

Belvoir Special School Newsletter



38 Gayview Drive, WODONGA, 3690

Dear Parents and carers,

School Council Elections

Families we are calling for nominations for School Council. If you or someone you know is interested in what school council does or what School Council members do please call the office for more information.

Our School Council Annual General Meeting is on Wednesday the 16th of March at 6pm, ALL members of our school community are welcome.

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.

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.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Year 7 Immunisations - February 28th
Swimming Carnival - March 11th

School Council Meetings

Finance - 4th March
General— 16th March
AGM - 16th March

Dyson's Bus Numbers:

BUS 1: 0408691885
BUS 2: 0417041196
BUS 3: 0407563474
BUS 4: 0408698635

Belvoir Bus:
0431756813

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

WHO IS ON THE SCHOOL COUNCIL?

For most primary school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected school employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional community member category – members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.

A small number of school councils have Nominee members.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

A mandated elected student member category, with two positions.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

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 and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

DO I NEED SPECIAL EXPERIENCE TO BE ON SCHOOL COUNCIL?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. Councilors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do 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.

HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term one each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO STAND FOR ELECTION?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term one each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

Department employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election.



You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

REMEMBER

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.

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.



ROOM 10 NEWS



Katey, Danielle & Fiona

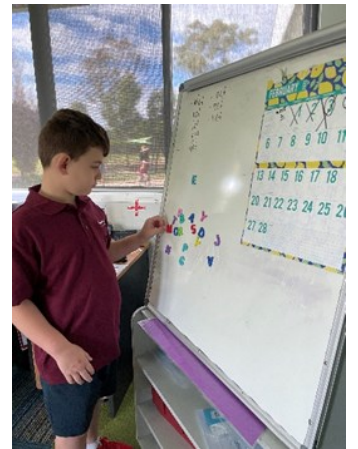
Students have settled into their new classroom and for some of us into a new pod! We have really enjoyed getting to know our peers and new staff playing a variety of games and contributing to class discussions around topics of interest, class expectations, school values and Zones of Regulation.

In Literacy we have been learning about Procedural texts and have enjoyed looking at a variety of procedures. We have also had a go at following some recipes and cooking a Cake, Pancakes and also made Muesli bars. We are looking forward to making Pizza's later this week.

In Maths we have been learning about Addition and Subtraction, we have used number lines and different objects to help us. Subtraction smash with playdough has been fun!

We have enjoyed some games, Yoga and meditation for our Term Topic and started looking at how it is important to move our body.

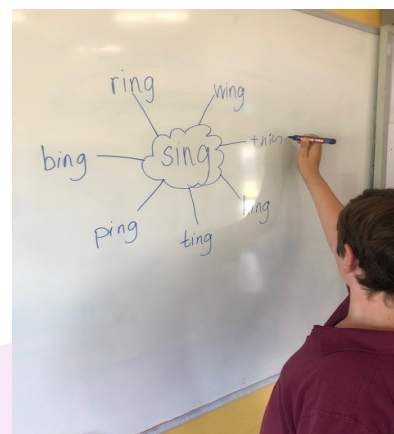
It has been a great start to the year and we look forward to the rest of the Term!



ROOM 16 NEWS

Anthea, Christin & Matt

Room 16 have settled back into school really quickly. We are learning the expectations in Purple Pod with several students having come up from Green Pod. We have been spending time working with Nara in the Life Skills house and our classroom getting her ready for school life. We have also been washing and drying dishes in the Life Skills House, cooking new things, such as an oat and coconut slice pictured. In Literacy we are discovering new words each week and working out how to make other words with these words. We have had some critters visiting our classroom as well and have been relocating them to a safer home.



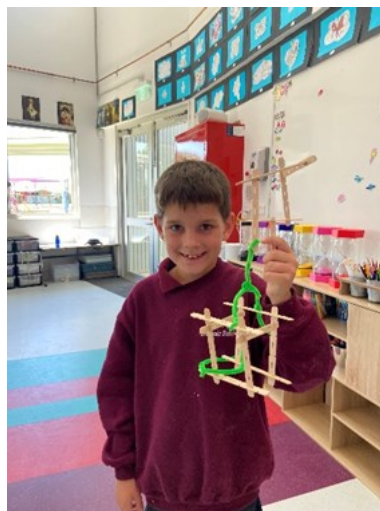
VISUAL ART

Naomi

The art room has had a busy start to the year with all students coming in and exploring the art of Jen Stark.

Students across the school have worked together to make a collaborative mural that will reflect Starks work, Chromatic Cascade.

Moving forward students will begin to work on self-portraits and explore how their term topics can be included in the arts.



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:(02)60598987)) 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.



**OUR NEXT SESSION IS:
SATURDAY, 5th MARCH 2022**

**What do you do with broken household items?
You can fix them at the Repair Café!**

Our experienced repairers will help repair them – free!

FURNITURE/WOODWORK JEWELLERY

CLOTHING/TEXTILES TOOL SHARPENING

BATTERY-OPERATED APPLIANCES WITH DEVICES

**First Saturday of the month, 10.00am to 1.00pm
Senior Citizens Centre, 15 Havelock Street, Wodonga**

For more information visit our Facebook page or ecoportal.net.au

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North Albury (All Abilities) Auskick Centre

Season information

NAB AFL Auskick - Community, 2022

30 Apr 2022 - 20 Aug 2022

Ages

5 - 12 Years Old

Registrations are now open for the 2022 Auskick season.

This Auskick Centre's total price is \$100

Registration Link:

[Register | PlayHQ](#)

Active Kids Voucher Link:

[Active Kids voucher | Service NSW](#)

Additional information

North Albury Auskick All Abilities Centre will run on: SATURDAY MORNING / 09:30 - 10:30 at ALEXANDER PARK, EAST ALBURY

The Season is 30th April to 20th August consisting of 15 sessions (above and beyond the minimum 8 sessions you pay for as part of Auskick).

For more information, please contact Judd Waters on 0432 921 061

Or email: northalburyauskick@gmail.com

TWILIGHT MARKET

Friday 11th March

5.30pm to 8pm

Pancakes

BBQ

Plants

Cakes

Variety stalls

Op shop

Bikes and

Furniture



*Proceeds go to
the Mission of
the church*



**ST. STEPHEN'S
UNITING CHURCH**

177 Beechworth Road, Wodonga

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.saeovic.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: _____