

Bell PS Newsletter

07 February 2020

www.bellps.vic.edu.au

bell.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Principal: David Twite

Assistant Principal: Emma Heywood

Bell Primary School is a caring community that fosters a love of learning in young people. At school and beyond, students are confident to think critically and empowered to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. We are grounded by our school values of **resilience**, **creativity**, **curiosity**, **collaboration** and **respect**.

Bell Primary School acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land the school is located upon, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



Phone: 9480 5622

From the Principal:

School Council Elections

There are five parent representative positions to be decided in the upcoming elections; self-nominations will be available at the office from Monday morning. The timeline for the election process is as follows:

Notice of Election and call for Nominations:
 Friday 7 February
 Monday 10 February

Closing date for Nominations:
 Monday 17 February at 4.00pm

List of eligible candidates will be posted in our Newsletter: Friday 21 February
 Ballot papers will be prepared and distributed (if required): Monday 24 February
 Close of Ballot (if required): Monday 2 March

If an election is required, more detailed information about the process and candidates' requirements will be distributed to the school community. For details about the role of School Council, follow the link: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/community/Pages/schoolcouncilsfunction.aspx. Those parents/carers who pick up a self-nomination form from the office will also be given a document titled

'Distinctions in roles and responsibilities of school council', This provides greater details about the role of council compared to the role of the principal. Alternatively, feel free to contact me directly about council elections and related topics regarding school governance.

Queries and Concerns

There are times when parents need to contact the school regarding their child's needs, or an incident at school, which is all part of the open communication needed between home and school. Outlined below are the general steps within our school structure for such times:

- The first point of contact should always be the grade teacher, as they are the best person to either deal with your query/concern directly, or 'triage' your issue to the best staff member who can help you further.
- For a particular incident, the same procedure applies with the grade teacher being the starting point, and the grade level leader sometimes attending a pre-arranged meeting to provide additional support for everyone.
- When an issue is complicated, or the initial meeting does not end in a mutually agreed resolution, a member of the Leadership Team could get involved. The current leadership team is Emma Heywood, Xenia Matani, Lisa McLeish and David Twite.
- For specific wellbeing matters, the grade teacher is still the first point of contact, however Xenia Matani (Bell Wellbeing Leader) can sometimes be utilised as the next layer of support.
- For more general queries about whole school initiatives or operational matters, it is appropriate to make contact with the leadership team directly.

Regardless of the situation, it is always important for us to keep an open mind and remember there are often varying perspectives to any given issue. If we approach every query or concern with the children's best interest at heart, we can usually work together to reach a positive outcome for all.

Next week's grade level information nights are a great opportunity to put a face to the name of your 2020 child/ren's teacher. I hope as many parents/carers as possible can attend these evenings as the first step in building those strong home-school partnerships.

Planning Days for Grade Level and Specialist Teams

If your child has mentioned they had all their specialists classes on the same day this week, there is a reason for that change in timetabling. This year we have introduced planning days for all teams once per term to facilitate more time for teachers in the same grade level to collaboratively plan the curriculum, assessment and related activities for the term. Consistency of practice is a key improvement goal in the current strategic plan and these days, along with more common meeting times in the week, supports staff to achieve our objectives. Whilst consistency is important to deliver quality instruction, we do not expect Bell staff be robots; there is always the opportunity for teachers to add their flavour to the agreed learning activities coming from the collaborative planning process.

Next week we launch into the regular specialist timetable that will establish some structure and routines across the school for the rest of the term.

Gilbert Road Crossing and a Near Miss

Julie, our Gilbert Road Crossing Supervisor, advised us of a near miss at the crossing recently with a reckless driver nearly colliding with a parent and child from our school. Whilst no-one was hurt, it caused great concern and was a stark reminder that everyone must follow Julie's rules outlined below, and always be ready for the unexpected when crossing roads. Police have been involved in the investigation.

- cross at the crossing between the lines, not a few metres away
- cross when the light is green, definitely not red
- walk with bikes or scooters across the road, do not ride
- **hold** balls while crossing the road, do not bounce it.

Julie's priority is to keep everyone safe on busy Gilbert Road but needs parents/carers to lead the way modelling these rules or re-enforcing them with older children who travel to school unsupervised. These expectations will also be raised at next week's assembly.

David Twite Principal

From the Assistant Principal:

Getting to Know You Meetings

In Week 6 of this term our teachers will be conducting 1:1 Getting to Know You Meetings. These meetings facilitate individual time for parents/carers to share information about their child. These meetings are an important opportunity for you to:

- meet and get to know your child's teacher(s)
- help your child's teacher(s) understand more about your child
- exchange information to support your child's learning, social and emotional needs
- make plans with the teacher(s) about how you can both support your child
- continue to strengthen the crucial home-school partnership

These meetings, whilst about your child as a learner, are not designed to give detailed progress reports of student achievement given the early scheduling.

Getting to Know You Meetings will occur for year levels on the following days and times in your child's classroom:

Prep	Monday March 2	(3:40-5:00pm, 5:30-8:00pm)
Year 1	Monday March 2	(3:40-5:00pm, 5:30-8:00pm)
Year 2	Wednesday March 4	(3:40-5:00pm, 5:30-8:00pm)
Year 3	Tuesday March 3	(3:40-5:00pm, 5:30-8:00pm)
Year 4	Monday March 2	(3:00-5:00pm, 5:30-8:00pm)
Year 5	Wednesday March 4	(3:00-5:00pm, 5:30-8:00pm)
Year 6	Tuesday March 3	(3:00-5:00pm, 5:30-8:00pm)

Parents will be able to book 1 x 10 minute time slot within the above indicated time frames. Please note that teachers will have a scheduled break between 5:00-5:30pm and will not be available to meet during this time. Bookings will open via Compass at 9:00am on Wednesday February 12 and will close at 4:00pm on Wednesday 26. A guide to completing bookings online will be distributed early next week.

Some questions you might like to consider before you attend the meeting:

- From your perspective, what are your child's strengths and areas for development (learning, social and emotional, physical)?
- What questions do you have about how you can support your child's specific learning needs at home?

Emma Heywood Assistant Principal

Important Dates in 2020:

•		• Tue 14:	First day Term 2
		• Wed 15-Fri 17:	Gr6 Camp: Waratah Bay
FEBRUARY	(*please note new Gr4 dates)	• Sat 25:	ANZAC Day
• Mon 10:	Gr1 Information Session, 5.30pm	• Sun 26:	Kid's View Conference (Gr6)
• Mon 10:	Gr3 Information Session, 6.30pm		
• Mon 10:	SC Nomination Forms available from Office	MAY	
• Tue 11:	Gr2 Information Session, 5.30pm	Tue 5:	School Photo Day #1
• Tue 11:	Gr6 Information Session, 6.30pm	Thu 7-Fri 8:	Mother's & Special Person's Day Stall
• Wed 12:	Gr4 Information Session, 5.30pm	Mon 11:	. Grandparent's Day
• Wed 12: C	Compass Bookings Open at 9am for Getting to	Thu 21:	School Photos Day #2
	Know You Meetings	Wed 27-Fri 29:	Gr5 Camp: Waratah Bay
• Thu 13:	Gr5 Information Session, 6.30pm	Wed 27-Wed 3:	Reconciliation Week
• Thu 13:	Prep/Gr1 Picnic		
• Fri 14:	Payment for G6 Senior Tops Close at 4pm	JUNE	
• Sun 16:	Term 1 Scholastic Book Club Orders Close	• Mon 8:	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
• Sun 16:	Essential Education Items payment due		
• Mon 17:	Closing Date for SC Nominations @ 4pm	• Tue 9:	Curriculum Day #4 (student free)
• Tue 18:	*Gr4 Swimming #1	• Mon 22-Fri 26:	Gr4 Bike Ed Camp: Maldon
• Thu 20:	*Gr4 Swimming #2	• Fri 26:	Final day Term 2, 2.30pm dismissal
• Thu 20:	School Council Meeting, 7pm		
• Fri 21:	Eligible Candidates posted in Newsletter	JULY	
• Tue 25:	*Gr4 Swimming #3	• Mon 13:	First day Term 3
• Wed 26: C	Compass Bookings Close at 4pm for Getting to		
	Know You Meetings	AUGUST	
• Thu 27:	* Gr4 Swimming #4	Thu 7:	Trivia Night
• Thu 27:	Prep Info Night, 6.00pm, Learning Centre	Fri 28:	Wear It Purple Day
			· '
MARCH		SEPTEMBER	
MARCH		• Thu 3-Fri 4:	Father's & Special Person's Day Stall
• Mon 2:	Prep Getting to Know You Meeting	• Fri 18:	Final day Term 3, 2.30pm dismissal
• Mon 2:	Gr1 Getting to Know You Meeting	• Fri 18:	Kid's Movie Night
• Mon 2:	Gr4 Getting to Know You Meeting		
• Tue 3:	*Gr4 Swimming #5	OCTOBER	
• Tue 3:	Gr3 Getting to Know You Meeting	• Mon 5:	First day Term 4
• Tue 3:	Gr6 Getting to Know You Meeting	• Tue 6:	Gr1 Swimming #1
• Wed 4:	Gr2 Getting to Know You Meeting	• Wed 7:	National Walk To School Day
• Wed 4:	Gr5 Getting to Know You Meeting		
• Thu 5:	*Gr4 Swimming #6	• Thu 8:	Gr1 Swimming #2
• Mon 9:	Labour Day Public Holiday	• Tue 13:	Gr1 Swimming #3
• Wed 11:	Curriculum Day #3 (student free)	• Thu 15:	Gr1 Swimming #4
• Fri 13:	Ride To School Day	• Tue 20:	Gr1 Swimming #5
• Mon 16-Fri	20: Neurodiversity Celebration Week	• Thu 22:	Gr1 Swimming #6
• Thu 19:	School Council Meeting, 7pm		
• Fri 20:	National Day Against Bullying	NOVEMBER	
• Fri 20: You	ng Leaders Conference (Gr5/6 JSC + Captains)	• Tue 3:	Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
• Fri 27:	Cup Cake Stall	• Sat 21:	Bell PS Fete
• Fri 27:	Kid's Movie Night		
• Fri 27:	Final day Term 1, 2.30pm dismissal	DECEMBER	
			national Day for People with a Disability
		• Fri 18:	Final day Term 4
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APRIL

From School Council:

Celebrating Diversity and Inclusion at Bell Primary School

The Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement Group is a group of parents and carers who aim to support the school community to be a place where everyone can feel they belong, that they and their contributions are valued, and that they have an equal opportunity to participate in school life. As part of this we are supporting the school to celebrate some key events to promote inclusion and celebrate diversity. This year, we have chosen to celebrate:

- Neurodiversity Celebration Week (March 16-20) "It takes all types of different minds." Celebrating ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia
- National Reconciliation Week (May 27-June 3) "In this together" recognising all of us have a role in reconciliation, and in building relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories and cultures
- Wear It Purple Day (August 28) Strives to foster supportive, safe, empowering and inclusive environments for rainbow young people (LGBTIQ+)
- International Day for People with a Disability (December 3) a internationally celebrated day to increase awareness and understanding of people with a disability and celebrate their achievements and contributions

If you would like to get involved in the group and in supporting inclusion and diversity in general at the school, or in helping develop these events, please email bell.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au and let us know you'd like to join us. In particular, we'd be really happy to hear from families with lived experience to help shape the work of the group, or provide advice, feedback or contribute in whatever way you want. The events are only part of the work that the group might be involved in, so if you've other ideas, please get in touch. You can also contact school staff directly if you have any concerns.

Diversity, Inclusion and Community Engagement Working Group Bell PS School Council

School Community Survey on Alcohol Consumption at School Events

Bell Primary School Council is currently developing an Alcohol Policy for the school, to guide school council when making decisions about whether to approve alcohol availability and consumption on the school premises or at school approved events. In developing a policy and making decisions, school council must take into account school community attitudes and school polices related to drug education and health and wellbeing.

We would like to hear your views on availability and consumption of alcohol at school approved activities or on school premises to support development of the school policy. For more information and to complete the 2-5 minute survey, please go to https://forms.gle/6PWGc8F6AKpq9nVn6

From the Office: Outstanding Payments Reminder

Event	Who	Amount	Due Date	Payment Method
Essential Education Items	Prep-6	\$280	Sun 16 Feb	Qkr!
Swimming Trials	Gr 4-6 Participants	\$20	Mon 3 Feb	Office only

Please contact the office urgently if you are having problems making a payment via Qkr!

From the Wellbeing Office: Child Safe Statement of Commitment

Bell Primary School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

Bell Primary School has zero tolerance for child abuse.

We are committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability and children who are vulnerable.

Every person involved in Bell Primary School has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

On arrival at Bell Primary School, all volunteers, visitors and contractors *must* make contact with the office, sign in at the front desk, and wear a visitor's badge while on site.



Junior School Council News:

After an action packed year by our JSC in 2019, we are keen to get the ball rolling. JSC elections will be held in the next two weeks.

If your child is interested in participating in this year's elections, please have a chat to them about the role and skills required to be a JSC rep (see below), as well as the commitment to weekly meetings. Individual classes will hold elections at different times throughout week 4 – class teachers will advise their students on specific dates.



- · Be a positive role model for all students at the school
- Attend meetings each week (lunchtime)
- Lead class meetings & complete a Parking Lot fortnightly
- Provide a voice for students in your grade at meetings
- Clearly present discussions and decisions that Junior School Council has made to your class
- Work collaboratively to implement initiatives such as fundraisers,



- Excellent speaking and listening skills
- Works well with others
- Always displays Bell PS values
- Commitment
- Organisation
- Responsibility





Junior School Council Guidelines

Rationale

The Junior School Council will provide an opportunity for students to develop leadership, communication and interpersonal skills and have empowerment in the decision making process of Bell Primary School. The Junior School Council aims to:

- Develop caring and responsible attitudes within the children
- Provide an avenue for the development of student voice and agency within the school
- Provide students with a sense of pride and achievement
- Raise student awareness of local and global issues and associated support options.

Definitions

- **Student Voice** provides opportunities for students to collaborate and make decisions with adults around what and how they learn, and how we can improve the school environment together.
- **Student Agency** gives students the power to direct and take responsibility for their learning and actioning improvements to the school environment. This supports students to become independent and self-regulated learners and members of the community.

Guidelines

- Junior School councillors are recognised as leaders in the school community.
- One Junior School Council representative is elected from each grade, using the democratic process. (see references at the end of this policy)
- Regular meetings are held weekly
- Representatives will be made aware of their roles and responsibilities as school leaders.
- Decisions made are reported to all students, teachers and parents.
- 'Vice representatives' attend meetings in the absence of leaders.
- A notice will be placed in Bell News and on Year Level Blogs to inform parents and the community of the timeline for the process.

Implementation

- One student from each grade (Year 3 to Year 6) is elected by their peers to be classroom delegates at Junior School Council meetings. (see 'Steps for Selection' at the end of this document).
- Elected Junior School Council representatives are presented with a badge of office in recognition of their important role in the school community. Their names will be published in Bell News.
- Weekly meetings are held with the Junior School Council teacher support team.
- An agenda is set at the beginning of each meeting. Students have the opportunity to raise issues as part of each meeting agenda.
- At the first meeting of each school semester Junior School Council will discuss individual and collective roles and responsibilities.
- Minutes will be taken, then two/three reps will report to leadership, minuting their responses to queries. These minutes will be published and provided to all classes in the school.
- Representatives will report against minutes taken and discuss with their class peers, issues raised at the
 meetings. Items can also be raised which may be brought to subsequent Junior School Council meetings.
 Students will be selected to report back to classes without a representative (Prep/Grade 1/2)
- 'Vice representatives' will represent leaders when unavailable due to absence.
- Junior School Councillors will be required, on occasion, to represent the school community at informal and formal occasions.
- Students will have opportunities to support foundations or by contributing to fundraising activities arranged within the school community or by outside agencies.
- A Social Service fundraiser may be undertaken once a term. The focus of this will be decided by Junior School Council representatives after discussion with supervising teachers, and after feedback from classes and staff.

Selection of JSC Representative Process

- 1. Discuss the role of the Junior School Council.
- 2. Discuss the role of Junior School Council representatives.
- 3. Discuss the responsibilities of the representatives.
- 4. Call for nominations.
- 5. Students to be given time to prepare a speech or presentation. Elections will be held in week 4.
- 6. Collect votes via a 'secret' ballot. Remind students they can vote for themselves.
- 7. The student with the most votes will be elected Junior School Council representative for the class. The student with the second most will be elected 'Vice Representative.
- 8. Badges will be presented at a whole school assembly to the JSC representative (date to be confirmed).

From the Grade Six Team:

2020 Grade 6 Senior Tops

A reminder for all Grade 6 families that payment for the senior jackets and polo tops will close at 4pm on Friday 14 February. Our preferred payment method is via **Qkr!** however you can also pay at the office. The pricing is as follows:

White Polo \$34Navy Polo \$34Bomber Jacket \$52

Expected delivery of our senior jackets and polo tops will be the beginning of Term 2.

Thanks,

The Grade 6 Team

From the Art Room:

What is Junior Art and Senior Art?

The Junior Art and Senior Art programs are some of the many extension opportunities offered at Bell Primary School. Senior Art will run for one session a week over Term 1 & 2, for small number of students selected from Grade 4, 5 and 6. Junior Art runs for one group of students from Grade 1, 2 and 3 in Term 3 and a different group of Grade 1, 2 and 3 in Term 4.

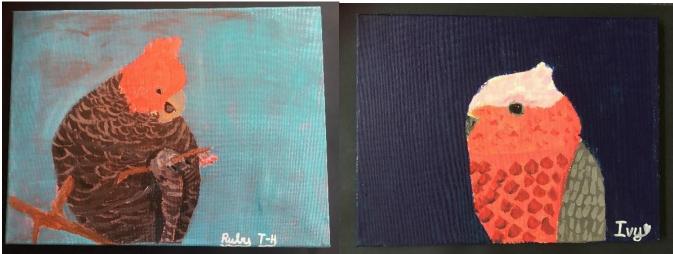
It is not necessary for parents to contact the school to indicate their child's interest in the program. The classes are offered to students who have shown outstanding creativity and effort in Art classes. Permission notes for selected Senior Art students will be sent out in the beginning weeks of Term 1 and contain further details about the program. Permission notes for selected Junior Art students will be sent home at the end of Term 2 and the end of Term 3.

What: Senior Art Extension Class What: Junior Art Extension Class

When: Term 1 & 2 **When**: Term 3 & 4

For Who: Selected Grade 4, 5 and 6 students For Who: Selected Grade 1, 2 and 3 students





Junior Art Bird Portraits from Term 3 &4, 2019

Donations to the Art Room Mystery Cupboard!

The Mystery Cupboard is a fun activity for students who have finished work early or find themselves in an extra session of Art. It is filled with crafty odds and ends that are regularly changed (hence the mystery!) and students use them for free-construction. If you would like to donate any items on the list below, please ensure they are clean, then deposit them in the purple bins outside the Art Room! If you have other items to donate but are unsure if they would be useful or they are too large for bins please feel free to send me an email!

- Haberdashery beads, buttons, ribbon, thread, wire
- Small boxes cardboard and plastic
- Tops corks, bottle tops, jar lids

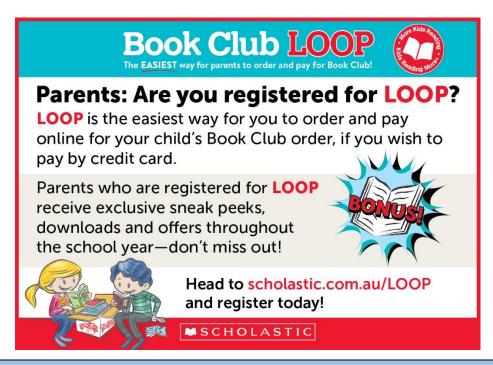
Anna Buchanan, Art Specialist

Email: buchanan.anna.a@edumail.vic.gov.au





Scholastic Book Club - Term One Deadline - Sunday 16 February:



For the Community:

Bell PS Uniforms - psw.com.au

All Bell Primary School uniform, including hats and bags, are available from PSW online at psw.com.au or from their store at 12 Strathalbyn Street, Kew East. PSW can be contacted on 9768 0381.

Bell's Second Hand Uniform Shop is open on Monday mornings from around 8.45am—9.15am, thanks to parent Volunteer Nicole Galea.



Bell French Club: Term 1

Thursdays: 3.45pm-4.45pm: Room 7

Mégane is our experienced, native-speaking French specialist teacher. Taking enquiries now - Jim Callahan: jim.callahan@lcfclubs.com.au: 0432 719 034

FUNKEY MUSIC: Term 1

Important information for students looking forward to Funkey Music this year – they are starting back on Tuesday 11 February – in Room 7!!! La La La La La



Room 7

Instrumental Music Lessons On School Campus!







Small Group & Private Lessons

- Primary Music Institute offer instrumental music lessons right here on school campus!
- available, get up to date program details and apply for lessons online
- Lessons are held once per week on school campus with lessons typically during school hours Only \$18.50 per child per small group lesson (2-5 students for 30 minutes)
- Our small group lessons provide a fun and affordable opportunity to learn instrumental music
- Instrumental music can improve your child's school results including for reading, maths, coordination, IQ, abstract reasoning, performance confidence ... and is great fun!

P: 1300 362 824 E: admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au

www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au





WRTS Preston VIC's <u>Saturday Evening 'Rocking' Friends Groups'</u> happen once a month and provide kids of ALL ABILITIES with a sensory-beneficial evening of activity and social opportunities in the safe, fun environment of their Sensory Play Gym. Parents or carers can head out for dinner at a local restaurant, see a movie or catch up on some me/us time! Earlier pick up is available - or take the whole 4 hours for yourself!

We Rock the Spectrum is NDIS Registered and funding options are available under Support Areas:

- Improved Daily Living Skills (item no. 15 045 0128 1 3)
- Increased Social and Community participation (item no. 09 008 0116 6 3)

Check out their schedule and book in some self-care for you and fun for your kids! Book Online Now: https://tinyurl.com/sn5mru7 or Thru the We Rock the Spectrum App! Ph. (03) 9042 3115



Year 7 2021 Scholarships Closing Soon!

ELTHAM College provides a warm, supportive and challenging learning culture where students maximise their talents within a forward thinking, technology rich environment.

We welcome applications from Year 6 students who believe they will make a positive contribution to our learning culture and school community, while demonstrating outstanding commitment, achievement and potential in academic and other school-related fields of endeavour.

For further information regarding scholarships, please visit our website at elthamcollege.vic.edu.au/enrolment/scholarships

or email scholarships@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au.



Growing hearts and minds

1660 Main Road Research Ph 9437 1421 | elthamcollege.vic.edu.au | registrar@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au



Our Open Day is a community event for current, future and prospective families, showcasing our people, programs and learning spaces.

Please join us for a guided tour or a leisurely meander, an early morning coffee or lunchtime BBQ, in a relaxed and festive atmosphere.

If you have an hour or two to spare, we would love to see you!

Register online at elthamcollege.vic.edu.au/open-day



Early Learning to VCE | 1660 Main Road Research Ph 9437 1421 elthamcollege.vic.edu.au | registrar@elthamcollege.vic.edu.au