

THE PHOENIX



Term 1
1st Semester , 2013

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BERENGARRA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Invergowrie Foundation
Thanks for your continued support.

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year. As in the past two years the newsletters for 1st and 3rd terms will be short, with a more comprehensive version at the end of each semester.

The first term at Berengarra is usually the busiest. It is always the time when there is the largest intake of new students, and this year was no exception with 9 new students commencing at Box Hill and 2 new students starting at Pathways. In addition, 5 of last year's Box Hill students transitioned to the Pathways program. When you consider that we have only 54 students in total, it represents a major challenge. However, in most years this is the norm and so by the end of the term the staff were able to settle the students into the regular routine, once they showed us why they needed to be at Berengarra!

Direction for 2013

Before the year commenced the management of the school decided that this would be the year of curriculum development, where we would endeavour to achieve better educational outcomes by improving teaching skills and introducing new curriculum initiatives.

In January we were awarded a grant to employ a severe language disorder consultant for the purpose of training staff to better meet the needs of students that present with this disorder, as these had been increasing in number over the last three years. During the next two terms the consultant will conduct a series of workshops, and also mentor staff in the classroom on how to best deliver our program to students with SLD. The grant was made available through a Federal Government initiative.

Pathways is offering a Schools Based Apprenticeship (SBA) program for the first time, where students study Certificates 1, 2 and 3 in Retail, and combine this with work education by running a coffee machine and a food stall at the local community market. Nine of our students are taking part in the program and I can report all have successfully completed the 1st term. .

This year the School Council embarked on a strategic planning process, where matters regarding tenure, teaching and learning, marketing and governance were placed on a long term agenda. Many of us at the school that have experienced the uncertainty of the past decade viewed this process as a refreshing change, an indication that the school was now in the position of planning rather than just surviving. After the initial Planning session in January, which was attended by all Council members and the senior members of staff., the Council has broken into sub-committees to address the above areas. Staff will be focusing on teaching and learning at the staff conference in July.

Principal's report con't...

Phones and Personal Electronic Devices

This term has seen several incidents involving inappropriate use of mobile phones and as a result the staff have decided the current policy needs an update. The new policy should be ready by early next term and will be sent out to all parents and caregivers for feedback before it is implemented

The policy will include an "Acceptable Use Agreement" which will need to be signed by parents, caregivers and students if they wish to have their mobile phones and electronic devices at school.

Finally

Time for a break. For Lyn Perry, our special education and food technology teacher for the past 17 years, her break will be extra long as she is taking long service leave for all of second term. Replacing her will be Jenny Langford who has been a regular casual relief teacher for the past year.

Cheers for now,
Pete.



DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 2, 2013 commences

Staff return - Monday 15th April

Students return - Tuesday 16th April

Anzac day (no students) - Thursday 25th April

Professional Development day—Wednesday 15th May. No students

Students finish Thursday 20th June @ 3 p.m.

Report writing day - Friday 21st June

Staff Conference - 2 days in the week 10th -11th July incl.

TERM 3, 2013 commences

Staff return—Monday 15th July

Teacher/parent interviews—Tuesday 16th July

Students return—Wednesday 17th July

Students finish—Friday 20th September

Winter