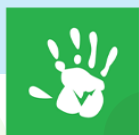


# Belvoir Special School Newsletter



38 Gayview Drive, WODONGA, 3690

## Dear Parents/Carers/Friends,

It is hard to believe it is Week 5!

As I walk through the playground and visit classrooms, it is a delight to see happy, engaged learners making the best of every day. I must congratulate all our staff for ensuring students are happy and safe and all their learning needs are being met.

This weekend we have a our big fundraising event happening, The prestigious Jack Maher Classic. Wodonga Racing annual Charity Gala this year will be supporting Belvoir Special School' and 'Community Crew @ Albury'.

Funds raised from this event will go towards repairing our bike track and widening it so it can be more inclusive of students in wheelchairs.



Our other essential project is to ensure each section of our school has a portable hoist. This will enable students to be able to get down on the floor with their peers and access more spaces across our schools.



## 2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

Queens Birthday  
Monday 12th June

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

School Council Meeting  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June

End of Term 2  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
2.00pm Finish

Start of Term 3  
Monday 10th July

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

## *Work Experience Interview*

**Name:** Josh McLennan

**Work Experience Location:** The Wodonga Turf Club

**What staff members do you work with:**

Ash, Jack, Brayden and Jackson

**What jobs do you do at work experience:**

Mowing with the push mower and ride-on mower, turning sprinklers on and off, checking the sprinklers, rake up the leaves, moving and setting up tables and chairs for functions and events as well as shovelling hay and horse manure.

**Do you enjoy work experience? Why?**

Yes I do. I like doing hands on tasks and the blokes I work with are amazing. They explain to me exactly what I need to do and they make it easy for me to listen.

**What is your favourite job to do and why?**

My favourite jobs are anything where I get to drive the machinery.

**What new skills have you learnt?** I have learnt to drive the zero-turn mower and other machinery as well. I have become better at mowing the grass.



# Stay well this winter

Symptoms of influenza (flu) can hit very quickly and may last several weeks. Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and others from getting the flu.

[Annual influenza vaccination](#) is recommended from mid-April each year and is free under the [National Immunisation Program](#) for those at higher risk of complications from the flu.

## Keeping our school community well

Parents, carers and students are encouraged to practice prevention measures, including:

- washing and sanitising hands regularly
  - avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
  - covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing
- staying home if unwell and consulting a general practitioner (GP) or [Nurse-on-call](#) as required
- [staying up to date with flu and COVID-19 vaccinations.](#)

## Flu vaccinations

Flu vaccinations can be booked through GPs and pharmacies, many of which can also provide COVID-19 vaccinations. Flu vaccination is recommended for everyone aged 6 months and over.

Some people are more at risk of complications from flu and are eligible for free vaccination as part of the [National Immunisation Program](#).

## COVID-19 booster

The 2023 COVID-19 booster dose is available for everyone aged 18 and above.

Getting your booster dose remains the best way to prevent severe illness or hospitalisation, especially in people aged over 65 and those at higher risk of severe illness.

You can have your booster dose 6 months after your last dose or COVID infection.

Children aged between 5 and 17 years who are at risk of severe illness can also receive a 2023 booster dose.

You can get your next dose at your local pharmacy or GP. To find one near you, refer to the [vaccine clinic finder](#).

## Find out more

For more information about preventing flu, and immunisation, refer to:

[Better Health Channel influenza flu immunisation fact sheet](#)

[Getting vaccinated against influenza.](#)





# ROOM 6 NEWS

## Chloe & Kellie



This term room 6, have enjoyed many different fun activities. Our favourites have been cooking, bike riding and swimming. We even got to do some cooking for the special persons afternoon tea.

We have also enjoyed doing crafts for Mother's Day. After all of these activities we have been very tired and have enjoyed some quiet moments watching tv.







**VACCA**  
Connected by culture

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL CHILD CARE AGENCY

Every child deserves to smile

**Become a foster  
carer with VACCA**

[www.vacca.org](http://www.vacca.org)



Have you been thinking about becoming a foster carer? Kids in your area need care!

Are you able to provide Aboriginal children and young people with a positive and nurturing family life experience that will support their needs?

Will you be prepared to support a child's cultural and emotional needs?

At VACCA we are seeking carers who are open to a journey that is both challenging and rewarding; carers who believe that they can make a positive impact on a child's life.

Make this the year you make a difference, express your interest by visiting **[www.vacca.org](http://www.vacca.org)** or by calling one of our offices.

## 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](mailto:leah.sisley@education.vic.gov.au)



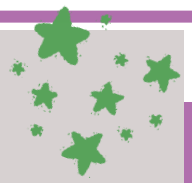
*Leah Sisley* - Wellbeing Liaison Officer





# ROOM 17 NEWS

Jo, Nina, Prajna & Steph



Room 17 have had a busy and productive term so far. Last week Belvoir held an open classroom afternoon, which was a lovely opportunity for students to showcase their wonderful work and displays around the classroom and Pod for their families.

In Literacy, we have been looking at informative texts and their common features. Students have been able to navigate their way around a non-fiction text and have enjoyed reading and learning facts about different animals and topics of interest. This has linked nicely to our term topic 'Living Things- Habitats'. We have also looked at the difference between facts and opinions and completed lots of activities around this.

During Math sessions, we have been learning about 'Data'. We have answered questions based on favourite topics, surveyed our class mates, sorted information, tallied results, made visual displays, displayed data onto graphs and interpreted information from a range of graphs. It has been a very engaging topic.

This week, we have enjoyed attending our daily swimming sessions at the Wodonga Sports and Leisure Centre.





## ***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 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 9:15am – 10:15am

***Where:*** Life Skills House @ Belvoir Special School.

***RSVP:*** [leah.sisley@education.edu.vic.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 \(belvoirss.vic.edu.au\)](http://belvoirss.vic.edu.au)





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](https://bit.ly/TEENSmay23)

#### Contact us



educate@acd.org.au  
03 9880 7000 or



1800 654 013 (regional callers)

[www.acd.org.au](http://www.acd.org.au)



# 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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 \(slq.qld.gov.au\)](#)

# 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.