Mrs Hobbs’ Headlines…

Reports
As this is a short term student reports will go home the last week of term 1. Parent/Teacher interviews will take place on Wednesday April 22nd commencing at 1pm. The booking system will be open next week for parents to book an interview time.

Staffing
Ms. Bev Munro will be Acting Principal from the 23rd to 27th March. Mr. Frechette and I will be in France escorting our very excited students around France until the 6th April. Mr. Selway will take Mr. Frechette’s classes for the week.

Whole School Assembly
The first whole school assembly will be held at 1:30pm Friday 20th March in the hall. Everyone is welcome and I encourage parents to stay on and observe the Middle Years Create and Make time in action.

Sporting Events
Congratulations to all our primary and secondary swimmers who have performed so well over the last few weeks. Best of luck to those swimmers going on to the regional events and also to the boys’ tennis team who will be competing in Ballarat. Go Balmoral Community College!

Parent Complaints
This year in your parent packs there was a pamphlet which reminds parents of the protocols when you have a complaint or an issue that you feel that the college needs to address. Please read this pamphlet if you haven’t already or obtain another one from the office. Staff are entitled to a private life and under no circumstance should you ring them at home to voice a concern or issue. We do take your concerns seriously but would appreciate that correct procedure is followed. As Principal I am available to take phone calls out of hours and will follow up your concerns as promptly as possible.
Volunteering
Thankyou to the many parents and community members who have already volunteered their time to support the students and assist the college. Volunteering comes in many forms from Breaky Club to Parents Helpers, Balmoral Show coordination and volunteering on sports days.
Another form of volunteering is being a parent representative on school council. Nominations close this week so please consider being a part of school council where you can contribute to the decision making and governance of the college.

Mrs Hobbs’ Something To Think About…

Inquiry (Part 1)
What is it?
(ref: the work of Kath Murdoch and Liz Wilson – Melbourne University)
The benefits of an inquiry-based approach to teaching and learning have been well documented over several decades of educational research. Those who promote inquiry often describe the ease with which it allows for the integration of the curriculum. As students move through the process of inquiry, they can draw on several ways of investigating and expressing their growing understandings – integrating skills and content from multiple disciplines or learning areas. In recent years, we have seen a renewed interest in the use of both inquiry and integrative methods to plan and implement engaging curriculum for students. Parallel to this has been a growing emphasis on what is often described as ‘the thinking curriculum’.
At the heart of the inquiry process is the task of helping deepen students’ understandings by guiding their thinking about lower level ‘facts’ through to concepts and, ultimately, to higher level, transferable generalizations. While this ‘scaffolding’ process has been accepted for many years, we are becoming aware of the need for teachers to articulate it much more explicitly to students. This conscious ‘spotlighting’ of thinking provides a very exciting and challenging layer to the work teachers and students do in an inquiry.
When planning, teachers should ask themselves: what kind of thinking do my students need to do at this point? and then, ‘what structures or strategies might help support their thinking?’
Teachers when designing and planning need to reflect on the following:
• Is the strategy/ies suitable given the age and experience of the learners?
• Does it suit the overall, existing classroom planning?
• Do students need direct, explicit instruction to be able to use the strategy?
• Does it support or extend (not restrict) student thinking?
• Are all students able to demonstrate what they think?
• Is the strategy open ended?
• Is the strategy flexible enough to cater for all sorts of thinkers?
• Is there potential for students to adapt the strategy if they need/want to?

Do you have something you would like the school to advertise?
Please email photos and details to the schools Publicity Officer, Alex Mason, (mason.alexandra.l@edumail.vic.gov.au) and we will publish it in either the School Newsletter, the School Website and/or the School Facebook Page. Thank you.

Contact Us!

Principal: Mrs Wendy Hobbs          School Council President: Mrs Lisa Hutchins
Harrow Road, Balmoral 3407    T: 03 5570 1247    F: 03 5570 1419    E: balmoral.k12.cc@edumail.vic.gov.au
**Congratulations Isobel**

Congratulations to Isobel Davis. She entered a competition to spend 5 days with the famous horseman Pat Parelli and won. Pat Parelli created the Parelli program of natural horsemanship, which is based on his keen observation of horse behaviour, psychology and communication. These programs are run all over the world.

Isobel is very excited and very happy to win as her prize is to travel to Colorado, America for 5 days to take part in the program with Pat Parelli.

We cannot wait to see some photos and hear more about her adventure after she has been. Well done Isobel.

**Whole School Assembly**

A whole school assembly will be happening on FRIDAY MARCH 20th. It would be great if people were there at 1.30 for 1.40 start! A good variety of curriculum will be showcased from across the College and we welcome all parents the wider community to attend.

**Photo Fundraising Event**

Vision Portraits is holding a $15 photo fundraising event on **Friday 27th March 2015**. 100% of the booking fees will be raised for the school. Families, relatives and couples are all welcome. Bookings are due by Friday 20th March. Book & Pay Online www.trybooking.com/GZBB
Call (03) 9596 9400 for enquiries.

**Shake, Rattle & Read**

Tuesday 11:40am in the new Library. A fun program of songs, dances, rhymes & stories for children aged 0-4 yrs.

**2015 Internation Competitions & Assessments for Schools (ICAS)**

ICAS is the largest and independent competition and assessment program for schools in Australia and they are testing for the top 10% of Australian students in Computer Skills, English, Mathematics and Science; as well as Spelling and Writing. I am currently coordinating the English component of the testing. If you would like to enter your child or children in the competition you would be responsible for the costs associated with the testing. The prices for each student are as follows:-

- $8.80 English (Years 2-12)
- $12.10 Spelling (Years 3-7 only)
- $18.70 Writing (Years 3-12)

The **Spelling and Writing** aspects of the competition will be held on **Thursday 18th June** and the **English** testing will be held on **Thursday 30th July**. Closing dates for entries is the 18th of May. Ideally, I would like to be able to process the payments and forms by Friday the 24th of April.

If you would like your child or children to participate in this competition, please fill in an expression of interest note (download from the school website under the “For Parents” tab) and return it to the office by **Friday 20th March**. Payment will be organised at a later date. If you would like to discuss this in person, please contact me at school on 55701247.

Thanks, Maryanne Wilson.

**ICY POLES**

Yr 6 students will be selling Super Dooper Icy poles on Mondays and Thursdays during Term 1. Cost of the icy-poles
Meet the 2015 School and House Captains

Nic Kirby (Captain), Liam Parker (Vice Captain), Patrick Sullivan (Vice Captain) and Sonia Gaussen (Captain).

HOUSE CAPTAINS

MITCHELL
Senior: Liam Parker & Patrick Atchison
Junior: Grace Austin & Lachlan Craig

GLENELG
Senior: Peter Staude
Junior: Fergus Roberts & Chloe Lyons

HENTY
Senior: Nick Driver
Junior: Liam Daffey & Chloe Russell