



From the Principal...

Start of School

We have had 2 pleasant and positive days to kick off the school year. It was great to see many excited and smiling faces come through the gates yesterday and today entering new rooms to begin their 2019 learning adventures at Bell.

At this early stage we appear to have close to the number of enrolments we predicted being 510. This is a handful of students less than last year but is a strong indication we are levelling out after many years of rapid growth. The restriction in our enrolment procedures (closest school or siblings already at the school) seems to be having a stabilizing impact.

The new 3 teachers and 2 staff returning from leave have felt very welcome and are starting to build relationships across the school. This is the main focus for all teachers at present; build a strong relationship with every student in their grade, as well as establish routines and expectations around a positive and productive learning environment. The school-wide Start-Up program implemented over the first 7 days ensures there is a high level of consistency across the school.

Building Works in 2019

As mentioned in last week's early edition bulletin, there are 3 exciting projects planned for this year with staggered start times throughout the year:

- Northern Play Space transformation has already started and will have a 3 week construction period for phase 1. As the area takes shape and the heavy duty bulldozers are phased out, we hope the high protection fences can be re-positioned giving us back play space on the astro turf. We are fortunate to have an expert on playground and recreational development in our community and I would like to acknowledge Lucy Salt (mother of Clancy and Sylvie) who is project managing this exciting initiative.
- Re-development of the south oval is planned for early Autumn with a 4-6 week timeframe. We believe final approval is very close.
- \$2M development of the library, upstairs classrooms and toilets is on schedule to commence early May. A community meeting is scheduled before the building works starts to keep everyone fully inform.

Curriculum Day on Numeracy

Staff participated in a highly valuable professional learning day on Tuesday with Maths expert Michael Ymer. Some of the key take aways for teachers to trial and then embed into their practices were around customising lessons to suit the broad learning needs within every grade (differentiated lesson planning), better use of open-ended maths questions, and

sequencing mathematical concepts correctly to enable deep understanding and proficiency. Michael will be modelling best practice Numeracy lessons at all grade levels next week for teachers to observe his approach and reflect on their current practices.

Change of Dates

There are a couple of events listed last week where the dates have been changed:

- Prep/Grade 1 Welcome Picnic is now **Thursday 21 February**
- Rebecca Foulds (PE) is re-scheduling the start of the Grade 4 Swimming for slightly later in the term as next week's date was deemed unrealistic to organise notes, money and the logistics linked to the weekly swimming program.

As more dates are determined in the coming weeks, we will continue to communicate them to the school community so everyone can plan ahead.

David Twite (Principal)

Important Dates 2019...

FEBRUARY

- Mon 4: First Day Term One: Preps (Group B only)
- Mon 4: Classroom Cuisine Lunch Orders resume
- Fri 8: Stanley Lunch Orders resume
- Sat 16: Bell Blitz
- Thu 21: Prep Picnic, from 5.00pm
- Fri 22: Summer Sports #1 v Northcote (away)
- TBC Gr4 Swimming sessions 1to 6

MARCH

- Fri 1: Summer Sports #2 v Fairfield (home)
- Fri 8: Summer Sports #3 v Preston South (away)
- Mon 11: Labour Public Holiday
- Fri 15: Summer Sports #4 v St Josephs (home)
- Fri 22: Summer Sports #5 v Northcote (home)
- Fri 22: Silent Disco FUNdraiser
- Fri 29: Sausage Sizzle Opening for Northern Playspace tbc

APRIL

- Fri 5: Final Day Term 1 - 2.30pm dismissal
- Fri 5: Cup Cake Stall FUNdraiser
- Fri 5: Kid's Movie Night

School Holidays 2019...

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| Term 1: | Friday 5 April – Tuesday 23 April |
| Term 2: | Friday 28 June – Monday 15 July |
| Term 3: | Friday 20 September - Monday 7 October |
| Term 4: | Friday 20 December - 27 January 2020 |