

Belvoir Special School Newsletter



38 Gayview Drive, WODONGA, 3690

Dear Parents/Carers/Friends,

Firstly, I hope all our mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures had a happy day on Sunday. Week 4 has been another busy week for our school. Green Pod students have been flat out with swimming lessons, there is no doubt they will all sleep well after a huge week.

On Tuesday we held an open afternoon and celebrated Education Support person day. I would once again like to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution our Education Support staff make to our school.

At Belvoir we have amazing Educational Support staff who work in our office, classrooms, driving and supervision on the Belvoir bus, taking care of our grounds and in our Allied Health and Wellbeing Teams.

A BIG THANK YOU to our educational support staff for ensuring the smooth running of our school and supporting the health, wellbeing and learning of our students!!!

STAFFING

I would like to provide the following updates regarding two of our Belvoir Staff who have recently resigned:

- **LISA PARKER** – PRIMARY CLASSROOM TEACHER Room 4 (Thursday and Friday) resigned from her role at Belvoir in Week 4 of this term. We thank Lisa for her service to our Belvoir community since January 2023, supporting our students, and wish her all the best in the future.
- **CLAIRE ALLSOP** – EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT OFFICER has resigned from her role at Belvoir. Claire has taught at Belvoir since June 2017. She has worked across the school and has been working in Room 12 this year. We thank Claire for her hard work and contributions over her 6 years at Belvoir supporting our students and families. I would like to wish good luck on both Lisa and Claire now and into the future.

As we settle into the new term, thank you for your ongoing support and as always, please feel free to reach out with questions and concerns.

SEASONAL ILLNESSES AND COVID

As we come closer to winter and the flu season, all of us have a role to play in protecting our community to keep us safe and well. We have had a number confirmed COVID and cold/flu cases affecting our community. In a recent email to our Belvoir community, we reminded everyone of the recommended safe measures from the Victorian Department of Health.

Here are some daily actions to prevent and protect our community from these illnesses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Consider having a COVID Vaccination/Booster
- Consider an annual flu vaccine for everyone in the family over 6 months of age.
- If unwell stay home and limit contact with others until you are symptom free.

Rapid antigen tests and masks are available from the Office upon request.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out for assistance. Thanks for your support as we work together in keeping our Belvoir community safe and well through the cooler months.

Pennie Moffat
Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

Prep 2024 School Tour & Information Session
Tuesday 23rd May @ 10.00am

Queens Birthday
Monday 12th June

Year 6/7 School Tour & Information Session
Tuesday 13th June

School Council Meeting
Wednesday 14th June

End of Term
Friday 23rd June

Dyson's Buses

PHONE NUMBERS

BUS 1: 0460 935 609

BUS 2: 0460 875 492

BUS 3: 0460 896 490

BUS 4: 0460 869 012

Belvoir Bus: 0431 756 813

DON'T FORGET!



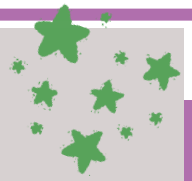
SCHOLASTIC
Book Club
orders are due:

Wednesday
7th June, 2023



C1 NEWS

Felicity & Brendan



The C1 classroom at the Wodonga Middle Years Huon campus is now in its second term after a successful start to the year. The class participates in P.E and cooking together but students break off into smaller groups with other classes in their year level to learn in their ATL (language, technology and arts) subjects. Thursday afternoons are a bit of fun, this is where students participate in a sport or other activity of choice with other students across the school. On Fridays the C1 class join the R3 class from Felltimber campus and we go on an outing. We went to the Albury Botanic Gardens the other week and students connected our term topic of “living things and habitat’ to their local environment. Last Friday we travelled to Chiltern - Mt Pilot National Park and visited the Yeddonba Aboriginal cultural site. It was a lovely day and the students enjoyed the walk in the bush and learning about the significance of the site by reading the interpretive signage that was along the walk.

We have also just had a science lesson where we dissected a fish, which was very interesting.



Belvoir Community Connections & Coffee.



What: an opportunity to catch up with other members of the Belvoir School Community in an informal, relaxed, inclusive setting.

Come, chat, meet people & enjoy a warm drink

Who: any parent or carer with a student currently enrolled at Belvoir.

Why: To re-establish connections within our community. Make new friends. Get out and about!

When: Wednesday 24th May & 21st June 2023 9:15am – 10:15am

Where: Life Skills House @ Belvoir Special School.

RSVP: leah.sisley@education.edu.vic.au

Foodbank

Through Foodbank Victoria, Belvoir has the opportunity to provide free food hampers to ALL our families at ANY time. There is no limit as to how many of these hampers you can access over time. If you would like a food hamper (up to two per family per order), please request one via emailing Andrew Dear (Leading Teacher - Wellbeing and Inclusion) andrew.dear@education.vic.gov.au.



Please see the photo provided as to what is included in the hamper. Collection times will be communicated by phone and pick up will be from the front office.

Parental Concerns or Issues

Belvoir Special School welcomes feedback, both positive and negative, and is committed to continuous improvement. We value open communication with our families and are committed to understanding complaints and addressing them appropriately. We recognise that the complaints process provides an important opportunity for reflection and learning.

We encourage and value open positive relationships with our school community and understand that it is in the best interests of students for there to be a trusting relationship between families and our school.

Parents are able to contact the school through the student diaries which are sent home with students each day, or they can ring the school to speak with classroom staff before or after school most days.

If the matter is urgent parents are able to email belvoir.wodonga.sds@education.vic.gov.au or call the school on 0260 598 987 and speak with or organise a time to discuss the issue with either Emma, myself or relevant staff.

Our full complaints and other policies can be found at:

[Policies and Forms - Belvoir Special Development School \(belvoirss.vic.edu.au\)](https://belvoirss.vic.edu.au)



ROOM 10 NEWS

Jo.C, Jo.A & Dylan



It has been very busy in Room 10. This week Green Pod had swimming and all students in Room 10 participated at some stage throughout the week. Students really enjoyed the opportunity to get in the water and many were very confident as they splashed about exploring and challenging themselves.

Terracotta pots were painted, and plants potted, to take home to Mum's or special people for Mother's Day. Great care went into painting designs on the pots. The Room 10 students took great pride in this activity after having been to Bunnings to purchase the necessary supplies during a recent outing.

Finally, Room 10 is still awaiting the hatching of our two butterfly chrysalises! Each room in Green Pod received two chrysalises to complement our Term Topic, *Watch It Grow*. Some other rooms in Green Pod have had their beautiful butterflies hatch already! We are wondering what colour the wings of our butterflies will be!



Promoting Mental fitness in your child (webinar)

Time/Date: Wednesday 24th May 2023 at 12:00pm AEST

We invite parents and carers to join a free webinar next month, where a Smiling Mind psychologist will discuss common issues children face with their mental fitness including navigating friendships, emotional regulation and learning how to confidently take on more responsibility, with research and evidence to support parents and carers to confidently respond.

Register:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cTbtO-zCTI6m-sTfunBPiA



Winter Clothing Reminder!

Winter and colder days are on the way!

This is your friendly reminder to check that you have cold weather uniforms (pants, trackies, jumpers) ready for those chilly days.

If you need assistance with purchasing of new winter uniform items please contact the Wellbeing Team on:

02 6058987 or email leah.sisley@education.vic.gov.au



Leah Sisley
Wellbeing Liaison Officer



YELLOW POD NEWS

SWIMMING



Yellow Pod had an amazing Week 3 with being able to go to the pool each day!

Each days 3 groups would go to the pool where they would practice their swimming and safety in water. They were all able to represent Belvoir with pride while at the Wodonga Leisure Centre. There was lots of tired students by the end of the week, but the fun they had during the week was worth it.

To our instructors at the pool, we thank them for the time and effort they put in to helping everyone engage in swimming.





Association for
Children with a
Disability

Free online workshop



Teens and Beyond

Do you have a child with disability aged 13+?

Then this **FREE** workshop is for you!

This popular series will give you practical information, skills and confidence to navigate the teenage years. It's the only workshop to bring this information into one place.

More information:

- A three-part workshop. Each session is 2 hours.
- Bookings are essential
- Professional workshop facilitators are parents of young people with disability

Workshop dates:

- Monday 15, 22 & 29 May 7:00pm
- Tuesday 16, 23 & 30 May 10:00am
- Wednesday 17, 24 & 31 May 7:00pm
- Thursday 18, 25 May & 1 June 10:00am

Topics include:

- Financial support
- Getting the right NDIS support for your teen
- School and post-school options
- Wellbeing: friendships, communication, behaviour support and good mental health

Read more and register now



bit.ly/TEENSmay23

Contact us



educate@acd.org.au
03 9880 7000 or
1800 654 013 (regional callers)

www.acd.org.au



R3 NEWS

Nicole, Kelly & McKenzie



One of the best things about teaching the R3 students is that we get to see the most amazing things they can do. As you all know, every student has their own program – some programs might be similar to others and some are very different, but they all are based on what that student needs and what their strengths are, so the learning is fun and just right for that student. We are also very lucky that we have 2 ES, McKenzie and Kelly, to help support our students to reach their individual goals.



This week I want to highlight Claudia and her individual program that she has been working on with support from Kelly. As a part of Claudia's program, Claudia wanted to build a

vegetable garden so that we could harvest our own food and use it in our cooking program. This idea fits well with our Humanities Term Topics of Healthy Mind (Term 1) and Living Things and Habitats (Term 2).



First, Claudia had to research what plants we could grow in the current weather. Then she had to create a design of the garden and where she wanted each plant to be so that it was not crowded and had its basic needs met – water, sun, nutrients, air and shelter. She then had to clean out the old garden bed and prepare the soil. At different times Claudia had some extra support from Jack and Brad. You can see Claudia planting out the garden bed and making sure the plants are evenly spaced. The garden is flourishing with the attention and care that Claudia gives it and Claudia has learned realistic, hands-on skills that she can use in the future.



Claudia is now deciding with Kelly, whether to build a scarecrow or to use old DVD's to string up and keep the birds out of the garden.



Some of the other fantastic opportunities we've had are being a part of electives. Brad and Shevarni, Year 9, have been in Drama and are busy learning how to do lighting for their class production. Reilly has been attending Mechatronics where he's learned how to build a 3D electronic car. He has had to design it and make sure the measurements are correct, so when he puts the wheels on, they move freely and the body fits. He has learned how to solder because Reilly is attaching the wires for the electric car to work.



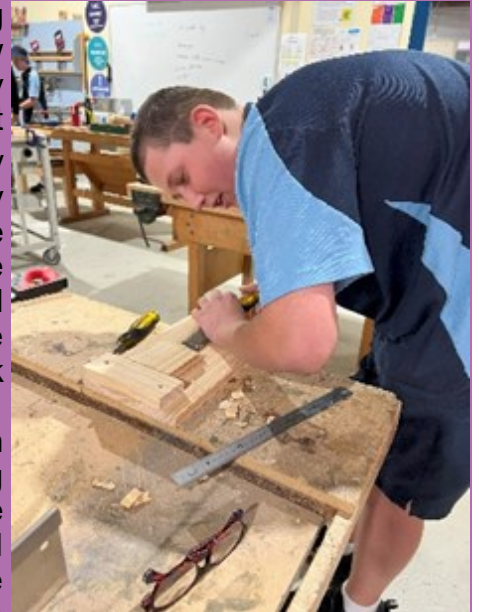


R3 NEWS

Nicole, Kelly & McKenzie



Jack, Ella and Charlie T are attending Woodwork where they are learning how to make a wooden box with a lid. They have had to measure twice and cut once....or twice and make sure they are following the instructions so they have a carefully created, useable wooden box at the end. It can be challenging using all those new tools and working in a loud environment, but these guys are loving the challenge and look forward to attending each class.



Xara, CJ, Hugh and Cannen have been attending Art where they were practicing the specialised area of lino printing. The lino prints were of leaves that they collected from the garden, and they required lots of detail. It was amazing to see just how good these prints came out. The class have now moved onto designing a shoe that meets a specific customers individual need. To do this they have had to research colours and make the design appropriate for the business. For example, designing a shoe for the Royal Children's Hospital, CJ is creating a shoe for toddlers that has a band aid symbol and special 'bling' as additional options for the shoe.

Noelani is having great success with her music. McKenzie has been supporting her both in the main Music class and also for her private lessons with Pete. Noelani has a great ear for the notes and fabulous memory so when she plays songs, she is really coming along well and keep a pretty good beat.



We are very proud of how far these students have come and the success they are having. This is a fabulous program that is helping each student to grow and be successful with their learning.



NDIS REQUESTS FOR ONSITE OBSERVATION

Over the past few weeks Belvoir has received a number of requests for Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Behaviour Practitioners and Physiotherapists into the school to work with individual students. Currently, Belvoir has 189 students enrolled in the school and most of these students are NDIS participants accessing one, or more, therapy services. As a result of this, Belvoir is not able to accommodate all requests for space for the various therapists to work in. Parents are reminded that all NDIS therapists must first be approved from the school before they undertake any work with students on school grounds.

This is Department of Education policy and includes therapists that are visiting the school to observe students in class for the first time. A link to the Departments NDIS Funded Therapy in Schools Policy is below and this will give all information to parents regarding the use of NDIS funded therapists during the school day.

[NDIS Funded Therapy in Schools: Policy | education.vic.gov.au.](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/ndis-funding/ndis-funding-policy/ndis-funding-policy.aspx)

This guide is also available in hard copy from the office. Please contact Andrea or Viv if you would like a copy sent home.

The school may allow therapists on school grounds on a needs basis for the purpose of observing students, and to meet with staff for the purpose of completing assessments. Close consideration is given in these circumstances as it can be disruptive to the other students in the class and therefore will be negotiated between Belvoir staff, including the internal Allied Health team and NDIS therapists. Belvoir may allow some therapists to work with students at school, during school hours, and this decision will be made on a case by case basis. Several factors will be taken into consideration when these decisions are made including parent work commitments, difficulties relating to transport, distance families live from Wodonga, availability of an appropriate space within the school and the ability for school staff to supervise therapists on site.

Many other schools have a blanket ban on NDIS therapists coming into their school. Belvoir does not intend to do this at this point in time. We hope that parents will understand this and work with us to achieve an appropriate outcome for each individual student. We also highly encourage you to have your NDIS therapists contact the internal Allied Health team at Belvoir, when needed. If you would like further clarification regarding this or you're requiring an NDIS request form please don't hesitate to email

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



Wonder Recycling Rewards Program

Our school has registered again to take part in the 'Wonder Rewards Recycling Program'.

This means you can start saving your empty bread bags, including: Bread roll bags, wrap bags, pita bread bags, etc.

Boxes have arrived, so when you have a full bag of bags please send them into school and pop them in the pink box located in the front office.

IMPORTANT: Please ensure all bags are **clean**, by emptying out the breadcrumbs and ensuring there is no residue or food left in them.

Bread tags also need to be removed and can be recycled at home (if cardboard).

Plastic bread tags can be saved and brought into the school to be passed onto the organisation 'Aussie Bread Tags for Wheelchairs'. They have collection points all across the country, including our most local in Tangambalanga and Beechworth. For more information, click the link-

<https://ozbreadtagsforwheelchairs.org.au/>

Don't forget to ask your family, friends and neighbours to collect bread bags and plastic bread tags for you as well!

You could even ask your local organisations and sporting clubs.

Hope we collect as many bread bags as we possibly can to fill all our boxes and earn the maximum points to redeem sports equipment for our school. Thank you for helping our environment and the world we live in. Happy recycling everyone!!!

For more information, go to-

www.wonder.com.au/wonder-recycling-rewards

Your support is much appreciated.

Jo Fraser





JOIN THE FUN!

Auskick Centres in 2023

Baranduda Auskick Centre

Wednesdays

Register via the QR code or link below:

<https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/5f3daf>



Wodonga Central Auskick Centre

Mondays

Register via the QR code or link below:

<https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/0a29f4>



Wodonga Auskick Centre

Sundays

Register via the QR code or link below:

<https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/453ad2>





DID YOU KNOW?

Your child's sports fees are an eligible savings goal?

 saverplus.org.au

 1300 610 355

Saver Plus – Because the best thing money can buy is financial freedom

The Saver Plus community program has helped over 55,000 Australians take the stress out of school costs. It's free for eligible people to join.

At Saver Plus, we pair you with a savings coach while you budget and save over the next 10 months. You attend online workshops to learn tips, tricks and information to grow your budgeting and savings skills. Once you reach your agreed savings goal, ANZ matches your savings dollar-for-dollar, up to \$500. You can use that money towards education costs such as uniforms, text books, laptops or extra-curricular activities such as sport or music.

You could be eligible to join Saver Plus if you:

- have a Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card
- are at least 18 years old
- have some regular income from work (you or your partner) including casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal (we also accept child support and carer's payment as income)
- have a child at school or attend vocational education yourself.

To find out more, or to apply, go to www.saverplus.org.au or call 1300 610 355



Literacy at Home

Here are some ways you can create a literacy rich home environment where reading, writing, and talking/communicating are a natural part of everyday life.

Make reading with your children a daily priority. Choose your own special reading time, like bedtime, turn off the tv, snuggle up and enjoy spending quality time together. Your children will look forward to it and hopefully model this routine throughout their lives.

Your children will learn reading habits from you, so let your children see that you find reading an enjoyable and exciting activity. Show them that books make you laugh out loud, get totally absorbed, excited, serious, or better informed. Encourage them to get involved when you refer to dictionaries, cookbooks, atlases, manuals and catalogues and newspapers to find information you need. Read out things that might interest them, like the discoveries from the new James Webb telescope or a fact about a place you went on a family holiday.

Show that writing is something we create as well as consume by writing lists for groceries or Christmas shopping, writing birthday cards, reminder notes, labels on boxes, and names on schoolbooks. Talk about how writing serves a range of purposes like communicating our thoughts and feelings, reminding us of events, and organising and recording. Record your children's height on a wall with the date and watch the marks go up! A literacy rich environment home gives children the best opportunity for learning to read and to love books and reading. Modelling your own love of reading shows them that reading is important to you and helps make it important to them.

[A love of reading begins at home | First 5 Forever | State Library Of Queensland \(slq.qld.gov.au\)](https://slq.qld.gov.au)

Is ABSTUDY for you?

ABSTUDY is a group of payments for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, trainees and apprentices that can help with many things.



travel between
your home and
study location



living
expenses



rent



study and
course costs



books and
materials for
uni or TAFE

Scan the QR code to
find out if you can get it



Download our school app for free!



- Instant news notifications
- Online absentee forms
- Events and reminders



Download instructions:

1. Go to the App Store and download "School Stream" to your phone.

2. Open the app and type the school's name into the search bar to load the school's profile.

3. Make sure you agree to Push Notifications when prompted.

ALL ABILITIES SOCCER WANGARATTA

HELLO ALL WE HAVE AN ALL ABILITIES TEAM HERE IN WANGARATTA BUT WE DO NEED MORE PLAYERS TO JOIN THE ABILITIES LEAGUE IN MELBOURNE THIS ISN'T TOWN VS TOWN IT'S ABOUT BRING ALL PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TOGETHER TO FORM A REGIONAL VICTORIA TEAM

THAT CAN TAKE IT TO THE BEST METRO MELBOURNE TEAMS IV REACH OUT TO FRANKSTON WHO ARE THE CHAMPIONS AND THE LEAGUE WHO BOTH WANTS A TEAM FROM REGIONAL VICTORIA TO JOIN THERE ABILITIES LEAGUE IN VICTORIA

TRAINING IS EVERY WEDNESDAY NIGHT 5:30PM AT SOUTH WANGARATTA RESERVE TRAINING IS FUN AND ALL ABOUT HAVING A GOOD TIME AND GETTING AROUND GOOD PEOPLE

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ...

BOYS AND GIRLS

15 AND OLDER

COMPETITION IS

COMPETITIVE

FOR MORE

INFORMATION CALL

OR TEXT MICHAEL

0412799623

