

## Principal Team Column

**“AIM HIGH”**

Issue 36  
November 12<sup>th</sup> 2008

### Inside this issue

- 1 Principal Column
- 2 School News
- 3 Student of the Week

#### Principal Class Team

Jane Warren (Principal)  
Chris Eddy (Asst. Principal)

#### Business Manager

Kate Matthews

Bellaire P.S.  
Larcombe Street  
Highton, Vic. 3216  
Australia Ph. 5243 5203  
Fax: 5241 1134  
OSHC: Ph. 5244 0567

#### Term Dates for 2008

6<sup>th</sup> October – 19<sup>th</sup> December

#### Dates to remember:

Grade 6 Graduation-17<sup>th</sup> Dec  
End of Term 4 – 19<sup>th</sup> Dec

1<sup>st</sup> Day for Students in 2009 –  
Monday Feb.2<sup>nd</sup>.



#### NEiTA AWARD

Last week, as part of World Teachers' Day, we had a special presentation at assembly for Abbey Howard. Abbey's skills as a leader in fostering the development of the Senior Learning Unit were recognised in her being selected as one of the Victorian winners of the National Excellence in Teaching Awards. Abbey will now be considered for the National Award.

The Award was presented by the President of the School Council, Steven Gough and Michael Crutchfield MLA.

Jo Barry and Suzanne Brebner were also nominated by parents for this award and were shortlisted. It is heartening to know that members of the school community recognise the talent in the teachers who are educating the students at Bellaire Primary School.

#### Personalising Learning Conference in Birmingham UK:

Wishing Chris Eddy and Virginia Gilham a fantastic trip to New York, London and Birmingham. They are travelling to visit schools who also engage in coaching with staff and to present at the International iNET conference in Birmingham on 'personalising learning'. At the conference Bellaire will also be presented the Toshiba Innovative Schools award for work that we do with ICT. While in London they will also spend time with Dr Neil Suggett, who visited Bellaire earlier this year and visit Robinhood PS in Birmingham, which also has a strong approach to personalising learning. This trip has been sponsored by the Innovations and Next Practice Branch, iNET (International Network for Educational Transformation) and award money. As a school we are very fortunate to be able to have staff be recognised and at the same time learn from others at an international level.

#### Congratulations to Mrs Lisa Gilmour

Mrs Gilmour was recently provisionally appointed to a Literacy Coach position in the Colac region. This is a promotion which will provide her with the opportunity to work with teachers across a range of primary schools to improve their literacy outcomes. The work Mrs Gilmour has done in coaching and supporting student personalised learning in numeracy and literacy made her an outstanding applicant. Congratulations Mrs Gilmour and Bellaire looks forward to welcoming you back once the contract is completed.

#### PARENT REQUESTS FOR 2008

2008 teachers collaborate with their Unit Team to place students in grades for the following year. Teachers are experts in making judgements about students' grade placements based on their knowledge of each student's social and academic needs. They also have a good understanding of the social dynamics within the school setting. In most cases, parents are happy to leave this task to the teachers. However, sometimes parents do have a particular request they would like considered in their child's grade placement eg cousins who see a lot of each other may be requested to be in different grades.

If you do have a parent request, please send it in an envelope to the Principal and your request will be considered. Any parent requests need to be sent to the office by **Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> November**.

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK**

<b>PREP B</b>	<b>Imogen</b>	<b>For persisting to achieve her learning goals in writing and for trying her best in the swimming pool.</b>
<b>PREP C</b>	<b>Charlie</b>	<b>For his persistence during swimming this week. Great work Charlie!</b>
<b>PREP F</b>	<b>Tyler</b>	<b>For being confident and trying new things at swimming. Well done Tyler!</b>
<b>PREP S</b>	<b>Lillian</b>	<b>For her confident and organised approach to swimming this week. Well Done Lillian!</b>
<b>JUNIOR B</b>	<b>James</b>	<b>For being enthusiastic and co-operative during swimming.</b>
<b>JUNIOR G</b>	<b>Harry</b>	<b>For his enthusiastic participation in all subjects.</b>
<b>JUNIOR H</b>	<b>Olivia</b>	<b>For trying hard in Numeracy.</b>
<b>JUNIOR J</b>	<b>Olivia</b>	<b>For her fantastic achievements and efforts in Guided Reading sessions.</b>
<b>JUNIOR L</b>	<b>James</b>	<b>For his wonderful work ethic and always putting in 100% effort.</b>
<b>JUNIOR M</b>	<b>Lola</b>	<b>For her positive attitude during swimming this week!</b>
<b>JUNIOR S</b>	<b>Shalini</b>	<b>For being so brave and confident at swimming.</b>
<b>JUNIOR W</b>	<b>Mason</b>	<b>For being an enthusiastic swimmer and getting dressed so quickly after leaving the pool.</b>
<b>MIDDLE A</b>	<b>Madison</b>	<b>For great reading this week!</b>
<b>MIDDLE B</b>	<b>Macie</b>	<b>For working so hard on achieving her writing goal!</b>
<b>MIDDLE C</b>	<b>Baylie</b>	<b>For being responsible and kind by looking after junior students at lunchtime.</b>
<b>MIDDLE K</b>	<b>Megan</b>	<b>For her detailed and organised scientific writing. Keep up the fantastic work!</b>
<b>MIDDLE L</b>	<b>Emily</b>	<b>For her enthusiasm and positive attitude towards learning.</b>
<b>MIDDLE V</b>	<b>Meg</b>	<b>For always trying her best at everything she does!</b>
<b>SENIOR B</b>	<b>Helen</b>	<b>For her original and entertaining impression of Ms Mathus during readers theatre.</b>
<b>SENIOR C</b>	<b>Louis</b>	<b>For an excellent writing task that achieved three goals!</b>
<b>SENIOR H</b>	<b>Emily</b>	<b>For persisting with her fairytale.</b>
<b>SENIOR K</b>	<b>Bianca</b>	<b>For making a great start on her presentation about the guest speakers for DKU! Go Bianca!</b>
<b>SENIOR M</b>	<b>Liam</b>	<b>For fantastic handwriting!!</b>

## WORKING BEES

We have one working bee planned for the rest of the year:

Preps: **Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> November**

PLEASE note this date in your diary as we need as many helpers as we can muster! Much appreciated.



## WORKING BEE THANKYOU

There was a great turn out of Junior families for the working bee last Sunday. The grounds are looking fantastic!!

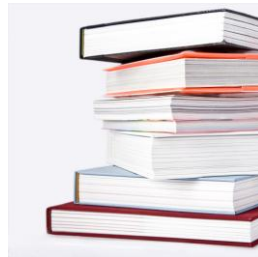
## ARE YOU LEAVING?

In order for us to make decisions about the number of staff we will require for classes next year, we ask that parents notify us as soon as it is confirmed that your children will not be at Bellaire in 2009.

## BOOK CLUB

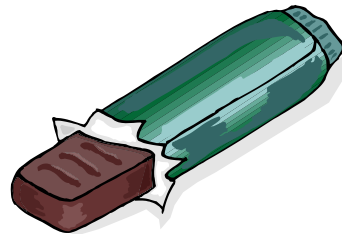
Due to the early term 4 finish parents are asked to finalise all Bookclub orders by Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November to ensure pre Christmas delivery.

Thanks  
Glynis



## CHOCOLATES

There are still quite a few families who have not returned their chocolate money – could you please do so asap.



## CANTEEN SURVEY

With today's Newsletter you will receive a Canteen Survey – please complete the Survey and return to your child's classroom or the school office. Your feedback is important to us when planning for 2009.

## LIBRARY – PARENT HELP NEEDED

It is time to get the library resources in order. If you have any time **during the last hour on a Wednesday** to assist with this job and other related jobs (book repair, cleaning etc.) it would be greatly appreciated. If we start now and keep it in check, it won't be a big job at the end of the year. No experience is necessary as I will show you what to do.

Thanks  
Debra Brown

## INVITATION:

**MELBOURNE VICTORY  
REGIONAL ROADSHOWS**  
*proudly presented by KFC.*

Melbourne Victory Football Club (MVFC) with the support of KFC has the pleasure of inviting students from your school to attend the Melbourne Victory Regional Roadshow in Geelong. The details of the day are as follows:

**Melbourne Victory Regional Roadshow** proudly presented by KFC.

*Enjoy a FREE football clinic and autograph session with selected Melbourne Victory players! Be quick because PLACES ARE LIMITED!!!*

**Date: Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

**Location:** Howard Glover Reserve, Limeburners Road, East Geelong (Melways Ref: 452-H5)

**Ages:** 8-12 years

**Time: 11.30AM-12.00PM**  
**Registration**

**12.00PM-2.00PM Melbourne Victory Regional Roadshow**

**What to bring:** Wear your football boots and shin pads and be sure to bring a drink bottle and wear sunscreen

**With LIMITED places available please complete a registration form (available at the school office) and fax back to (03) 9654 7859 by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November.**



## TV AND COMPUTER GAMES -- GOOD OR BAD?



We live in an electronic age of computer chips and high definition, digital television. The images we receive in our homes whether current world news, nature programs or reality TV are so real we can almost touch them. Even animations have become life-like with incredible computer graphics. Our children are exposed to the images they see on television, DVDs, Playstation, Gameboys, DS, Wii and all the variations of

electronic gizmos, from a young age. This technology stimulates the brain and can affect development in both positive and negative ways.

So how does it affect children?

Children take in all the messages they receive and this will impact on them in different ways depending on their age and stage of development as well as their temperament. In general, pre-school children have difficulty distinguishing make-believe from reality on TV. They can view cartoon characters as real and are attracted by colour, activity, music and fun. Hence, the popularity of High Five, The Wiggles, 'Dora the Explorer' to name a few.

Under 10's can still struggle to work out the difference between fantasy and reality, especially if it looks like real life. Boys are attracted to male hero figures and girls want to be a princess.

Older primary school age children can be disturbed by images of natural disasters or war, as it could mean it could happen to them. They want to grow up and are curious about the world of teenagers, fashion, sex and relationships.

Children can learn a lot of positive things from what they watch on TV and the computer games they spend time on. However, children are also trying to make sense of their world and this is influenced by the lifestyles and behaviours they see portrayed. Children need a balance. They need to play make-believe, run around outside, look at books, have stories read to them, chatter to other children and parents.

Children vary in their reaction to violence but they are usually disturbed by violence in the home, to other children and to animals. Research has shown that children who see a lot of violence are more likely to use aggression to solve a problem; be anxious about scary things that might happen in the world and become less sensitive to violence in real life.

Try these tips:

- Choose what your children can watch rather than just leave the TV on and let it baby-sit them.
- Talk about programs or view with them programs you are unsure about. Ask your children what they think of the characters, are they real?
- Don't let your children control the remote. Have rules about when the TV is on and off.
- Watch a program together as a family.
- With computer games, set time limits and stick to them. The games can be addictive but hour after hour focusing on a screen is too intense. Children can become cranky and frustrated if they don't have the opportunity to use up physical energy.
- If you buy a new computer game, don't just give it to the children. Let them earn time on it by helping. Use it as a reward for good behaviour. Then put it away. This way the game will retain some attraction.
- Have a list or make suggestions of other things the children can do when the TV is off. Remember, as well as playing, children like doing things with you, whether that's cooking together, helping hanging out the washing or digging in the garden.

**HAPPY PARENTING!**