From the Principal’s Desk:

Welcome back to 2014.

What an excited buzz in the playground on Thursday and Friday last week. It is a delight to see our children back at school looking so happy and rested after the Summer break. Now it seems we will be having some true Summer hot weather. We will be sharing the air-conditioned classrooms, operating Hot day programs when the temperature exceeds 35 degrees and making sure we are all well hydrated and relaxed in cooler shaded areas. There are blinds being installed on some internal windows and the shade-cloth for the northern side of the Learning Centre should be installed very soon.

The completion of the newly installed modular classrooms was delayed due to the extreme heat. I am happy to say that the interior is now complete and the grades have moved in. We are delighted with the quality of the finish and they will be great places to be.

Unfortunately the installation of the artificial turf has been delayed by the unexpected need to excavate deeper and install drainage. The works for this will begin this week so please watch out for the heavy equipment in the yard over the next few days.

Crossing

The new pedestrian crossing in Scotia Street was completed in time for the opening of the school year. Di, one of our police parents, will be taking all the kids Prep – 6 through a road safety session on the correct use of crossings. Darebin Council will not be providing a Crossing Supervisor.

With the installation of the crossing and the new disabled parking space, the parking signage has changed in the front of the school. I advise all parents to observe this signage as the Darebin Council Traffic Management Unit will be patrolling the area regularly.

Diary dates

There are four parent information evening sessions scheduled for this term so mark them in your diary as they always prove to be very popular.

Parent Information sessions – These will be held over the week beginning February 10th. The area teams will be giving information of class organisation, curriculum units, activities planned etc. Each area level will send home the details to you this week. Information on the ‘Getting To Know You’ interviews is later in the Bell News.

Year 6-7 Transition – March 5th. This is an introductory information session for the parents of grade 5 and 6 students as they go through the challenging process of selecting a secondary school and address the issues of preparing their child for the challenges ahead.

Cybersafety – March 12th. There will be a parent information session on the safe use of the internet at home.

Sexuality – March 19th. This is a repeat session on the well-received sexuality session, Talking the Talk, held late last year.

Our new Junior School council will be running a tabloid sports afternoon for the junior and senior school during March as a fun introductory session to the school year. These will be held on a Friday afternoon during school hours. Dates are yet to be confirmed. Due to size of the school enrolment, we will not be holding a Twilight Sports evening event this year.

Pupil Free Day: Please be advised that Friday 22nd Feb is a Pupil Free Day for Teacher Professional Development. Please make alternate arrangements for your children on this day. OSHClub will be running on this day.

Health Alert! One of our parents have advised us that their child was diagnosed with chicken pox this recent weekend.
Talking ‘The Talk’ With Sexuality Educator Vanessa Hamilton

- An information session providing parents with important sexuality information that is useful for having these important discussions with children.
- Tips and ideas on how to answer children’s questions and explain sexuality topics to all ages.
- A presentation that is both informative and looks on the bright side of teaching children about this sometimes challenging topic.

For all Parents and carers of Primary School Age children: Prep to Grade 6.

Wednesday March 19th.

*Please note: this session is not designed for children to attend, thank you.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & PUPIL FREE DAY (21/02/2014).

Our Annual Implementation Plan is the document that guides our teaching practices and goals for the current year. At Bell P.S our mantra is that all children will be Literate, Numerate and Curious, this is in line with the Northern Metropolitan Region initiative that has been so successful in raising the achievement standards of students across the Northern Region Schools.

To support teachers in their understanding of current research and ‘best practice,’ we provide Professional Development as an ‘in-house’ program and with teachers participating in other courses. This year we have been very fortunate in engaging the services of Dr Jeni Wilson from Melbourne University. Dr Wilson works in the field of Inquiry Learning which supports our students being curious and diverse as they follow many of their interests seeking explanations about the world around them.

Dr Wilson will work with teaching teams across the school for 9 days this year, engaging with their classroom practice and participating in team meetings to support Inquiry Learning. These days are spread throughout the year in order to allow teachers time to put into practice their new knowledge and routines and will fit into the regular routines of day to day school, including our normal meeting schedule times.

To commence our work on Inquiry Learning Dr Wilson will present a Curriculum Day on Friday February 21. This will assist us in our initial immersion into the program that we will continue to build on. Our Curriculum Day will be a PUPIL FREE DAY, so please make alternate arrangements for your children on that day.

Marg Sneddon, Assistant Principal – Teaching and Learning

NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL

Tours in 2014 - for Year 7 Prospective Parents and Students

Please ring our office on 9488 2300 to reserve a place. Tours start at 9.15 am and take about one hour

Term 1, 2014 dates are listed on our website. Tours will end in mid May.

Open Morning - 2014

Open Morning will be on Thursday 24 April, 2014, from 9.15 am - 12.00 noon. Information sessions will be held through the morning. A repeat information session will also run at 7 pm on Thursday 24 April. The open morning is a great way to see the school in action. (There is no need to book for this event)

ACE Program Yr 7 entry - 2015

Northcote High School’s ACE program is now in its 18th year of operation. Applications Close: Monday 28 April 2014. Test Date: Saturday May 3, 2014. Please see our website for details.
My first day of school...

By our new Bell Preps.

The start of school is always an exciting time for the new preppies and their families. Last Thursday or Friday each of our preps came to school for their first full day of learning. The morning begun with the classroom routines of marking the roll and discussing the calendar. We then practiced singing the days of the week in order and read a story called 'Too Loud Lily' to help us establish what the appropriate noise level is inside the classroom.

After having a play and eating our morning tea, we then talked about our school uniform; why we wear it and what it looks like. The preps then completed an activity where they drew a self-portrait, making sure they used the correct colours of our school uniform. We then had our fruit and veggie snack before practicing some counting and one-to-one correspondence using dice and counters in maths.

Outside we played on the basketball court, playground equipment and sandpit before returning to the classroom and having Circle Time. In Circle Time we shared some of the great things we did outside and discussed any problems that may have occurred (e.g. not having a game to play) so that we could find solutions.

For the final session of the day we recapped all of the wonderful things we had done and drew pictures of something from our first day at school. All of the preppies were really brave and had a go at doing some writing which was fantastic. We hope all of the preps enjoyed their first day of school as much as their teachers did!
The second half of our new ‘Mod5’ portable building arrives on the last day of school for 2013.

Workmen have spent several weeks over the holidays providing essential services and giving it a good spit & polish.

Kelly Sports Begins this Tuesday after school! Enrol now!

Kelly Sports provides an after school program at Bell which means that your children will have a blast whether they are grooving to the beats in one of our dance classes, working on their balance in gymnastics, hitting a six in cricket or giving it all a go in one of our action packed and exciting multisport programmes. And as our coaches are police vetted and AASC trained, you can have confidence that your children are well taken care of, giving you that little extra time at the end of the day to finish that last bit of paper work or catching up with a friend before picking up your little superstar!

But in saying this, if you want to see what your child has been up to, you are more than welcome to attend our programmes and who knows, you may even find yourself wanting to get involved too!

Bright Sparks is a unique program that inspires children to engage imaginatively. Children represent their experiences through visual imagery, 3D art making, movement, sound, literature and dramatic improvisation.

A creative arts therapist attends to each child’s experience, helping them to learn about themselves and their relationship to others. This process encourages children to develop greater self confidence and a sense of themselves as individuals.

Bright Sparks is currently offered through a series of after-school workshops for children from Prep to Grade 2. Each session is specifically designed in response to each child’s individual needs. Workshops are run in small groups of up to six children. Individual sessions are also available.

To find out more about Bright Sparks at Bell, contact Naomi Williams on 0421 914 220 or email: naomi@brightsparks.id.au
Fun-Key Music classes are designed for primary children to learn singing and some dancing as an extra-curricular activity. The main focus of this performance-based program is to teach basic music concepts in a non-threatening environment.

At Fun-Key Music we are very serious about teaching correct singing, breathing and performance techniques but as our name suggests we are also very serious about having fun. The classes are primarily singing based, but incorporate choreographed dancing as well as drama and basic music theory. Students perform a variety of styles of music - from the current top 40 songs, to musical comedy, folk and standard classics.

Fun-Key Music is returning soon to Bell on Tuesday February 11.

Level 1 (Grades 1&2) @3.45
Level 2 (Grades 3,4,5) Taking expressions of interest.
Prep Later in 2014.

Please email Sharon.miller@heydeeho.com or call 0412 538 282 to join. Please note: Students from last year will be automatically re-enrolled. LIMITED NUMBERS!

SealPony Soccer is a developmental & participation program that introduces boys and girls aged between 5–10 to the game of football (soccer). It focuses on teaching the basic skills.

* Fun games & activities* Great giveaways

For more information call Joe(0415-388-028)
E-mail: jyamen@optusnet.com.au
Time: Every Sunday Morning Starting Date: 9th of March 2014
Registration Date: Saturday 10am –11 am 22nd of February 2014
Address: James Street Reserve
Heidelberg Heights 3081

Bell French Club Term 1

Only a couple of remaining places available for Term 1.

Supportive, stimulating and fun learning environment with native speaker and experienced teacher of French.

Children of all ages and experience welcome. Feel positive about learning another language. Come and develop an ear and a feel for French with us.

Awesome preparatory experience for future high school language learners!

Thursdays 3.45pm–4.45pm (Mezzanine area in main building)

All enroled kids get access to our great online resource:

Enquiries:
Jim Callahan, 0432 719 034, jim.callahan@lcfclubs.com.au

After School Chinese Program

Learning Chinese as Second Language

Resumes this Thursday!
New School Satchels

As you may be aware communication is one of our key school priorities. We present many forums for information across the school including the Bell P.S website, Class Blogs, Information Sessions, Parent/Teacher interviews, Class Newsletters and our fortnightly Newsletter and alternate weeks the School Calendar. Survey results have consistently shown that the preferred form of receiving information and keeping up to date with what is happening at school is through the fortnightly Newsletter and information specific to your child that comes home in the form of a notice. To support our priority of good communication every child in the school will receive a Blue Bell P.S Satchel. These satchels are for all Newsletters and notices going home so that a) they can be easily identified and b) it keeps them in good condition, not squashed under a banana at the bottom of the school bag. These satchels will be re-used each year as your child progress through Bell P.S.

Children may have also mentioned that they have a Gold Satchel. These are for each student from Grade 1 – Grade 4 and they are for Independent Reading. The Gold satchels will stay at school and will be passed on to the child’s new teacher at the end of each year.

Children in grades Prep to 4 also have a Red satchel which is for their take-home reader. Again this helps to protect our books as they travel to and from school and assists with identifying the child’s take home book.

Marg Sneddon
Assistant Principal

At
Bell
On
Sat.
Feb.
22nd
Each year, all students participate in the Bell Primary School START UP Program. The START UP program enables teachers and students to jointly explore, negotiate and decide how the school values, code of conduct, You Can Do It work Habits, student expectations and teacher expectations will be used to create a great learning and teaching environment for each classroom. It provides classes with lots of fun filled opportunities to get to know each other and develop positive relationships. These explicit expectations, guidelines, skills and strategies are based on the AUSVELS personal and interpersonal curriculum.
Pythagoras Greek School comes to Bell Primary

Pythagoras Greek School is a highly regarded school of the Greek Language and Culture. It was opened in 1969 by George Roubos and currently run by his son Constantine Roubos. It is steeped with those traditions, values and expectations that effectively prepare our young people become proud and confident learners of our rich language, history and culture.

The mission of Pythagoras Greek School is to provide education and instruction of the Greek language, culture, and heritage; to enhance bi-cultural and bilingual awareness; and to promote the moral and ethical values of the Christian Orthodox Religion. Education is both intellectually and morally intertwined with self-esteem and discipline. Our goal is to focus on each student’s abilities and help him/her grow to their full potential!

Pythagoras Greek School provides a balanced and comprehensive academic curriculum serving as a strong foundation for the undertaking of V.C.E. LOTE Greek Units in their senior years of secondary education. Our students achieve a high academic standard with a proven record of outstanding results at the V.C.E. Level.

We would like to thank the School Council and principal Ms Cresten Pearce, wholeheartedly, for accepting our application to teach our magnificent language and culture at Bell Primary School. We hope to forge a long lasting working relationship serving not only the Greek community but also the wider community of Preston.

To find out more about our wonderful Greek School call us on 0417 393 025 or email us on principal@pythagoras.vic.edu.au. You can also follow us on Facebook!

Constantine Roubos (BEd, BDsc)
Principal
Hello Everyone,

Welcome back!! We hope you all had a safe and relaxing break. We would like to welcome all new families to the service. Please remember Term 1 is no hat no play policy so please ensure all children bring a hat. Our places are filling up fast so be sure to make bookings online.

PS: If you have any feedback or queries, please don’t hesitate to contact us via phone or email. If you have any complaints that cannot be resolved by the coordinator, you can contact OSH Club head office via email admin@oshclub.com.au or by phone on 8564 9000. Remember you must book your children in to before or after care via the OSH Club website http://www.oshclub.com.au

NB: PUPIL FREE DAY ON 21.2. DETAILS TO BE ADVISED.

PS: No hat No outdoor play

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<th>Monday</th>
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<td>Activities</td>
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<td>#chinese dragon</td>
<td>#Chinese hand print</td>
<td>#Chinese Lanterns</td>
<td>#Chinese Hat</td>
<td>#Chinese coin tree</td>
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<tr>
<td>#123 basketball</td>
<td>#Markers up</td>
<td>#Ball Games</td>
<td>#ABC basketball</td>
<td>#Fruit Salad</td>
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<td>#Hit the target</td>
<td>#Chinese Fan</td>
<td>#Dragon mask</td>
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<td>#Colours game</td>
<td>#Warlocks/Witches</td>
<td>#Cheese scrolls</td>
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<td>#Pancakes</td>
<td>#Chinese drawings</td>
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OSHC program phone: 0413123119
OSHC Head Office: 03 85649000
Coordinator: Barbz Finnigan
Assistants: Anna, Maria, Cheryl, Amanda, Dave.
All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.

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**Primary Music Institute**

**KEYBOARD LESSONS**

Significant academic research shows that instrumental music lessons can improve your child’s school results – including for reading, maths, coordination and confidence.

Thirty minutes per week of practice at home is all that is required to see substantial improvement in their musical ability!

**New Enrolments are currently being accepted for Term 1, 2014.**


Our small group lessons provide a fun and affordable opportunity to learn music.

Reminder for existing students: re-enrolment from one term to the next (including from one year to the next) is automatic so you do not need to send in a new enrolment form each term.
WELCOME TO THE GRADE 3-4 TEAM IN 2014

It was great to see the kids arrive back at school full of enthusiasm and excitement. Everyone seemed to settle in quickly to their new classroom environments. We are currently unpacking our School Values over the coming week which will help set the expectations of everyone for 2014. We look forward to working with you all this year.

Our team Blog is up and running, so please check it on a regular basis. We include the Bell News and other important information you may require as well as lots of images. When you visit, don’t forget to leave a post.

The 3-4 Team: Joy/Keara/Dean/Xenia

Notes From The Office:

Dear Parents,

Please check your child / children’s bags this week for the parent pack with appropriate documents for the start of year, local walking excursion form, student code of conduct and a new images form for all students, etc.

EMA forms are available from the carousel in the front foyer. EMA form needs to be completed and handed into the office by 28th February, 2014. Eligibility is from 28th January, 2014.

Thanks
Annette

As we grow, so too does our admin staff. Joining Robyn & Annette in the office from this year is long time Bell person, Martin Cooke. Martin does most of the usual admin things and also continues to edit the Bell News and Bell Website.

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T.A.R.A.: TEENAGE AGGRESSION: RESPONDING ASSERTIVELY

A one day workshop for parents of adolescents who behave violently at home: Understand how violence works—Get concrete strategies to reduce violence—Improve your relationship with your child—Understand adolescent development—Improve communication—Share with other parents

On Wednesday 19th March 2014 9.30am – 4.00pm

Open to families from Whittlesea, Banyule, Nillumbik & Darebin

For enquiries please contact: 9450 4700
1978: Here is what lining up was like over 35 years ago. Apart from the seventies fashion of the student’s casual clothes, you’ll notice that students are lining up where the Prep classes are currently located in our main building.

The building was modified in the late 1980’s to accommodate our growing community.

Just Right Books

We support students with their independent reading by teaching them about ‘Just Right’ books. Finding a ‘Just Right’ book can be a daunting task and if students aren’t supported with this they may make inappropriate choices that lead to frustration and to them becoming a reluctant reader.

We encourage students to be able to identify the type of books they like reading by knowing if:

- it is a favorite author
- there is a particular text type that they like, for example: fantasy, mystery, realistic fiction, non-fiction or biography
- they enjoy reading books that are part of a series
- they are looking for a book that holds a special interest for them that they can bring prior knowledge to, for example sport, Egypt or hobbies

Students need to be able to:

- *read with a high rate of accuracy
- maintain the meaning of the text they are reading as they gradually learn new words and deal with gradually more complex sentence structures
- apply the five finger test (more than five words on a page that they cannot read) to determine whether the readability is suitable

*students read independently to enjoy reading and to understand what they are reading without having to struggle with a text. This gives them the opportunity to put into practice all of the skills and strategies that they are being taught at school.

If your child is struggling with a text and needs your support constantly, ask them if they think it is a ‘just right’ text for them, one that they can manage mostly on their own and still understand. Often these texts which are of high interest to the students, but not yet manageable by them are a good choice for you to share and read together.

Happy Reading Everyone!!

*Marg Sneddon, Assistant Principal.*
### Feb–March 2014

#### Events Calendar

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<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td>9.00 Assembly GR 1-6*</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>No Preps today - Introductory interviews</td>
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<td>9.00 Assembly P-2*</td>
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<td>Parent Info Evening (tbc)</td>
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<td>Parent Info Evening (tbc)</td>
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<td>9.00 PlayGroup</td>
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<td>No Preps today - Introductory interviews</td>
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<td>Parent Info Evening (tbc)</td>
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<td>9.00 Assembly 3-6*</td>
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<td>No Preps today - Introductory interviews</td>
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<td>Curriculum - Pupil Free Day</td>
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<td>9.00 PlayGroup</td>
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<td>Parent Info Evening (tbc)</td>
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<td>9.30-12.3 District Tennis</td>
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<td>7.00pm School Council</td>
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<td>Darebin Parents Bike Ed</td>
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<td>Sunday Crew</td>
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<td>10.00-1.00 District Swimming</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>9.00-11.00 Summer Sport</td>
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<td>9.00 Assembly—Whole School*</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>No Preps today - Introductory interviews</td>
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<td>9.00 PlayGroup</td>
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*Please be advised that Assembly this year may be postponed or rescheduled due to weather conditions.*

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### Permission Slips & Payment Reminders!

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<tr>
<th>All Families</th>
<th>Books &amp; Requisites Levy</th>
<th>Now overdue</th>
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Martin.