

Principal Team Column

“AIM HIGH”

**Issue 9
April 9th 2008**

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Term Dates for 2008

31st January – 20th March
7th April – 27th June
14th July – 19th September
5th October – 19th December

Dates to remember:

25th April – ANZAC Day
28th April – Curriculum Day
29th April – Bush Dance
27th June – End of Term 2

Welcome back to Term 2:

A special welcome to all of our new students who have started at Bellaire this term. We have 4 new students, including a student returning after moving back to Geelong. We are hoping all of our students and their families enjoyed the Easter break and holiday, especially with a twelve week term ahead of us! There will be many highlights this term, including the Bush Dance, excursions, incursions, Education Week and Student Centred Interviews. Remember our website is always a great place to check these dates and other Bellaire news.

Works done over the holidays includes the repair and replacement of the sand in both sandpits (hopefully this will reduce the washing for parents of Prep and Junior students!) Also the gardens have been given a tidy up and large debris from the high winds removed. The security fences and gates have also been completed and will now be locked out of school hours. This will enable us to further develop our play spaces for students without fear of vandalism.

Annual Report

Each year Victorian Primary Schools are required to produce an Annual Report, which provides an overview of the school performance. The 2007 Annual Report highlights the academic successes, especially in Reading and writing. Student attendance is also above the state average and the Parent Opinion Survey showed major improvement in most areas. Areas for focus are Mathematics in some year levels, parent input and extra curricular activities for students. Parents wishing to access a copy of the Annual Report may do so as from next week via our website or request a copy at the office. Segments from the 2007 Annual Report will also be published in this newsletter in the future.

Bellaire School Councillors for 2008 / 2009:

As the major decision making body of the school, we thank parents and staff for their preparedness to put the time and effort into school council. As a body they supported all of the major improvement projects in 2007, such as the Senior Learning Unit and Staff Centre. The office bearers and members are:
President: Steven Vice President : Andrew Executive Officer - Jane Warren
Secretary: Virginnia Gilham Treasurer: Chris Eddy
Additional representatives are parents: Simon, Robert, Peta, Richard, Phillip and Amanda Staff : Lesley and Carly. We look forward to a productive year on School Council.

Dr Suggett from the UK to visit Bellaire:

This week we are fortunate to have Dr Neil Suggett visiting the school. Neil is a member of the National College of School Leadership in the United Kingdom and has done extensive research into the notion of coaching. He was influential in the learning undertaken by Jane Warren as part of High Performing Principals program last year. Neil is also the Principal of Hayes Park Primary School in Hillingdon in London.

Neil has been brought out to Australia by Bellaire with funding from the Innovations and Next Practice Branch of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. He will be working with Bellaire staff for 2 days this week and he will also conduct a workshop for coaches in the Geelong area. Next week he will be running a training program in Melbourne for Next Practice project members.

We are very fortunate to have Neil working in our school and I'm sure that we will gain great insight into the journey that we are taking in coaching as we reflect on the observations and advice that he will provide.

Dr Suggett's school website is <http://www.hayespark.hillingdon.sch.uk>

| STUDENT OF THE WEEK | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---|
| | | AWARDED FOR: |
| PREP B | Amelia | For looking after a classmate and being a kind friend in the playground. |
| PREP C | Emily | For being such a brilliant leader and enthusiastic worker throughout Term One. Well done, Emily! |
| PREP F | Ethan | For being a great friend and 'getting along' with everyone in Prep F. Well done, Ethan. |
| PREP S | Bobby | For working hard to use a loud, clear voice when speaking in front of the class! |
| JUNIOR L | James | For being such a kind and considerate class member. |
| JUNIOR B | Jake | For his fantastic work in Maths. Keep it up! |
| JUNIOR S | Seth | For being a wonderful student all week, finishing his work and being nice to others! |
| JUNIOR J | Olivia | For being an enthusiastic and hardworking student at all times. |
| JUNIOR W | Nathan | For being a kind, caring and hardworking member of Junior W all term. |
| JUNIOR H | Max | For helping out and being involved in classroom activities enthusiastically. |
| JUNIOR G | Emma | For her improved reading. |
| JUNIOR M | Hannah-Mae | For the effort she has shown to practise her skip counting. |
| MIDDLE B | Grace | For being a confident and positive student. |
| MIDDLE C | Brianna | For working well with a partner to complete an amazing town in DKU. |
| MIDDLE V | Taylah | For using great strategies in her reading! A big improvement. |
| MIDDLE A | William | For writing excellent arguments in his persuasive text. |
| MIDDLE K | Kaitlin | For her great leadership in reading groups and for being a friendly member of Middle K. |
| MIDDLE L | Hayley | For always completing her work to an excellent standard and being a kind and helpful member of Middle L. |
| SENIOR H | Martinique | For working hard in all workshops! |
| SENIOR K | Bianca | For persevering with the editing and 'chopping' of her narrative in every workshop this week. Fantastic work, Bianca! |
| SENIOR B | Sophie | For a very successful term, completing all her work on time. |
| SENIOR C | Floyd | For a super effort on his homework! |
| SENIOR M | Zac | For the fantastic effort he put into his DKU work. |

READING CHALLENGE

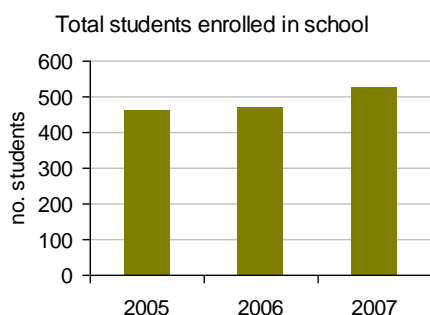
Congratulations to the following students who have recently completed the Reading Challenge: Teishe, Abbey, Bree, Charlie



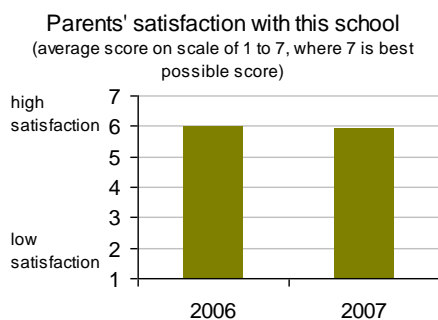
SOMERS CAMP

This week Miss Claire Brushfield and 8 students headed off to Somers camp. Schools across our South Barwon Network have sent a small number of students to enjoy this experience. We look forward to hearing about the adventures when they return at the end of next week.

2007 Annual Report Information



There has been a steady increase in the number of students enrolled, however this year's enrolment is the same as 2007.



Overall the school has experienced a high level of parent satisfaction, assessed through the Parent Opinion Survey. Most areas in this survey showed significant improvement in 2007.

REMINDER: NO DOGS TO COME INTO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Some students are scared of unknown dogs and often we are not sure how dogs will react in a crowded environment – therefore, in the best interest of students, we ask that all dogs remain outside the school fences. **THANK YOU** for your understanding in this matter.

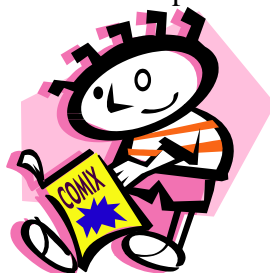
CASUAL DRESS DAY

Thanks to all students and families who supported the **Leukaemia Foundation** on our casual dress with a crazy hat day on the last day of term 1.

A total of **\$636.80** was raised. Thanks everyone.

BOOK CLUB – DO YOU HAVE A COUPLE OF HOURS TO SPARE TWICE A TERM??

If so we need you to assist in the ordering and distribution of the book club. Please contact the office if you are able to help.



ASTHMA PLANS – if you were sent a letter requesting a 2008 Asthma Plan for your child, could you please return the plan to the school office as soon as possible.

FUNDRAISER for the Guthrie Family

Auction Night
Saturday, 3rd May 7:00 pm
Geelong Racing Club \$20 per person
Contact Kellie on 0431288548 or Michelle on 0407318215 for more information

BELLAIRE BUSH DANCE

KD STEWART CENTRE DEAKIN UNIVERSITY

Pigdon Rd, Waurin Ponds

Tuesday 29th April
7-9pm

COST: \$10 per family

Purchase your ticket at the door

BYO water
(no alcohol or food permitted)

Please note change of venue for this year's bush dance.

For more information, see flyer in this week's newsletter.



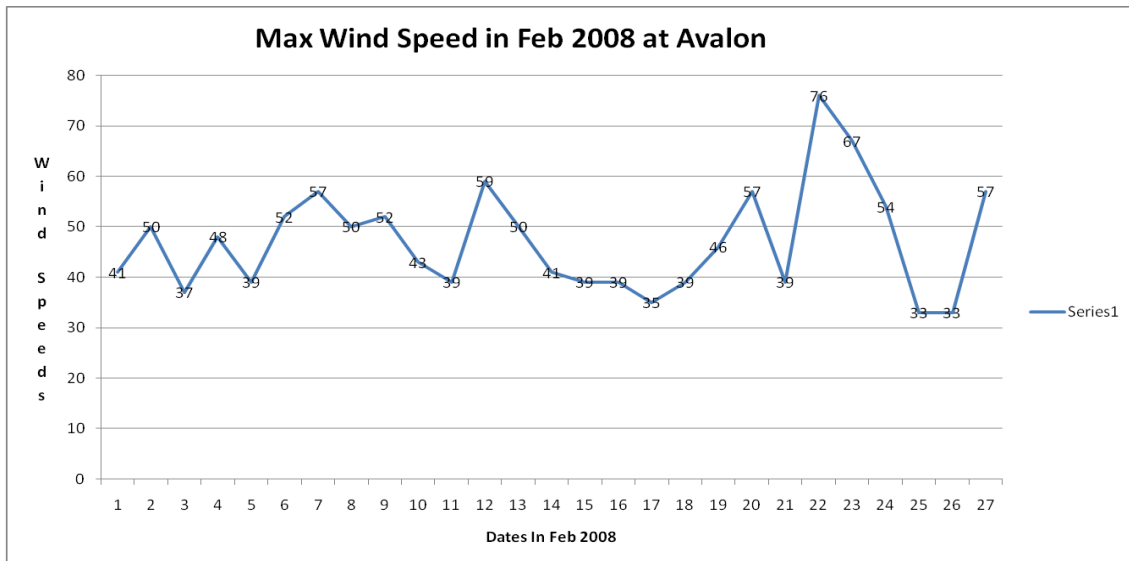
ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Entertainment Books have been sent home with most families today. We ask that you return the \$50 or the book within a week. Additional books can be purchased through the office.

EXTENSION EDUCATION

Some students from the Middle unit got together once a week last term to study the weather. They used instruments to measure weather, learnt about different types of weather, conducted experiments and learnt to record weather on Excel graphs. Mackenzie and Justin made this graph from information that had obtained from the Bureau of Meteorology website.

I wonder what the graph would have looked like if they had used data from last Wednesday!



BELMONT HIGH SCHOOL SELECT ENTRY ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM

2009 Year 7 Intake

INFORMATION EVENING:
Thursday 17th April 2008

Belmont High School Library, 7.00pm
(A tour of the school is available between 6.00 and 7.00pm)

Brochures containing the Application Form are available at your school or from
Belmont High School

Please direct all enquiries to:
Ms Lesley Goode
Telephone: 52435355 (Belmont High School)
Fax: 52432420
Email: goode.lesley.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Registration day for the [South Barwon Auskick Clinic](#) is scheduled for Sunday 13th April from 9:30am – 11:30am
If you could please signup online at <http://aflauskick.com.au> before coming to the registration day this will save everyone an enormous amount of time when trying to register.

First training Day Sunday 20th April Session Times 9:30 am – 11:00 am.

Thanks

Andrew Loughnan

0408-445-795

South Barwon Auskick Coordinator