

The Phoenix



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variety
the children's charity



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BERENGARRA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER—2017

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Term 1, 2017

Although first term was only nine weeks long, it was a very busy start to the year, and busy in a very positive sense. At Box Hill we commenced the year with full enrolments, welcoming eleven new students to the program, and at Pathways five new students and four from Box Hill began their Foundation or Intermediate VCAL course. Not surprisingly the school dynamic was “lively”, especially at Box Hill, but the staff simply stuck to the task at hand and by week seven the school had settled down into a relatively calm and predictable state. Well done staff.

New Business Manager

This term we also welcomed our new business manager, Janine Smith, who replaces Graeme Bird. Janine has a background working in school financing and administration for over a decade, and comes to us highly recommended. I am confident the school is in safe hands.

Killara Street Program

In last term's newsletter I announced that the approval for the Killara Street Program, a program that would cater for students diagnosed with developmental trauma, had been given by the School Council. Since then things have really moved forward. In mid January we signed a lease for the rooms then engaged a builder to renovate the space specifically designed to meet the needs of these students. I am absolutely thrilled to tell the Berengarra community that this ground breaking program will be opening its doors to its first group of students next term. As I write the builders are cleaning up, the furniture has been ordered and a telephone lines installed. All will be ready for the opening on April 19th. We will start the group with six students, and then build it up to a maximum of twelve students by 3rd term.

Our student counsellor, Marianne Wray, has done a magnificent job in establishing the groundwork to get the program off the ground. She has helped design the rooms, employed the staff, applied for special grants, and perhaps most importantly engaged Berry Street Education for intensive staff training.



Principal's report con't....

Berry Street have spent many years researching issues around developmental trauma, and our model will be based on their education model, with a Berengarra spin on it of course!

The new teacher for the program is Mitzi Sneesby. She has been working for eight years in State schools and for the last two years she has incorporated elements of the Berry Street Education Model into the welfare program at Doveton College.

Internet and Phones

Hopefully you have accessed this newsletter by logging on to the parent portal, and also received you child's regular weekly and 1st term interim reports by the same means. If not, it's best to ring Samantha in the office and set up a login name and password. We are having a parent teacher day/night on Wednesday April 26th and in order to book in times with teachers you will need to access the portal.

More good news! For those who are sometimes frustrated when ringing the school and encountering the "engaged" sound you will be pleased to know we now have two extra telephone lines. The staff are very pleased.

Well, time for a break.....take care

Pete

Dates to remember

Term 2 staff return— April 18th

Students return—Wednesday April 19th

ANZAC DAY Public Holiday - April 25th

Parent /Teacher interviews - April 26th (1:30pm—7:00pm)

Student—Early finish 12:45pm - April 26th

Queens Birthday Public Holiday - June 12th

Term 2 ends June 23rd

3 week break (Staff Conference during week 3)

Term 3 staff return July 17th

Students return—Wednesday July 19th

Term 3 ends September 22nd



**Remember our
Diggers**



25th April

