PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parents/Carers

This will be the last time this term you will receive a hard copy of the Bulletin. Please access it by subscribing on the school website at www.berendale.vic.edu.au You will receive a reminder when it is available.

I am looking forward to meeting up with families at the Welcome BBQ and Information Evening tonight. It is an all-weather event so please don’t be put off by rain. All food and soft drink will be provided by the school so you just need to bring yourself and the family.

Parents Morning Tea:

We had a great turn out at the morning tea last Monday. Kerri Rolfe from Moira was present and networked with the parents. We also added names to our parent contact list which we also circulate at the BBQ. So please if you would like contact with other parents in your class add your name to the list. Don’t forget that you can use our Pool Kiosk for morning or afternoon teas but you will need to book in advance. Please ring the school on 95556141 to make arrangements.

School Council Elections:

Nominations for School Council close at 4pm today. We will let you know if we require an election as soon as possible. School Councillors will be featured in our next Bulletin.

Annual General Meeting: School Council:

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th March at 7.00pm. It is an interactive community event where we feature student performances, highlights of Term 1 and much more. It is a celebration of the accomplishments of our students, so please don’t miss this one. Invitations will be sent out later in the term.

NAPLAN:

Students with disabilities have an exemption from the NAPLAN testing. It is usual at Berendale not to administer the tests in Years 7 & 9. The school will submit the exemption for you. If you would like to discuss the possibility of your child sitting the NAPLAN please contact me on 95556141

REMININDERS:

All students in Years 7 – 10 should be in full school uniform.

Students must hand in mobile phones to the office each morning

School Fees are now due. Please contact me if you are experiencing financial difficulty.

Have a great week ahead,

Regards

Paula Barnett
**WELFARE MATTERS**

**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’. Some of our students may qualify for the card, so please let us know if you would like to know more about how the scheme operates. You can also telephone for information on 1800 650 611 or visit www.companioncard.org.au

**‘Stitched Up’ Drama Group**

There are still several vacancies for the Monday afternoon drama program ‘Stitched Up’. The students are bussed from school to the program at the South Melbourne Community Centre and afterwards returned to the St Kilda Town Hall for pick up between 5:45 and 6:00 pm. The sessions are conducted by professional actors and the students all participate in a wonderful concert towards the end of the year. Please contact Amanda at JCAAA (Joint Councils Access for all Abilities) on 9209 6159 if you like to find out more about the drama program and the others offered. If interested you may wish to be placed on their mailing list to find out more about their broad range of programs for young people with disabilities.

**Student ID Crown Coaches**

All students travelling on one of the Crown Coaches (Frankston, Dandenong and Port Melbourne) will have their student ID number and Crown Coaches information sent home today. Please keep this card in a safe place as no further cards will be issued. A reminder also that the school must be notified by parents (preferably in writing), of any changes to travel arrangements. Your assistance would be much appreciated.

**Speech Pathology**

A final call for any parents interested in the services of a speech pathologist at Berendale to contact Carisse Matthews (0439 968 785) for further information. This would be a fee for service arrangement or as part of a Health Care Plan through your family doctor.

**Time for a Break**

The 2012 booklet ‘Time for a Break is an excellent resource guide to respite care, recreational activities and family support. Published annually by MOIRA, the booklet is a wealth of up to date information for parents and carers. Copies are available from the school so please let us know if you would like a copy.

**Student Travel Passes**

The 2012 Student Travel Passes will be issued later this week. We ask that parents reinforce the message of safe and responsible travel. Our police resource officer will run several sessions for our students on safe travel and helpful hints in keeping yourself safe on public transport.

* Maree McCutcheon
SLIP, SLOP, SLAP, SEEK, SLIDE

EMA for 2012

Parents and Carers who hold a Health Care Card are eligible for EMA only if their child is under 16 can contact the school office for an EMA form. You will need to provide a copy of your current Health Care Card or bring it to the office and we will photocopy it for you. The EMA form must be completed and then hand it back before 20th February 2012 to the school office so the payments can go through. You can also sign over the payment to the school to help pay your student’s school fees etc.

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) can be paid into your bank account or by cheque. When you fill out the application you need to tick the EFT payment option and include your bank account details or tick the cheque option, and then send it back to the school office to be processed.

### IMPORTANT DATES

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20th March</td>
<td>PSG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 21st March</td>
<td>PSG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 28th March</td>
<td>7.00pm, Annual General Meeting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 30th March</td>
<td>Finish 2.00 pm, End of Term 1</td>
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<td>Monday 16th April</td>
<td>Start of Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8th June</td>
<td>No Students to attend, Curriculum Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 29th June</td>
<td>Finish 2.00 pm, End of Term 2</td>
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<td>Monday 16th July</td>
<td>Start of Term 3</td>
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<td>Monday 13th August</td>
<td>No Students to attend, Curriculum Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 21st September</td>
<td>Finish 2.00 pm, End of Term 3</td>
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<td>Monday 8th October</td>
<td>Start of Term 4</td>
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<td>Tuesday 20th November</td>
<td>School Concert</td>
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<td>Wednesday 21st November</td>
<td>No Students to attend, Curriculum Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 21st December</td>
<td>Finish 12.00 pm, End of Term 4</td>
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Mathletics is a web based learning program which integrates home and school learning via the internet. All students from year 7-10 would have received their usernames and passwords for Mathletics. A parent letter outlining more information and including your student login details has been sent home. If you have not received the information please let you child’s teacher know.

**JOINT COUNCILS ACCESS FOR ALL ABILITIES**

JCAAA are giving parents the opportunity to comment on the recreational and sporting activities that they currently access for their son or daughter, or suggestions you may have for other activities. A questionnaire will be sent home this week and it would be most helpful to get your ideas. JCAAA offer some wonderful programs for young people with disabilities and it is worthwhile being on their mailing list. Please contact Bianca Rayner on 9209 6753 to be included in their mail out.

**Sub school 3**

**Community Access**
Last Wednesday Year 8 students participated in a program called ‘FANTASTIC FRIENDS’. The program was run by two experienced educators from the Stride Foundation. In the full day program students participated in a variety of games and activities to help them learn skills to support others to build and maintain friendships. Year 8 students were all smiles when they received their peer mentoring badge and certificate.

By Janice Eardley
On Tuesday February 14th students in Sub-schools One and Two attended Street Beat at Caulfield Racecourse. Victoria Police played the leading role in this event which highlighted the commitment and dedication of our emergency services; youth service providers, local business, sporting associations and the local government, while also promoting mutual respect between these groups and the local youth. All the activities were free and there was a sausage sizzle and plenty of other give-aways. One of the most popular features of the day was the appearance of the Police rock band, Code One. Our students had a great time dancing and singing along with the group. Everyone agreed that it was a great day of fun for us all.
Our program for 2012 is well underway with many exciting activities planned for our stu-
dents. Sub-school One and Sub-school Two students have enthusiastically begun drama clas-
es and music lessons with our music specialist Adam Kelly. A small group of students are
attending a special access program run in the Arts Centre in the city on Wednesday morning
where they can enhance their music skills by using the latest advances in music technology.
A group of senior students are beginning units of study from a vocational certificate which is
new for our school – Certificate I in Creative industries.

Jenny Tupper
Performance Arts Coordinator.