

THE PHOENIX

Term 3
2nd Semester, 2012



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BERENGARRA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Invergowrie Foundation
Thankyou for your continued support.

Hello all.....



Despite the cold and wet nature of Melbourne's winter, the 3rd term has finished with a great sense of achievement. Seven new students started the term, and this meant that on census day (an important funding date) we reached full enrolment. The budget for next year is looking good as a result of reaching this target, and at the time of writing all the new students were still engaged in our programs. Perhaps the highlight of the term was the Warehouse program organised by Graeme Barwise for 10 of our students at Pathways. Every Friday they would travel to a warehouse in Kilsyth to learn about warehousing, completing a Certificate 2 TAFE course and preparing food parcels. They were also paid for their endeavours, and this motivated the students like never before! The program is run by Second Bite, an organisation committed to making a positive difference to people by identifying sources of nutritious surplus fresh food and produce that would otherwise go to waste and facilitating its safe and timely distribution to agencies and people in need.

Staff

In the 3rd week of term our Phys. Ed. teacher, Brad Hicks, was involved in a serious accident. While cycling to work he was knocked off his bike, sustaining a broken leg, concussion, and numerous cuts and bruises. Several operations later I am pleased to report he is well on his way to full recovery, although it has been a slow and painful process. A few weeks before the accident he had informed me he had accepted a position at Wesley College for 4th term, and despite this setback he is confident he will be ready to start next month, though his students may have to play more sedentary sports in the first few weeks of term.

The teaching staff rose to the occasion to cover for Brad during his absence, taking extra classes when a replacement teacher could not be sourced. Julio did an excellent job in minimizing the impact of losing a teacher for a lengthy period.

We will miss Brad. He has been with us for 2½ years and his cheery, country nature has been an asset to the staffroom, as has his expertise in physical and outdoor education, and also commitment to students with special needs.

His replacement will be Rebecca Emmett. After several years on a working holiday in Europe and the Middle East (work = teaching!) she returned home this year and has settled back in Melbourne. Welcome to Berengarra, Rebecca.



The additional funding for students with disabilities we received this year through the State Government has enabled us to increase the time of our teacher's assistants. At Box Hill we have an assistant in every art and food technology class as well as in half the English and maths classes. Next year I hope to increase this resource, as an extra pair of trained hands in a class has a significant impact on improving learning outcomes.

Tenure

Finally, we received some reasonably good news about our tenure at the Box Hill site. We have been granted a one year extension on our five year lease, so when you do the maths we have another 3 years confirmed at this site. The Church want to evaluate the future needs of the Parish before deciding what to do with all their property assets, and this may take until well into next year. School Council is keen to secure the site for the long term, so fingers crossed..

Time for a break—see you all in two weeks. Best Wishes, Pete

DATES TO REMEMBER

Term 3 finishes Friday 21st September, at 12.30 p.m.

TERM 4 2012 commences



Staff return - 8th October

Students return - 9th October

Mid Term break - Monday 5th November

Cup day - Tuesday 6th November

**School Camp - 21st November—23rd November (inclusive)
Information will be given to parents/carers
early November.**

Wednesday - 5th December - Pathways Graduation

Term finishes - Students— Friday 7th December—12.30

Staff Finish - Wednesday 12th December.

BERENGARRA OPEN DAY—WEDNESDAY 31st OCTOBER, 2012

Everyone is most welcome to visit us , speak with staff and tour the school.