School Council Elections 2014
At the close of nominations, we had received four nominations for the “parent member category” of school council. Given that we now have four standing nominations and four vacancies in the parent member category of school council, I automatically declare elected those four candidates without the need for the school community to go to election. Congratulations are extended to Donna Foster, Mel Cullan, Leonie Roberts and Barb Scott. Whilst Donna and Mel are embarking upon their third term of office at Brentwood Park Primary School, Leonie and Barb will be embarking upon their first. Their first school council meeting is scheduled for later this month, directly following the presentation of the School Annual Report 2013. The full membership of school council and those elected to associated office positions will be published in a forthcoming newsletter following our next school council meeting.

Jim Bell, principal

Ahoy me Hearties!!
On Wednesday 5 March, the children in Foundation Year [Preps] and Year 1 had a pirate themed day! This has become an annual event since the installation of our pirate ship themed playground! The children and teachers came dressed as pirates with the day involving the children in singing, dancing, treasure hunts, literacy and numeracy activities; all focused on the pirate theme! The familiarity of the song “A Sailor went to Sea, Sea, Sea” was utilized to have the children readily join in with the song rephrased to “A Pirate went to Sea, Sea, Sea!!”

“Hoist the Jolly Roger! Walk the plank! Scrub the decks!” called Captain Jenny. The children enjoyed the interaction with Jim, Jenny and their class teachers in “pirate” character! “What’s a pirate’s favourite letter of the alphabet?” asked Captain Jim. “Arrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr!” answered the pirate crew.
School Photographs—CHANGE OF DATES

Due to the fantastic efforts by our swimmers in the district Swimming Competition we have changed the dates that the photographs are being taken. Nine of our students are competing in the Divisional Swimming Competition on Wednesday, 12th of March.

CLASS and PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHS will be taken on Wednesday, 12th MARCH for Year 6TS, 6JA, 6JD, 5LF, 5HG, 4SM, 2MB, 2RG, 1ER, 1MM, FTL, FBV and F/1SM

Each student has a class photograph taken with their classmates and an individual portrait. Please ensure your child is wearing the school uniform and neatly presented. An order envelope from Aussie School Photos will be sent home closer to the date.

SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS for all students and CLASS and PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHS for 4CH, 4VK, 3LP and 2/3CM on Friday, 14th MARCH.

All siblings will have a ‘FAMILY PHOTOGRAPH’ taken and ‘FAMILY PROOFS’ will be sent to the school and parents will then order through AUSSIE SCHOOL PHOTOS. NO PRE-PAYMENT IS REQUIRED, so envelopes will not be sent home- all families will be called to have their photos taken.

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Interviews are being conducted for all Foundation to Year 6 classes across two afternoons and evenings - Monday 31 March and Tuesday 1 April. Attendance at the interviews is encouraged.

Sports Shorts - SWIMMING NEWS

Well done to all of the students who swam at the district carnival on Monday. The competition was very tough and our swimmers gave their best efforts. Congratulations to our medallists. The 9/10 relay boys came 2nd, Ty, Cooper, Tyson and Senuth. The 12 year old relay also came 2nd, Brodie, Matthew, Liam and Travis. With individual events Tabatha 2nd butterfly, Travis 2nd freestyle and Tyson 1st breaststroke and 2nd backstroke. The Divisional Swimming Carnival is next Wednesday. Once again the standard of swimming was super with all of our swimmers giving their best efforts. A special thanks to Donna and all of the parents and friends who have supported the swimming team. Thanks also to Jo Doran for her attendance on the day and for taking on the role of school photographer. A collage in this week’s newsletter has captured a number of our participants!

SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Coming up on the 6th March, we have three teams participating in the Casey Cardinia Soccer Tournament. In total 27 students will be playing in this tournament. Let’s hope our teams can do as well as last year.

DISTRICT TENNIS

Coming up on the 14th March, two of our students are participating in the district tennis competition. We wish Tyler and Ben well next week.

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

The annual school cross country will be held on Friday 21st March. Students who finish in the top 10 runners of each senior school race will be selected for the school team to run at district level next term. On the day, students are encouraged to wear a coloured t-shirt of their house team.

Parent helpers are needed to assist with the running of this event. If you are able to assist please see Jim Narayan.

Thanking you for your continued support.

Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge

The Victorian Premier’s Reading Challenge is now open. Permission slips have been sent home this week to all students. The Challenge encourages families to be actively involved in supporting their children to read a set number of books and record their efforts online. A special A2 calendar will be available FREE in the Herald Sun on Tuesday 11 March that celebrates 10 years of the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge. Featuring key Challenge and literary events, fun facts and popular authors’ birthdays, it’s a great way for parents and children to track their reading progress, count down the days and stay motivated throughout the Challenge.

For more information visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/prc
Interschool Swimming
As part of our History unit, our grades have been looking at various celebrations that take place around the world. Thus far, we have researched and discussed Australia Day, New Years Eve, Chinese New Year, Clean-up Australia Day and International Book Giving Day.

International Book Giving Day takes place in various countries around the world on the 14th February every year.

International Book Giving Day is usually celebrated by people donating books to local or international schools that do not have adequate library facilities. Our grades celebrated the day by sharing our favourite books and stories with each other.
This year, a program called *Dragon Romp* is being implemented by Sue Oakes, a social worker and Fiona Biss, a speech pathologist with the Year 4 classes throughout the year. Sue and Fiona work for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

It is fun and it feels good when you relax. By Josh

I like the songs and the actions. By David

I like the games we play to show how cooperative we can be. By Monae

I like the relaxation exercises. My favourite song is the Bus. By Sophia

I really like it when we relax and get to learn more about how we can do it at home. By Shreya

After Fiona plays the flute I grab the hand puppet, Wally, and he shares with the group. By Riley

*Dragon Romp* is an interactive group program to build social skills and emotional intelligence through music and play. 4VK is the first year four class to participate in the program and Joshua and Shreya were assigned the task of reporting on the activities completed in the program on Thursday, 27th February.
CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK

An important part of Brentwood Park Primary School is our cultural diversity. A survey revealed that as a school we speak over 30 different languages including English, Indian, Afrikaan, Chinese, Singhalese and Arabic. We believe we are stronger when we work together, so celebrating our cultural diversity is extremely important to us as a community.

On Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th March, children at Brentwood Park Primary School will celebrate the cultural diversity in the school community through song, dance and a number of fun activities during their annual Cultural Diversity Week. This year students will experience bush dancing with the Bushwahzee Band on the 18th March and an Indian presentation by Blu Guru on Wednesday, 19th March.

STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO WEAR AN OUTFIT THAT DEPICTS A COUNTRY.

COME AND ENJOY!

TIMES:

TUESDAY 18TH MARCH:

BUSH DANCE CONCERT: 1:35 pm to 3:15pm

WEDNESDAY 19TH MARCH:

CULTURAL DIVERSITY CEREMONY: 9:15am Year 5 performing a special song and Year 2 performing a Chinese song!

BLU GURU PRESENTATION: 10am to 11:00am

ALL WELCOME TO CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSITY
Kambrya College

Transition

Information Evening

for Grade 5 and 6 students

No booking required to attend this event

Thursday 1 May

6:00pm - 7:00pm

The evening will commence in the IMAC centre

All parents and students are invited to attend
We look forward to meeting you on the evening

Additional School Tour Dates & Times:

To book a tour for one of the following dates please call 9707 7600

Monday 5 May at 4:00pm
Thursday 8 May at 4:00pm
Introducing our Newly Approved Department of Education

Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) Program
For high achieving students in 2015

The new Accelerated Program will:

- Be introduced at Year 7 in 2015
- Build on the outstanding success of our existing High Achievers Program
- Be delivered through a range of carefully planned accelerated, compressed and extension formats
- Utilise an externally assessed entry test to determine suitability for the program
- Provide an accelerated pathway to VCE studies and allow students to undertake university enhancement studies in Year 12
- Be run by a team of specifically trained teachers to provide challenging learning and ongoing support to students
- Allow students to pursue particular interests through broad elective and co-curricula programs beyond core academic studies
- Potentially save you thousands of dollars in non-government school fees

Kambrya College is a leading school in Berwick, with VCE ranking inside the top 20% of government schools! If you would like to find out more about our SEAL Program, please contact Joanne Wastie on 9707 7600 and come to our Year 7 Parent Information Evening to be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 1 May at Kambrya College.
Grade 6
Transition Tour and Information Sessions

Sessions available are
Morning 10:30am and Evening 6:00pm
Monday 28th April, 2014
Bookings are essential

For bookings go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au Event Code - YSXAF
Accelerated Learning Program

The Accelerated Learning Program provides a challenging and innovative curriculum (across Yr.7-10), which engages highly capable students to excel in their academic studies. The program personalises learning for students who are “gifted and talented” delivering an accelerated Maths, Science, English and Humanities curriculum that encourages students to become independent, lifelong learners. In addition to academic excellence, social justice, leadership and being a global citizen are integral components.

The differentiated learning approach and academic features of the Accelerated Learning Program will heighten and expand students’ analytical and reasoning capacity with an explicit focus on teaching students to think critically, work collaboratively and develop higher order thinking skills across all subjects. This will contribute to the development of a rigorous and challenging academic culture that fosters exceptional student achievement and learning outcomes through to Yr.12.

Students will be expected to participate in an array of leadership, networking partnerships (external to the College) and academic competitions to heighten individual capacity.

Alkira Sports Academy

The Alkira Sports Academy (ASA) is a select entry sports program for students who show promise and commitment in sporting responsibilities external to school sport. It operates from Yr.7-12, with a timetable specifically designed to cater to the unique sporting needs of individuals, also enabling active participation in College experiences.

The Alkira Sports Academy caters for all sports by providing expert physical conditioning programs within specialist facilities and a personalised program, including:

- Mentoring on diet, media and peer pressure from professional athletes.
- Sports Academy camps.
- An Alkira Sports Academy uniform.
- A variety of excursions, elite sports training sessions and tours.
- An athlete-friendly environment where teachers are aware of individual sporting commitments and allow for flexible learning approaches to be negotiated.

Further Information

The Accelerated Learning Program and Alkira Sports Academy information booklet and 2015 (Yr.7) student enrolment application forms will be placed onto Alkira Secondary College’s website for students and parents to download from March 1st, 2014. All applications are due to the College by April 30th, 2014.

www.alkirasecondarycollege.com.au Go to the Enrolment tab then select the program. Or Contact

Accelerated Learning Program: Mr. Paul Looker (Assistant Principal)
Alkira Sports Academy: Mr. Vaughan Chaplin (ASA Junior Co-ordinator)

Alkira Secondary College
In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That's half a year of school by the end of year 6.

Every Day Counts
Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early
Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do
The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and not just because they’re feeling a little tired.

Completing school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

• Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:
www.education.vic.gov.au

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Brentwood Park | 28th of February 2014

And ... we’re back!! It’s a new year and with it comes new and fun adventures! We welcome, to our little family, all the preps that started this year as well as all the new students that now call Brentwood Park their school.

It has been a great start to the year at Camp Australia. We have even organized our own winter Olympic Games! Although we didn’t have figure skating or bobsledding as events, we were still able to come up with some classic games which were received with a positive response from the children who got involved. What was even more rewarding was the supporting nature that the children showed when one of their team mates was participating in an event. I could not have been happier at the comradeship shown.

We have always had a creative group and this year in no exception. We have just added to our artistic team. Valentine’s Day took top priority for most of February with lots of cards being made for that special someone. We have also tried our hand at stain glassed windows with some of the children opting to come up with their own designs instead of using the templates we provided. I could have saved myself some money because they had some brilliant ideas. Painting has been a prominent feature this term as well; we can never get enough of exploring what colour would go better with what or if I mix this with that, what would happen and using different material and equipment to apply the paint.

Now on a different note, it’s with regret that I inform you that I will be stepping down as coordinator at the service in the upcoming weeks due to study commitments. I don’t feel that I would be able to give everything that I would like to the service. I will still be around as an assistant and I shall inform you further once we have completed our search for the best fit for Camp Australia Brentwood Park.

Quote of the week.

“All our dreams can come true – if we have the courage to pursue them.”

Walt Disney

HOW TO GET STARTED

Before using our programs register online for an account. This enables you to make bookings, view your statements and manage your details anytime of the day. Registering is quick and easy. Visit www.campaustralia.com.au/newparents
STARS OF THE WEEK

Term 1
Week ending 28th February 2014

FTL Erin
For trying hard to listen and follow instruction.

FBV Ebony
For producing a beautiful pop-up card during Investigations.

F/1S Fatima
For being a brilliant word watcher and sharing her discoveries with the class. Well done!

1MM Pari
For writing a fantastic recount about Investigations including who, what, where, when and why.

1ER Leon
For trying really hard in all areas of school and giving your best. Well done!

2RG Jessica
For being a cheerful and supportive member of class, always willing to help others.

2MB Audrey
For voluntarily giving herself extra homework to practise counting on and back.

2/3C Jessie
For your excellent presentation skills. You can be very proud of all your efforts!

3LP Jasmine
For concentrating well during all activities and for presenting her work beautifully. YOU ARE A SUPERSTAR!

4CH Caitlyn
For being a polite and helpful student.

4SM Sandavi
For her outstanding work habits and being an excellent role model.

4VK Lily
For presenting a fantastic flowchart about ‘Fabric’.

5HG Sean
For being persistent with all class and home learning tasks. Well done and keep these SUPER efforts up!

5LF Tatiana
For excellent organisational skills in completing classwork. Well done!

6TS Max
For excellent working habits including focus, high standards and presentation.

6JA Isabella
For participating very well in our blue-brown game.

6JD Zac
For a fantastic start to Year 6 keep up the great work and effort.

‘SPECIALIST’ Stars of the Week

Health & P.E. F/1S For excellent running through the obstacle course.

Performing Arts 2/3C For wonderful listening, singing, marching and playing the beat!

Visual Arts FTL For confidently drawing dragonflies, butterflies and fish, for creating unique patterns on their bodies and for carefully painting a wash over their colourful creations.
Back to School in 2014! Be prepared for an Asthma Spike

What is the February asthma spike?

Throughout the year there are significant increases, or ‘spikes’, in asthma presentations to hospitals and emergency departments. Approximately 1 in 10 children in Australia have asthma, and for children and adolescents with asthma these ‘spikes’ usually occur towards the end of holiday periods as they return to school and preschool. A significant ‘spike’ in asthma presentations and admissions to hospital of children and adolescents, experiencing severe asthma exacerbations, occurs throughout the first few weeks of February.

Why does the spike occur?

While there have not been direct links established, the February ‘asthma spike’ is believed to be largely due to children and adolescents coming into contact with asthma triggers that they have had time away from, as they are now returning to school. Forgetting to take their medication, and poor medication adherence, also places students at an increased risk of asthma attacks when exposed to triggers.

Triggers that can be encountered are:

- Dust and mould spores from poorly ventilated, or insufficiently cleaned school rooms
- Respiratory viruses, such as cold and flu viruses
- Cleaning products that leave behind strong smells, aerosols or airborne dust
- Anxiety and stress due to returning to school

What can we do to avoid asthma exacerbations in our school?

- Ensure your school has a sufficient number of Asthma Emergency Kits
- Ensure that each Asthma Emergency Kits contain fresh and in-date reliever medication (e.g. Ventolin, Asmol or Airomir), spacers, record sheet and instructions detailing the emergency procedure
- Ensure student Asthma Action Plans are updated and returned to school
- Ensure staff education and training is current, arranging a free staff asthma education session as required for all new and ongoing staff
- Ensure your school’s asthma policy is current for both onsite and offsite situations, and first aid posters are displayed in key locations
- Ensure staff are aware of which students in their class have asthma, and know where Asthma Emergency Kits are stored
- Ensure all classrooms are opened, cleaned and aired out in the weeks before students return to school. A helpful technique can be to turn on all fans, as well as any heating/cooling systems, to begin to clear dust before students arrive
FREE two day workshop and information sessions for PARENTS/CARERS of school age students on the autism spectrum

Workshop: 2014VICPC1 Location: Berwick

The Positive Partnerships initiatives have been developed and delivered by Partnerships between Education and the Autism Community (PEAC) and funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, through the Helping Children with Autism package.

What will you learn?
As a result of participating in the workshops and information sessions as parents/carers you will gain:
- a greater understanding of the impact of autism on your child, both at school and at home
- knowledge about how to develop effective parent, school and teacher partnerships
- specific strategies on how to:
  - advocate for your child
  - support your child's participation at school
  - develop an awareness of ongoing learning needs
  - information about your local school system's processes
  - opportunities to network and share strategies with other parents/carers and key community members
  - opportunities for discussion around a range of topics relevant to students with an ASD and their families

Some key community representatives that support families living with autism will be identified and invited to participate in the workshop with a view to supporting a community focus beyond the workshop.

Workshop details
Venue: The Cardinia Cultural Centre
Lakeside Boulevard, Pakenham VIC 3810

When: Two day workshop – Tuesday 18 & Wednesday 19 March 2014
Day 1: 9.00 a.m - 4.30 p.m (Registration from 8.15am)
Day 2: 9.00 a.m - 3.30 p.m

Registration opens Wednesday 5 February 2014 and closes 2 days prior.
Registration may stay open until one day before the workshop if spaces are still available, but we strongly recommend that you register as soon as possible.
You will receive a confirmation of your registration.
Online registrations preferred: please go to the website www.positivepartnerships.com.au

Only complete the following form if you do not have access to the internet and fax or mail to:
Fax: 02 9451 9661; Mail: Positive Partnerships, ASPECT, PO Box 361, Forestville NSW 2087

Positive Partnerships Info Line number: 1300 881 971

“The Positive Partnerships initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education through the Helping Children with Autism Package. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Australian Government Department of Education.”
Type 1 Diabetes

Do YOU Know The Symptoms?
You could save the life of someone you LOVE

No-one is ever TOO YOUNG

One of the most common Non-preventable Auto-immune diseases in children

Signs and Symptoms NOT to be ignored

- Extreme thirst
- Sudden weight loss
- Frequent urination
- Blurred vision
- Extreme tiredness
- Mood changes

- Constant hunger
- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Infections
- Tummy pains
- Acetone breath

If you notice these symptoms please seek medical advice

Produced and supplied by The Courageous 14
contact email: TheCourageous14@hotmail.com

Funding support from Abbott Diabetes Care

Freestyle
PIT STOP
Parenting Tune-Up

BLOKES DO THIS!
Your kids are worth it!

Pit Stop is a six-session ‘parenting tune-up’ for fathers who like seeing their families fire on all cylinders.

Get the FACTS on FATHERHOOD:

» Why Dads Matter and Developing a Healthy Parenting Style
» Working as a team
» Improving Family Communication and Closeness
» Steering Your Children Through Stressful Stages
» Disciplining Kids Without Losing It… or Them!
» Balancing Work/Life/Family and Implementing Change

For: All dads including new dads, step-dads and grand-dads.
Dates: Tuesdays: 29th April 2014 - 3rd June 2014
Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm
Venue: Hampton Park Uniting Church, 1 Coral Drive, Hampton Park
Cost: Gold coin donation

Includes a comprehensive ‘parenting tune-up’ manual.

Contact: Sidney Ashby 03 5945 3900 or Jonathon Gonsalvez 03 9704 8377
Registration essential

connections.org.au
FREE Community Fit Club is a great way to get moving, get fit, lose weight and have fun

- Suits all fitness levels & ages
- Social, friendly group
- Child friendly

JESS
0432 799 750
Public Park- Cheviot Avenue, Berwick
Free Family Fun Day & Carnival

March 15th, 10am – 2pm

- Awesome Rides
- Animal Farm
- Face Painting
- Handcrafts
- Entertainment
- Food
& much, much more

St. James Anglican Church
Langhorne Street, Dandenong (Opposite Police Station)