Dear Parents and families,

Exciting news has been announced in the recent state government budget, with our school being allocated $2.2 million dollars to upgrade our buildings. The current school buildings are in urgent need of an upgrade and our students and staff deserve to be educated and working within modern state of the art facilities.

The Department of Education Finance and facilities managers will be working with myself, the school council and staff to develop an infrastructure plan which will ensure the funds maximise the requirements we need to ensure our students have increased opportunities for successful secondary education. This is a very exciting time for Berendale School and I look forward to keeping you all informed on the progress of the building upgrade.

Sub School 2 have left today for the camp at Campaspe Downs, all students were very excited about the camp and looking forward to all the activities. Many thanks to all the staff attending and I’m sure everyone will have a fantastic time. If you require any information regarding the camp whilst your child is away please contact the office.

Sub school 1 students had a recent excursion to the Shrine of Remembrance, they had a tour of the building and learnt some more about the remarkable ANZAC spirit of the WW1 and 2 soldiers. Thank you to the staff who arranged this excursion which linked closely to the ANZAC day holiday.

Please note also that **MONDAY 9th May** is a **Curriculum Day**, staff will be having professional development on the Victorian Curriculum requirements. No students are required at school on this day.

Regards
Jennifer Hamilton
Principal
WELFARE MATTERS

Parent Support & Information

A further reminder that most of our families are entitled to Carer respite and support. For parents and carers living in the southern region, please visit www.respitesouth.org.au or call 1800 052 222. For those living in the eastern region (includes Monash) visit www.lifeassist.org.au or call 1300 277 478. Both organisations can provide funding packages to support a variety of family situations. Parents are able to self-refer, however if you like to know more, or assistance with the referral process, please give me a call on 9555 6141.

Bayside Youth Services

Bayside Youth Services still have vacancies for their Thursday program ‘Activate’. This exciting new program will teach students the basics of good fitness with the help of a professional trainer. They will also learn about healthy living and making healthy snacks. The program runs from 4:00 – 5:30 pm at the Peterson Youth Centre, Highett. We have three Berendale students attending already, but there are still places available. Contact Kylie Collins at the Bayside Youth Services on 9599 4622, or to register or join the mailing list go to www.bayside.vic.gov.au/youth

Student Identity Cards

Students 17 years and 11 months can apply for a Proof of Age Card. The school has application forms and we can assist you with completing the application. Students can also apply for a Keypass of which there are two types, under 16 years, and over 16 years. Application forms are available at participating Australia Post post offices. The school can also provide students with an identity card, valid until the end of each school year. Confusing, just give me a call if you would like to know more.

Parent to Parent (P2P) Program

P2P (Parent to Parent) is a peer support program for parents who have a child with special needs. The program is based on utilising the vast knowledge, skills and experience of parents with special needs children, to support other like parents as a Peer Support volunteer. MOIRA offers six training sessions to prepare parents for this important and challenging role. Training commences on Tuesday 17th May, from 6:30 – 9:00 pm at MOIRA in Hampton East. Parents interested in applying for the program, or wanting to discuss it further please contact the Parent Support Officer on 8552 2222 or via email at communitysupport@moira.org.au.

Camps, Holiday & Recreational Programs

For some of our families we are able to obtain funding support for camps (including school camps), holiday and recreational programs. Where there is a need we can also apply for additional carer support through JCAAA, to support your son or daughter’s participation. Please contact the school as soon as possible if you would like to know more about eligibility, or how to access the funding. You do need to apply well in advance of any program to ensure funding.

Swim School Australia

Swim School Australia has vacancies for swimming lessons at Berendale on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 4-6pm and on Saturdays 11-2 pm and Sundays noon –2 pm. All their swim teachers are experienced with young people with disabilities. Please Contact David on 0425 732 142 for information or to make a booking, or visit www.swimschoolaustralia.com.au

Earn & Learn Program 2015

Petros, Vincent, Sarah and Jonathon show us a few samples of the sporting equipment we received as a result of the Earn and Learn Program last year. We now have new basketballs, soccer balls, cricket sets, footballs, netballs, T-Ball sets, volley balls, table tennis sets and much, much more. A very big thank you to all the families who helped us, as we would not have done so well without your wonderful support. We look forward to taking part in Earn & Learn during Term Three, and hope you will once again support Berendale. Pic on page 3

Dr Maree McCutcheon (Student Wellbeing & Family Support)
**Uniform Orders**

School uniforms will be ordered from PSW once a term. I will be sending off this terms orders on 20th June 2016

**IMPORTANT DATES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 9th May 2016</td>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
<td>Wednesday 18th May 2016</td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 24th June 2016</td>
<td>2:00 pm finish</td>
<td>Monday 11th July 2016</td>
<td>Start of term 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 17th August 2016</td>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
<td>Wednesday 17th August 2016</td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 16th September 2016</td>
<td>2:00 pm finish</td>
<td>Monday 3rd October 2016</td>
<td>Start of term 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19th October 2016</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Tuesday 15th November 2016</td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 16th November 2016</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Tuesday 20th December 2016</td>
<td>End of term 4</td>
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Dear Mr Staikos,

It was agreed at our school council meeting on the 20th April that I would write to you on behalf of the Berendale School to express our sincere thanks for the support that we have been given by yourself on behalf of the state government.

Your site visit was also very much appreciated and we hope that you can feel welcome to visit any time to see the outcomes of your support and the positive effect it will have on the lives of our children and wider community.

This will be my fifth year on the school council and have grown very proud of how the children at this school are transformed into independent adults that are given the chance to be a part of the wider community.

Having a child with special needs is an education in itself, but what I have noted by accepting the advice of the dedicated specialists and researchers who have helped my family in this area is that the educational program starts with early intervention and continues on an individually assessed educational plan. The benefits to the Berendale families and the quality of life for the respective children are obvious and in some cases beyond expectation as a result of such individual programs.

The upgrade of the facilities to our school increases the ability for the specialists and educators to give greater opportunities and outcomes for all of our families.

We look forward to keeping you advised on our developments and welcome a visit from you any time.

Best Regards,
Kon Peltekis.
S.B.A.T.

S.B.A.T. main focus is on how to operate specialized machinery and equipment which is part of their Cert 11 in Parks and Gardens, as well as maintaining the school grounds. Students have also erected a hot house for propagating plants to use in the school gardens.
Well Done Scott Anderson

Scott competed in the National Junior Ten Pin Bowling Competition, held at Keon Park Thomastown. He was asked to represent the ACT team which came 2nd in the overall championships. Congratulations Scott.
On Thursday we left school at 9.15 to catch the train to Finders Street then walked to the Shrine. We met the parents at the “Eternal Flame” and then broke into small groups to explore the shrine. At 11.00 we all met at the Stone of Remembrance where the last post is played and a volunteer of the Shrine speaks and we all joined in with Lest we Forget.

We had morning tea over in the Botanical Gardens. It was a good day.
Dance Party
2016 Term 2

> It’s back by popular demand!
> Dress to impress and put on your dancing shoes!
> Lights, music, dancing and food!

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
- Must be of secondary school age (12 – 19 years) with disability
- Must book online and provide student’s name and parents’ contact details

PARENTS’ RESPONSIBILITIES
The Dance Party will be chaperoned by school staff and volunteer parents. Parents, you are welcome to drop off your child and pick up after the event:
- Parents must accompany students to the door and sign them in
- Parents must provide emergency contact details
- Parents must collect students from the door after the event and sign them out

We have hired a room next to the Dance Party hall so that parents who would like to stay close by can relax and enjoy coffee and biscuits while their child enjoys the dancing next door.

VOLUNTEER TO CHAPERONE
The Dance Party relies on volunteer parents to help chaperone the event. Chaperone duties may include: setting up the hall; encouraging students to participate; monitoring behavior; serving food and drinks; and cleaning up after the event.

If you are able to assist us on the night, please email the Dance Party Parent Committee - spnixon28@optusnet.com.au.

EVENT DETAILS
Date: Friday 17 June
Time: 6.00pm – 8.00pm
Location: Beaumaris Community Centre
96 Reserve Rd, Beaumaris
Enter via Beaumaris Library

Cost: $10 contribution to the cost of running the event
Please pay on the night

Food, soft drink and water provided.

BOOKINGS
Bookings are essential. To book:
Go to www.beyondtheschoolgates.org.au
Select Sport and Fun
Select Dance Party 2016 Term 2
Click Book Now
Parent to Parent P2P

Ever felt that other people don’t know what it is like to walk in your shoes?

Receiving support from family, friends and professionals can help but speaking with another parent can make a real difference. P2P can put you in touch with another parent who understands what it is like to be in your situation. Our Peer Supports are parents just like you.

Contact communitysupport@moira.org.au or 8552 2222

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PEER SUPPORT?

P2P (Parent to Parent) is a peer support program for parents who have a child with special needs to be put in touch with another parent who also has a child with special needs.

Parents have so much knowledge, skill and experience and you may consider using these skills to support other parents. If this sounds like you why not consider undertaking training to become a Peer Support volunteer.

Peer Supports are required to complete a series of six training sessions of 2 - 2 1/2 hours duration on topics including effective communication, group facilitation, confidentiality, grief and loss and resource sharing.

Parents who have completed the training in the past have reported how much they enjoyed and personally benefitted from being involved. During your journey as a parent you may benefit from talking to another parent in a similar situation to share information and make a connection.

Training will be run on Tuesday evenings between 6.30pm - 9.00pm from Tuesday 17 May through until Tuesday 21 June (please note there will be no session held on Tuesday 14 June). Attendance at all workshops is recommended. The training will be held at MOIRA 928 Nepean Highway Hampton East.

Contact between the Peer Support and the parent recipient is facilitated and supported by the MOIRA Parent Support Officer.

Parents interested in applying for the training program, please contact the Parent Support Officer on 8552 2222 or via email at communitysupport@moira.org.au
PEER SUPPORT

Undertaking this training assists you with supporting other parents who have a child with a disability. This training does not intend to replace or provide you with skills as a professional in any area. If you believe that referral to a professional provider is required please advise the Parent Support Officer.

AIMS

To develop skills and knowledge that will enable Peer Supports to provide effective support to new parents.

TRAINERS

Trainers with areas of expertise in the skills identified above will be brought in to run sessions. The Parent Support Officer may also assist and/or run some sessions.

SESSIONS

Training will be run over 6 sessions

- Session 1 - Introduction to P2P Program
- Session 2 - Effective Communication & Active Listening Skills
- Session 3 - Group Facilitation
- Session 4 - Principals of Confidentiality & Non Judgemental Behaviour
- Session 5 - Nonfinite Grief & Loss
- Session 6 - Resource & Information Sharing

SKILL AREAS

Training will include the following.

- Role of Peer Support Parent
- Communication skills
- Listening skills
- Concept of empathy
- Learning to be impartial
- Non judgemental behaviours
- Sensitivity
- Confidentiality
- Understanding grief and loss associated with disability
- Knowledge of available resources to support families
P2P Peer Support
Registration Form

CONTACT INFORMATION
First Name: ___________________________ Surname: ___________________________
Address: _____________________________ Post Code: _______________________
Phone: (H) ___________________________ (W) ___________________________ (M) _____________
Email: _______________________________
Best contact method during business hours ___________ Gender ___________ Age ___________

FAMILY INFORMATION
Number of children in your family ___________ Number of children with a disability ___________
Age of Children ___________
Disability(s) ____________________________

ABOUT YOU
What interests you about Peer Support?
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
What are the resources and/or services are you familiar with in your region?
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
What are some of the ways you have learnt to manage your own experience of being a parent of a child with a disability?
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
Are there any situations related to disability that make you feel uncomfortable? (e.g. personal negative experiences, confronting issues)
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
Have you been involved with any type of peer support situations yourself? If yes, what was it like for you. If no, would it have been helpful?
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
Do you have any particular interests or hobbies?
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
Is there anything else you would like to add in support of your application?
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
YOUR COMMITMENT

Are you able to commit to the program for a minimum of one year? □ Yes □ No

To be a Peer Support you will need to participate in a 2 to 3 hour training session once a week over a six week period.

Are you prepared to complete the training course? □ Yes □ No

Do you consent to your phone number being disclosed to the parent you will be nominated to support once you have commenced with the P2P Program? □ Yes □ No

PRIVACY STATEMENT

Moira collects, uses and discloses personal information for the purpose of providing training programs, creating support groups for parents and providing you with information about our services. We may disclose your personal information, or the personal information of your child, to any service providers that we may engage in connection with the ordinary conduct of our operations, to any third parties we regard as reasonably necessary to give effect to the purpose of collection or as required or authorised by law. We will not disclose sensitive information unless we have your consent (or the consent of the guardian or person responsible) or disclosure is required or authorised by law. If we cannot collect personal information from you, we may not be able to perform the activities listed above. The personal information of you and/or your child will not be disclosed overseas. Moira’s Privacy Policy contains information about how to access and seek correction of your personal information and how to lodge a complaint about our management of your personal information.

Because of the volume of applications we receive, we are unable to give status updates. If you are invited for an interview, you will be contacted within 2 weeks of submitting your application.

Community Support is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments

If you are unable to submit this form, please save it and email it to communitiesupport@moira.org.au

OFFICE USE ONLY

Screening Date ________________________ Screening completed by ________________________

Registration successful □ Yes □ No □ Entered Into TCM

Notes

Confirmed Training Dates

Community Support is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments.