SAVE THE DATE!

FEBRUARY
16th Parents & Friends Assoc. meet 7pm
17th Year 3-12 Swimming Carnival 9:15am
24th Prep-Yr 4 & Yr 9-12 Parent Information Session 3:30pm
24th School Council Meeting
24th Little Desert Swimming (Primary) at Horsham
25th GWR Swimming (Secondary) at Warrnambool
26th Year 9-10 Tennis at Dimboola
27th Middle Years Yr 5-8 Parent Information Session 1pm

MARCH
3rd Little Desert Swimming (Secondary) at Dimboola
13th GWR Swimming (Primary) at Warrnambool
23rd-27th French Trip
25th GWR Swimming (Primary) at Warrnambool
27th LAST DAY TERM 1.

The start to the year.
Students are settling in well to the routine of school and kinder, however I would like to mention as I do from time to time throughout the year some advice for parents. Please be careful what you say in front of your child, especially in the case of other children or families – you will inevitably end up being quoted by your child and often misquoted in the terms of ‘My mum said….” Often these comments can be hurtful to other children. I am sure that as parents there are times when you would be highly embarrassed about what comes ‘out of the mouths of babes.’ As a college community, where the positive partnership between school, parents and students is vital we need to work together and remind students of the college values and encourage students to form natural friendships with other students who have the same interests. It is natural that as children grow and their interests change and they develop their own moral compass that these friendship groups can change and interchange depending on the day and the activity and that that is okay, it is a part of growing up.

Staffing
Mrs Bernadette Kirby is on leave and Mrs. Jane Francis will be the Yr 1 teacher, partnering with Mrs. Perry who is the Yr. 1 teacher on a Wednesday.

Academic Standards
Balmoral Community College is very proud to have been identified as being one of the top performing schools in the region both with VCE All Study Scores and NAPLAN results for 2015. There are times when parents consider extra tutoring for their child. Can I suggest that you come and speak to your child’s teacher before you look at these sometimes very expensive options of private tutoring.

All year levels have completed their diagnostic tests in literacy and numeracy and teachers have an accurate picture of student abilities at this point in time. Having a discussion with your child’s teacher may be able to save you time, money and your child from feeling anxious that they need further tutoring, when they may not need it at all. The following list is just a small example of the inclusive teaching strategies used by staff, which fosters positive learning experiences for students.

- Display examples of high quality finished products.
- Assist students to set short term learning goals.
- Set clear quantity, quality targets and deadlines.
- Monitor progress.
- Develop confidence in risk taking in learning
- Balance individual and group learning
- Encourage pre and post student assessment.
- Use a range of equally weighted assessment practices.
- Recognise and reward achievements in diverse ways.
The Thinking Processes.
The Thinking Processes is one of the standards, which are reported on in VELS from level 3 onwards.
Why is it important to make thinking visible?
By making thinking visible in the classroom we are giving students more to build on and learn from.
By using a language of thinking we build the students intuition to know how and when to use thinking and thoughtfulness, hypothesis, reason, evidence, possibility, imagination, perspective and routine.
By expressing respect for the process of thought you can implicitly encourage students to notice ‘problems’ as opportunities to think, discuss, analyse and form a considered response.
Inquiry learning is one teaching strategy that is used in to assist students to develop their thinking skills.

Sunscreen
The college does supply sunscreen for students to use. Currently the brand used is Everyday Ombra 50+. If you feel that your child may be sensitive to certain brands of sunscreen please provide your own brand plus a note that your child cannot use the sunscreen provided by the college.

Shake, Rattle & Read
A fun program of songs, dances, rhymes & stories for children aged 0-4 years. Commencing Tuesday 3rd March at 11:40am in the new library (straight after Playgroup). Flyer available on the Facebook Page.

Essendon Football Club Clinics
If you are interested in taking your child to an AFL Players Clinic on Tuesday 24th February, please contact Narelle Evans by the 17th February and she will pass on the final numbers to the organiser. Please contact her on 0418 575 438 or narelle@safetraining.com.au. More details on the website.

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