What a great week we have had! There has been so much on for the students. As you read our newsletter you will see reports on the Social Justice Club trip to Save the Children, Barriers to Education Conference, the Active tag launch, the Social Justice Walkathon and T20 cricket training. The Clubs program is in full swing and on some days we have up to 100 students taking part in one club or another at lunchtimes.

We are in full swing planning for 2015 but the year isn’t over yet! The Community Funday is rolling up and the place is buzzing with final preparations. Don’t forget to buy your raffle and ride tickets in the lead up to the day.

### Annual Fundraising Funds Survey results

The annual survey always provides us with lots of valuable feedback.

The following table has the top 9 community suggestions for the use of the 2014 Fundraising money.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Library books and reading resources</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blinds in classrooms</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor seating and tables</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shade-sails on Northern oval</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat screen TVs</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelving for classrooms</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Play areas</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed data projectors</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More monkey bars, play equipment</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photocopier</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased security in grounds – higher fences</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double story portables to preserve outdoor space</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove canteen and shelter shed to accommodate new classrooms</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There have been interesting suggestions that do not come under the Fundraising focus but the feedback has been given to School Council.

School Council has decided to fund the top 4 projects – library books and reading resources, blinds in classrooms, outdoor seating and tables and Shade-sails on the northern red play equipment. Any further decisions will be made once quotes are obtained and final totals for the year are available. It is most likely that a big ticket item will be selected as a savings goal for long term projects.

### Other feedback /requests

- More excursions and incursions. We will arrange more over 2015 and these are funded by parents not fundraising money.
- Portable goalposts. We do have these and have suggested to Tom that they should be put out more often.
- A Grounds Plan and general maintenance is part of the role of the School Council Gardens and Grounds Committee.
Volunteer Helpers Morning Tea.

The morning tea to thank volunteer helpers is scheduled for Wednesday December 10th at 10.30 in the Learning Centre. This is our opportunity to thank all the help that parents, grandparents and friends give to us at the school to help make the school the best possible place for our children.

The list is endless and many helpers may go unnoticed.

Whether it is manning the stalls, covering books, baking cakes, contributing to school policies or the myriad of other tasks, School Council would like to thank you for your contribution to the school.
Lulu Blackburn: Respect. Lulu can always be counted on at pack up time to ensure that the table tubs are neatly packed away. She checks to see that there are the right number of glue sticks, grey leads and scissors in each tub. Lulu is also a fantastic helper in the library; finding books that have been placed in the wrong letter and relocating them to where they belong.

Zac D'Onofrio: Teamwork. For being a really fantastic buddy to his kinder visitor. You used really kind words and actions.

Sylvia Pineros: Creativity. For using lots of descriptive language in her writing to make it much more interesting. Sylvia provides lots of details about things, particularly when describing the appearance of them. Keep up the great work Sylvia!

Angus Chapman: For working amazingly during poetry writing with Delia, creating several cinquain poems and publishing them using the iPads. Amazing teamwork!

Delia Haselgrove: For working amazingly during poetry writing with Angus, creating several cinquain poems and publishing them using the iPads. Amazing teamwork!

Owen Fennessy: Learning. For working hard on his spelling writing goal. Owen has been practising using the rule of 'bossy e' in his writing and chunks. Well done Owie!

Oscar Binney: Honesty. After finding an animal collector card on the ground, Oscar put it safely in his folder. When he saw that Klara was visibly upset about losing it, he returned it to her straight away. What an honest student you are Oscar!

Otis Williamson: Creativity. For writing and publishing a wonderfully descriptive acrostic poem about frogs. Fantastic work Otis!

Oliver Presutto: Teamwork. For looking after his buddy in transition. Ollie showed his buddy how to bounce the basket ball and was very patient giving him lots of turns to practice. He also changed to a different activity when his buddy wanted to try something new.

Sienna Tonderys: Respect. Sienna has been working hard in class lately. She has independently been completing tasks and staying focused. Great work!

Lachlan Sucher: Lachlan has demonstrated teamwork by working cooperatively with others to achieve a set goal. I particularly liked the way he included everyone in his group during the task of making a movie using iPads.

Ivy Miller: Ivy has demonstrated teamwork by working cooperatively with others to achieve a set goal. I particularly liked the way she considered the opinions of others during the task of making a movie using iPads.

Henry Gangoiti: Respect - by working hard, listening in class and putting his hand up when he wants to share something. Henry is practising using his words to help fix any problems. Well done Henry!

Lulu Poulteny: Creativity - by trying new ideas and adding detail to her giant drawings and her setting map for the class novel, The B.F.G. They look fantastic Lulu!

Angus Chapman: Teamwork. By working amazingly during poetry writing with Delia, creating several cinquain poems and publishing them using the iPads. Amazing teamwork!

Anine Rocco: Learning. Anine has demonstrated the value of learning through her consistent approach to learning in all areas. Anine always tried her very best during class times and preserves with every task. Keep up the fabulous positive attitude Anine, your learning curve is soaring!

Ethan Ko: Ethan has demonstrated the value of creativity through his narrative writing piece on 'Cody and Rex 2.' Ethan used similes to create a strong image in the reader's mind. Keep up the great work Ethan!

Delia Haselgrove: Teamwork. By working amazingly during poetry writing with Angus, creating several cinquain poems and publishing them using the iPads. Amazing teamwork!

Sarah MacPhee: Respect. Sarah is always respectful to her peers and teacher. She listens attentively, offers her ideas and works hard to help others do their best. Excellent job Sarah!

Zain Moustafa: Learning - by researching about Ancient Egypt for his independent project and learning lots of new facts. Great work, Zain.

Anna Sanders: Teamwork - by working with a partner to create an awesome diorama of a unicorn's habitat. Well done, Anna.

Mia Dunstone: For Organisation - Mia ensures that she has all materials ready to begin set tasks. Her organised approach to learning assists her to begin tasks promptly and manages her time wisely until all tasks are completed.

Olivia Brouwer: Respect. Olivia is always kind to her classmates and younger students, she is reliable and responsible and friendly. Well done Olivia on your respectful attitude.

Angelina Barrett Correia: Resilience. For adjusting back into life at Bell so smoothly after her time away. Well done Angelina.
When Malcolm Dix found himself taking life too quickly and too seriously, he decided to take a dose of his own medicine.

Everywhere I go I hear from parents that they are too busy, too stressed, and have too much to do and not enough time. Many social observers say parents seeing themselves as ‘time poor’ is at epidemic levels, a belief that is only compounded by technology that enables us to be connected 24/7. At one point I personally had to take some time to stop and honestly reflect upon my own life and that of my family. It didn’t take long for me to see that I too had become caught up in the ‘busyness’ of life. I knew that for the sake of my kids and my family, I had to make a change but it requires a day-in day-out conscious level of commitment – a commitment to practise joy, fun, patience, forgiveness, silliness, bad dancing and reflection. Currently I’m doing seven things to calm my life down and that of my family while trying to create more space for my children to simply enjoy their childhood. (Some of the following I’m sure you already do but it’s taken me a while to figure them out).

My strategies to slow down and not be so busy are as follows:

1. **Eat together as a family at the table at least four nights a week** There has been more and more written about the importance of families eating together and the positive effect it has on children and adults alike. I have to say I’m enjoying it.

2. **Avoid watching the nightly news** I’ve stopped watching the news and to my surprise the sky never collapsed as I had feared. I’m a much happier man not watching the oh-so-depressing’ news.

3. **Turn off the TV and sit around an open fire** I’ve constructed a simple fire pit in our inner-city backyard and every second weekend my partner, the kids and I toast marshmallows, listen to funny songs, talk and look up at the stars. Who needs to go camping to enjoy the outdoors! My eldest boy (13 years old) is also learning to set a fire and his younger brothers are learning a lot about flames, hot coals and what happens to marshmallows when they are left in the fire for too long. Meanwhile my 16-year-old daughter will stare at the flames for an hour thinking about who knows what … but for me this is better than seeing her staring at social media or watching mindless television.

4. **Dance together** I’ve made the conscious decision to start dancing in the kitchen with my kids at least three times a week. I can’t dance to save myself, however I have three boys and if they are ever going to learn to dance and be comfortable with moving their bodies, I suddenly realized I have to lead the way. This parenting caper sure can be humiliating at times, but we wouldn’t have it any other way.

5. **Exercise together** I exercise with my kids at least four times a week, usually at the local park kicking the footy, throwing a frisbee, running with our dog and so on. I have realised that the best way to get them all moving is by moving myself too.

6. **Explore nature together** I’ve started spending more time in nature with my kids by taking them to the river, the hills, lakes, nature parks. I keep it local, with the occasional longer drive on weekends. I contacted my local council and found so many fun things to do as a family in my local area that I never knew existed … who would have thunk it!

7. **Limit your own social networking** I have severely reduced my time spent on social media such as Facebook, Twitter etc. My personality type could disappear into social media and never come back so I knew I had to significantly change my ways and, once again, it’s all about positive role modelling for my kids.

So there you have it, my strategies for simplifying and calming my family life. As a result I’m happier, less stressed and far more ‘present’ for everyone which, in turn, is having a positive effect on my kids.

*This article is from Michael Grosse Parenting Ideas Program. (Courtesy of Ruth Vonarx- Student Wellbeing Coordinator)*
COMMUNITY

TUNDAY

This Saturday NOV 29 10-3PM

The sausage sizzle and coffee will be open from 8am, & cakes/craft around 9am. Rides, activities, silent auction, entertainment, stalls etc will kick off from 10am!

What can you do this week?

If you haven't already, volunteer for a shift. We especially need helpers here:
- Snow cones (4 vacancies)
- Nachos (4 vacancies)
- Fairy Floss (5 vacancies)

Head to http://vols.pt/MTJmr8 to put your name down on these or other shifts. Extra helpers mean shorter queues on the day!

- Bake your cake, slice, biscuits, toffees etc & deliver them to the staffroom Friday between 3 - 6pm, or on Funday to the cake stall. Extra packaging available at the office.

- Kids - find your snail for the Snail Race! Race starts 11.15 on Funday!

- The Silent Auction will run from 10 am to 2.30pm on Funday! A list of the Silent Auction items will be on display in the office this week. A full list is also available via the links on the school website and the Funday Facebook page. Happy bidding!

- The raffle will be drawn at 2pm on Funday. Can everyone PLEASE return any unsold tickets and/or ticket butts and money to the School Office ASAP.

- Keep dropping off:
  - Lucky Jars
  - Chocolate blocks (200g)
  - Bric-a-brac, books, CDs, DVDs etc for Bell's Bazaar to the amazing volunteers at the shelter shed before & after school in the lead up to Fun Day. Sign up for a Funday shift there too!

- 'Like' our pages to keep up to date Bell Primary Fundraising Bell Primary School Funday

- Pre-ordered Rides passes and hand passes will be sent home on Thursday with the kids.

- Workshops on Funday!
  - 10.15am - 11.15 Learn How to Juggle (Beginners)
  - 11.30am - 12.30 Making Comics with Matt Magain
  - 12.45pm - 1.45 Learn How to Juggle + Tricks (Beginner/Intermediate)
  - 2.00pm - 3pm Hip Hop Workshop with John McGuiness

Attention all Crafters! We need your stock!
If you have been busy on your craft projects for the Funday stall, Amanda and Chris will be available at school on Friday morning from 8.45 till 9.30 for collection. We will be located at Funday central - the old bike shed near the blue playground.
If you can't drop off on Friday please contact Amanda on amanda_dunstone@yahoo.com.au to arrange another time.

Anyone who has responded the VolunteerSpot callout who will be generously supplying marquees, tables, eskies please bring them along this week, clearly labelled, to the shelter shed cage drop-off point.

ALL the proceeds raised from Funday will go towards improving the school.

#bellfunday Keep up with the kids & hashtag your Funday Snaps on Instagram & Facebook
Schools use smartcard technology to get more students to ride to school

November 21, 2014 - 12:15AM

Adam Carey
Transport Reporter for The Age
View more articles from Adam Carey
Follow Adam on Twitter Follow Adam on Google+ Email Adam

Press Release from Bicycle Victoria: Hi-tech tags encourage students to ride and walk.

Bell Primary School in Melbourne’s northern suburbs has become Australia’s second ActiveTag school by launching the hi-tech initiative (which measures students travel habits) for the school’s 500 students today.

Developed by Bicycle Network’s Ride2School Program, Active Tag encourages students to ride or walk to school through the use of a swipe cards with radio-frequency identification (RFID).

As they arrive at school, students swipe on an interactive hub - on a symbol of a bike (if they rode to school) or a symbol of feet (if they walked) giving an accurate snapshot of how students are travelling.

The program was launched about a month ago at Malvern Valley Primary School in Melbourne’s southeast and has already shown some fantastic results. Out of the 220 students, more than half of them are now actively travelling to school by walking or riding a bike on a daily basis.

Other results show:
- 30 less students are being dropped off by car to Malvern Valley Primary School
- 15 more students are riding each day to school
- 16 more students are walking each day to school (one previously took Public Transport to school)
- Tags have been swiped more than 1740 times

Bicycle Network’s General Manager of Behaviour Change Tess Allaway said the initial results were fantastic and that similar results were expected from Bell Primary in Coburg.

“We’re really excited about the success of ActiveTag, it’s great to see students embracing the use of the swipe technology,” she said.

Bell Primary School Principal Cresten Pearce said getting students active, and being a sustainable school, made the ActiveTag initiative a great fit for the school. “Rather than allocating more valuable inner city open space to the car, we are focusing our energies on increasing the number of children who walk and ride to school,” Ms Pearce said.

Ms Allaway said encouraging students to actively travel to school boosts independence and is a crucial part of education and development skills.

“Students who ride or walk to school are happier and healthier in the long term, as regular physical activity reduces their risk of preventable diseases like Type 2 Diabetes, heart disease and some cancers.

“They also arrive at school energised and ready to learn,” she said.

Ms Allaway said with only two out of every 10 students across Australia actively travelling to school – the ActiveTag initiative is a unique and exciting way for schools to encourage students to actively travel and increase the numbers of students being active,” she said.
Special Invitation

You are cordially invited to a Special Morning Tea

At Bell Primary School in the Learning Centre

10.30 am – 11.30am on Wednesday December 10th, 2014

This morning tea is to thank parents who have helped us significantly during the year.

We hope you are able to attend

Principal & Staff

Return to student’s teacher for catering numbers

Family Helpers Morning Tea

I, ................................................................. will be attending at 10.30 am – 11.30am on Wednesday December 10th, 2014

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**Special Events**

**Taskworks**

A reminder that the grade 2/3 day camp to Taskworks will be held this Thursday 27th November. Students will depart school at 1:30 and arrive back at Bell PS at 8:30pm approx.

Students can come out of uniform, but please ensure that they wear comfortable clothing so that they can successfully undertake the activities at Taskworks. Parts of the facility are socks only; the other sections require runners (no black soled shoes please). Students will also require a large named water bottle and lunch, as we will be eating before we depart. Dinner and snack will be provided by Taskworks.

**T20 Blast**

The district T20 blast comp will be held this Friday 28th November. Permission notes and payment are required by Wednesday 26th November. Students will be able to catch a bus to and from the event and will need to be in school uniform and bring sun smart hat, drink bottle, as well as a snack and Lunch.

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**Physical Education with Tom Witherden**
Maths Tutoring

Register your interest for 2015

Upper primary students
Preparation for secondary school
Competitive hourly rate

Year 10 advanced maths student, references available.

Call: 0421 072 372
Or
Email: pat0022@phsc.vic.edu.au

http://au.movember.com/mospace/6814877

The Social Justice Group caught the tram to Federation Square to attend the Barriers to Education Conference run by Save the Children. (See student reports below.) Then, last Friday the 5/6 Walkathon raised $250 that will be donated to Oxfam. Students walked right through recess and were supported by students from across the school. Then as the rest of the school settled back into the classroom the 5/6s continued walking for the next 1 1/2 hours! A big thank-you for everyone’s support!

We’ve had a tremendous response to our dry-goods-drive with the generous Bell community already donating over 20 boxes full of pasta, long life milk, biscuits and sauces. Half of these will be donated to the Livingston Community Centre and half to the Darebin Information and Volunteer Resource Service. We are collecting until the end of November.

On Tuesday 18th November, 20 people were selected to go to the Barriers to Education Conference. At the conference there were guides and the helped you get around to the different “schools” they had set up at Federation Square. They all had something “wrong” with them, for example, in one school the teacher spoke another language to us so it was hard to learn anything. Another was set up as if it was in a war zone. I’m pretty sure everyone learnt how lucky we are to have the education that some people don’t have.


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Finally, last Monday, 60 pairs of shoes were bundled and boxed and delivered to Fitzroy Podiatry, collection point for Shoes for Planet Earth. We also delivered 3 boxes of toiletries to St Mary’s House of Welcome who run a shower service for the homeless every Monday. The place was pumping and our donations were very much appreciated.


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Michaela.
On the 14th of November, several grade fours, fives and sixes participated in the district triathlon. It was a fun day, but competition still loomed in the air. Many races occurred and all the Bell Primary kids and parents cheered for the children to swim, run or bike as much as they possibly could. People came first, second, even last, although it does not matter, because it's for fun, winning isn't all that important.

Swimmers had to swim 100 metres, runners had to run 1km and bike riders had to ride 2km.

**Meanwhile… back at Bell (photos by Georgie and Ange)** Those left back at school participated in some sporting activities of their own, including a game of rounders as well as diamond cricket, in preparation for the T20 bash coming up this Friday.
3/4 HAVE GOT RHYTHM AND SOME MELODY TOO!

This term grade 3/4 students have been working on whole class ensemble skills. Its been a step by step process where the students first learn to sing the song ‘I’ve Got A Rhythm’. These is done through call and response and includes body percussion. The students are also given an opportunity to improvise rhythms using rhythm sticks. When the melody of the song has been embodied and the students are comfortable with the rhythm they then move onto tuned percussion instruments to form a whole class Orff based ensemble. The melody is first divided into two parts so it is easily learnt. This way the students experience instant success. Gradually the drums and additional base line is introduced and the students are then given an opportunity to improvise using a pentatonic scale.

Listen and leave comments at http://bellpsarts.global2.vic.edu.au/

2015 Bell Primary School Keyboard/Piano & Guitar Lessons

Existing students will receive an email with details of how to re-enrol for classes in 2015. You need to let me know before the end of term if you are continuing next year.

If you are currently on the waiting list you should receive an email confirming this. Please contact me if you don’t receive this email.

If you are interested in starting lessons next year and wish to go on the waiting list then please contact me as there are limited spots available depending on the year level and instrument.

Regards,

Jacinta Guerin

ABN 83 635 484 779
13 Calbourne Street, West Preston, Victoria 3072
Phone 03 9480 0235   Email jacintagn@optusnet.com.au
Once a Bell student...

...always. So many ex-students from the Class of ’10 applied for work experience this year and unfortunately we had room for only four. Bell welcomes back Maggie, Tom, Zac and Hamish for 2014! They’ve been very popular with our younger classes this week.

Bright Sparks Creative Workshops
Holiday Program - January 2015

Bright Sparks is a creative arts program designed to help children learn about themselves and develop a sense of inner strength, promoting confidence, resilience and general wellbeing.

Children create artwork that is meaningful to them and share their creations and experiences with one another. Sessions are run by an Art Therapist and cater to small groups of children from Prep to Grade 3.

10.30am - 2.30pm January 20, 21 & 22
$160 / $140 for a 3 day course or $60 per session
Jika Jika Community Centre - Corner of Union and Plant Streets, Northcote.

Enrolments are currently open for weekly sessions on Monday afternoons at Bell Primary in 2015. Bookings essential by Friday, January 16.

Contact Naomi on 0421 914 220 or email: naomi@brightsparks.id.au

Tom and 1/2G welcome our ex-students.
## Events Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tues</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thur</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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<tr>
<td>8.45 to 9.15 Uniform Shop</td>
<td>Prep Transition 4</td>
<td>3.15 to 3.45 Uniform Shop</td>
<td>District T/20 Blast Comp Grade 5/6</td>
<td>Bell Fun Day (State Election Day)</td>
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<td>9.00 Playgroup</td>
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<td>1.30pm Year 2/3 Day Camp</td>
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<td>9.00 All School Assembly</td>
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<td>5/6’s Movember Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Italian Incursion 'Spettacolo'</td>
<td>1 Italian Incursion 'Spettacolo'</td>
<td>8.45 to 9.15 Uniform Shop</td>
<td>Grade 5’s to Thornbury High School</td>
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<td>8.45 to 9.15 Uniform Shop</td>
<td>8.45 to 9.15 Uniform Shop</td>
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<td>9.00 Playgroup</td>
<td>9.00 Jnr Assembly</td>
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<td>7.00-9.00 School Council</td>
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<td>8.45 to 9.15 Uniform Shop</td>
<td>6.00pm Fun-Key Music Concert</td>
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<td>Grade 6 Big Day Out</td>
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<td>9.00 Playgroup</td>
<td>6.30pm Grade 6 Graduation</td>
<td>6.30pm Grade 6 Graduation</td>
<td>Grade 1/2 Botanical Garden Excursion</td>
<td>Grade 6 Big Day Out</td>
<td>No Classroom Cuisine Today!</td>
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<td>17 Grade 1/2 Botanical Garden Excursion</td>
<td>18 Grade 6 Big Day Out</td>
<td>1.00 Assembly</td>
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<td>1.30 Farewell!</td>
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<td>Grade 6 Big Day Out</td>
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### Payments and Forms Reminders

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<th>Who?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 6</td>
<td>Big Day Out</td>
<td>Thurs Dec 4</td>
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<td>Grade 5</td>
<td>Grade 6 Tops / Thornbury H.S</td>
<td>Asap</td>
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<td>Grades 5/6</td>
<td>T-20 Blast</td>
<td>Thurs Nov 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 1/2</td>
<td>Botanical Gardens</td>
<td>Fri Nov 28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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