FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Families

Welcome back

Welcome everyone and a happy new year to all. We hope all our students and their families have enjoyed a wonderful holiday season together. Welcome to all our new students and their families as well as the students who have re-joined the BPS community.

We are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of baby Declan Prendergast, son to Jane and Tom. Declan arrived on schedule on Tuesday 28th January. We look forward to a visit to BPS by baby Declan and his proud parents in the not too distant future. Congratulations also to Mrs Kirti Krishnan (Bhatia) who was married during the holidays. Many students, parents and colleagues attended her truly beautiful and memorable wedding ceremony.

We extend also a warm welcome to new staff

Miss Caitlyn Falkenbach Prep F Mrs Maree O’Dwyer Year 10D
Miss Alysha Morecroft Year 2M Miss Anne Sutton Year 3S
Mrs Pip Madden Year 5M Mr Justin Brown Year 5B

Returning from leave are:

Miss Lauren Cooper Year 2C Mrs Leonie Angelis Year 3HA
Miss Andrea Fisk Visual Arts

Welcome also to Mrs Jodie Ewart who will be teaching 4P whilst Mr Prendergast is on parental leave.

Curriculum Days

On Tuesday and Wednesday this week our teachers gathered together for two days of intensive preparations for our students. Our teachers worked collectively on our whole school Pedagogical Plan. All teachers completed term planners for both the classroom and Specialist programs. Activities for the Start Up Program have been prepared by each classroom teacher. In recent weeks teachers have been busy creating the learning environment for their students.

Letters from Home.

Last year all students received a letter of introduction from their teacher for 2014. The letter included an invitation to parents to write about their child and send a letter to school at the beginning of this year. This activity was a huge success last year with many families writing to their child’s teacher. Parents are encouraged to forward their letters again as soon as possible.

Start Up Program 2014

As we begin the new school year all students will be immersed in the BPS Start Up Program. The Start Up Program is a whole school program designed specifically to provide a wide range of activities that enable students to develop and build relationships with each other and their teachers. During these sessions students will develop class norms and expectations for learning and settle into class routines.
Projects completed around the school during the holidays
The seating has been upgraded in the corner of the Year 1 and 2 building. New soft fall has been spread beneath the wooden play ground equipment. All gutters and downpipes have been cleared. A new drain is being installed adjacent to the Prep playground. The reception room in the After School Care building has been repainted and painting has commenced in their kitchen. A new dishwasher has been installed in the staffroom. Thank you to Shane Dawes for overseeing these projects.

Our Oval
Shane also managed the surface and below ground watering of our oval during the holidays. We greatly appreciate the hours Shane put in, many in the early evenings, to ensure maximum benefit, and particularly through the extended periods of exceptionally high temperatures.

Sheryl M. Skewes Neven Paleka
Principal Assistant Principal

Important Information from administration
A link for our school newsletter ‘Stop Press’ is emailed to parents and published on the website www.beaups.vic.edu.au every Thursday. (Only Issue 1 is sent home as a hard copy.) If you require a hardcopy, there are a number available in the display cabinet at the office. Please update your email address if it has changed by emailing the school office. As one of our major forms of communication, it is essential that you read the newsletter weekly for important school information and dates.

Our website also has valuable information on various topics such as:
- Administering of medications within school hours
- Important dates
- Current news
- Newsletter, including back copies
- Uniform order forms

Accompanying our newsletter today are forms for:
- Individual Class Contact List for 2014
- Request form for Class Representatives
- Canteen Volunteer Form
- Kelly Sports enrolment form

Please read these notices and return to the classroom teachers.

Uniform orders can be left at the office daily with payment and they will be sent home via the classroom within 2-3 days. Order forms are available on the website or in the school foyer.

Absences: To notify us of student absences, either on the day due to illness or in advance for family holidays, parents/guardians are asked to ring the school office prior to 8.30am or fill out our online absence form (found on the “Contact Us” page of our school website) to report their child being absent from school. If neither of these actions are taken on the day of absence, then please follow up with an explanatory note when your child returns. If your child contracts a serious or contagious infection, please notify the school office by telephone.

Students arriving late to school are required to report to the office, sign in and receive a late pass.

If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact Catherine Lamb, Robyn Meehan or Helen Bradnam.

Student Contributions
Everyone should have received their Subject and School Contributions letter. Families who do not have the immediate capacity to pay are also able to enter into alternative and confidential payment arrangements with the school. Should you require information about financial assistance please contact the Principal, Sheryl Skewes or Business Manager, Catherine Lamb on 9589 2619.

Japanese
Don’t forget to visit out Japanese Blog at http://gallsensei.blogspot.com.au
This year is the “Year of the Horse. Have a look at the Japanese blog and let me know what animal year you were born in...”

Gall Sensei
Education Maintenance Allowance

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) helps to cover the costs related to your child’s schooling. The EMA provides families on a low income with financial assistance to support their child’s education up to the age of 16.

Education Maintenance Allowance in 2014

In 2014, the EMA payments to eligible parents will be:

- $200 for parents of eligible Prep students
- $150 for parents of all other eligible primary school students
- $300 for parents of eligible Year 7 students
- $250 for parents of all other eligible secondary school students up to the age of 16.

The EMA is paid in two instalments annually (70% in March and 30% in August).

To be eligible for the EMA:

1. Your child must be under the age of sixteen; and
2. Your child must be enrolled at a primary or secondary Government or registered school in Victoria on, 28 February 2014 for the first instalment and 1 August 2014 for the second instalment; and
3. You must on 28 January 2014 for the first instalment and 14 July 2014, for the second instalment:
   • be a parent or legal guardian of the student; and
   • be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder or
   • be a temporary foster parent.

4. Submit your application to the school by the due date:
   • 28 February 2014 for the first instalment*
   • 1 August 2014 for the second instalment.

   Please note: you only need to make a second application in August if your child changes schools between March and August.

The Pension Concession Card (PCC) or Health Care Card (HCC) is subject to electronic confirmation with Centrelink to verify that the cardholder is receiving a benefit.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.

For more information about the EMA, visit: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx

Calling all New Players to the Beaumaris Football Club (Juniors)…. You are invited to attend the New Player Registration Day, on Sunday 9th February 2014 between 10.00am and 2.00pm. At Banksia Reserve, Oak Street Beaumaris. Club merchandise will be available for sale. Further details can be found on the Clubs website www.beaumarisfc.com.au under Junior News.

Thanks and Regards

Nicki Spencer
Secretary
Beaumaris Football Club (Juniors)
M: 0439-030-079
KONNECTIVE

Konnective is a free mobile app solution that allows us to communicate with you, our parents, straight to your smartphone. We send out news, events, reminders and more so that you can be even more connected with your children’s events at the school. Using the Konnective app, you can add events directly to your phone’s calendar, set reminders for things you need to do and receive important alerts (similar to a text message) as soon as they are released.

Via the app, send communication to specific year levels, so you receive information specific to your child’s year as well as general news, events and reminders that will go to everyone. For example if an excursion or camp bus is running late we will only send a message to the parents of the year level affected. This will extend and enhance our existing communications (like Stop Press and our website).

We encourage you to be a part of this school initiative and give us your feedback. For those without a smartphone there is a web mobile version as well as a website version.

You can now upload the free app from the app store and register. To install the app, just follow the instructions below for the type of phone you have.

**iPhone users**  Click on [www.konnective.com.au/appstore](http://www.konnective.com.au/appstore) to go to the AppStore and download the Konnective app (it's free).

**Android users**  Click on [www.konnective.com.au/googleplay](http://www.konnective.com.au/googleplay) to go to the Google Play store and download the Konnective app (it's free)

**For all other smartphone users or to use the website version:**

GET YOURSELF KONNECTED!