



**Challenging & Supporting each other...**

# Bell News

**9th December, 2014**

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So here we are at the end of another very successful school year here at Bell Primary School.

At the end of every year we complete the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) setting goals and targets for the following year based on the analysis of our NAPLAN, AusVELS assessments and other relevant data sets and the four year targets set in the 2012 Strategic Plan. The school leadership team have conducted an in depth analysis of our 2014 data and the AIP and the Annual Report will be shared with the community in the new year.

One of the highlights this year has been the success of the Fundraising Committee. At the beginning of the year the fundraising money from 2013 was used to install the artificial turf on the south oval. This has proven to be such a valuable addition to our grounds and makes a remarkable difference to Tom's P.E. program. After a few hiccoughs the shade sail is being installed on the north side of the Learning Centre using the 2013 funds. There have been many successful events this year – the fabulous Las Vegas Trivia night, the mother's and father's day stalls and the hugely successful Funday. The grand total for this year is \$55 000 approximately which is an all time record. The community survey was completed earlier this term and the top 4 items are being costed and quotes drawn up at the moment. Early next year we will see shade cloth on the northern play equipment, blinds and shelving in the classrooms and plans drawn up for more seating in the play ground. A special thanks goes to everyone involved in all the fundraising events.

I would like to congratulate our School Council on what has been a challenging but satisfying 2013. Our parent members are Nicole Lord, Andrew Vincent, Kelly Soule, Andrew Wilson, Shelley Baulch, Glen Dunstone and Marty Pike. Thank you on behalf of Rod, Marg and myself as the DEECD council members for being such a pleasure to work with. We are well placed to lead our school to a bigger and brighter 2015. At our last meeting we discussed the after school extra curricular programs for 2015, approval of the Qkr app for parent use and the fundraising results.

Our next School Council meeting will be held in mid February, 2015.

## **Grade 6 Graduation**

This is a very exciting time for our departing Grade 6 children. Congratulations to all of you for finishing the first phase in your education journey. I know the future for you is very bright and once you



It was our biggest day ever! A whopping \$32,000 raised on Funday 2014! A big thank you to all of our Fundraising friends and everyone who participated or attended on the day.

are over your first term nerves I know you are all prepared for the challenges ahead. We are all looking forward to celebrating your time at Bell at next week's Graduation ceremony on Tuesday evening followed up by your Big Day Out at Luna Park on Thursday.

## **Welcomes and Farewells**

It is always sad to say goodbye to some of our staff but we wish them well in their new endeavours.

We say farewell to Tom Witherden who is returning to Tasmania and Mel Cashen who is moving schools to Princes Hill P.S.

We welcome to Bell P.S.

Paul Nicholson Grade 3 /4

Dylan Nexhip Grade3 /4

Gabrielle Goss Grade 1 /2

A very special big thank you to our dedicated teaching and Education Support staff. It is through their professionalism and commitment that the school achieves so much. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes to make things happen. There have been so many opportunities for children this year with the Inquiry Learning initiative and the Social Justice and JSC events to name just a few. I wish all staff the very best of holidays and make sure you take at least three full weeks off before you return to preparing and looking forward to all the challenges of 2014.

**Cresten Pearce, Principal**



# Our Two Dutch Friends say Goodbye

At the beginning of this school year two blonde Dutch girls (Linde and Else) started at Bell Primary. They arrived in this big country far, far away from home where everyone spoke a language they didn't understand at all. Scared as they were at the start, the teachers and students of Bell Primary made them feel at home immediately. We were told that in two terms they would speak English (I mean Aussie) perfectly. We didn't believe it at that point, but they did in fact. We are convinced this was mainly due to the way the teachers involved the girls in their classroom and the way the Bell community accepted the girls. The fun at school and after school helped them enormously. At this moment it's even more difficult for them to speak Dutch instead of English.

After a year we sadly have to return back home to Holland. We are going to miss you all; this school, this city and this beautiful country. We would like to thank everyone for the perfect year we had over here, for the way you accepted us and the way you let us be part of your lives (even when it was only for a year). We think this community could be an example for the biggest part of the world. So keep up these values and we hope to see you again someday.

*Love Anne, Peter, Linde and Else*



**FUNDAY**

Well done to Sam, Gus, Zeke and Joel on a polished and tight performance as the Bell Rock Band. Miss S. doing her best Andy Rourke impersonation on bass.





# School Values Certificates

**Riley Briggs:** Respect. By always helping to make sure our class room is neat and organised. Riley helps others to pick up our books and put away neatly during reading groups and make sure we are organised for learning.

**Miles Wyatt:** Creativity. By having a go at creating a rhyming sentence using words from the same word family. Great attempt at your poem for the first time, Miles!

**Rosie Murphy:** Teamwork. By assisting other students to improve their skills on the monkey bars. Rosie has been patient and kind, teaching others new tricks and helping them practise during outside play.

**Ben Nadachowski:** Learning. By working really hard on his handwriting to his Kindy buddy. You really looked carefully at your handwriting chart to help you with the lowercase letters.

**Grace Popp:** Learning. By persisting with her science experiment and creating a fantastic video to show at the Science Fair. Great job!

**1/2S - Whole class:** Teamwork. By working together to create a fantastic and supportive learning environment. An awesome year for us all. Well done!

**Violet Longstaff:** Learning. Violet has demonstrated learning through her fantastic work on her science project. She has worked extremely hard and used a variety of media to display her learning. Fabulous effort Violet!

**Kyan Davis-Holmes:** Creativity. Kyan has displayed the value of creativity through his science project. He has worked very hard to produce a well written and colourful poster of his experiment 'Mysterious Vinegar'.

**Sunday Livingston:** Learning & Teamwork. Sunday has been working incredibly hard during Science with her partner Winnie. They have been communicating well and showing all their fabulous

learning with a poster for our Science Fair.

**Winnie Schutz:** Learning & Teamwork. Winnie has been working very hard with her partner Sunday. They have researched volcanoes and showed great creativity in designing a poster for the Science Fair. Well done!

**1/2L:** Creativity. 1/2L have shown wonderful creative thinking all year, most recently when working on our Science projects. We have all had an excellent year, done some wonderful learning and have some fantastic memories.

**Lily Moloney:** Learning. By showing great researching skills for your science poster. Great job using the iPads to find the information you need.

**Thomas Venuto:** Learning. By persisting with his science experiment, even when things didn't go exactly as he had planned. Great job Thomas!

**Isabella Baker:** Creativity. By working hard on her comic during writing and making her illustrations and storyline colourful and creative. Well done Isabella!

**Mitch Lester:** For his excellent attitude towards learning.

**Rhianon van Ralte:** For using great words and calling other students by name.

**Jamil Fahour:** For showing great leadership when working with the grade one students.

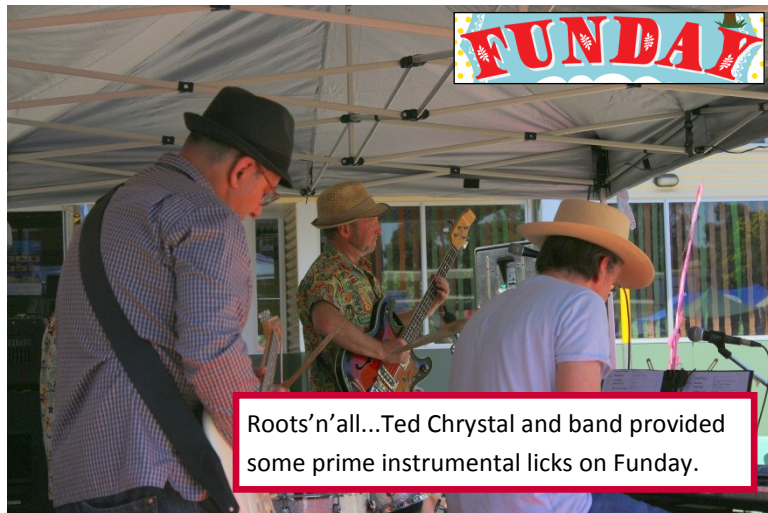
**Max Hamilton:** For showing great leadership when working with the grade one students.

**Joel Van Raalte:** Learning. For taking on a leadership role in our recent silent film project and helping to create an excellent finished film.

**Tjala Rowlands:** Getting Along. During our recent silent film unit Tjala did some excellent work supporting other groups to film and edit their movies.







Roots'n'all...Ted Chrystal and band provided some prime instrumental licks on Funday.

## Summer Watering Roster

Can you help keep the wonderful gardens of our school alive over the hot summer months ahead?

Sign up for a week - share your slot with another household if you like - and let's keep the plants happy and unwilted.

Join the roster at: [bit.ly/15Y7ivx](http://bit.ly/15Y7ivx)  
or contact Kirsten on 0412 853 641.

## Perhaps an opportunity to teach and show some kindness and gratitude this festive season.

*Michael Grosse*

*The festive season could provide the opportunity to develop a sense of 'other' in your children and teach them some more social graces.*

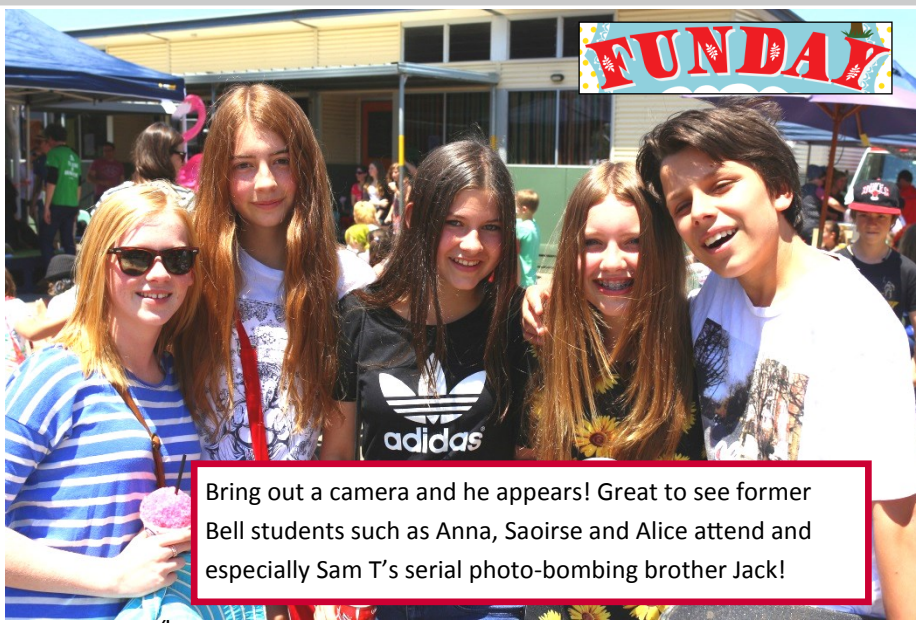
It can be tricky for parents during the end of year festive and holiday season to guide children down a giving, let alone a responsibility to the wider community view path. So much attention is placed on receiving that it can be difficult to develop a sense of 'other' in children. It helps to be proactive and put rituals of generosity in place, which will inevitably become part of your family's traditions.

Here are some ideas to get you thinking:

- 1. Develop an action of gratitude** Discuss with children the people who have been helpful, kind or gone out of their way for them during the year. Then they can write a note, make a gift or cook something that they can give to those people to say thank you.
- 2. Make a family commitment of giving** Pick a cause that's close to your family's heart and make a commitment to do something or give something on a regular basis throughout the coming year.
- 3. Involve kids in personal giving** If gifts are shared as part of your tradition then do your best to involve children in the giving process. Discuss the choice of gifts: "So what do you think your cousin would like?". Even better, get your kids to accompany you on a shopping trip, if you dare.
- 4. Have a clean out** Approaching the festive season provides a great opportunity for kids to spring clean their toy, clothes and technology cupboards. Not only does this make room for the new, (and perhaps unfairly lift their expectations), but it provides the chance for children to pass on unwanted items to siblings, friends or others who would probably appreciate and use them more than they would.
- 5. Give them a social script** Children usually operate on a script learnt from their parents. If you want them to be thankful for their gifts then give them the lines they should use. Be prepared for some gentle parental cueing if in all the festive excitement they forget to say thanks.



Romy learns the fine art of juggling.



Bring out a camera and he appears! Great to see former Bell students such as Anna, Saoirse and Alice attend and especially Sam T's serial photo-bombing brother Jack!



# Spectacular Spettacolo!

Check out the awesome pics and video snapshots of parts from the Italian performance that was held for the whole school on the Prep blog at <http://bellpreps.global2.vic.edu.au/2014/12/01/italian-incursion/>

Children from Prep to Grade 6 were treated to a FUNtastic show that was not only engaging and entertaining, but educational too!

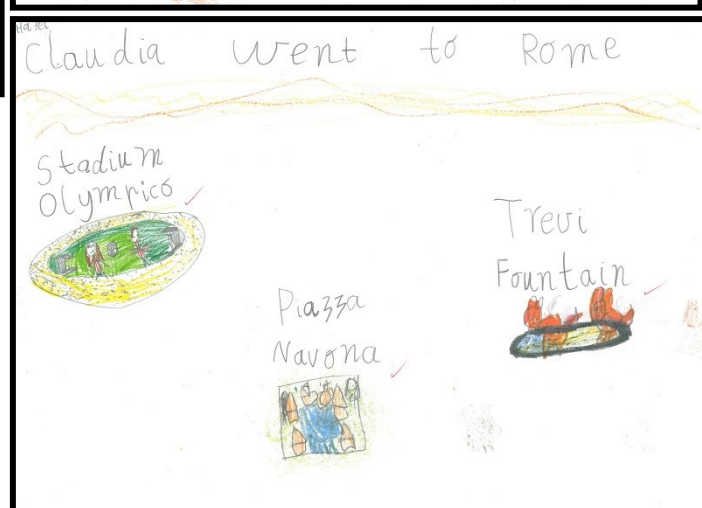
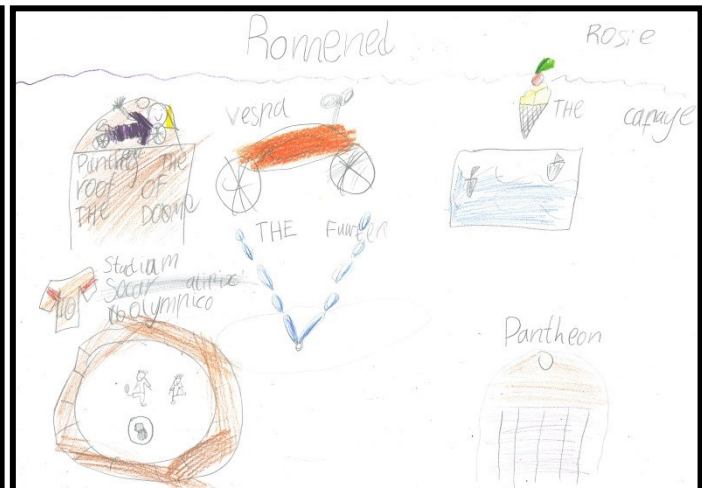
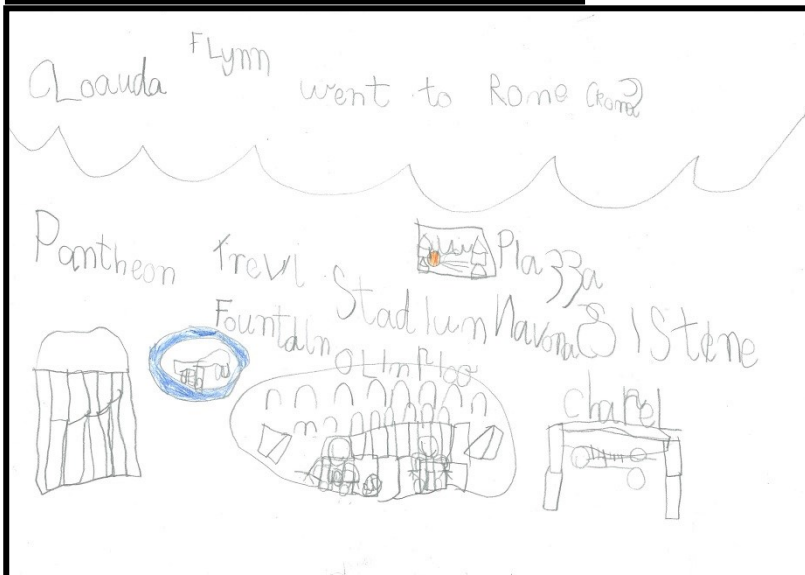
Through story and song, students were exposed to background information and historical facts about some famous landmarks and places in Rome including:

The Trevi Fountain, The Pantheon, Piazza Navona, Sistine Chapel, Stadio Olimpico (Olympic Stadium).



Three of our amazing fundraisers, including Nicola (left) with a flower growing out of her head.

## Impressions from the Preps



Sarah and the big raffle winner Maeve.



Wednesday 10th  
& Thursday 11th  
3pm - 6.30  
Early Learning Centre

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& Thursday 11th

3pm - 6.30  
Early Learning Centre



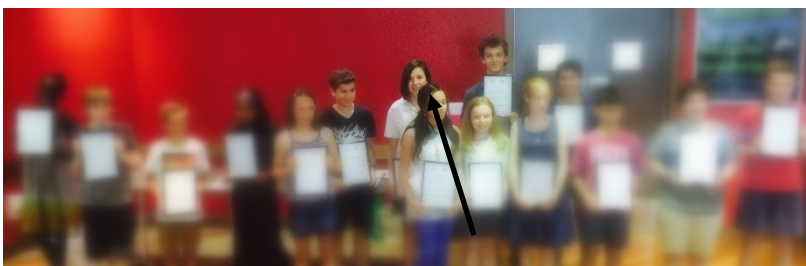
The Social Justice Group have spent the money raised across the school from the 5/6 Walkathon.

From the Oxfam Unwrapped catalogue we bought 5 food baskets, 5 chickens, provided water for a school in South Africa and seeds. We know that these things will bring a lot of happiness to a many families.

We've also packed up the final 8 boxes of food to take to Darebin Volunteer and Information Resource Service (DIVRS) in Preston.

## RSL Scholarships

Last year was the first time Darebin RSL offered Bell Primary two scholarships, one each for a boy and girl in grade 6 who have shown excellent community spirit. This year we were very pleased to nominate Emma S and Miguel C-T to receive these awards. Both these students have been part of our school student leadership team and both show outstanding qualities of leadership, compassion and sense of community. Congratulations to two very worthy and commendable young people!



Here's Emma at the ceremony — Miguel couldn't make it on the day.



Tinu beating all competi-  
tion on the Go Karts.





Ruby and new Prep Lily G's mum created some wonderfully professional faces at Funday.



Pouts all 'round!



How many members of our Bell Community can you name in this pic? It's like 'Where's Wally?' with no Wally!



Looking cool in the heat.





## Bell french Club 2015 enrolment offer – 25% discount

New students are offered a 25% discount on Term 1 2015 fees. Seize this opportunity to come and join us!

Awesome preparatory experience for future high school language learners, so 2015 Grade 6 parents, reserve your slot now.

Children of all ages and experience welcome. Feel positive about learning another language. Come and develop an ear and a feel for French with us. Strictly limited places. Thursdays 3.45pm-4.45pm (Mezzanine area in main building).

Enquiries: Jim Callahan 0432 719 034 [jim.callahan@lcfclubs.com.au](mailto:jim.callahan@lcfclubs.com.au)

### Ribbit! Frogs spawned in Grades 1/2.

This year 1/2L have been lucky enough to have tadpoles as class pets. We have watched our little Swamp Marsh tadpoles grow slowly since Term 2 and last week we finally got to two little frogs! We called them Num and TNT. They were very cute and very small. It has been wonderful to watch them go through the stages of metamorphosis. We have seen them grow two legs, then grow two more legs, get bigger and bigger and finally lose their tails. We have learnt lots about the life cycles of frogs. Last Friday, Moya took them down to the Wetlands and let them go so they could enjoy a life of freedom. Here are our friends!

I wish that they become the most awesome frogs in the world – Taj

I hope they have a nice life being free – Zach

I hope they live a long and happy life – Sarah

I hope they never die – Malachy

I hope they have a nice christmas - Winnie

I hope they grow into the biggest frogs in the world – Arel

I hope they grow as old as us! – Poppy

I hope they don't get eaten – Verity

I hope their life cycle keeps going on and on – Maggie

I hope that Num appears on my head – Sam

I'm looking forward to seeing them again someday – Sunday





# THE SECRET TO CONFIDENT KIDS

excerpt from Michael Grose.

The first habit from Stephen Covey's wonderful book *"The 7 habits of highly effective people"* states that we should start every project or undertaking with the end in mind.

This principle holds true for any activity whether it's planting your veggie patch; renovating a house or raising children. When you know what you are trying to achieve then choosing the right strategies becomes easy.

The end game or goal for parents and teachers is Redundancy. Yep, you read it right. Your job is to make yourself redundant as an adult from the children you raise and teach at the earliest possible age. It always has been and always should be.

When redundancy is your aim most of your time, effort and energy will go into promoting independence. You'll stop doing things for kids and start giving them opportunities to do things themselves. You'll spend most of your active parenting and teaching time teaching, explaining and prodding your child toward independence.

Independence leads to the 4 C's. When independence becomes your priority then suddenly you've found a pathway to the development of other positive qualities and traits in your children including the key four - confidence, competence, creativity and character. Here's how:

**Confidence** comes from facing your fears and doing things for yourself.

**Competence** comes from the opportunity to develop self-mastery that independence offers.

**Creativity** is developed when kids solve problems themselves as opposed to someone solving them on their behalf, or worse, keeping kids safe. It's amazing how resourceful kids can be when they are given the chance to resolve their own problems.

**Character**, which is essential for success, is forged under hardship and is needed if kids are to live a sturdy life. Kids need to be exposed to disappointment, failure and conflict if character strengths such as grit and perseverance are to be forged.

## ***Independence takes many forms***

Adults are the gatekeepers for children's independence. And of course, independence takes many guises.

On a basic level it's about developing children's autonomy. Without realising it, many adults make choices on their children's behalf. Kids build self-confidence when they do things for themselves, and make their own decisions.

Independence is built when children spend time in unpredictable circumstances and environments and have the opportunity to navigate their neighbourhoods on their own. There maybe some risk involved but that is where the learning lay. Eliminate the risk and you eliminate the learning.

Allowing kids to follow their own impulses even if they are different to yours is the key to gaining independence. This may mean that children choose healthy interests and pursuits that adults are unfamiliar with, or even swim against the tide of their parents' wishes.

Allowing kids to take responsibility and own their own problems builds confidence and competence. Start by expecting kids to help out at home and at school. Look for ways to develop self-help skills and don't take their problems on as your problems.

## ***Manage visually***

When your end game is redundancy and your priority is independence building then managing your kids in a visual way becomes your most obvious strategy. Management by mouth is a **dependency strategy** so talk less, use signs, lists and rosters backed up consequences to develop independence and responsibility in your children.

## ***Create junior versions of independence***

It can be scary and also difficult developing independence in one big step. So smart adults intuitively develop junior versions of independence by breaking up big activities into digestible bits. Want your three year old to make the bed? Then start by arranging the teddies and the pillows (a junior version of making the bed) and let them work their way up from there. Similarly, want your five year old to walk to school yet it's currently out of his skillset? Then accompany him most of the way and let him walk the last 200 metres to school on his own. That's a junior version of walking to school.

In all the noise and commotion about raising kids today it's easy to forget that the job description for parents hasn't changed since the dawn of time. Love them, bond with them, teach them and spend time with them. But also work like mad to develop their real independence so they become capable of handling what life will throw their way.

This formula works just as well for teachers, and is perhaps easier as the emotional attachment isn't as strong

**Ruth Vonarx**





# Grade 5/6 Transition

Next year's grade 5/6 students had the opportunity to practice being the seniors of our school. Students had to work through a series of games that relied on good team work. Lots of fun was had as students got reacquainted with another.







Marg and Rod enjoy a laugh after a jump on the Jumping Castle.



Mitch attempts to win a large block of chocolate on a 30-degree day. Happy drinking!

FREE NBA BALL  
PRIZES TO BE WON

WED 14<sup>TH</sup> & THUR 15<sup>TH</sup> JAN 2015 | 9.30am-3pm

# BASKETBALL

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP

**\$125**  
FOR TWO DAYS  
Early bird special\*

\*Early bird – register and pay before 30<sup>TH</sup> Dec 2015

**COBURG BASKETBALL STADIUM**  
25 Outlook Rd, Coburg North  
All levels | Boys and girls | 6-14 years

**DAMIEN RYAN**  
Former Australian Boomer,  
European Pro Basketball and NBL player

**HOOP SMART**  
*Ahead of the Game!*

\*NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS AND COACHES

**Beginner | Intermediate | Advanced**  
Separate programs

\*TOURNAMENT PLAY  
\*3 ON 3 COMPETITIONS  
\*SKILLS TEST  
\*INNOVATIVE PROGRAM  
\*FUNDAMENTAL DEVELOPMENT  
\*MULTIPLE AWARDS/PRIZES

Team building | Leadership | Life skills | Goal setting | Educational workshop | Special guests and coaches

**REGISTRATIONS CLOSE: 12<sup>TH</sup> JAN 2015 | Register at [hoopsmart.com.au](http://hoopsmart.com.au)**

For more information call 0406 488 313 or email [admin@hoopsmart.com.au](mailto:admin@hoopsmart.com.au)

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# Dec 2014



## 2015 Term Dates:

Term 1: 30 Jan to 27 March  
Term 2: 13 April to 26 June  
Term 3: 13 July to 18 Sept  
Term 4: 5 October to 18 Dec

# Events Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
7	8 8.45 to 9.15 Uni- form Shop 9.00 Playgroup 9.00 Snr Assembly	9 6.00pm Fun-Key Music Concert 	10	11 3.15 to 3.45 Uniform Shop (Last trading day for 2014)	12	13
14	15 9.00 Playgroup	16 6.30pm Grade 6 Graduation	17 Grade 1/2 Botani- cal Garden Excur- sion	18 Grade 6 Big Day Out	19 No Classroom Cui- sine Today! 1.00 Assembly 1.30 Farewell!	20



Merry Christmas  
and have a Happy  
and safe New  
Year from all of  
the staff at Bell  
Primary.



Two thumbs up from Annette and Santa.