (Deputy Secretary) during the holidays to talk about the program and the role DEECD can play in the future.

Have a great week

Regards

Paula Barnett
Parent Support & Information

Parent to Parent (P2P) is a peer support program offering opportunities for parents caring for someone with a disability, to provide support to another parent through shared experience. Peer supports complete a 6 session training program and are supported by the MOIRA Parent Support Officer. If you would like to know more about the program and what it has to offer, please contact the Peer Support Officer on 8552 2222 or via email at communitysupport@moira.org.au

A reminder that we still have a number of copies of MOIRA’s 2014 publications; ‘Time for a Break’ which features respite, recreation and services, and ‘Compass’ which outlines services for people with disabilities. Pick up your copies from the stand in the school foyer or request that copies be sent home with your student.

Bayside Youth Services Holiday Programs

Bookings for the Bayside Xtreme Teen Holiday Program close at 5pm on Wednesday 2nd April. All bookings are to be made online at www.bayside.vic.gov.au/youth where you can also view the wide range of activities available and the cost involved. Please contact the youth team on 9599 4622 for further information.

Razza-Ma-Tazz Tickets

Tickets were sent home last week. Please let me know if you haven’t received the tickets you ordered. As these tickets cannot be replaced please keep them in a safe place until the performances on Saturday 26th April.

Men’s Health and Wellbeing Forum

The City of Kingston invites all fathers to a forum on health prevention and coping with stress. Guest speakers include Dr Bill Walker and Danny Davies from Monash Health. The forum will be held at the Clarinda Community Centre, 58B Viney Street, Clarinda on Thursday 22nd May from 7 to 9pm. RSVP by the 16th May to Sue 9581 4647/ 0418 325 049 or reception 1300 369 436.

Parental Assistance

Some assistance is available where there is a need to help parents with uniforms through State Schools’ Relief, and camps through several support agencies. Please contact me if you wish to discuss your needs. All such discussions remain confidential. For any camps please contact me well in advance as there is a process we have to follow which can take some time. A reminder too that I am currently at school on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays however messages can be left at the office.

Very Best Wishes for a Happy, Fun-filled and Safe Holiday

Dr Maree McCutcheon (Student Wellbeing & Family Support)
To all at Berendale,

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM, it was an information packed evening for everyone as well as a wonderful celebration of the achievements over the past 12 months. I wish to thank you all for electing me as president of the school council for another year as it is an honour, I hope that I can be more effective over the year.

Welcome to the new councillors, I look forward to hearing your thoughts on the various topics and challenges that arise during the school terms. A list of meeting dates will be submitted for all councillors to plan their participation.

Thank you also to all of the presenters and performers at the AGM, you impressed us all so greatly, it was magic.

Congratulations to the school captains, you were selected on your merits and we are all very proud of you, and looking forward to seeing how you work with your peers and teachers over the year.

I would like to congratulate Seth on how he managed to corner all those participants for his video interviews, you can imagine that not everyone likes being on camera so I hope his collage or montage is successful.

Finally, the amount of work that the principal of the school does was again realised as I sat down to our council meeting just prior to the AGM. We were presented with information packs will loads of information that would’ve required many hours and many people to compile. I assume that this is a contributing factor as to why our school has won so many awards and made so many positive changes to our children’s lives.

Sincerely,

Konstantine Peltekis
President
Berendale School Council
Parent to Parent (P2P) is a peer support program offering opportunities for parents caring for someone with a disability to provide support to another parent through a common shared experience. Contact between Peer Support and the parent recipient is facilitated and supported by the MOIRA Parent Support Officer.

WHAT THE PROGRAM HAS TO OFFER:
Telephone peer support can be used as a first point of contact with a Peer Support between scheduled meetings. Telephone support may be preferable for people who are unable to engage in face to face support groups due to the location in which they reside, or who may feel uncomfortable sharing experiences with others in a group environment. Face to face peer support encourages carers of people with a disability to come together and share their experiences in a supportive environment. Each group is facilitated by a Peer Support and the structure of the group may vary depending on the purpose and location of the event.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PEER SUPPORT?
Peer Supports are required to complete a series of six training sessions of between 2-3 hours duration on topics including effective communication, group facilitation, confidentiality, grief and loss and resource sharing. Training programs are scheduled throughout the year across the southern metropolitan region of Melbourne. Parents interested in applying for the training program, please complete the P2P Peer Support Registration form.
For further information contact the Parent Support Officer on 8552 2222 or via email at communitysupport@moira.org.au
Students from Sub-school 1 and 2 have been enjoying going for a sail at Half Moon Bay with the wonderful volunteer skippers from Black Rock Yacht Club. They have had the opportunity to steer and crew the Pacer dinghies and rescue boats as pictured here. Thanks again to the Black Rock Yacht Club and Bayside Council for their generous support of the sailing program.
Jimmy took a little time out from sailing last Friday and he went to the end of the jetty at Half Moon Bay. He noticed a fish swimming in the water and from then on he was a man on a mission!

He found a piece of fishing line and then another – he tied them together.

Then he searched for a hook. He found two wedged between the boards of the jetty. He tied the stronger one to the line.

The next thing he needed was bait. He found a mussel and cracked it open on one of the jetty’s bolts. He picked out some of the meat and threaded it on the hook.

He threw in the baited hook into the water and jiggled the line up and down. Three minutes later he said “I’ve caught a fish!” and he pulled a puffer fish onto the jetty.

He rebaited his hook dropped it back in the water and caught another one.....

......then another one......

.........then another one......

...........then another one......

You can’t eat puffer fish because they are poisonous so Jimmy threw each one back. By the time we were ready to leave there were about forty puffer fish swimming around the end of the jetty just waiting to eat Jimmy’s bait.

Who would have thought that someone could go to the end of the jetty with nothing and be resourceful enough to catch five fish?
City Discovery Travel Training Sub-school 2

On the 18th March the Tuesday Travel Group went to Williamstown. We took our usual train to the city and crossed the Yarra River on the footbridge to Southbank. We caught a boat and travelled down the Yarra, through the city, through docklands under many bridges and out of the mouth of the Yarra. Amanda and Sarina were chosen by the captain to have a go at steering the boat and wearing the captain’s hat. We then followed the shore of the bay around until we reached Williamstown. We got off at Gem Pier and had fish and chips for lunch at tables in the garden of the fish and chip shop.

After lunch we had a look at some of the shops in Williamstown and walked through the streets to the train station where we caught the train home – we did not have to change trains in the city because when our train got to Flinders Street Station, it became a Frankston train.
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