



## From the Principal:

### Step-Up Session 3

The third session of the Step-Up Program is scheduled for next Tuesday 11 December and this is where students meet their 2019 teacher and classmates in their future room. Once more, I would like to reiterate the rigorous transition process undertaken this term which aims to give every child and teacher in every grade the opportunity for a positive start to their next year at Bell:

- Parents and carers' input has been sought about individual needs and other student based concerns, as well as considering the students' friendships lists. However, there are no guarantees other than every child will be with at least one of their nominated friends.
- Teachers have worked together in teams and cross referenced with other levels when carefully placing students in groups. Collectively, they have taken into account all children's academic, social and emotional development, the anticipated dynamics of each group, as well as considering the valuable information from parents/carers and friendship lists from the students.
- Feedback from specialist teachers and a final analysis from school leadership is occurring now as I finalise the 2019 grades lists and allocate teachers to roles.
- Parents will be emailed their child/ren's 2019 grade information on Tuesday to coincide with the last Step-Up session.



On that day, we hope to make the session an enjoyable one and ask for parents'/carers' support afterwards to keep their children in a positive mindset about their new teacher and classmates. We need to collectively support the children to embrace the exciting possibilities and sometimes perceived challenges of a new classroom environment.

The teachers and leadership have spent considerable time working through the grade placement process in an attempt to maximise learning for all students. In previous years, the school has received late request from parents to make changes after their child has spent time with a new teacher and classmates. Please be aware that I will not be changing our decisions regarding student placements. Critical, special circumstances may be considered, however expect my answer to be no, especially when teacher choice is the reason for a last minute request.

### Grade 6 Transition Day

On the same day, the Grade 6 students head off to their Secondary School transition day. We hope all goes well for them and they come back feeling good about the next big step in their educational journey. Again, positive parental support is paramount, as well as the teacher conversations that will occur upon their return to school on the Wednesday. I am sure there will be lots of stories to tell.

### Bell FUNdraising Facilitator/Convenor

We are seeking two or even more FUNdraising facilitators/convenors to oversee the planning of events for 2019. The role is not to captain events, or do all the organisation for planned activities, rather support and encourage the effective and efficient operation of our school's Fundraising activities. Some key points about the role are:

- The FUNdraising group is an important part of our school and is made up of parent volunteers who usually meet a few times every term to oversee all Fundraising activities.
- The facilitators/convenors lead that group and ensure event captains and their teams are on track leading up to their particular event. Most captains from this year have indicated they will also organise the same event next year which provides some continuity for the new conveners.

- The new conveners will be supported by the regulars who attend FUNdraising group meetings and Tash, the previous convenor, has prepared detailed documentation to guide people in their new role as leaders.
- The FUNdraising group do not get bogged down by formal meeting procedures, standing orders and labels such as presidents, etc. There are reporting requirements to the Finance Sub-committee of School Council, but they are handled by Litsa Athanasi and me as Principal, who are the direct links to School Council.
- Financial accountabilities will be handled by Litsa who is a qualified accountant.

So, if you have an interest in organising and planning, this would be a great opportunity to make a real difference at Bell. Please see Litsa (0407 841 974) or me for further details.

### **School Council Community Planning for 2019**

The final council meeting for 2018 will be held next Thursday 13 December at 7.00pm in the learning centre and we are inviting interested community members to join us as we plan for 2019. If you have ideas for fundraising, or want to provide feedback as we schedule school activities across the year, please come and have your say and see where you can assist us to make next year even more successful.

### **School Council Vacancies Filled**

I am pleased to announce there are two new parent members starting on School Council next Thursday:

- Christine Normoyle (Hector, Gr 3B) has filled the casual vacancy created when Adrian Whitehead resigned;
- Vanessa Buck (Lucy, Prep G) has been co-opted as a community member.

It was clear to council after reading their expressions of interest, both Vanessa and Christine have expertise and skills sets that complement the current members and we look forward to their valuable contributions at council and sub-committee meetings.

### **Thank You Morning Tea**

A reminder about the Volunteers' Morning Tea after assembly this Monday in the OSHClub room. If you can spare some more time out of your busy schedule, pop in for a cuppa and try some of the teachers home cooking. This is our way of saying thanks for all the help that families provide in so many ways to make the school a better place, and the kids' experiences at Bell that bit more special.

As it said on the invitation emailed out... 'No formal rsvp is necessary, however if you do know that you will be able to attend please email your child's classroom teacher and let them know.' Thanks to those parents/carers who have already indicated they can attend.

**David Twite, Principal**

## **Important Dates:**

### **DECEMBER**

- Mon 10: Volunteers' Morning Tea, MPR1, after Assembly
- Tue 11: Session #3 'Step-up' Transition
- Thu 13: **Final Day** for Uniform Shop
- Thu 13: School Council & Community Meeting @ 7pm
- Fri 14: **Final Day** for Stanley Lunch Orders
- Tue 18: **Grade 6** Graduation Ceremony, tbc
- Thu 20: **Final Day** for Classroom Cuisine Lunch Orders
- Thu 20: **G6** Celebration— Luna Park Big Day Out
- Fri 21: **Final Day** Term Four, 1.30pm dismissal

### **JANUARY 2019**

- Tue 29: Curriculum Day #1 (Student Free)
- Wed 30: Curriculum Day #2 (Student Free)
- Thu 31: First Day Term One: Grades 1-6

### **FEBRUARY 2019**

- Fri 1: First Day Term One: Preps (Group A only)
- Mon 4: First Day Term One: Preps (Group B only)

## **Out of the Office:**

### **CURRENT OUTSTANDING PAYMENTS**

Just a reminder for you to check that you have paid for the following events, as there are still outstanding payments due. If your child will not be attending an event, please advise their teacher or the office.

<b>Event:</b>	<b>Grade:</b>	<b>\$\$:</b>	<b>Payment:</b>
• Books & Requisites:	Gr P-6	<b>(\$270)</b>	Qkr!
• Gabrielle Wang	Gr 2	(\$3.50)	Office
• Gabrielle Wang	Gr 4	(\$3.50)	Office
• Regional Softball	Gr 6	(\$10)	Office
• Luna Park	Gr 6	(\$35)	Office

*If the event has already been removed from Qkr!, you can 'tap' our credit card machine at the office.*

## ABSENCES & SMS ALERTS

If your child is away, ***please notify both the office and their teacher*** as early as possible to avoid receiving an unnecessary SMS. If you do receive an SMS, please respond as soon as possible with a brief reason. Thank you for your help.

## 2019 PREP ENROLMENTS

An important reminder for parents planning to enrol their child into prep next year to collect a Student Enrolment Form from the office. Please complete the form, attach a copy of the Birth Certificate and Immunisation Report, and return to Bell. Thank you.

## LEAVING AT THE END OF THE YEAR?

If your child is leaving Bell Primary School at the end of the year (other than Grade 6 students), can you please stop by the office to complete a Transfer Note. This will help us with our 2019 planning. Thank you.

## MISSED CALLS

If you notice a 'missed call' from Bell PS, please, please, please wait a minute until the message has been received before calling back.

## REMINDER STATEMENTS

If you have received a Reminder Statement in the mail, would you kindly finalise any outstanding balance as soon as possible

## ON-LINE LUNCH ORDERS

Just a note to remind parents that Classroom Cuisine on-line lunch orders ***cannot be guaranteed to arrive for the first break at 11.30am***. Generally they do.

Wednesdays and Fridays are their busiest days, so it may be an idea to send along a snack for your child to eat at 11.30am, just in case the delivery is delayed.

## Fundraising News:

### Icy Pole Day

A big thank you to Tash, Nicola, Belinda, Elisabeth, Jess, Jane, Andrea & Bridget who provided ice cold Zooper Doopers & lemonade icy-poles to all the students on Thursday. It was great to hear the squeals of delight from students as the bell sounded. We raised \$732.70! Merry Christmas!

**Marsha Degen, Event Coordinator** (A big thank you to Marsha too for organising this event.)

### Mangoes

Thank you for supporting our first Mango Fundraiser. We raised just over \$1,500, so it was very successful. We look forward to an even bigger mango fundraiser next year!

**Kate James, Event Co-ordinator** (A very big thank you to Kate for organising this event.)



### Spare Tea Towels Now On Sale – First In, Best Dressed!

Hopefully everyone has got their tea towels by now. If you haven't, please let us know asap. We have a few leftovers from our print run, so if you missed out, or would like an extra one - here's your chance. **\$12 each (STRICTLY CASH ONLY) for sale at the office.** Here's what we have available:

Prep B x 4	1D x 1	2M x 5	3S x 3	5/6E x 1
Prep G x 1	1G x 5	2P x 1	4A x 1	5/6M x 1
Prep K x 1	1L x 2	2Z x 1	4G x 1	5/6O x 1
Prep L x 1	2D x 1	3 B x 1	4W x 1	5/6P x 2

## Uniform Shop – End of Year:

The Bell PS Uniform Shop will be closed during the last week of the school year for a final End of Year Stocktake. **The last day the Uniform Shop will be open for 2018 will be Thursday 13 December, between 3.15pm - 3.45pm.** If you need any uniforms before the end of the year, make sure you come along next week or place a Qkr! order.

The last day for Qkr! orders to be submitted will be Wednesday 12 December.

## Writer's Festival Donations:

A huge THANK YOU to everyone for their gold coin donations at the Poetry Festival. We raised over \$300 and were able to purchase some exciting new poetry books for the library.

**Lisa McLeish**  
**Prep B**



## Year 6 to Year 7 Transition:

The Darebin Council has put together a booklet 'Preparing for Secondary School in Darebin Guide: Joining the dots.' You can find a digital version for Moreland, Yarra and Darebin via <http://inllen.org.au/joining-the-dots-old/jtd-resources/>. Some high schools will start having tours to book into, so check individual school websites.

## Annual Violin Concert:

This week, the Annual Bell Violin Concert was held, where 28 students bravely performed their solo pieces in front of a supportive audience of around 70 parents, grandparents, carers and friends. A wonderful way to celebrate the incredible achievements of these young musicians this year.



## Last Lunch Orders for 2018:

Please note that next *Friday 14 December* will be the last chance to order a "Stanley's" Lunch Order for 2018. The last day to order a "Classroom Cuisine" on-line Lunch Order will be *Thursday 20 December*.

## Community News:

### **Convent Kids presents: Sensory Art Lab**

Calling all children and families to join artists from Slow Art Collective in a creative takeover at the Abbotsford Convent's c3 gallery to transform and reimagine this public space in a brand new series of free, hands-on, participatory art activities. Sensory Art Lab will run over the school holidays from 7 – 20 January 2018, 10am – 2pm daily. The gallery will be reimaged through public participation daily. Each day is a blank canvas!

This is a free event with no bookings required, suitable for children ages 2 – 10 years old. Parents/guardians required to accompany children at all times. We have many more exciting programs cooking classes, and book making workshops as well as the launch of our exciting commissioned Bamboo Pavilion.