

# Belvoir Special School Newsletter



38 Gayview Drive, WODONGA, 3690

## Dear Parents/Carers/Friends,

Wow, we are on the final countdown to end of Term 2 with only 9 school days to go. This week students have done a great job managing wet weather breaks and the rain. We remind families to please ensure there is a change of clothes in student's bags in case students get wet.

This weekend we have a Public Holiday on Monday as we celebrate the King's Birthday.

We hope everyone has a great weekend and look forward to seeing the students back on Tuesday.

### STAFFING UPDATE

I would like to welcome Amy Campbell to our Belvoir community. Amy has many years' experience within the disability field and will be joining our Green Pod (senior primary) team.

This week we farewell Kyandra, Chloe and Alana. Kyandra has worked at Belvoir over the last 4 years as a classroom educational support person. Chloe stepped into our school community in 2022. Both ladies have been valued member of all the classrooms they have supported. They have worked hard to support our students to grow, learn and achieve. Finally, we farewell Alana Cameron. Alana joined our Allied Health Team this year and has only worked with us for a short time. We wish them all well in their future endeavours and thank them for contributions.

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

### 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 of confirmed COVID and cold/flu cases effecting 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

**Pennie Moffat**  
Principal

**KINGS BIRTHDAY  
PUBLIC HOLIDAY  
MONDAY 12TH JUNE, 2023  
NO SCHOOL**

### 2023 DATES TO REMEMBER

Kings Birthday Public Holiday  
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



**Andrew Dear:**

Leading Teacher- Wellbeing and Inclusion

Contact details: [andrew.dear@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:andrew.dear@education.vic.gov.au)

Days of work: Monday-Friday



**Grace Churches:**

Mental Health Practitioner/ Wellbeing

Contact details: [grace.churches@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:grace.churches@education.vic.gov.au)

Days of work: Monday (Fortnightly), Tuesday-Friday



**Leah Sisley:**

Wellbeing Liaison Officer

Contact details: [leah.sisley@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:leah.sisley@education.vic.gov.au)

Days of work: Monday-Wednesday

**Online support groups/ education videos**

- I CAN Network Online Group Mentoring (Autistic-led interest-based groups for ages 8-22, plus groups for Autistic-LGBTIQA+ teens and young adults) . Parents of Gender Diverse Children (for parents/carers)  
<https://www.icannetwork.online>

- Trans 101- Neurodiversity <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dM8R2AJ5R1Q>

This video was written, filmed, and edited by trans/gender diverse young people. To support more trans-led

Trans 101, new series on Gender Diversity! In video one we dive into being Trans, Gender Identity, and what it's all about!

Online training opportunities across Pride Month:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/idahobit-online-introduction-to-lgbtqia-inclusion-tickets-304468000987>



As we are FAST approaching the school holidays the wellbeing team would like to provide some helpful information to assist families over this period.

### **School Holiday Community Activities (free or low cost)**

- **[Holidays @ Hyphen] LEGO Free Play:**
  - Monday the 26th of June.
    - Time: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
    - Location: Hyphen (Wodonga Library)
    - Cost: Free
    - Ages: Recommended for ages 5 to 12
    - Enquiries: 02 6022 9330 or [hyphen@wodonga.vic.gov.au](mailto:hyphen@wodonga.vic.gov.au)
- **[Holidays @ Hyphen] Treehouse Collage Art:**
  - Friday the 30th of June
    - Time: 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
    - Location: Hyphen (Wodonga Library)
    - Cost: Free
    - Ages: Recommended for families with children aged 5 to 12years.
    - Enquiries: 02 6022 9330 or [hyphen@wodonga.vic.gov.au](mailto:hyphen@wodonga.vic.gov.au)
- **[Holidays @ Hyphen] Monday Movie Matinee - Pokemon Detective Pikachu:**
  - Monday the 3rd of July
    - Time: 2:00 PM -
    - Location: Hyphen (Wodonga Library)
    - Cost: Free / Rated PG
- **Out of This World: Australia in the Space Age exhibition and search for the aliens!**
  - Albury Library Museum
  - Cost: Free
  - Ages: Recommended for school aged children/ young adults.
- **Magical magnets-** Create your own magnetic photo frame using scratch art:
  - Thursday the 6th of July
    - Time: 2:30-3:30pm
    - Location: Lavington Library
    - Bookings essential



\* For more school holiday activities and events: [www.wodonga.vic.gov.au](http://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au)—Wodonga Council

[www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/whats-on](http://www.alburycity.nsw.gov.au/whats-on) - Albury City



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## **Family/Community Support Services: (accessible over school holidays)**

- YES Youth and Family Services: 1800 885 355
- Gateway Health Services: 1800 657 573
- Mental Health Assessment/Support AWH (24 hr triage line): 1300 104 211
- Emergency Food Relief: Uniting Care Wodonga- (02) 6048 6900
- Orange Door (family violence support) 24 hr: 1800 271 157
- Betty's Place Women Refuge: (02) 6041 4141
- Junction Support Services: (02) 6043 7400
- Life Line: 13 11 14
- Wodonga Priority Primary Care Centre: (02) 6064 1900

The PPCC provides immediate care for patients with or are experiencing non-life- threatening injuries or illnesses. The PPCC is supported by highly skilled independent doctors and a nursing team, utilising excellent treatment and procedure room facilities.

Open 6 days a week, from 8.30 am to 8 pm (Mon - Fri) & 8.30 am to 4.30 pm Saturday and Public Holidays.



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As the weather gets colder we would like to remind all our families that through the wellbeing team you can receive support to access pre loved school uniform items through our current supply onsite.

For support enquiries please contact our wellbeing team via (02) 02 6059 8987 or email [leah.sisley@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:leah.sisley@education.vic.gov.au).

\*Alternatively, we are also taking donations of school uniform items (good used condition/clean) to add to our supply. If you have such items please donate to reception.

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Through Foodbank Victoria, Belvoir has the opportunity to provide free food hampers to ALL our families at ANY time.

For support enquiries please contact our wellbeing team via (02) 02 6059 8987 or email

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



## **JUNE IS** **INTERNATIONAL PRIDE MONTH**

A whole month to celebrate our LGBTQIA+ identities, history, and communities!

Every June, is an opportunity to celebrate the history of LGBTQIA+ Pride, our communities, our identities, and look towards the future.

Belvoir Special School as part of the Wodonga Federation of Government Schools strive to provide safe, inclusive and supportive school environments which value the human rights of all students and staff. Our member schools are committed to creating a school community where all members are welcomed, accepted and treated equitably and with respect regardless of their backgrounds or personal attributes such as race, language, religious beliefs, gender identity, disability or sexual orientation so that they can participate, achieve and thrive at school.

Wodonga Federation of Government Schools Inclusion and Diversity Policy <http://www.wodonga.vic.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/WFGS-Inclusion-and-Diversity-May-2022.pdf>

### **Local supports available to our LGBTQIA+ students, staff, families and school community**

- Rainbow Door: 1800 729 367 [www.rainbowdoor.org.au](http://www.rainbowdoor.org.au)
- Queer Space Wodonga: 1800 542 847 <https://umfc.com.au/services/child-and-family-services/queerspace>
- Qlife: 1800 184 527 <https://qlife.org.au>
- Head to Health-1800 595 212 <https://www.headtohealth.gov.au>
- Head Space- 1300 332 022 <https://headspace.org.au>
- Reframing Autism- [www.reframingautism.org.au](http://www.reframingautism.org.au)
- Amaze- Resources for parents of transgender/gender diverse Autistic children
- Transgender Victoria: <http://tvq.org.au>

### **Online support groups/ education videos**

- I CAN Network Online Group Mentoring (Autistic-led interest-based groups for ages 8-22, plus groups for Autistic-LGBTIQA+ teens and young adults) . Parents of Gender Diverse Children (for parents/carers)  
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# ORANGE POD NEWS

## Room 24 News

### IPPs Program News

This term the IPPs program has commenced running a Staff Café. Students have made 2 different food items for morning tea on a Tuesday each week. This has involved students brainstorming menu ideas, creating an order form, distributing order forms to the staff across the school and answering questions about the menu items.

Additionally, students are then calling back into classrooms to collect orders (and money), tally these orders up and then work out how many batches of each item need to be made. Students are labelling packaging for the orders, bagging food items and sorting into different distribution points across the school.

In this program we have seen students' confidence grow in communicating with a wider range of staff across the school, the ability to answer questions about the menu, counting of money and tallying of orders, as well as the functional skills of following a recipe, measuring with accuracy and producing a saleable item to our school community.

Feedback from staff has been positive with some of these items making a comeback along with new recipes next term. Favourites with both staff and our MasterChef's has been dark chocolate mint slice, Hedgehog Slice, Rocky Road, Zucchini Slice and quince paste with cheese, vegetable sticks and biscuits.



The Rotary Club of Albury proudly presents...

# CIRCUS QUIRKUS 2023

Relaxed Performances for children and young adults who might require a more flexible environment when going to the theatre. Enjoy the "live performance" experience with a casual attitude to audience noise and movement in an inclusive, accessible, safe environment where you feel welcomed and free to be yourself without restriction or judgement.

A one-hour show, suitable for all ages.

All tickets are COMPLIMENTARY and generously sponsored by businesses from the Albury/Wodonga regions.

**DATE: SUNDAY, 30 JULY 2023**

**SHOW TIMES: 11.00AM, 2.00PM & 4.00PM**

**VENUE: COMMERCIAL CLUB ALBURY**



Jonas Jost: Show Host & Magician



Luke Forrester: Mouth Balancer



James Bustar: Comedy Juggler

**TO BOOK, PLEASE EMAIL OR TEXT YOUR  
TICKET ORDER AND CONTACT DETAILS TO...**

**✉ [MEREDITHNEWMAN@SHOWINTENT.COM.AU](mailto:MEREDITHNEWMAN@SHOWINTENT.COM.AU) 📞 0404-367-782**

-Bulk and individual ticket orders from schools, organisations, families and carers are welcome, including tentative bookings.

-All tickets are complimentary - One ticket per person is required when booking tickets.

- Bookings for multiple dates and showtimes are welcome.

- Tickets distributed on a first-come first-served basis. Available until booked out.





# ROOM 3 NEWS

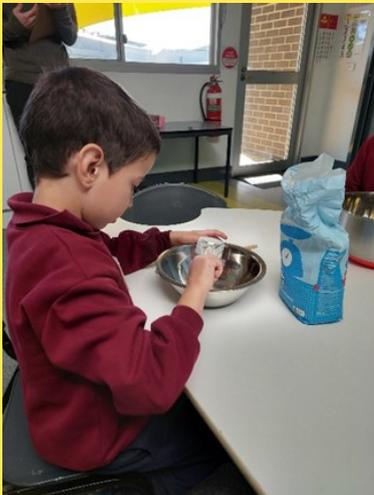
## Mel, Chloe & Jordan



We are getting closer to the end of Term 2 and we are sure that everyone is looking forward to the upcoming holidays! We have continued to investigate minibeasts, and we always look forward to our weekly sessions in Room 2 to explore lots of different minibeasts, living and non-living things, their different habitats and common features of minibeasts. We have made bug headbands and dressed up as beautiful butterflies as well!

This term, we have explored the texts “We’re Going on a Bear Hunt,” “How the Birds Got Their Colours,” and “Wombat Stew.” The children have enjoyed the rhyming and repetition within “Wombat Stew” and “Bear Hunt,” and practicing their recall to remember what comes next in the stories. Room 3 also really enjoyed creating their own colourful feathers and birds after reading “How the Birds Got Their Colours,” and making animal masks to use in role plays after reading “Wombat Stew.”

Our Friday cooking sessions are still a winner and we always look forward to these at the end of the week! We have made Rainbow Fruit Skewers, chocolate coconut balls, pancakes, and chocolate “dirt” cupcakes. There are so many important skills that cooking support, including improving self-confidence, supporting independence skills, food and nutrition, learning numeracy concepts such as measurement, temperature and time, hygiene skills – and that cooking is so much fun! The best part is always trying what we have made of course!



# 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.](#)

## ***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)

### **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)



# EARLY HELP PROGRAM

## How do I find out more?

- For a referral to Early Help;
- Speak to your school, kinder, childcare, or maternal-child health.
  - You can self-refer by contacting the Early Help team at Junction 0260437400.



“Let's work together to empower your family”

155 Melbourne Rd Wodonga VIC

0260 437 400

<https://junction.org.au>



talk to EARLY HELP now

The aim of the program is to upskill families, providing tools and strategies to empower families based on their goals, needs and wishes. We provide parents with possible tools and strategies to help with common family struggles to build on their knowledge, skills and confidence.

### This may include:

- Developing and maintaining routines
- Emotional regulation
- Interactions between family members
- Activities that promote healthy relationships
- Boundary setting in a variety of environments
- Supporting children to meet developmental milestones
- Connect you to the community and everything it has to offer

## EARLY HELP PROGRAM

Early Help is a short-term, evidence-based intervention for children aged 0-12 years and their families. Early Help cares for all children's and families' identity and culture. We focus on the strengths of the families that we are working alongside.

“We can support you to navigate hard stuff in life and build strong connections in your family”

Early Help is a voluntary program. Involvement could include individual support, group work or counselling depending on what the family want. We can support to link you in with longer-term services and navigate referrals with you if required.





# TACKLING CONSENT



## GREAT PLAYER, BETTER PERSON



**WODONGA BULLDOGS CLUBROOMS**

**JULY 3 : 5.30PM – 7PM**

**FREE EVENT**

Alex Rance teams up with CAV staff and Vic Police to chat about affirmative consent & respectful relationships.

For more info & bookings go to:

<https://events.humanitix.com/tackling-consent-wodonga>



**CENTRE  
AGAINST  
VIOLENCE**





## Belvoir Special School: 2024 Year 6/7 Information session



Belvoir Special school welcomes you to visit our setting.

\*Familiarise yourself with our eligibility criteria

\*Discuss our enrolment process

\*Find out about the teaching and learning programs offered at Belvoir

When : Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

Where: Belvoir Special School

Time: 10.00am

## 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



### Do you need help applying for the NDIS or Disability Support Pension for your child?

My name is Natalie Ennis and I'm a Support Coordinator at PE Support Services  
(ABN - 38 865 726 149)

I am available to support students and families at Belvoir Special School in applying for the NDIS and the Disability Support Pension.

I have extensive knowledge in these areas as well as being a qualified Psychosocial Recovery Coach, Case Manager & Capacity Building Support Worker

If you would like to contact me you can do so by sending an SMS to  
0497 003 574 or email  
[natalieennis99@gmail.com](mailto:natalieennis99@gmail.com).

I look forward to helping you out.

# 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

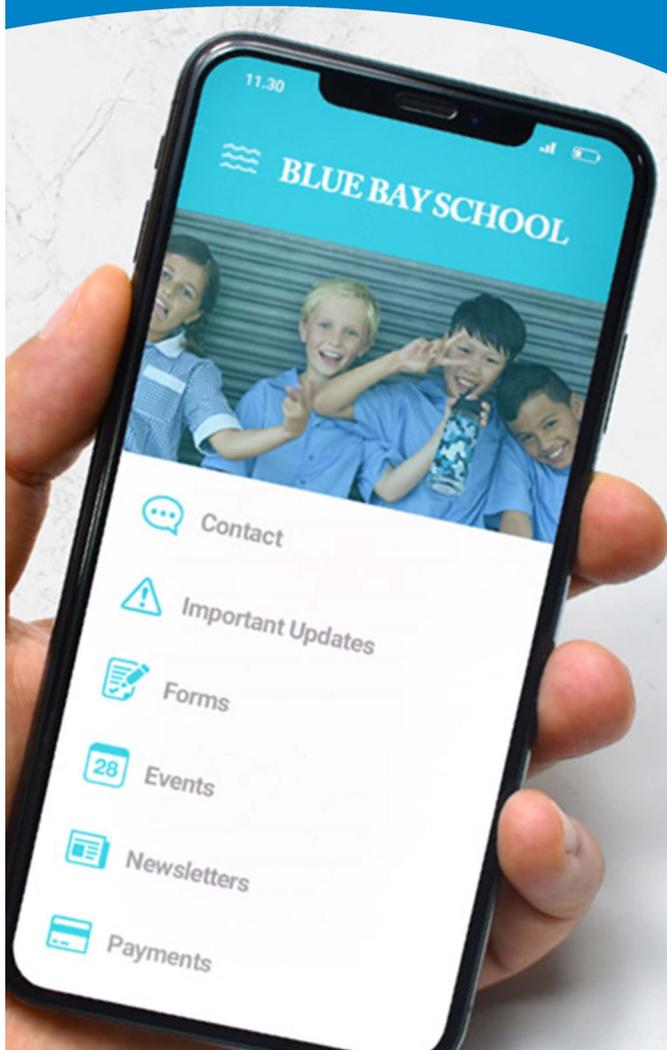
Sundays

Register via the QR code or link below:

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



# 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.