Two day forum.
This week Mrs Kirby, Mrs McCure, Mrs Amery and myself will be attending a two day forum in Hamilton entitled the Wicked Witch’s of the West. I like the play on words that the forum has chosen because when looking at the health of a community it can often seem overwhelming as to ‘which’ area to tackle first or just how to build resilient and prosperous communities. It is easy to identify problems and much harder to find solutions that are meaningful and measurable in terms of their success. Obviously, I have a bias towards education as one of the key drivers to developing independence and living a healthy and happy life.

I look forward to reporting back on the forum and wonder what some of the take home messages for us as a college and community are? One question that I know I will have in my mind is- How do we make significant changes without relying on others to do it for us?

Sick Children
Please ensure that children remain at home if sickness occurs. If vomiting and diarrhea, they need to stay at home for another 24 hours after the systems have stopped. For more information on Gastro Enteritis go to http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au
**Parents & Friends Association**

We had our Annual General Meeting on Mon 16th Feb and as a result the following seats were elected.
President – Hamish Griffiths  Vice Pres – Ann Vaughan  Secretary – Dana Smith  
Ass Sec - Anita Weaver  Treasurer – Chrissy Flavel  
During our recent meeting we have elected to donate the amount of $2000 (over the course of the year) to the Kindergarten to help replace much needed equipment. The Kindergarten has also been given the opportunity to raise money by catering for the Horsham Rotary Bike Ride held on the Tue 17th March at the Balmoral Community College. This will be a supplied lunch and also involving the school with the selling of coffees/hot chocolates.  
The Parents and Friends Association is a great way to discover exactly what goes on within the school. Any new members would be warmly welcomed. More members brings new ideas and concepts, which makes it easier to work together for the greater benefit of the school. We will be scheduling some meetings on a weekday afternoon to cater for all parents. Please keep an eye out for an upcoming agenda and date of next meeting.

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much” – Helen Keller

Many thanks, Dana Smith
Do you have something you would like the school to advertise?
Please email photos and details to the school's 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.

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2015 International 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. Maryanne is 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.

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Parent/Teacher Interviews

To book an interview time for your child please go to the online booking system [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au)

Booking code is FEJMC.

Parent/Teacher Interviews on 22nd April from 1pm.

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School Net Set Go!

The Harrow Balmoral Football Netball Club will again be hosting the, Net Set Go netball program in 2015.

This program runs for the entire 2nd term, on Thursday afternoons, straight after school, at the Balmoral Community College. It is for children (boy & girls) aged 5 - 10. This year registration is to be completed online.

If your child is interested, please contact:

Suse McClure 0428823157 or brunei01@internode.on.net as soon as possible, so registration can be arranged.

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Kinder News

The Kindergarten had its first family function for the year. As we have been learning about under the sea we decided we would have an under the sea dress up night.

Check out the school website to see how much fun they had and see some great photos.

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Coffees will be available at the Balmoral Show this Saturday made by the BCC students.

Facebook & Website Reminder

A reminder that the school newsletter will include school related news. Community notices and school reminders will be placed on the school Facebook page and any school news stories, timetables & documents of interest will be on the School Website. Make sure you keep updated with the school Facebook and Website regularly if you wish to view this extra information.
News Items

**Balmoral Show**

Saturday 21st March 2015. Check out the schools Facebook page for all the information on what will be at the show and the Dunny Derby.

**ANZAC DAY**

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the dawn landings at Gallipoli, by the Australia New Zealand Army Corps, the Balmoral RSL Sub Branch will be conducting a dawn service beginning at 0630 am. After the dawn service, a traditional ‘rum and coffee’ will be served with an Anzac Biscuit and Breakfast for $5.00. The RSL will still host the traditional street march and service, stepping off from the Post office at 10.15 am, followed by activities at the RSL Hall.

**Easter Market & Raffle**

The Parents & Friends Association are holding an Easter Raffle. The raffle will be drawn on Easter Saturday 4th April at the Easter Market. 1st Prize is a $100 Easter Hamper. Tickets are $1 each. Tickets and money to be returned to school Wednesday 25th March or returned to the Easter Market Stall.

**Reminder that the Bulb Fundraising orders are due back this Friday, 20th March.**

**Lunchbox Blitz**

"Lunchbox Blitz" health promotion program running with students from Grades prep to 6. See below for some simple ideas for healthy snacks. Keep an eye out over the next few weeks for more tips.

**WHAT MAKES A HEALTHY SNACK?**

Here are some simple ideas for healthy snacks that you can make at home or add to lunchboxes:

- Fruit muffins or slices
- Fresh, frozen, canned or occasionally dried fruit
- Raisin or fruit toast*
- Toasted English muffins, preferably wholerneal or wholegrain*
- Rice crackers or corn cakes
- Plain popcorn
- Scones or pikelets (plain, fruit or savoury)/*
- Snack-sized tub of yoghurt
- Cubes or wedges of cheese with wholegrain crackers
- Potatoes, topped with cheese and baked in the microwave or oven
- Corn on the cob*
- A boiled egg.

* use spreads in small amounts


**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