

“AIM HIGH”

Issue 3
February 18th 2009

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Term Dates for 2009

2nd Feb – 3rd April
20th April – 26th June
13 July – 18th September
5th October – 18th December

Dates to remember:

LIFE ED Parent Info Session
2pm Friday 27th Feb

Labour Day Holiday March 9th

FUN RUN 24th March

Last Day Term 1 April 3rd

MIDDLE UNIT CAMP 4th-8th MAY

Middle/ Senior Aths: 29th July

BUSH FIRE RELIEF:

Thank you to the families that supported the casual dress day last Monday. \$3,005 was raised to support the bushfire Relief

Thanks also to the Junior School Council which has hosted a disco at lunchtime for our Prep and Junior units so far this week. They are looking forward to organising the discos for the Middle and Senior Units later in the week. The monies raised from the discos will go to ‘State Schools Relief’ to help the school students affected by the fires purchase new uniforms, books etc.

2009 School Council - What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are a major decision making body in relation to school programs and policies. School council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

School Council is informed by sub committees, they are:

- Resources (Finance) – which oversees school finances
- Curriculum – which oversees education policies and programs
- Resources (Physical) – which oversees the maintenance and building of school facilities.

Who is on the school council?

There are three categories of membership. They are a mandated parent category, a mandated teacher category and community members. All school councillors are on a sub committee. The term of office for members is for two years. Half the members must retire each year and this creates vacancies for the annual school council elections. *We meet once per month on a Wednesday night at 7:30.* There must be at least eight meetings per year and sub committees meet prior to school council at 6:30pm, except for Physical Resources which usually meets a week prior.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

You can become involved by:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.
- Joining a sub committee of school council where you have a particular interest or expertise i.e. an accountant on Finance sub committee or an architect on Physical Resources

You do not need experience to be on school council or a sub committee, all you need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The Principal issued a notice and called for nominations on Monday. For parents, this notice will be displayed in the foyer and on all entry doors to the school. *Nomination forms are readily available from the office.* You can now self nominate or have someone nominate you.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

PREP B	Makayla	For always working hard in class and being a great friend to everyone. Well done Makayla!
PREP C	Sahra	For listening carefully to instructions and trying her best during her first full week at Bellaire. Well done Sahra!
PREP F	Charlie	For settling into Prep F so well and 'Getting Along' well with others.
PREP H	Alexia	For being a great helper in Prep H and for having a go. Greta job Alexia.
JUNIOR B	Trae	For always contributing to class discussion and helping others.
JUNIOR H	Eneko	For his improvement in his work habits. Great Job Eneko!
JUNIOR L	Amy	For trying her best during writing time.
JUNIOR N	Jesse	For having consistently fantastic handwriting.
JUNIOR R	Phebe	For a wonderful start to 2009
JUNIOR S	Jonathan	For fantastic writing abot his pet dog Angel!
JUNIOR T	Meg	For her enthusiasm and helping others in the classroom.
JUNIOR W	Cameron	For settling into the Junior unit so quickly. Well done Cameron!
MIDDLE A	Kelsey	For consistently working to the best of her ability.
MIDDLE J	Fletcher	For an excellent start to 2009. A very hard worker!
MIDDLE L	Bethany	For being an enthusiastic, hardworking and friendly member of Middle L
MIDDLE M	Jarred	For his terrific work in maths this week. Well done Jarred!
MIDDLE R	Ned	For beginning the year on a positive note. Keep it up!
MIDDLE S	Caleb	For always being helpful in the classroom.
MIDDLE W	Milly	For her outstanding concentration in class and always doing her best.
SENIOR B	Mikaela	For enthusiastically contributing to class discussions and sharing her knowledge.
SENIOR C	William	For his mature and thoughtful contributions to our Literature circles this week.
SENIOR H	Lachlan	For his fantastic contributions to all class discussions.
SENIOR J	Jack	For his fantastic contributions during literature circles.
SENIOR K	Ben	For completeing all work this week with time to spare and showing some genuine flair and creativity.
SENIOR W	Macie	For being a bright and conscientious student all week in senior W.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

The School Captains, Vice Captains and Sports Captains were presented with their badges at last week's assembly. We are sure that they will undertake their roles with dedication and responsibility.

UNIFORM SHOP

The Uniform Shop will be opened every Monday from 8.45am – 9.15am and every Friday from 3.15pm – 3.45pm.

KISS AND DROP ZONE

Again, this zone is causing distress among parents as not everyone abides by the rules. If picking up, you can only stop if your child is waiting. It is not a place to stop and sit in your car to wait for your child. Recent complaints to the Greater City of Geelong are likely to attract the attention of parking officers so PLEASE do the right thing!

'NO STOPPING' VERSUS 'NO PARKING'

NO STOPPING means *no stopping at all* even if you are only letting someone out of the car, and regardless of whether you leave the engine running and stay in the car. Stopping on a length of road to which a "No Stopping" sign applies is an offence, unless you are outside the times specified on the sign. You must not stop where there is a continuous yellow line painted on the edge of the road. **NO PARKING** a driver must not stop on a length of road or in an area to which a no parking sign applies, *unless* the driver is dropping off or picking up, passengers or goods. The driver cannot leave the vehicle unattended and must complete the stop within 2 minutes or in accordance with what the sign indicates.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

Applications are now open for the 1st instalment of EMA.

Please obtain an application form from the office.

The Education Maintenance Allowance is paid to eligible parents of students under 16 years of age who attend a State or a Registered School in Victoria. The EMA is paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must on:-
the 1st day of Term 1 for the first instalment and on the first day of 3rd term for the second instalment:-

- (a) be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, healthcare card, allowance or benefit; OR
- (b) be a Veteran Affairs Pensioner (TPI), OR
- (c) Be a foster parent AND
- (d) Submit your application to the school by the date/s listed below.

Parents who receive a Child Disability Allowance, Mobility Allowance, Remote Area Allowance or any other benefit not income tested by Centrelink are not eligible for the EMA unless they also comply with one of (a) (b) or (c) above.

The application form must be lodged at the school by:-

20th February 2009 for the 1st instalment or

3rd August 2009 for the second instalment.

LATE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED

2009 ASTHMA PLANS

If your child suffers with asthma, please return your child's Asthma Plan for 2009 to the office asap.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

All families wishing to use the Out Of School Hours care program should now have completed a yellow enrolment form.

Past enrolments will now be deleted from the computer.

There are a number of families who are sending their children to After School Care without booking them in. The number of families wanting to use the service is growing and we need to know exact numbers so that enough supervisory staff are employed. You will be called to collect your children if they have not been booked in.

Parents **MUST** sign in their children to Before School Care and sign them out at After School care.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

The Reading Challenge is now open and all students are encouraged to take the challenge to read the required number of books (30 in prep-2; 15 in Years 3-6) by **31st August**.

Only 56% of Bellaire students completed the Challenge last year with the best efforts from the Preps and the Year 2 students.

Let's try to **AIM HIGH** with close to 100% of students completing the Challenge in 2009.

More information on the back page of this newsletter.

SICK BAY LINEN

Any parent willing to volunteer to change and launder the sick bay linen, please leave your name at the Office. Depending on the number of volunteers, it would probably involve doing the linen once per term.

NEEDED –

ICE CREAM CONTAINERS for the Sick Bay.

Welcome to the 2009 Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge!

I am pleased to declare the 2009 Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge open. I invite students from Prep to Year 10 to take part in what promises to be a great event.

Since 2005, the Challenge has helped thousands of students discover the rewards of reading. This year I hope the Challenge will motivate students who have attempted it before and inspire new students to discover the magic of books.

The Challenge will again run over three terms. During this time students who take part will try to read a target number of books. For students in Prep to Year 2 the target is 30 books, at least 20 from the Challenge list. For students in Years 3 to 10 the target is 15 books. Years 3 to 9 students should read at least ten books from the list. Year 10 students should read at least 5 books from the list. More information and advice about the Challenge can be found on the pages of this website.

Last year more than 117,000 students successfully met the Challenge. I look forward to celebrating a record-breaking 2009 and to awarding even more students with certificates later in the year.

In the meantime good luck and keep those pages turning.

JOHN BRUMBY
Premier of Victoria

The **Premier's Reading Challenge** has now begun. All students have been registered.

You can log on to the Challenge to record the books you have read.

The website is at www.education.vic.gov.au/prc

Students log on with the first 3 letters of their last name and the first 3 letters of their first name

eg Tom Jones would log on with jontom

The password is bellaire1

Check the books that are on the Challenge list – many of these are in our library with a sticker on them to show they are on the list.