

18th of February, 2022

Issue 03

PHONE: 02 6059 8987

Belvoir Special School Newsletter



38 Gayview Drive, WODONGA, 3690

COVIDSafe measures extension 18 February 2022

We want to thank parents and students for the great job they have done in keeping our school as safe as possible by following important COVIDSafe measures such as mask wearing, physical distancing, ventilation, getting vaccinated and rapid antigen testing.

This has meant that our school has remained open and our students in class. This is a fantastic outcome and a testament to the hard work of parents, carers, students and school staff.

Rapid antigen tests

To keep schools as safe as possible, the Victorian Government has extended the COVIDSafe measures introduced for the beginning of Term 1. This includes extending the availability of free rapid antigen tests (RAT) for screening until the end of term. It is anticipated an additional 24 million RATs will be provided to schools and early childhood settings to continue to support early detection and prevent infection, for use at home.

The need for this program will continue to be monitored, and may end earlier based on health advice. This is great news and will mean we're able to continue identifying COVID-19 cases as early as possible, reducing the impact on our school and individuals.

[Department of Health modelling indicates that in the first two weeks of school returning, the program has already prevented more than 21,000 cases in schools alone. Their modelling indicates, assuming a 75 per cent compliance rate with screening of students, that by continuing RAT screening in schools for the full 10 weeks of Term 1, we will prevent:](#)

- 61,000 COVID-19 infections in children aged 5 to 17
- more than 150,000 COVID-19 infections in the overall community (on average 15,000 per week over 10 weeks, or more than 2,100 per day)
- around 400 hospital admissions.

The department will continue to supply RATs to our school for your use. We will continue to send home RAT tests to families who request them each fortnight. The day sent home will depend on delivery dates.

Testing 5 times a week continues to be strongly recommended for students and staff at our school. This is because of the greater risk associated with COVID-19 for some students with disabilities.

Testing will be conducted at home, and students and staff must report any positive result. There is no requirement to report a negative result.

Vaccination

Vaccination is another key component to protect students and staff in school settings.

Vaccinations for children aged 5 to 11 are open and third dose vaccinations for 16 to 17 year olds are now available.

There are lots of convenient options to access vaccinations. These include state-wide vaccination hubs, your local GP or pharmacy.

You can book your appointment in a few different ways, including:

- through the school. We have another pop up clinic on the 4th of March for 5-12 year olds.
- online: coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine
- by phone: 1800 675 398 (Coronavirus Hotline)
- In person: talk to your local pharmacy, doctor, or attend a state-wide vaccination hub.
- using the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder - [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

In addition, schools provide a trusted place among the community to access vaccination, particularly for families who may experience language or social barriers.

Following successful implementation of school pop-up clinics at the commencement of Term 1, more than 230 schools across Victoria are currently hosting mini-vaccination clinics led by GPs and pharmacists. Many of these clinics will also make vaccinations available the broader school community, inclusive of families of students and school staff.

Belvoir Special School Newsletter



Ventilation

Improving ventilation is one of the most effective measures to keep education settings safe. 51,000 air purifiers were delivered to schools by Term 1, 2022 to support COVIDSafe settings in schools.

Up to an additional 60,000 air purifiers will be rolled out to schools ahead of winter to supplement natural and mechanical ventilation during the cooler months.

The winter allocation will provide enough purifiers to cover all classrooms, in government schools and low-fee non-government schools based on current enrolments. This includes general purpose classrooms and other specialist classrooms such as art and science rooms.

Mask rules will remain the same, with students in Green Pod and above required to wear masks – (if not exempt) although they will not be required outdoors.

On behalf of the school, I would like to thank you again for your continued support in helping your child to complete the rapid antigen tests and other COVID Safe measures. As a result of these efforts our school can continue providing a safe environment for students and staff.

Just a friendly reminder to parents and carers that if you have any current NDIS assessments or reports or current paediatric reports please send it through to the school email so we can update your child's file. We can then pass this information onto classroom teachers and our Allied Health Team.

Belvoir.wodonga.sds@education.vic.gov.au

Hi,

My name is Emma Thorneycroft

I am the Dental manager for Albury Wodonga Health.

On the 2/3/22 to the 4/3/22 We have a visiting specialist dentist completing a clinic with us for special needs clients.

I have some appointments still available and would like to extend the invitation to your children.

To be eligible for this service clients must hold a Health care card/ pension card.

This service is free.

The dental appointments are free through our student clinic.

We have hoist support if any clients would require it.

Please call Albury Wodonga health if you would like to book in an appointment on (02) 6051 7925 and state they would like to be seen in Dr Shnidars Clinic.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Year 7 Immunisations - February 28th

Swimming Carnival - March 11th

School Council Meetings

Finance - 4th March

General - 16th March

Dyson's Bus Numbers:

BUS 1: 0408691885

BUS 2: 0417041196

BUS 3: 0407563474

BUS 4: 0408698635

Belvoir Bus: 0431756813

ROOM 3 NEWS

Clare & Emily

Students in room three have settled into their new room really well this year. Over the past 3 weeks we have focused on building relationships, learning our new classroom routine and participating in lots of fun activities.



In class we have been busy exploring Australian money, learning about capital and lower-case letters, reading stories and practicing to line up. Last week we also headed out to the garden for some hands-on learning.

We are looking forward to the rest of the year.

Clare & Emily



ROOM 9 NEWS

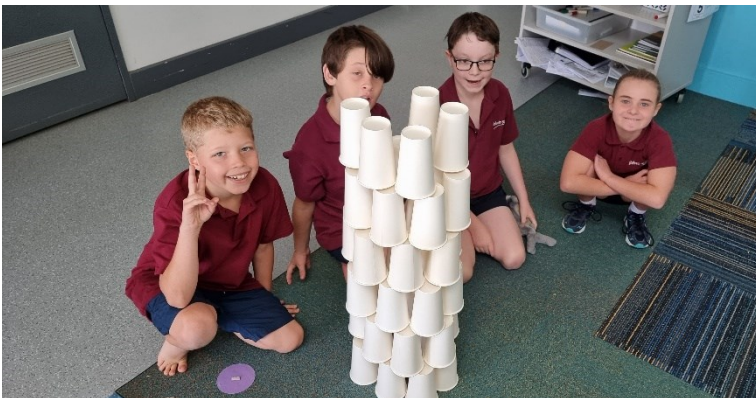
Erica, Katrina, Kylie & Kellie

What a fantastic start to the new school year room 9 has had! We have taken some time to get to know our new classes, peers, and staff. We have begun to learn about procedures, what they are, why we use them and how to write a procedure. Together as a class we have written a procedure about 'Putting on sunscreen'. During week 2 and 3 we had a go at following a procedure to make playdough for the class and some pancakes.

We are beginning to learn about our term topic 'Movement and Personal Hygiene'. We have begun exploring the importance of moving our bodies and how to look after ourselves.

During math we have been learning about the different strategies we can use when adding numbers together.

We have also participated in a couple of STEM based challenges. One being building cup towers in teams. Everyone did a fantastic job!



This week Students in room 9 were able to spend some time with our new school dog Nara. We went to the life skills house and learnt about the importance of staying calm around Nara. We then listened to Andrew read us a story whilst Nara walked around us. We then took Nara outside for a play and we all enjoyed watching her run and chew her toys.



WMY NEWS

Nicole & Kelly

Term 1 is always a busy term at Felltimber in the R3 classroom. We have started well by getting to know our classmates and building some great friendships. In Literacy we are looking at procedures, Numeracy is all about Data at the moment and Term Topic is about Rules and Healthy Lifestyles. We have linked these to many other areas of our learning, such as: Food Tech – procedures and following the rules of the kitchen so we are all safe and eating healthy for our bodies to perform well. We also linked Data to Food Tech – finding out how many of our class liked French Onion Dip, celery, capsicum and carrot. We also did a food tasting and figured out how many students in our class liked blue cheese, dark chocolate, feta cheese and a few other ingredients. The students really enjoyed the tasting and were very descriptive about the taste and texture of foods they tasted.



We have our swimming carnival this Thursday at Waves. R3 all belong to the Green House – Nangwiya Turtles. Last week all the house groups spent time making long paper chains to take to the swimming carnival so we can cheer on our teams. We played lots of fun games to get to know other members in the Green House and competed against the Red house in some friendly challenges, such as: tunnel ball, frisbee, relays races, over-and-under and throwing beanbags into the hoops. We had a great time and the Green House won that day. Yay! We hope we are victorious at the swimming carnival too.

In 3 weeks time we are off to camp. We are going to Mountain View in Harrietville. Camp activities include flying fox, volleyball, archery, cycling, bush walking and building huts and rafts. We might be challenged with the high ropes and rafting, but we know it will be lots of fun. We will also enjoy a relaxing night walk in the beautiful Victorian High Country or opt for a chilled night in the outdoor cinema. We can't wait to go!



ROOM 22 NEWS

Tony, Dylan & Jess

Students in Room 22 have had a busy week learning how to bake cupcakes as well as icing and decorating them.

We have also been learning home skills, which include activities such as making beds and cleaning up bathrooms.

In class we have been learning about Australian money and the costs of food.



RAPID ANTIGEN TESTING REQUIREMENTS

All testing must be completed at home before school with parents/carers reporting any **POSITIVE** Test results to:

Belvoir Special School [\(02\) 6059 8987](tel:0260598987) with the following details:

- o Name of Student
- o Date of Test

- State Departments – depending on whether you live in Victoria or NSW:
 - o Victorian Department of Health:
 - [Report a Positive Rapid Antigen Tests](#) - Coronavirus Victoria website, or Coronavirus Hotline 1800 675 398 as soon as possible.
 - o Service NSW:
 - Register it on service.nsw.gov.au or the Service NSW app as soon as possible.

THE SCHOOL DOES NOT REQUIRE ANY NOTIFICATION OF NEGATIVE RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS.

For the latest information from a positive result after undertaking a Rapid Antigen Test:

- [Victoria Rapid Antigen Tests](#)
- [NSW COVID-19 Testing & Self-Isolating](#)

RECOVERED COVID CASES

Anyone who has recovered from COVID-19 is exempt from testing and quarantine requirements if they are reexposed to a case within 30 days of testing positive. This includes not completing rapid antigen tests as you may still test positive while shedding the virus but you are no longer contagious / infectious.

What a fantastic week it has been in the life of Nara. She made lots of new friends, slept, played and explored Belvoir.

Nara's word of the week was CALM, to help her understand what this word means we had some special helpers from Room 4, Room 9, Room 16 and Room 21. All the students involved did an amazing job helping support her to remain calm when she was in the classroom.

The students understanding of Zones of Regulation shone through and they were able to identify when Nara was in the green and yellow zone.

As Nara becomes more confident, she will start to spend more time with different classroom across the school.



Book Club 2022

Issue 1 Book Club brochures are being distributed early next week and orders are due back by Friday 18th February.

For our new foundation parents and new parents to the school wanting to order books, there is 2 options....

- 1: Student order form from brochure to be handed into school with money.
- 2: Online ordering with the LOOP App, credit card/ debit card.

Book Club **LOOP**


The **EASIEST** way for parents to order and pay for Book Club!




Parents: Are you registered for **LOOP**?

LOOP is the easiest way for you to order and pay online for your child's Book Club order, if you wish to pay by credit card.

Parents who are registered for **LOOP** receive exclusive sneak peeks, downloads and offers throughout the school year—don't miss out!



Head to [scholastic.com.au/LOOP](https://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP) and register today!





02/02/2022

Dear School Community,

Temporary Changes to Opening Hours

We'd like to advise you that due to some staff availability concerns, we will be temporarily reducing our opening hours. While we've done our best to reduce the impact as much as we can, there will be changes to our Wednesday trading hours. We'll be working to resolve the staffing issues as soon as possible, so that we can reopen to our full trading hours as soon as we can.

Until these shortages are resolved, our Wodonga store will be open during the following hours:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Monday</i> | 9:30am to 4:30pm |
| <i>Tuesday</i> | 9:30am to 4:30pm |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | 1:30pm to 4:30pm |
| <i>Thursday</i> | 9:30am to 4:30pm |
| <i>Friday</i> | 9:30am to 4:30pm |

If there are any further changes, we'll notify you as soon as we've identified them. We'd like to apologise for any inconveniences, and thank you for your understanding.

Kind regards,

Beleza School Uniforms

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below are the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – General eligibility

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or carer of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one
 - on the first day of Term two
- a) be a holder of one or more of the eligible financially-means tested cards **OR** be a temporary foster parent, and;
- b) submit an application to the school by the due date.

For the list of eligible financially-means tested cards refer to the CSEF Policy:
<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/policy>

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with the above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Special Consideration

A special consideration category exists for

- Families on a bridging visa, temporary protection visa, in community detention or are asylum seeker families
- Students in temporary out of home care arrangements, including statutory kinship care

For more information, see <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund/guidance/eligibility>

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/carer concession card being validated successfully with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (31 January 2022) or term two (26 April 2022).

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.
- Secondary school student rate: \$225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents/carers so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

1. Complete the PARENT/CARER DETAILS section.

Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.

If you are claiming as a temporary Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.

If you are seeking special consideration, mark this in the form and provide a copy of the relevant documentation.

2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. The CSEF program for 2022 closes on the 24 June 2022.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/carer details

Surname _____

First name _____

Address _____

Town/suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Contact number _____

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

- - - **OR**

☐ Foster parent under a temporary care order* **OR** ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)**

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

**Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card

Is this an application for special consideration (no CRN needed)? Yes ☐ No ☐

Student details

| Student's surname | Student's first name | Student ID | Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy) | Year level |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DFFH will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the DFFH and /or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____

School Vaccination Program: Belvoir Special School

The first round of school vaccinations is being conducted at this school on **Monday 28 February 2022**.

The following vaccines will be offered on this day:

| YEAR LEVEL | VACCINES OFFERED |
|-------------------------------|--|
| YEAR 7 MALE & FEMALE STUDENTS | GARDASIL®9 (HPV) DOSE 1 OF 2 |
| YEAR 7 MALE & FEMALE STUDENTS | BOOSTRIX (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough) 1 DOSE ONLY |

These vaccinations are funded on the National Immunisation Schedule. Should your child miss out on starting their vaccination course this year they may not be eligible to receive them for free in subsequent years.

Parent information packs were sent home recently.

ALL relevant sections of the consent card must be completed, signed and returned to the school even if your child is NOT being vaccinated.

To consent to your child being vaccinated with one or more vaccines, please tick and sign the relevant **YES** sections of the consent card in blue or black pen. If you **DO NOT** wish to have your child vaccinated with one or more vaccines or if your child has **already been vaccinated**, please tick the relevant **NO** section on the consent card and return them to the school by **Thursday 17 February 2022**. Please return the card to the school even if your child is not being vaccinated.

Please note that ATAGI (Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation) recommends that there no longer needs to be a 7 day interval between COVID-19 vaccination and any other vaccine (including school vaccines). Therefore, if we have a signed consent card for school vaccinations, this vaccine(s) will be administered to your child on 28/02/2022, providing that your child is well on the day of vaccination. Please note that ATAGI advises that "co-administration or near administration (within 7 days) of 2 or more vaccines can lead to a higher frequency of mild to moderate adverse events...therefore your child may experience common adverse effects. Any adverse events should be reported to [SAEFVIC](https://www.saeftvic.org.au)":

- Email: saefvic@mcri.edu.au
- Phone: 1 300 882 924 (option 1)
- Online: <https://www.safevac.org.au>

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by emailing or phoning the school, and Council's Immunisation Team on immunise@wodonga.vic.gov.au **before** the vaccination day.

Please ensure that your child is wearing their sports uniform or a short sleeve shirt on the day of vaccinations (without too many layers underneath), this will enable a smooth vaccination process.

If you have any enquiries about the program or your child's vaccinations, please contact Wodonga Council's Immunisation Team on 1800 655 360.

Belvoir Special School Swimming Carnival

4th February, 2022

RE: Permission letter

Dear Parent/Carer,

Belvoir's annual swimming carnival will be held on Friday 11th of March 2022 at the Albury Swim Centre. On the day students will need to wear swimmers, sun smart hat and sunscreen. Students will be bussed to and from the carnival, leaving the school at approximately 9:30am and returning 2:30pm.

Please note: To ensure the safety of all students, parents /carers of students in prep classes **must** attend on the day to assist with your child's supervision.

A free sausage sizzle will be provided for students at lunch and the pool canteen will be open throughout the day to purchase snacks. The pool will also open their slide to students throughout the day and again with your written permission your child can use this facility.

Please complete the following permission slip and return to the **office** no later than **Friday 28th February 2022**.

Regards,

Todd Richardson

PE Specialist & Sports Coordinator

I _____ give permission for my child/children _____ to participate in the annual swimming carnival at the Albury Swim Centre on the 11th of March 2022. I also give permission for my child/children to be bussed to and from the venue.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

I also give permission for my child/children to use the slide on the day of the carnival.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

FORM 3: SELF-NOMINATION FORM FOR PARENT MEMBER CATEGORY

(Formerly Schedule 5A)

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent member on the

..... council.

Name

Residential address

.....

Contact phone (mobile or landline)

Email

I am the parent/guardian of who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

Statement

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| I am an employee of the Department of Education and Training. | Yes / No (please circle) |
| I am an employee of the school council. | Yes / No (please circle) |
| I am engaged in work at and for the school. | Yes / No (please circle) |

I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that:

- I am not, and have ever been, insolvent under administration
- I am not of unsound mind
- I have not been found guilty of an offence that is, or would if committed in Victoria be, an indictable offence
- I am not a registrable offender within the meaning of the *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004*.
- I am not suffering from any medical condition that would affect my ability to perform the role of member of a school council.

Signature of candidate..... Date / /

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

The personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used to determine your eligibility as a candidate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable). Further, the name, membership category, gender (optional), term of office, office held (if any) of school council members and notification whether the member is an employee of the Department will be forwarded to the Department of Education and Training by the principal by 30 April each year as a record of council membership and may be used for statistical purposes.

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on:

If you choose not to give some or all of the information requested your nomination may not be accepted.

If you have any queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.