

# Belvoir Special School Newsletter



38 Gayview Drive, WODONGA, 3690

## Dear Parents/Carers/Friends,

It is hard to believe that we are now into the second half of the term with only three weeks to go. After some beautiful sunny autumn weather, this week has really seen winter return with a vengeance. It has been great to see students coming to school prepared for the cold weather with their woolly hats and warm jackets.

Last weekend Wodonga Racing held their Charity Gala Day. This is our key fundraiser event for the year. Our goal was to raise enough funds to enhance the road safety training available on our bike track and purchase another portable hoist to enable better access to classroom and playground environments for all students.

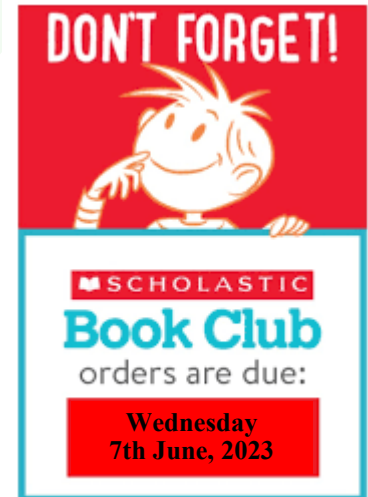
This year Andrew Dear step up to coordinate our efforts. He did an amazing job to coordinate a lot over a short period of time.

He did a fantastic job! Special thanks to members of our community who donated items or arranged donations. Finally, big thank you to the office staffs for all their assistance and support over the weeks leading up to the auction.

This week we celebrated Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week. Please visit our Facebook pages to see a message from our students.

<https://www.facebook.com/belvoir.wodonga.special.school>

Pennie Moffat  
Principal



## 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



## ALBURY GANG SHOW

Albury Entertainment Centre

A two and a half hour show put on by the Scouts and Guides from the Albury / Wodonga region.

Filled with singing, dancing and comedy skits.

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June - 7:30pm

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June - 1.30pm & 7:30pm

Tickets \$22 each; Group 10+ \$20pp

For bookings contact

<https://alburyentertainmentcentre.com.au/whatson/albury-gang-show-presents-the-chase>



# ORANGE POD NEWS

## Room 22 News

Jake & Mel

Room 22 students have been having a productive term 2. We have been visiting the Wodonga Men's Shed to work with some very experienced and helpful volunteers. Students have been restoring one of the benches that we have in orange pod. I can't wait to share a before and after photo. We have also been working with Wodonga Landcare to learn about the green spaces in our community and how important they are for our native animals. Our SBAT students are doing really well with their studies and are working hard during their practical days at Merriwa. We have some students out on work experience too, with hopefully more on the way.





# Jacob Toyota Good for Footy All Abilities - Wodonga

**FREE  
GIVEAWAYS**

**FREE  
BBQ**



Experience Australia's most loved sport through AFL Victoria's FREE Footy 4 Fun events delivered across Victoria! A footy experience full of fun activities, modified games & memorable moments to take home with you!

*Footy 4 Fun 'inclusion' is for kids aged 7-12 years that identify as having a disability. The program offers fun and modified activities that will accommodate for all individual participants needs.*

**WHERE**

**Les Cheesley  
Oval, Wodonga**

**WHEN**

**Sunday, June 4  
11:30am**



# ROOM 1 NEWS

Cas & Madi



We have had lots of fun and learning during Term 2:

We have enjoyed sharing stories and our class texts have included 'Going on a bear Hunt', 'How the Birds Got Their Colours' and 'Wombat Stew'. This week for our oral language focus our picture is about children playing on a beach. Alongside our oral language discussions we have been continuing to use the LAMP communication program on an iPad and students are becoming more familiar with navigating sentence pathways.

Through the Learn to Play program we have been able to touch, feel and experience mini beasts and their habitats and have also been able to make some mini beasts of our own.



Jesse enjoying the obstacle course in PE!

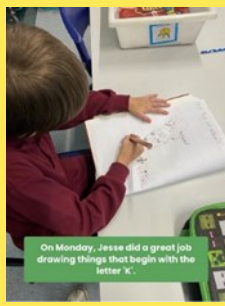


Sensory Play!



Jesse having fun collecting sticks!

He was very proud of his job!



On Monday, Jesse did a great job drawing things that begin with the letter 'k'.



Marley enjoyed bouncing on the trampoline!



Marley enjoys sensory play!



Joshua having a relaxing time!





# 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 12 NEWS

Tonia, Christin & Alex



This term Room 12 have been learning about information reports and our focus has been on the life cycle of plants and animals. The students thoroughly enjoyed learning about the life cycle of a butterfly and were lucky to witness our chrysalises changing and hatching two beautiful butterflies. The class named them Geoffrey and Mary and have seen them flying around Agora on occasion.

This term Room 12 had a special excursion to Scots College Albury to watch 'Shrek the Musical', which was enjoyed by many. We have had outings to Bunnings and Belvoir park, as well as swimming lessons at the Leisure Centre.





## ***Belvoir Community Connections & Coffee.***

Take a little



COFFEE BREAK

***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)



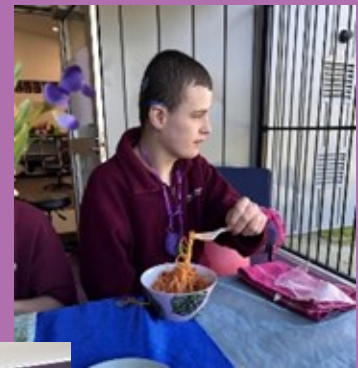
# ROOM 18 NEWS

Ellissa, Katrina & Sue



This term in Room 18 we have been very busy with lots of different events. Last week, we had a wing it week because we went swimming every day, but we got through it together as a team. We also had an experience with a homemade restaurant! We sat down and had lunch together after cooking. We have been learning about Sorry Day and how that affected Indigenous Australians. We have been cooking and been learning that you don't need to spend much money to cook a nice meal. We have been learning about living things and habitats. We also have been starting learning walks and the topic is different every time.

Written by Emahlie







# 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)

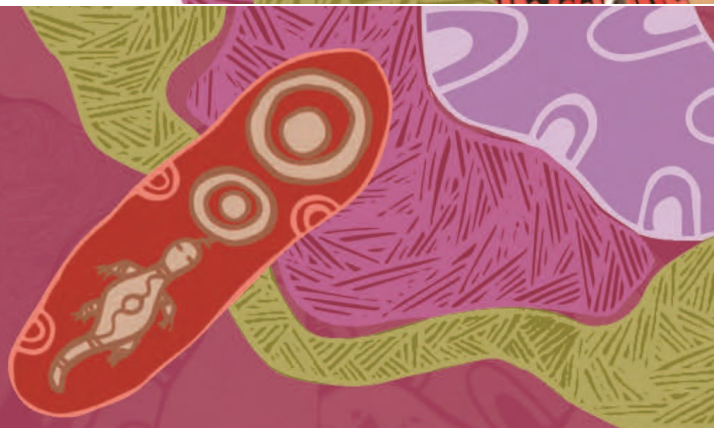


Have you been thinking about becoming a foster carer? Kids in your area need care!

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

# Sensory Art School

Enter your inner-creative world in a calm, supportive & fun environment!

MAMA

For younger artists that enjoy shorter, more open ended, creative sessions.

Our Sensory Sessions are held in a quieter environment with an emphasis on materials and play, in weekly 45 minute art making classes.

Recommended for Kindergarten to Year 2, as well as Primary students who prefer this learning style and classroom environment.

## TERM THREE 2023

**COST:** \$180 per term

**DATE:** 8 weeks, begins 19 July

**DAYS:** Wednesdays

**TIME:** 3.45pm – 4.30pm

*Drop off from 3.30pm, pick up by 4.30pm*

All materials are provided.

BYO apron or old shirt for artmaking.

Parents and support workers are welcome.

**BOOK:** Register online [mamalbury.com.au](http://mamalbury.com.au) or in person at the museum.

**ENQUIRIES:** [mama@alburycity.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mama@alburycity.nsw.gov.au) (02) 6043 5800







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)

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/Oa29f4>



### 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 \(slq.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.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.