FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families

Welcome back to everyone and best wishes are extended to all our families for a happy new year. We hope everyone had a relaxing time with their family. The children certainly look refreshed and excited to see their friends.

The staff, School Council, and the parent community extend a warm welcome to the families who are new to our school community.

We are very pleased to welcome the following new teachers who have joined our staff team:

- Mrs Kate Shannon, Year 5
- Miss Marcell Shoan, Year 3
- Mrs Helen Conly, Reading Recovery

We welcome back Mrs Mary Regan, Mrs Lisa Gardiner and Ms Amy Lapthorne from leave.

Our students appear to have settled in very quickly today and much of that is due to the preparation by all staff. While the official day for staff to resume was Tuesday, many staff members have spent time during their holidays to ensure that all was ready for today.

Curriculum Days

On Tuesday January 29th Julie Shepherd, Literacy Consultant, facilitated professional learning for all teachers focussed on Reading and Writing.

On Wednesday, January 30th Margarita Breed, Numeracy Consultant, facilitated professional learning for all teachers focussed on Number and working mathematically.

Our Specialist teachers also attended a workshop Film Making Across the Curriculum.

School Holiday Maintenance

To ensure our learning environment continues to be well presented a number of works were completed during the holidays. The chimneys were restored on the original building, obsolete air conditioners were removed from the portables and the staffroom, repairs were completed to the ceilings in the girl’s toilets, external drains were cleared, the hallway pinboards were painted, as well as minor paint work and repairs in some classrooms. The watering of the oval was also managed during the holidays. Thank you to Shane Dawes for overseeing and completing much of this work.

A large outdoor chessboard is soon to be painted on the asphalt below the green shadecloth. Funds raised by the canteen last year will be used to purchase an outdoor chess set.

Thank you also to the parent, who prefers to remain anonymous, for kindly painting a Year 2 classroom. The classroom looks great.

Thank you to our Garden Club members Heather Ferguson and Victoria Beale for attending to our gardens during the holiday season.

We are all looking forward to another great year at this wonderful school.

Sheryl M. Skewes
Principal

Neven Paleka
Assistant Principal

DIARY DATES

- Monday 11 February
  Year 6 Team Building and Leadership
- Wednesday 13 February
  Year 6 Great Race
- Monday 18 February
  Year 6 Heroes Journey
- Friday 22 February
  School Disco (P-6)
- Thursday 28 February
  District Swimming Carnival
- Tuesday 12 February
  BFAC meet and greet Evening 7.30pm
- Wednesday 20 February
  Year 6 Investiture

Important Information:

Issue 1 of our newsletter comes to you as a hard copy. In the future our Stop Press is emailed to you every Thursday. If you are not receiving it please email us with your current email address to beaumaris.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

The newsletter is the best form of communication between school and home, please take time to read our newsletter every week.

CANTEEN

Canteen is currently closed until further notice.
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. 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 2013
- Request form for Class Representatives
- Disco notice
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: Please phone the school office by 9am on 9589 2619 to report a student absence. A note must be sent with your child to their teacher upon their return.
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.

A Day on Oak Street—10th February 2013
Wristbands will be on sale near the Shade cloth on Wednesday 6th February for $20 cash only from 3.30pm—4pm.

Kelly Sports commences this Friday at 3.30pm

BFAC ‘NEW & CURRENT’ MEET & GREET EVENING
WHAT: FREE sausage sizzle & a refreshing beverage
WHEN: Tuesday 12th February 7.30pm
WHERE: BPS Kitchen Garden area
WHO: any Dad or male Guardian new or current
WHY: get involved & be part of YOUR Community Meet new or existing friends and see & hear what we do.

The Beaumaris Primary School Father’s Activity Club is open to all fathers (and male guardians) of children who attend the school. The club meets throughout the year (normally monthly) and membership is free.
The CLUB, founded in 2003 is about No hard sell, No hard work. It is designed to provide fathers with the opportunity to gather together in a social atmosphere (male only) for a laugh, and to join in social events for fun.
Social Events may include Go-Karting, Bowling & Pool Night, as well as organising & enjoying signature events like The Outdoor Cinema evening at the school!
The “BFAC” aims to:
- Provide members with a means of social contact with other members of the school community
- Help provide entertainment for the school.
- Most of all “HAVE FUN”
Changes to the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for 2013:
The EMA continues to help families on lower incomes with financial assistance to cover the cost of educational expenses including textbooks, stationery, uniforms and excursions for their child up until the age of 16.

From 2013, the Victorian Government is restructuring the EMA to better target financial support to families on lower incomes. Payments made direct to parents will be increased for eligible recipients at all year levels up to age 16, with an additional increase for parents with students in Years Prep and 7 in recognition of the additional costs at these transition points.

In 2013 the annual EMA payment for families with children in primary school (years 1-6) will receive a payment of $150. Families with children in secondary school (Year 8 up until the age of 16) will receive an annual payment of $250.

The School Start Bonus which was previously received by EMA families has been discontinued as a separate payment from 2013. However, additional funding has been incorporated into the EMA meaning that parents of children in Prep and Year 7 will receive boosted EMA payments of $200 and $300 respectively in those years.

From 2013, the EMA will no longer be paid 50/50 between the parent and the school. The 50% school portion of the EMA will no longer be paid to schools on behalf of parents. However, $62 million over four years will be redirected to the State’s most needy schools to assist families on lower incomes. These funds will form part of the school Student Resource Packages to be allocated at the local level.

New EMA payment option
From 2013, on the EMA application form you can choose to have your EMA payment;

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your nominated bank account or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses

The introduction of the new payment option to have the EMA payment directed to the school provides parents with extra flexibility to assist with budgeting towards education expenses.

Eligibility:
To be eligible for the EMA in 2013, you must:

- be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004* or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a temporary foster parent.

* i.e – the parent/guardian must be the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at 29 January 2013 (Instalment One) and 15 July 2013 (Instalment Two).

Payment Amounts - 2013:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Prep</th>
<th>Years 1 - 6</th>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8 – Age 16</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instalment One</td>
<td>$140</td>
<td>$105</td>
<td>$210</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instalment Two</td>
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<td>$75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Total</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Student year level (or age for ungraded and special school students) will determine the amount payable. Parents of students turning 16 years in 2013 are paid on a pro rata basis.

Contact: School Office for an EMA application form and to lodge your application. The closing date for EMA application forms to be submitted to the school is 28 February 2013.