

THE PHOENIX

Term 3

2nd Semester ,

2015



berengarra

a chance for change



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BERGARRA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER—2015

[Newsletter Term 3, 2015](#)

Hi All,

Despite the prevalence of a nasty winter lurgy that affected many of the staff and students throughout the term, there have been a lot of positives to report. First, our enrolment target of 71 students across all campuses was reached by census day, thus guaranteeing State and Federal funding levels for 2016. Last year in second semester at Box Hill we made adjustments to the timetable and room use to accommodate four groups of students, and this enabled us to increase enrolments from 30 to 40 students without the need for more space. These changes have been sustained to the point that if we are able to purchase the property behind the school we could increase our numbers to 50 students. On this subject there has been no progress as there is a big difference with the Parish over the purchase price. However, we will continue negotiations and live in hope. Opening the Cafe has also resulted in increasing the Pathways enrolment to 30 students, and there is capacity to accommodate at least six more students in the future.

Now that we have purchased the Box Hill property we have embarked on a program to improve the facility. The new front fence complete with remote control gate has been built and it certainly looks impressive. Check out the photo below! Over the holidays we are replacing the leaky roof on the administration building, and next January we plan to give the school a good paint to freshen the classrooms up. Also, the staff are collecting ideas to improve the school grounds. The drainage certainly needs addressing, and we are also looking at establishing some gardens, outdoor furnishings and a mural.

The 12th bi-annual staff conference was held over the last school holidays at A Country Place in Kalorama. Over the 2 days we had presentations on ASD, learning disabilities, trauma, restorative justice, wilderness therapy, teacher quality and CBT. The location and facilities were excellent, all the feedback on the presentations were very positive and the evening entertainment was great fun.

This term we have moved drama to a core subject, such was its success as an elective subject in 1st semester. We are fortunate to have Gwen De Lacy back on staff after a 10 year absence and her enthusiasm and passion for the subject is delivering excellent results for the students.

The new laptops for Box Hill have been purchased and are now in use. We hope they will address some of the learning issues the students encounter when producing written work and if successful we will look at purchasing a second set.



Principal's report continued



Down at Pathways Justin has been doing an excellent job co-ordinating the program while Graeme is away on long service leave. Daniel has unfortunately been away on sick leave all this term, but is now almost fully recovered and he is looking forward to returning next term. Simone has taken maternity leave, expecting her new child next month. Her place as Cafe Manager has been taken by Naomi Salton. Lots of changes down there but all is well!!!

Time for a break.....see you in fourth term.



Pete



2015 - 4th TERM DATES

Staff return - 5th October

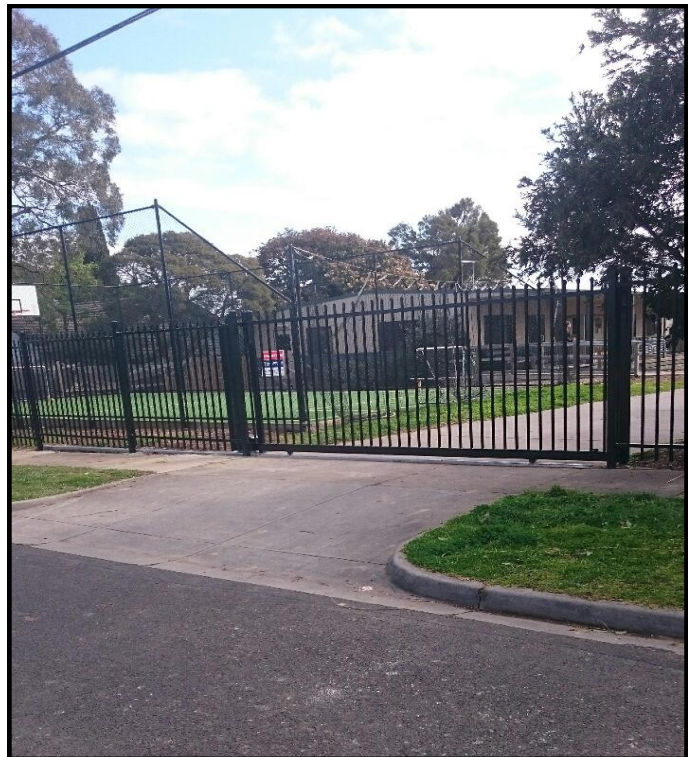
Students return—6th October

Student finish 4th December @ 12.30

Parent/teacher interviews 7th—9th December

Staff finish—11th December

****Please ensure the above dates are put into your diary****



Our fabulous new fence



KEEPING UP TO DATE: Changes of address, email or telephone, please make sure you advise the school office. Emergency contact details must be kept up to date. Thankyou...Jan