

Belvoir Special School Newsletter



38 Gayview Drive, WODONGA, 3690

Dear Parents/Carers/Friends,

We are well into the 2024 year and as scary as it may be, there are only three weeks left of Term 1. Well done to our students and staff for the way that they have started the new year and it is a privilege witnessing the hard work and achievements each and everyday in our Belvoir community.

ENROLMENTS 2025 – NOW OPEN

Enrolments for 2025 are now open for prospective families. If you know of any family or friends who might be interested in finding out more about Belvoir Special School, encourage them to book a tour, or chat with our administration staff on [\(02\) 6059 8987](tel:0260598987).

BELVOIR IS A SUNSMART SCHOOL

During summer, it is a timely reminder that students and staff be SunSmart. One line of defence against sunburn is the trusty hat. Naturally, we would also like to add, please label your child's hat to minimise the risk of lost property. Appropriate sunglasses approved by the Cancer Council may be worn during recess and lunch breaks, but not in class. They may also be permitted on approved excursions, but remain the responsibility of the students at all times.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY - MONDAY, 11TH MARCH

The school will be closed on Monday 11th March, for the Labour Day public holiday.

COLLECTION OF STUDENTS AT THE END OF EACH DAY

The front of our school gets very busy at the end of the day.

To help our bus travellers get to the buses quickly and with limited disruptions we kindly ask that families, carers and support workers please wait outside the school until after the bell or 3pm.

Suitable places to wait include:

- In your car
- Opposite the front gate in the garden
Along the rear wall of the hall.

We want our bus travellers to have a smooth transition to the buses and know that when there are too many people waiting at the front of the school our students can become overwhelmed. Your support is going to help everyone have a positive end to their school day.

2024 DATES TO REMEMBER

Labour Day – Public Holiday
Monday, 11th March

School Council—finance Meeting
Friday, 15th March @ 9.00am

School council AGM
Wednesday 20th March @ 6.00PM

Athletics Carnival
Thursday, 21st March

Last Day of Term 1
Thursday, 28th March, 2.00pm Finish

BUS PHONE NUMBERS

BUS 1: 0460 869 012

BUS 2: 0460 875 492

BUS 3: 0460 896 490

BUS 4: 0460 935 609

Belvoir Bus: 0431 756 813

BELVOIR EASTER RAFFLE 2024

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

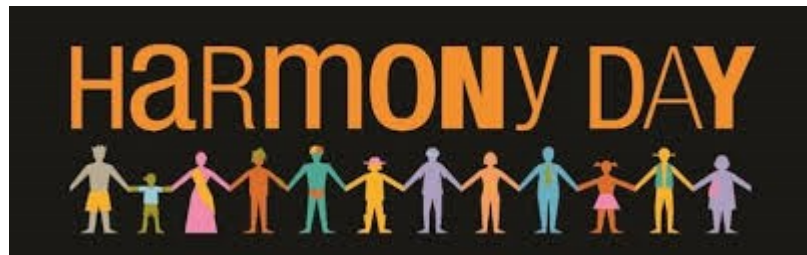
It's that time of the year again when we ask our families to help us raise funds for the school by supporting our Annual Easter Raffle!

We are asking for donations of eggs, rabbits and baskets so that they can be made into wonderful and colourful raffle prizes.

If you are unsure about what to donate, please contact the office and Andrea, Jo or Viv will be able to suggest some ideas. **Tickets have been sent home.** Tickets are \$1.00 each. Could you please return sold tickets and money to the office by Monday 25th March, 2024. If you require more tickets, please contact the office.

Prizes will be drawn on Wednesday 27th March, 2024 and winners will be notified by phone. Thank you for your support!





Harmony Week 2024 will take place from the 15th to the 21st March.

Harmony Week is about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

It's a time to reflect on the importance of respecting each other and our differences.

The message of Harmony Week is **EVERYONE BELONGS**. Across week 8, students will have a number of opportunities to engage in learning/ activities focussed on celebrating cultural diversity and to promote a greater sense of belonging within our school.

To kick off our celebration, on Monday the 18th of March students will have the opportunity to engage in an African Drumming performance (onsite) organised through the Albury Wodonga Ethnic s Community Council.

Belvoir Special School will be celebrating Harmony Day on Tuesday the 19th of March 2024 (wk. 8) .

Students and staff are welcome to wear something **ORANGE** or of personal cultural significance on the day.



FoodShare's Community Pantry service supports members of the community experiencing financial hardship by providing:

- fresh fruit and vegetables
- protein and dairy products
- pantry staples/ household items/ frozen

How to access the supermarket:

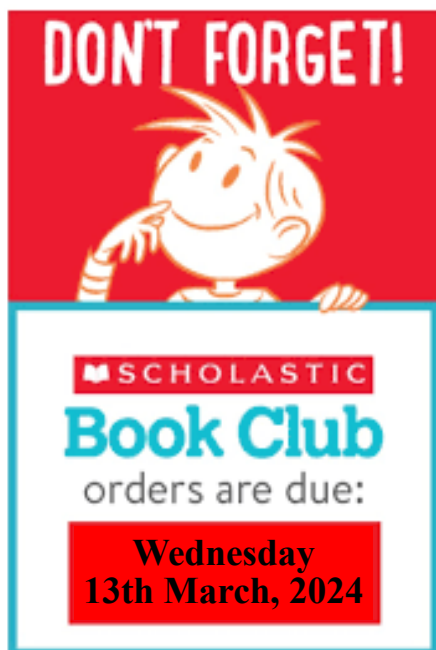
If you or your family are struggling to put food on the table but you have funds available to cover the cost of a voucher, the agencies listed below are facilitating access to FoodShare vouchers.

1. You will need to buy a \$25 or a \$15 voucher from one of the below locations 2. Take the voucher to redeem it for food and supplies at 81 Wigg Street—FoodShare supermarket.

Vouchers are available from:

- The Personnel Group- 02 6041 1577
- Hyphen - Wodonga Library Gallery
- Vincent de Paul - Wodonga- 02 6024 3493 and leave a message for a call back
- VACCA— 03 5756 9000





	START	FINISH
Term 1	29/01/2024	28/03/2024
Term 2	15/04/2024	28/06/2024
Term 3	15/07/2024	20/09/2024
Term 4	07/10/2024	20/12/2024

Please note that school finishes at 2.00pm last day of the term except for Term 4.

Parental Concerns or Issues

Belvoir Special School welcomes feedback, both positive and negative, and is committed to continuous improvement. We value open communication with our families and are committed to understanding complaints and addressing them appropriately. We recognise that the complaints process provides an important opportunity for reflection and learning.

We encourage and value open positive relationships with our school community and understand that it is in the best interests of students for there to be a trusting relationship between families and our school.

Parents are able to contact the school through the student diaries which are sent home with students each day, or they can ring the school to speak with classroom staff before or after school most days.

If the matter is urgent parents are able to email belvoir.wodonga.sds@education.vic.gov.au or call the school on 02 6059 8987 and speak with or organize a time to discuss the issue with either Michelle Heintze-Moller, myself or relevant staff.

Our full complaints and other policies can be found at:

[Policies and Forms - Belvoir Special Development School \(belvoirss.vic.edu.au\)](http://belvoirss.vic.edu.au)

Pennie Moffat
Principal

School Athletics - House Groups

Students, Staff and Parents are put into groups according to their surnames. Each group has a name and color and it's requested that everyone wears clothing the color of the house they are allocated to:

<u>Surnames between</u>	=	<u>Colour</u>	<u>House Name</u>
A-D	=	Red	Mitta
E-K	=	Green	Murray
L-Q	=	Blue	Kiewa
R-Z	=	Yellow	Hume

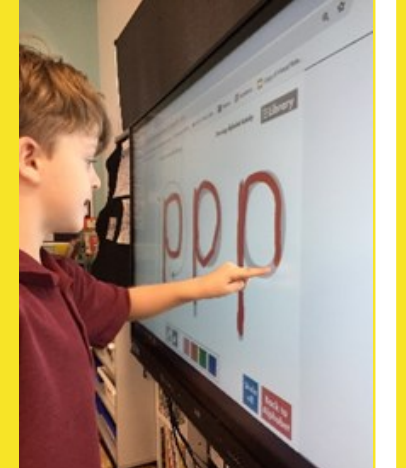
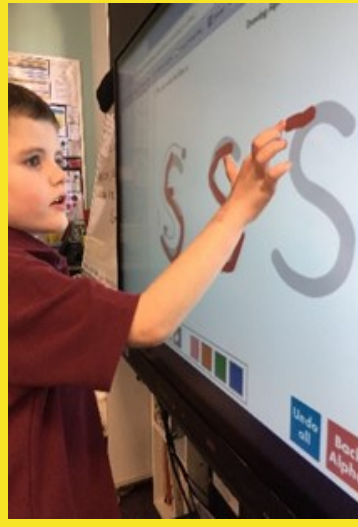


ROOM 1 NEWS

Cas, Marnie & Claudia



Room 1 has had a fantastic start to Term One. We love having fun together and exploring the toys, equipment and play spaces. Each week we learn about our 'Letter of the Week', so far we have covered S, A, T, P, I and N, next week our Letter of the Week will be 'M' Every two weeks we start a new focus text: this week we have been sharing the story 'The Wonky Donkey', the students love the song and video that goes along with this. We have also looked at the stories: 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear' and 'Grandpa and Thomas'. Next week we will be sharing the 'Farmer Duck' story.



Biggest Morning Tea

Chocolate Coconut Truffles



When: 26th & 27th of March

11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

What: Hot drink and plate of food \$5.

Where: Belvoir Special School Hall.

Tickets: Purchase from the office

SCHOOL POLICIES

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

School's compulsory school uniform items are as follows:

Junior and Middle year students' uniform

Navy shorts (knee length or just above)

Navy track pants in Term 2 and 3 and cooler weather.

Burgundy polo shirt with collar.

Burgundy windcheater or button front fleecy jacket available from uniform shop.

A checked dress, with bike shorts beneath, which is the same across the school.

Broad-brimmed navy sunhat for Term 1 and 4.

Black leather school shoes or supportive pair of runners. Sandals with an enclosed heel and toe may be worn in hot weather.

Senior Students:

Navy shorts (knee length or just above knee) or knee length navy skirt if preferred.

Navy track pants or trousers in Term 2 and 3 and cooler weather.

Navy polo shirt with collar.

Navy jumper.

Broad-brimmed navy sunhat for Term 1 and 4.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Schooling is compulsory for children and young people aged from 6 to 17 years (unless an exemption from attendance or enrolment has been granted).

Daily attendance is important for all children and young people to succeed in education and to ensure they do not fall behind both socially and developmentally. School participation maximises life opportunities for children and young people by providing them with education and support networks. School helps people to develop important skills, knowledge and values that set them up for further learning and participation in their community.

Students are expected to attend Belvoir Special School during normal school hours every day of each term unless:

- there is an approved exemption from school attendance for the student.
- the student has a dual enrolment with another school and has only a partial enrolment in Belvoir Special School, or
- the student is registered for home schooling and has only a partial enrolment in Belvoir Special School for particular activities.

Both schools and parents have an important role to play in supporting students to attend school every day.

Belvoir Special School believes all students should attend school all day, every day when the school is open for instruction and is committed to working with its school community to encourage and support full school attendance.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

REMINDER – the Department (which includes our school) does not have accident insurance.

Items of personal property that are lost, stolen or damaged at school are not the responsibility of Belvoir Special School or the Department. Staff and students are reminded not to bring items of value to school.

CHARITY GALA



TICKETS
\$155
Per Person

**SATURDAY
25 MAY**

Tables of 8 or 10
(Individual Tickets Available)

INCLUDES:
Race Day Admission,
Entertainment, Auctions,
Two Course Meal, Beer, Wine,
Cider & Soft Drink for 4 hours.

PROUDLY SUPPORTING:



Belvoir Special School

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

Please contact Andrew Dear
on (02) 6059 8987 or by email:
Andrew.Dear@education.vic.gov.au



www.racingwodonga.com.au



ROOM 18 NEWS



Jo, Jacinta, Michaeli, Bridget & Heidi

Students in Room 18 have settled in well had a productive start to the year. We attended an outing to Sumsion Gardens as part of our 'Headspace' Term topic and participated in our Swimming Carnival last week which was lots of fun for all students.

In Literacy we have enjoyed listening to different narratives and learning all about re-counts, including the structure of how to write a recount. We have also looked at the comparison between various text types and recounts, and their similarities and differences. We have been busy learning new words for our class word wall, playing lots of sound and word games. working on writing complete sentences and editing pieces of work, checking for capital letters and punctuation.

In Maths, we have looked at topics of Number and Data, where students have enjoyed comparing numbers, playing a range of number games, sorting collections of items, asking questions, collecting data, counting, tallying, and plotting information into various graphs.

Students have engaged in our term topic 'Headspace' and learnt about what it means to have a healthy mindset and body, and ways to achieve this. We look forward to the last few weeks of term, in particular the Athletics Carnival and Harmony Day.



[Fact sheet 1: school council elections – information for parents](#)

[What is a school council and what does it do?](#)

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

[Who is on the school council?](#)

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected parent member category – members of this category generally comprise more than one third of the council's total membership. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.

A mandated elected school employee member category – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.

A small number of school councils have nominee members.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

A mandated elected student member category, two positions.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

[Why is parent membership so important?](#)

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

[Do I need special experience to be on school council?](#)

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

[Code of conduct for school councillors](#)

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

act with honesty and integrity – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty

act in good faith in the best interests of the school – work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds

act fairly and impartially – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest

use information appropriately – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available

exercise due care, diligence and skill – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school

use the position appropriately – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage

act in a financially responsible manner – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions

comply with relevant legislation and policies – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law

demonstrate leadership and stewardship – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

[Indemnity for school council members](#)

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or

the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

[How can you become involved?](#)

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider:

standing for election as a member of the school council

encouraging another person to stand for election.

[What do you need to do to stand for election?](#)

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same category that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate).

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

[Remember](#)

Consider standing for election to school council.

Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.

Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.

Contact the principal if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process.

Form: nomination form for parent member category

I wish to nominate *(name below)*

for an elected position as a parent member on the school council.

Candidate's details

Name

Residential Address:

Contact phone *(mobile or landline)*:

Email:

Nominators details

I am the parent/guardian of *(name below)*

who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

Statement

The person I have nominated is:

an employee of the Department of Education.

an employee of the school council.

is engaged in work at and for the school.

Yes

*(Mark with
an x)*

No

*(Mark with
an x)*

Name of nominator

Signature of nominator

Date:

Candidate to complete

I accept the nomination and I am prepared to serve as a parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that:

- I am not and have not been insolvent under administration within the last three years
- I am of sound mind
- I have not been found guilty of an offence that is, or would if committed in Victoria be, an indictable offence
- I am not a registrable offender within the meaning of the *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004*.
- I am not suffering from any medical condition that would affect my ability to perform the role of member of a school council.

Signature of candidate

Date:

You will be notified when your nomination has been received.

The personal information provided in this form is collected as part of the school council election nomination process. The information may be used to determine your eligibility as a candidate. Your personal information may be disclosed as a result of inspection prior to the commencement of voting or at any time up to one year from the declaration of the poll.

Your name will be included in a list of school council candidates and nominators (where applicable) posted in a prominent position at the school and for candidates, on a ballot paper (where applicable). Further, the name, membership category, gender (optional), term of office, office held (if any) of school council members and notification whether the member is an employee of the department will be forwarded to the Department of Education by the principal by 30 April each year as a record of council membership and may be used for statistical purposes.

You can access your personal information by contacting the principal on:

If you choose not to give some or all of the information requested your nomination may not be accepted.

If you have any queries about the school council nomination process, please contact the principal.

Form: self-nomination form for parent member category

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position as a parent member on the school council.

Name

Residential Address:

Contact phone (mobile or landline):

Email:

I am the parent/guardian of
who is/are currently enrolled at this school.

Statement	Yes <i>(Mark with an x)</i>	No <i>(Mark with an x)</i>
I am an employee of the Department of Education		
I am an employee of the school council		
I am engaged in work at and for the school.		

I am prepared to serve as a parent member of the above-named school council. I hereby declare that:

- I am not and have not been insolvent under administration within the last three years
- I am of sound mind
- I have not been found guilty of an offence that is, or would if committed in Victoria be, an indictable offence
- I am not a registrable offender within the meaning of the *Sex Offenders Registration Act 2004*.
- I am not suffering from any medical condition that would affect my ability to perform the role of member of a school council.

Signature of Candidate

Date:	
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Need help to make sense of your NDIS Plan?

Let us help!

Call to book your **FREE Understand Your Plan Session** with an expert plan manager.

In your session we'll:

- help you understand the funding in your NDIS plan
- explain the different budget categories
- discuss the kinds of supports you can use
- share tips and tricks about how the NDIS works.

It doesn't matter if you're self-managed, NDIA-managed or with another plan manager.

Call to make your booking today.

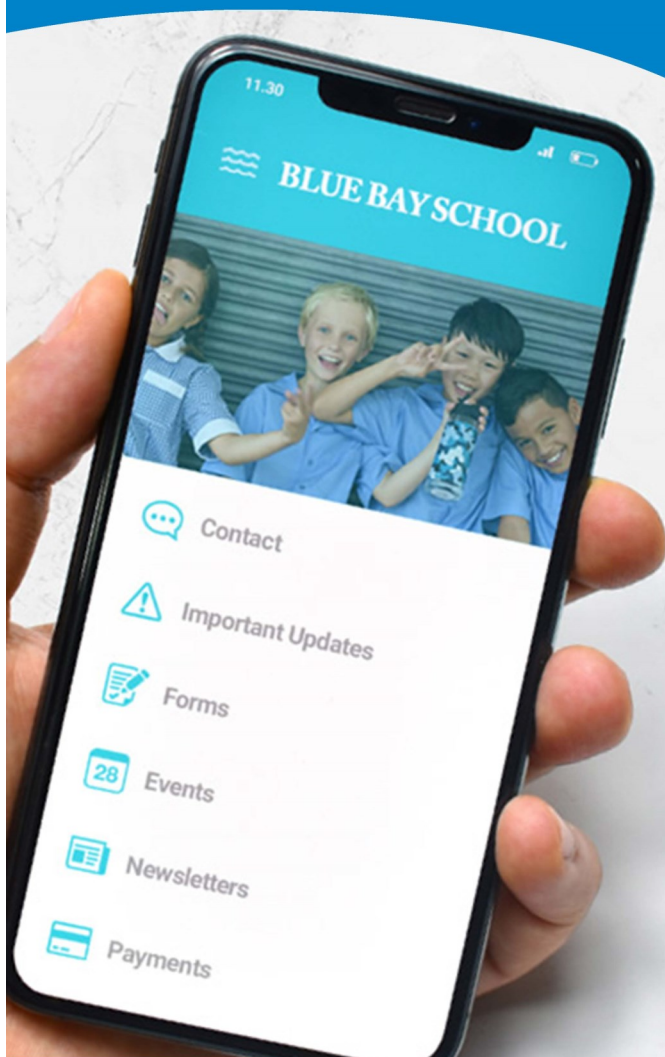
Leap in!

Call **1300 05 78 78**

We also have a huge library of NDIS news & disability-related stories, PLUS the NDIS ebook series!



Download our school app for free!



- Instant news notifications
- Online absentee forms
- Events and reminders



Download instructions:

1. Go to the App Store and download "School Stream" to your phone.

2. Open the app and type the school's name into the search bar to load the school's profile.

3. Make sure you agree to Push Notifications when prompted.