

Sept 1st, 2015

Bell News **Fortnightly**

Challenging & Supporting each other..!



Celebrating Book Week





Donate To Need A Feed

The Social Justice Team need your help to feed and support those in need. Please bring canned and dried food as well as toiletries that are still in their packages, from the 31st of August until the 11th of September. Students from the social Justice club will be in the shelter shed before school at 8.45am collecting those items.

The supplies will be donated to people in the Darebin community who are less fortunate than us.

Items you could bring:

Dried Biscuits – Canned Soups – Pasta – Cereal – Crackers – Baked Beans – Long Life Milk – Toilet Paper – Toothbrushes – Toothpaste – Soap – Shampoo – Conditioner

You've just helped someone in need!



Preps?! What preps?! Bell Primary has been invaded by famous book characters! Sharing the fun we had celebrating book week.



The Premiers' Reading Challenge has just one week to go. All books need to be entered on-line by 7th September 2015. So far 50 children have finished the Challenge and 2, 101 books have been read.

Karen Elsbury, Premiers' Reading Challenge Coordinator

Victorian
premiers' reading challenge

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

CSEF. Camps, Sports & Excursions Funds for lower income families. Replacing Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) Last opportunity! Financial Assistance for Families. The Education Maintenance Allowance was closed at the end of 2014. The new government has introduced the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund as part of its 2015 – 2016 budget. Please note that the closing date is very soon. Forms are available from the office or online. Further information re Camps, Sports & Excursions Funds: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/Pages/csef.aspx?Redirect=1>

At this stage of the year, there are a variety of evidence and data sets that become available to us that enhance and deepen our professional discussions of how we are tracking to meet the goals and targets that we have set for the school. Our task is to look at a variety of data sets to understand better what we need to explore further. We never rely on only one data set but use a range of numeric and non-numeric evidence including analysis of Individual learning Plans, Timeout and Attendance records, Principle of Learning and Teaching Surveys and other tools where further investigation is indicated.

In 2016 the school will engage in a self-evaluation process leading into a school review and a strategic plan to provide goals and targets in the four key areas of:

Productivity

<http://www.bellps.vic.edu.au/#!/policies/c14yv>

[illegible]

Book Week was a great success for our Preps!



As educators, the staff at Bell Primary School are very proud of the student achievement levels as this reflects the culture of teaching and learning at the school. Current data is available on the school website that shows the Year 3 and Year 5 School Summary Reports measured against the State as well as the School Comparison Report which tracks the growth of the year 3 students 2013 to the current year 5 students 2015.

Hats are back.

As part of our Sunsmart policy, we remind parents that hats are required for outside play at recess and lunchtimes.

Cresten Pearce and Marg Sneddon





School Values Certificates

Challenging & Supporting each other...

Jasper Weller: Learning. By working hard to learn his sight words and by practicing his reading goals. Jasper has started making good choices with who he sits next to in class to get the best from his learning. Great job Jasper!

Mae Hotham: Learning. By taking the time to make sure her work is completed in a careful way. Mae worked hard during our Book Week activities to do her best in all the tasks with her colouring, cutting and constructing. Well done Mae!

Kira Nance: Learning. Kira ensures that her reading is improving. Kira practises recalling sight words each night at home and works hard at school in Reading Groups. She has made such a big effort and it shows when she reads her 'Just Right' books.

Thomas Corovic: Learning. Thomas has been working hard in maths to solve many subtraction problems. He uses strategies such as counting back on a number line and modelling and solving problems with counters.

Alexander Coates: Teamwork. Working well with his partner solving subtraction sums. Alex worked well sharing the work and discussing answers together.

Finn Picknell: Creativity. Working extremely hard on his Noni the Pony during book week. Finn concentrated on doing his best work and was very creative.

Tilly Godfrey: Respect. By listening and raising her hand to answer or ask questions from her visiting teacher Lachlan. Tilly consistently demonstrates politeness toward her teachers and peers.

Levi Enge: Creativity. By showing creativity with all Book Week craft tasks. Your enthusiasm for completing tasks is to be commended.

Lily Matijas: Learning. By concentrating on her maths Lily was able to show her understanding of addition. Well done Lily!

Claire Stephens: Claire is currently collaborating with Ella on a Writer's Workshop project that they have persisted with and shown great teamwork skills. Claire listens to her partner and demonstrates an understanding of compromise.

Clarisse Koh: Clarisse has really blossomed lately in maths and is more willing to share her ideas and have a go at problems in front of the class. She is so brave in putting her hand up to have a go. Keep it up, Clarisse!

Paige Dunstone: Paige completed a great book response to George's Marvellous Medicine which she named 'Paige's Cool Medicine'. It was highly creative and completely disgusting! Super work, Paige!

Joe O'Halloran: Joe has demonstrated respect in the classroom. I particularly liked the way he worked with Bhagi, ensuring his first days at school were safe and enjoyable. Joe ensured Bhagi followed teacher instructions and was included in outdoor games.

Reilly Isaacs: Reilly has made a generous donation in his desire to support the preps and their learning by funding the purchase of a new library book.

Miriam Alves-Perini: While working on an animal research report

on cats, Miriam worked hard to think of and research some very interesting facts about cats, making her report much more interesting to read. Great creative thinking, Mim!

Mateo Rodriguez-Callejas: Creativity. Mateo has demonstrated creativity through his construction of his 'footy statue' for our class shop, to assist with the learning of money. Mateo has worked tirelessly on his statue and used a variety of materials, to ensure that it is an item that all buyers will want to purchase! Keep up the great work Mateo!

Sidney Stanley: Teamwork. Sid has been working really hard during our money unit in maths. He has shown great speaking, listening and compromising skills while making products to sell in his class shop. Sid's sculptures look amazing and it is all due to great teamwork and creativity! Great job!

Iona Thomas-Lawrance: Creativity. During our money unit in maths, Iona has used her creativity to make sunglasses and various sculptures to sell in her shop. She has used lots of different materials, colours and textures to make everything look very exciting to buy. Great work Iona!

Tully Baker: Creativity. Tully has demonstrated learning, teamwork and creativity by planning, organising and preparing all items in her 'Pet Shop' for the 1/2T class shop. She has creatively constructed a variety of fantastic 'pets' out of a number of materials. Great job Tully!

Vasco Moreira: Learning: It has been fantastic to see Vasco respond to constructive feedback as a means to extend his skills in all areas of the curriculum. Well done Vasco. You should be very pleased with your efforts in class this year!

Ilya Gunn: Congratulations Ilya on producing an outstanding diorama demonstrating the cycle of rocks. Your diorama and explanations helped others in the class understand this process. Fantastic!!

Liam Turner: Congratulations Liam on persisting with your independent reading and moving on to more complicated novels. You have moved on from having a 5 minute reading stamina to not wanting to put your book down! Great to see you have caught the 'reading bug'.

Simmi Vigeybatel: Teamwork. By displaying great teamwork when working with her new classmates in her new school. Simmi is a great addition to our class. Welcome Simmi!!

Rahima Toukhsati: Honesty. By always being an honest student with both her peers and teachers. Well done, Rahima.

Kayla Vinten-Cassidy: Learning. Kayla has been embracing new challenges in maths and has done some outstanding work this term, including our geometry unit and our recent algebra extension task.

Michaela Pam: Getting Along. For her excellent work running our Socratic Seminar last week. Michaela showed that she listens carefully to others, can ask probing questions and thinks deeply about issues. Great work!

Oliver Katsaras: Getting Along. For his excellent work running our Socratic Seminar last week. Oli demonstrated maturity, fantastic questioning skills and an ability to be inclusive of others. Well done Oli!



Fathers Day Stall this Wednesday & Friday!

We are still gratefully accepting donations. Items can be dropped in at the office prior to the stall, or directly to the stall on Wednesday or Friday (in the spacious new portable on the north oval).

Send your kids in with money on Wednesday and Friday!

We need helpers on the day! Sign up through volunteer spot: 1) Click this link to see our Sign-Up on VolunteerSpot: <http://vols.pt/i55Xq7>

2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.

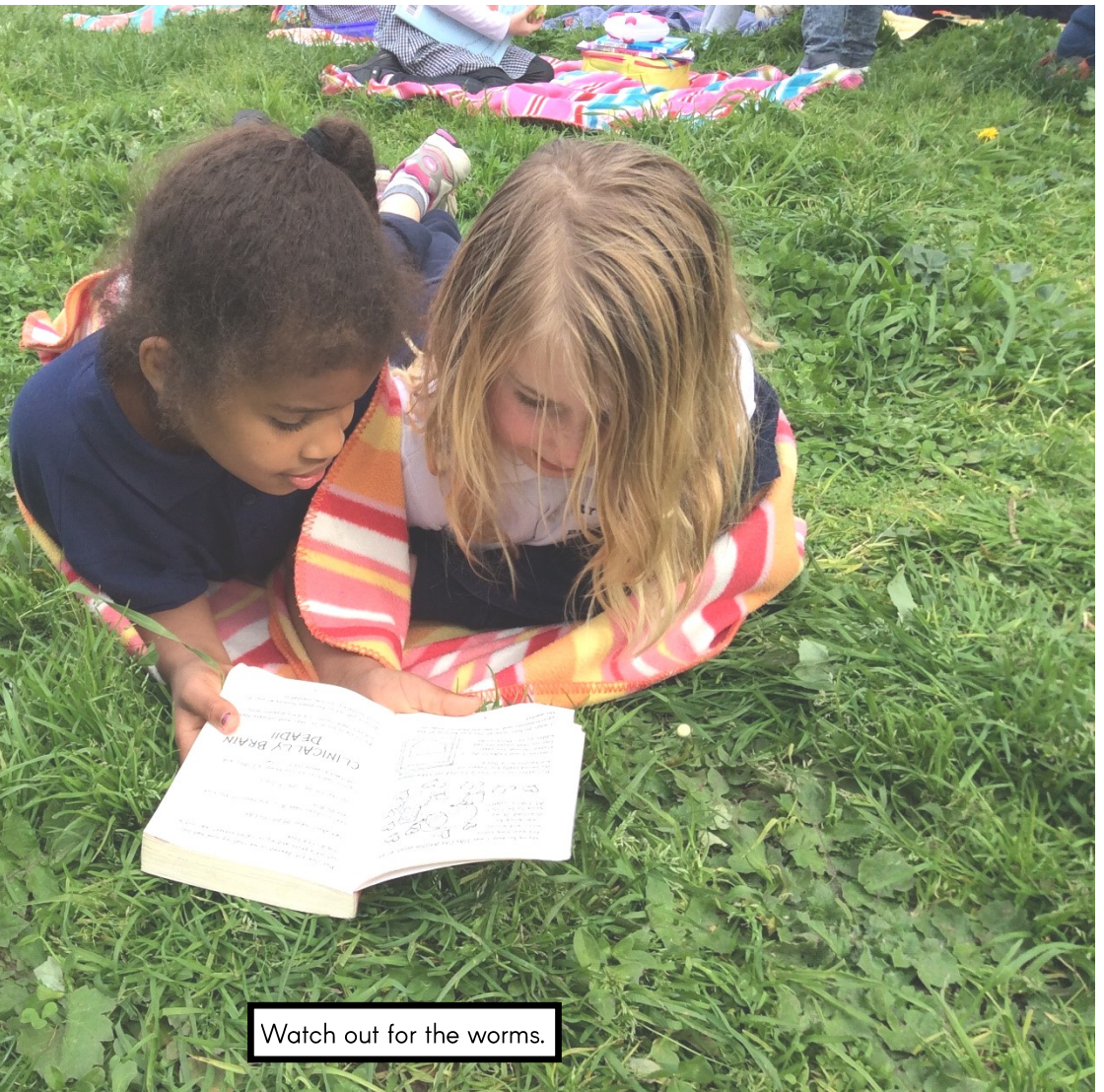
3) Sign up! It's Easy – you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on VolunteerSpot.

Note: VolunteerSpot does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact one of the organisers and we can sign you up manually.

FUNdraising@Bell.

Book Week!

The grade 1/2 cohort had a fabulous day last Wednesday, sharing our favourite books and dressing up as our favourite characters. The day was topped off with a BookNic, where we all ate our lunch outside and read favourite parts of our stories to one another.



Watch out for the worms.



REGIONAL DEBATING TOURNAMENT

Recently the Bell Primary Debating team went to St. Raphael's in West Preston for the regional debating competition.

The students preparation and hard work over the recent weeks paid off and we won the first three pre-prepared debates on the topics: 'School Uniforms Should be Compulsory' and 'Smoking Should be Banned in Public Places'.

We were then faced with the challenging task of preparing a 'secret topic' debate in the afternoon. The three Bell Primary groups were given the secret topic at lunch time: 'That Children Under the Age of 16 Should Not Own an iPad'. They then had between 20 and 40 minutes to work with their teammates to develop a debate speech. The students did really well under pressure and all performed really well in this final round, particularly as this was the first time they had ever done a secret topic debate.

We won one of the three secret topic debates (taking our record to 4 from 6 for the day) and our two losses were by the slimmest of margins: one and two points. We are waiting to hear from the Debaters' Association of Victoria for the final positions for the day.

Congratulations to the whole team on what was an outstanding effort! The students have definitely developed their debating skills over the year and proudly represented Bell Primary.

Sense & Sustainability

5/6's teach the Preps

The newly found 5/6 Sustainability Team were hard at work last Wednesday, running a session for the prep students as part of their inquiry.

The team, which includes Olivia, Kayla, Sarah, Caelen, Mariana and Rahima, prepared a presentation for the prep students. They discussed recycling, including why we recycle and what can be recycled at school. The students learnt about our yellow lidded bins (which are for paper, hard plastics and cardboard) as well as the red lidded bins (which are for soft plastics, including plastic bags).



They also then ran an interactive game exploring recycling with the prep students.

Fantastic work by the team! They will be continuing to support the prep inquiry over the remainder of the term. Check out some of the pictures below. If you'd like to see the presentation created by the students, click on the following link:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1MO_HxXDYSgrkiCkIXVMajAQmnMuJBfJ3k3nLo2adJAg/edit?usp=sharing



The irony of the sign above their heads.

A DAY AT THE MUSEUM



Lucky they went on a day when it wasn't a full moon.



This is why we don't allow chewing gum or bubble gum at school.



Always eat healthily. Your bones will thank you.



Mr. E explains the plotline to the movie 'Alien'.

On Friday all the 3/4s went to the [Melbourne Museum](#). First we got split up into groups and had different timetables throughout the day. We saw the Bunjilaka First Peoples gallery, The Science and Life gallery, the Bugs exhibit and more! The Bunjilaka section was about the aboriginal people, how they had survived and their history. We got a sheet

of questions and had to try our best to find the answers on the Self Guided trail. There were many powerful and moving things in this space. We all had a wonderful day and were exhausted when we got back to school after a day on our feet!

The 3/4 students were exposed to lots of different areas of science as a 'seed' for their own personal inquiry. 3/4s will now have the opportunity to follow their individual interests and complete their own investigations.

A huge thank you to our wonderful parent helpers – Catherine, Sally, Nadia, Brooke, Annette, Sarah, Nicola, Alli, Gordon, Shelley, Martine, Ashley, Elizabeth, Penny, Melissa, Kirsten, Merkeeta and Julie – you were fabulous and very much appreciated!



Gardening Club

Seeds for SPRING!

Spring is such a busy time in the garden! Students are looking forward to sowing seeds in our vegetable boxes as part of Gardening Club and some student Inquires. Do you have any seed packets or seedlings you would like to donate to the school? We would love donations of vegetables, herbs and fruit. You can drop them off to Anna from Prep B, Rm 1 in the Early Learning Centre, or email buchanan.anna.a@edumail.vic.gov.edu if you have any related queries.

Please help look after our Gardens!

Please help us to look after the gardens by staying out of the out of bounds areas in the time before and after school. The many logs placed in the bushy area between the Early Learning Centre and the 1/2 buildings create a habitat for small bugs and insects to live and add to the biodiversity of our school. Please do not remove them!

Produce at our School

In Gardening Club, students have been having a wonderful time collecting produce grown in our school such as olives and lavender bunches. We have also been making beautiful hand-made packets of sunflower seeds. Gardening Club will be holding a small stall to sell these items after the holidays so keep your eyes peeled for more info in early term 4!



Gardens and Grounds

September

You may have noticed new trees and plants going in around Bell PS. Thanks to all the wonderful work by kids, parents, and teachers on School Tree Day, garden club and the school working bees.

Next working bee

The next working bee will be Sunday the 13th September. We are doing some more planting, some mulching, weeding, silhouettes for tools, etc etc. We will be looking at infill planting around many of the trees we have planted so if you have some ground cover plants you can divide, some spare flowers or bulbs please bring them along and help brighten up Bell.

We will be running two back to back sessions to accommodate requests from parents. Come for one or stay for the whole day.

The first session: 10-12.30

Lunch: 12.30-1.30

The second session: 1.30-3.00

Next Gardens and Grounds Meeting - 10th September 6pm - 7.15pm Multi-Purpose Building

New Seats

We will be looking to put in some new seats and benches around the school grounds. They will be made from recycled plastic and are durable and comfortable (see Replas <http://www.replas.com.au>). If you have an opinion on where we might put a new seat or benches or replace old ones please email your top priorities so we can see areas stand out as a priority.



Email: greycliffs@gmail.com



eSmart Week Update

eSmart week is almost here and we are all looking forward to a great week full of activities. Here is a little more insight into what will be happening.



- All students complete activities designed to enhance their knowledge of what it means to be smart, safe and responsible both online and in the real world.
- Grade 3-6 students have the opportunity to teach a Cyber Safety lesson to P-2 students.
- Grade 5/6 students will participate in a workshop run by an expert in the field, Louise Bowe.
- Parents can attend an evening session on Tuesday 8th also conducted by Louise Bowe.
- Students will work together to go on a digital scavenger hunt, searching for clues and practicing their digital citizenship skills.
- Bell's new eSmart mascot or mascots will be designed by students to promote digital citizenship within our school and community.
- Celebratory sharing assemblies will occur between 2:30-3:30pm on Friday 11th to sum up the whole week.

CREATING SAFE DIGITAL KIDS

Whole School Partners

Highlights:

- Where does technology fit with your child's learning and the Australian Curriculum?
- What can you do to develop safe digital kids?

Tuesday September 8: 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Where: In the Learning Centre

Cost: \$3 per family cash payable at the door, correct change please.

SEPT 8

Join us for an overview of current education trends and let us empower you to support your child's learning using digital technologies.

Bell Primary School has registered in the Woolworths Earn and Learn Program



The Earn and Learn Purple Collection Box is located in the school office. All families are welcome to place complete or incomplete Sticker Sheets in the Purple Box, or just the stickers!

Additional Sticker Sheets are available in the school office.

Also if you have friends or family who would like to support Bell Primary School, additional Purple Collection boxes have been ordered and will be located at local Woolworths Stores very soon.

- Preston
- Preston South (coming soon)
- Coburg Hill (coming soon)

Please if you have any further questions you can visit www.woolworths.com.au/earn&learn or contact me directly.

Happy Collecting,
Julie Kelly
jkelly1501@gmail.com

Last week! Get them in now! Please!

eSmart week

7-11 Sept 2015

Bell Primary will be celebrating the first national eSmart Week in September. Here's a snapshot of some of the things that will be happening.



Students will participate in multi-age experiences where 3-6s will teach a Cyber Safety lesson to a group of P-2s.



Louise Bowe will bring her educational experience and knowledge of 21st century learning in a series of sessions with Bell 5/6s, teachers and our parent community.

Parent session on Tuesday 8th Sept
5:30 - 7:30pm, \$3 per family
Keep an eye out for more info in coming weeks



The week will see students dive deeper into their knowledge of Digital Citizenship and produce works that will be shared with our local community to promote eSmart.



It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

by Michael Grose

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time. It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success. Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned. It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children. That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event. This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!" Nice try. But the answer should be "No!"

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

As a Parent:

- ☒ Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- ☒ Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- ☒ Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- ☒ Consider catching-up on missed work.
- ☒ Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.

Article provided by Ruth Vonarx and Maria Tevelis @ Bell Welfare.



Bright Sparks Creative Workshops Holiday Program - September 2015

Bright Sparks is a creative arts program designed to help children learn about themselves and develop a sense of inner strength, promoting confidence, resilience and general wellbeing.

Children have the opportunity to create artwork that is meaningful to them through a variety of creative media such as; painting, drawing, clay and recycled art materials.

Sessions are run by an Art Therapist and are beneficial for all children from Prep to Grade 3. Individual Art Therapy sessions are also available.

10.30am - 2.30pm September 29, 30 & October 1

\$160 / \$140 (concession) for a 3 day course or \$60 per session.

Jika Jika Community Centre, Northcote.

Bookings essential by Friday, September 25. Sessions at Bell Primary on Monday afternoons are currently fully booked. Contact Naomi on 0421 914 220 or email: naomi@brightsparks.id.au

Naomi Williams (M. A. Arts Therapy) is a Creative Arts Therapist with over 9 years experience facilitating creative workshops, individual art therapy sessions and resilience programs for children.



Adding multiple payment cards & keeping your payments safe

Qkr!™ will accept payment using any scheme credit/debit card accepted by the school, and you can add up to five different cards to your Qkr account.

At checkout, you can easily select from any of your registered cards by simply tapping the 'Payment' option near the top of the checkout screen.

Qkr! is provided by MasterCard so you know your payments are secure. No information will be stored on your phone. Registration details and card information are saved securely on the MasterCard network.

If you choose to pay using a MasterCard, you will also benefit from MasterCard's Zero Liability policy which protects the cardholder from fraud and unauthorized charges.

Events Calendar

September 2015

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31 9.00 Whole School Assembly 8.45-9.15 Uniform Shop 9.00 Playgroup	1 9.00 National eSmart Week Whole School School Assembly 8.45-9.15 Uniform Shop 9.00 Playgroup	2 Father's Day Stall 1	3 Years 1-4 Swimming 3.15-3.45 Uniform Shop	4 Father's Day Stall 2	5	6
7 9.00 National eSmart Week Whole School School Assembly 8.45-9.15 Uniform Shop 9.00 Playgroup	8 5.30-7.30 eSmart Parent Info Session	9	10 9.30 Finance Meeting 3.15-3.45 Uniform Shop	11 Years 3-4 Rodd Dahl Dress Up Day 2.30 eSmart Assembly	12	13 Garden- ing Working Bee
14 9.00 Snr School Assembly 8.45-9.15 Uniform Shop 9.00 Playgroup	15	16	17 11.30 Northcote HS Transition talk 3.15-3.45 Uniform Shop	18	19	20
21 9.00 All School Assembly 8.45-9.15 Uniform Shop 9.00 Playgroup	22	23	24 3.15-3.45 Uniform Shop	25	26	27 Sunday Crew

Payments And Reminders

Prep, Grades 1, 2	Coach Approach	\$8.00	Due Friday September 11
-------------------	----------------	--------	-------------------------