



The Phoenix



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BERENGARRA SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - 2018

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*Berengarra School takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and is fully committed to ensuring that its strategies, policies, procedures and practices meet all **Child Safety Standards as specified in Ministerial Order No. 870 (2015)***

The Principal's report

Dear All,

It is with some sadness that I am writing my second last newsletter. In four months, after 29 years at the school, (the last ten in the role of Principal) Berengarra School will no longer be part of my life. It will however, never be too far from my thoughts. How could it not be?

For the past two months the School Council has been searching for my replacement, and I am told an announcement is not too far away. When this happens, the school community will be informed, and the transition to a new era will quietly begin. Until then it is business as usual.

Third term is viewed as the most difficult, as the winter blues infiltrate into all areas of a school. The days are grey, shorter and colder, and sniffles and coughs prevail everywhere. However, not so this year. I can report a very productive and enjoyable term, with the majority of our students making great progress. I have really been impressed by the genuine enthusiasm of the students to become involved in all learning areas, a big change from earlier in the year when a few too many sat back and waited for things to happen. It just goes to prove the saying "Carpe Diem".

I.T. Upgrade

Parents will have noticed an increase in the number of permission forms coming home to be signed. This is due to changes to some school processes we have had to make as a result of the registration audit conducted by the Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority. All schools in the state must undergo this process every five years. There have been many new compliance matters added to the list since the last audit, the most significant due to legislation in the areas of Child Safe and Anaphylaxis. In the past couple of years I have watched our policy handbook nearly double in size as we strive to keep pace with the demands of running a school in this modern era. A few months ago I was asked if we had a policy on birthday cakes. I replied "yes, I like them".

To make this easier, we have started to upgrade our administration practices by investing in computer infrastructure and software. By next term parents and caregivers will be able to access all documentation online through a platform on their personal computers and mobile phones.

The Principal's report– continued

So no more reliance on students taking home forms and remembering to return them on time. Just log on, click a few boxes and everyone will be informed. Information regarding the new process will be sent out early next term.

Changes to our computer infrastructure will include a new server and new administration software, which will greatly improve access and functionality for staff and students. A big thank you goes to Janine and Mitzi who have done an enormous amount of work to plan the roll out. I am confident that by the time I hand in my keys at the end of the year it will all be working smoothly.

LEAD Surveys

Thanks to all parents/caregivers, staff and students who responded to the LEAD surveys sent out last month. The information gathered from the surveys will be used to target areas of the school that could be improved. Results should be known by the end of November and will be published in this year's annual report.

Well, it's time for a break.....Pete

Term 4 Dates 2018

staff return - Monday October 8

Students return - Wednesday October 10

Midterm break - Monday November 5 and Tuesday 6 Cup day public holiday



Pathways Campus Camp - Monday to Wednesday November 19 - 21

Box Hill Campus Camp - Thursday to Friday November 29 - 30

Pathways Graduation - Friday November 23 end of term 4

Box Hill Graduation - Friday December 7 end of term 4

School Office Closed - Friday December 14

