Hi All,

2015 has been a landmark year for the school, with the purchase of the Box Hill site finally fulfilling a long held dream of owning a property. During its 39 years the school has had to move four times and on each occasion we experienced much angst, the last time being at the end of 2009 where we came within weeks of closure. No more! It’s goodbye to landlords and uncomfortable partnerships; we are now masters of our own destiny.

Since the purchase we have embarked on a program of improving the site, first by replacing the front fence and leaky roof on the northern building, and in the coming months painting the whole school inside and out, giving the school a complete refresh for 2016. We are also planning to improve the outside areas by installing a drainage system, establishing some garden beds and providing the students with more outdoor seating.

Our second major achievement this year is that we now have a teaching assistant or youth worker in every class. For the staff who can remember back to the days in Glen Waverley the teaching staff had to battle it out with up to ten students on their own. Mostly the results were ok but if a major issue arose then education outcomes could be affected, and certainly it placed a lot of stress on the staff. Now, with the help of the skilled assistants we have recruited our classes are far more settled and productive, with the literacy and numeracy assessment results much improved, and the number of student time outs and detentions greatly reduced.
Staff
This year we said farewell to three staff members, Graeme, Jarrod and Daniel. A special mention must be made of Graeme, as he finished up at the end of 3rd term after 18 years service to the school. His contribution to establishing the Pathways program was outstanding, as it not only allowed the school to increase its enrolment, but it also provided a suitable pathway for our older students to further education or work.

Looking Ahead - 2016
As part of our school improvement plan I believe we need to look at further enhancement of our teaching and learning. Over the past five years learning outcomes have certainly improved, due largely to the provision of a teaching assistant in every class and better behaviour management strategies. However, we are finding more of our students presenting with complex learning needs that require specific teaching skills, so it is imperative that the staff develop their skills to address these needs. Last week the School Council granted approval to finance a program for next year where specialists will be employed for staff training and coaching, providing expertise in learning disabilities, speech pathology and occupational therapy.

The application for the school to become a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) has unfortunately been delayed due the long term absence of Daniel. However, Justin and Angela have managed to pull it all together and next week will submit the final application. Hopefully we can be officially registered by 2nd term next year. The good news is that from the start of 2016 we will be offering Intermediate VCAL and Certificate IV in Retail, two initiatives that will extend the scope of the program significantly.

We are still negotiating with the Parish over the purchase of the Killara Street property adjacent to the Box Hill site, and although there has been little progress in recent months, we remain hopeful.

Well it is time for a break, so on behalf of the school management I would like to thank all staff, parents and students for their efforts over the past 12 months, and I look forward to seeing you again in 2016.

Pete.
**Please ensure the dates below are marked into your diary**

2016- 1st TERM DATES
Staff return - January 27th  
Students return - February 1st  
End of term 1 - March 24th — 12.30p.m.

2016- 2nd TERM DATES
Staff return - April 11th  
Students return - April 12th  
ANZAC Day April 25th  
End of term 2 - June 17th — 12.30p.m.

2016- 3rd TERM DATES
Staff return - July 11th  
Parent/Teacher meetings - July 12th  
(staff will be in touch)  
Students return - July 13th  
End of term 3 - September 18th — 12.30p.m.

2016- 4th TERM DATES
October 3rd—7th December, (Bpx Hill)  
November 30th (Pathways) finish  
Box Hill students finish on December, 7th  
Box Hill staff finish December, 14th

---

TO ALL WHO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY MAIL......

To all the supporters of Berengarra that receive our newsletter by mail, we would like to get all recipients on to our Newsletter Email list. This would save us postage, stationery and time. If you have an email address you would like the newsletter to be sent to, please email the school with the details.

Thankyou Samantha & Jan
During the outdoor elective this term we have done interesting activities including Caving, Canoeing, Fishing, Rock-climbing, Swimming alongside other exciting things.

It’s been a great challenge for students to step out of their comfort zone and challenge themselves. Some have faced their fears and even seem some interesting wildlife.

We wish you a very happy Christmas and we will see you in the new year.

Jenny, Julio & Oken
Pet Afternoon

WITH GWEN & OKAN

Thank you to everyone who came along with their pets to support our fund raiser for Animal Aid at Coldstream. We visited their facility twice this year and really enjoyed the education sessions and students particularly loved the cat enclosure. We raised $80.45 in donations!
Drama

With Gwen.................

Theatre tour, term 3

Sound design workshop, Arts Centre

Fawlty Towers “The Rat scene”, Term 3

Flynn with Mime artist
South Bank

Having fun in the Drama class, 2015
Day one, We gathered In the hall.

Once again the Mill Valley camp was a great success. A lot of students stayed overnight. Some students were driven down for a day visit. The activities were excellent: Sawing logs, canoeing and long walks. The food was lovely and everyone seemed to have a good time.

Archery was a little difficult to master. Holding the Bow, balancing the Arrow and then taking aim was harder than it looked. Great challenge for all involved.

Students gathering in the Rotunda for a catch up.
Christmas Craft and Cooking

This term’s short elective was very successful with students working on an advent calendar in which they learned how to use the sewing machine. They also enjoyed making Bonbons, a Christmas stocking and we cooked some Christmas cookies and mini plum puddings. Student worked really well each week and enjoyed making gifts for their families. Well done to all.

Creative Cup Cakes

This elective was very popular with many students choosing to get creative! We made some vanilla cupcakes and then learned a number of different decorating and icing techniques. Students learned to pipe chocolate and buttercream icing and they also learned to work with fondant icing. We had a go at Cake pops and the students each made a beautiful sponge cake with feather icing. Our final product was a self designed and decorated birthday cake. The students found the decorating challenging but the results were beautiful and the students should be very proud.
Hello from Sharyn - Food Technology teacher.

This term students really were able to build on the skills that we have been developing all year. We started off the term with Sweet Potato “Snails” that were really well liked by all. The students then enjoyed preparing cheese and bacon scrolls, chicken enchiladas, lemon slice, and gingerbread. We finished the term off with Chicken burgers and Milkshakes.

Students now know the kitchen procedures well and most look forward to what we are preparing each week. The students have all worked hard and enjoy making suggestions as to what delicacies will be added to the program.

Thanks must go to Ros and Rachael for their assistance each week as their help makes the practical session run smoothly and successfully. Well done everyone!

WITH ANNE, CLAIRE & OKAN ..................

Our student’s have been very busy this semester with drawing, printing and painting in the art room but one of their favourite activities at the moment is the delivery of mindfulness exercises which involves a therapeutic approach to colouring in pictures. As well as creating a calm atmosphere in the room their execution of colour harmony is developing and looks fantastic. They are learning while relaxing and having a good time and that is what Art is all about.

I hope you all have a relaxing and Merry Xmas and New Year and look forward to working with you all again in 2016
Another Successful Year Finishes!

This has been another busy year at Pathways, with many students achieving success and putting their own stamp on Berengarra’s history and memories. As this year draws to a close we have much to celebrate, 5 students completed and passed their Foundation VCAL, 12 students completed their Certificate II in Retail, and of these 12, 11 completed Certificate III. Added to this, many students have completed a Responsible Serving of Alcohol Certificate (RSA) and Food Handling Certificate.

As a staff we take great pleasure in seeing our students achieve and begin to fulfil their potential. In order to achieve these great things it takes effort and hard work as well as a willingness to work through the challenges that arise. Berengarra offers a “chance to change”, and many of our students have taken that chance this year.

We farewell 5 students and I’d like to take this opportunity to wish them the best of luck. Next year we currently have 19 students who will be returning, with a small number who will be transitioning from the Box Hill campus.

Next year there will be further challenges ahead as Pathways increases its educational offering with the introduction of Intermediate VCAL and Certificate IV in Retail. This opportunity gives further scope to the Pathways program and I’m very excited by the prospect of the further enhancement to our program.

Have a fantastic Christmas and New Year. Justin