Edition 1
February 10 2016

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achieving their heart’s desire
The opening assembly seems a long time ago and the Christmas holidays are but a distant memory. Yet, what could be more exciting than a Junior School filled with vibrant, excited (and excitable) young children at various stages on their developmental journey. As I said at the parent welcome morning tea on the first day back, the students are the centre of everything we do and every decision we make. They make our Junior School a fun and happy place to be. To this end, wasn’t it a fun place to be on Friday evening – celebrating the start of the year together. Thank you to all those people who came along and who helped make it such a wonderful social, fun-filled evening.

Remembering back to that first morning of the 2016 academic year, it was equally exciting to stand at the front of our school – greeting the students as they arrived and seeing the looks of nervous anticipation and excitement that only the beginning of a new school year can bring. Then there were the parents, who displayed a mixture of emotions. Some were almost walking on air, salivating at the thought of that first, relaxing, mindful coffee with no interruptions, whilst others, with their little preppy going off to school for the first time, were more nervous and upset than their children.

I wrote in the welcome back letter before the start of term that our mantra this year is ‘effectiveness’ – to be the most effective we can be in every situation and in every interaction. At our school we are constantly measuring our effectiveness and always looking for ways to increase it.

I also wrote about how we see the education of children requiring a team approach. You know your children better than anyone, and we are relying on you to help us increase our effectiveness with your sons and daughters. In turn, I’d ask that you let us help you to be the most effective you can be as a parent and as a partner with us in your children’s education.

At the parent welcome morning tea when David Shepherd was talking about the importance of parents and teachers working in partnership to get the best outcomes for students, he told us that we, as parents, are not rational when it comes to our own children. Whilst I find this statement confronting to a degree, it’s pretty much on the money. Therefore, as a parent and as someone who feels responsible for the wellbeing of every child at our Junior School, I am lucky to be surrounded by a community of people who can offer me different perspectives, challenge my thinking and help me, us and our school, be as effective as possible.

I’m convinced 2016 is going to be a terrific year and I look forward to working with you all for that common purpose – to support our children (and each other) to be the best they (we) can be.

**Steven Belcher**
Head of Junior School

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Welcome to the 2016 Early Learning Centre year and thank you for the wonderful start in all our groups. The children have enjoyed settling into the ELC routines and making new friends. All groups have been experiencing a range of activities including role play, singing, building and solving puzzles. In the outside environment, the children have particularly loved playing and working together in the sandpit and exploring the climbing frames.

Our theme across the ELC this term is 'All About Me'. We will be focusing on how we are all special and different and on how we all have different qualities and interests. In addition, the four-year-old groups will be exploring 'the senses'.

In Literacy, the four-year-old children will be exploring sounds within the environment, experiencing rhythm and rhyme and orally blending words. The three-year-old children are playing games and singing songs to learn each other’s names as well as sharing a range of books. Children will be starting to develop their listening skills as they explore the sounds of their environment.

In Numeracy, the four-year-old children are building upon their number knowledge, exploring the concepts of more, less and the same, and manipulating objects to solve mathematical problems. In the three-year-old sessions, children will be focussed on numbers 1-10 as we sing counting songs and practise counting within the environment.

Just a few reminders:

- Please ensure that your child brings a change of clothing, a drink bottle and a hat to each session. Also, please ensure that all items are clearly named.
- Make sure that you sign in and out at each session as this is a very important legal requirement.
- Children in the four-year-old groups require their own named art smock and library bag.

We are all looking forward to a great year of playing and learning together.

**Emma Collenette**
Head of ELC

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Happy New Year to all!

2016 has come upon us rather quickly and with it lots of new and exciting things in the Art room. Firstly, I would like to welcome Ms Jane Barnes, who has taken on a more significant role in the Junior School as both an Art teacher and a homeroom teacher. Jane will be teaching Art at every level from ELC to Year 4.

During the professional development days at the end of last year and the beginning of this year, it was decided that a number of new tasks would be introduced into the curriculum, especially in the lower levels – art tasks that continue to challenge our children’s imagination and develop their motor skills and visual awareness. As the weeks go by and artwork is yet again displayed in our corridors, parents should notice some new subject matter, topics or a twist on an old favourite task. In the meantime, please ask your son or daughter what they are learning in Art. These conversations help develop both their Art language and expression.

Currently in Melbourne at the NGV until 24 April is the Andy Warhol/Ai Weiwei exhibition. This is a fabulous, colourful and historical display of two artistic icons. As Molly Meldrum used to say, ‘Do yourself a favour’ and go to see it. Young and old will be amazed and there are always activities to entertain and educate the children.

Currently showing at the Art Gallery of Ballarat for the next month is the ‘Next Gen’ exhibition. A number of our BCC students are represented in this exhibition which is a display of Year 12 artwork from Victorian schools in our region. It is a great opportunity to see the standard and type of artwork that is being produced by senior students from many different schools. This exhibition is free of charge. Likewise – do yourself a favour.

I am looking forward to working with Ms Barnes (Ms Sanders and Ms Rees) this year to develop our children’s skills and thinking through the chosen tasks. I am super excited to be back in the Junior School teaching Art to my 4 classes. Truly, it is the best job.

**Vicki Gerardi**
Head of Junior School Visual Arts

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Choose to be part of the School Community in 2016

Having just got home from the Welcome Family Picnic, what better time to sit down and pen my first Echo submission. Last year’s picnic was my introduction to BCC and I looked back on it fondly throughout the year as a highlight on the BCC social calendar. In my view, this year lifted the bar again and I’d like to thank the JSPG volunteers for organising the races, watermelon and Zooper Doopers, which provided just that little bit of extra interest and helped keep the young children entertained.

As President of the Junior School Parents Group for 2016, I very much look forward to helping make a positive contribution to BCC Junior School this year. We have a fabulous team of fresh faces who make up the committee and I know they are equally enthused. They are:

Vice President: Marissa Cofield
Vice President: Denielle Beardmore
Secretary: Vacant (let me know if you’re interested!)
Treasurer: Sarah Skinner
Special Events Coordinator: Carman Ryan
Special Events Coordinator: Cindy Harris
Parent Liaison Coordinator: Nicole King
Parent Liaison Coordinator: Kieran King
School Banking Coordinator: Jodie-Lee Fergeson
School Banking Coordinator: Jane Faull
General Committee: Keegan Brouwer
General Committee: Michelle Harris
General Committee: Tonya Spencer
General Committee: Heidi Jarvis
Past President: Nikki Bennett

The JSPG aims to build friendships within our school community and to support the Junior School at events, but these cannot be achieved by the JSPG alone. The extent to which we create a welcoming and engaged school community is directly related to the extent to which parents wish to be involved – whether it be attending a JSPG event, volunteering to turn a snag at the athletics day or being a homeroom helper. It all makes a difference.

If you want to be involved - get on the list

Each class has a Parent Representative, someone from that class who has volunteered to help you get to know each other and facilitate friendships between our children. It’s important to give your details to these Reps if you want to share your details with other class parents and to become more involved in the school community, as these details cannot be obtained from the school due to Privacy Legislation. If you would like to sign up, and didn’t get the opportunity to do so at the Welcome Picnic, there are contact forms outside each classroom or alternatively email Nicole or Kieren at bccparentlist@gmail.com and they’ll add you to the list. It’s a great way to hear about any organised class/year level catch ups and makes organising play dates easy.

If anyone is interested in being a class rep for Year 1 or 3 this year please contact the email address listed. Year level lists will be distributed for Years 1 through to 4 with the ELC and prep having individual class lists.

1st JSPG Meeting: Thursday 18 February, 2015

Our first JSPG meeting of the year will be held in the Watson Hall at 7.30pm. With this being our first meeting, the agenda will be set for the year ahead – everyone is welcome, please come along and table your suggestions. Agendas for the meeting will be available on Connect from the Monday prior to the meeting.

Paul Belcher
JSPG President
Ballarat Clarendon College has an onsite uniform shop run by Dobsons. A percentage of every purchase is returned to the School.

**Location and contact details**
The Uniform Shop is located at 16 Ajax Street, Ballarat. The Uniform Shop is located next to the Health Centre. A map of our new location can be found on the Clarendon App.

Telephone: (03) 5330 8305 Email: bac@dobsons.com.au

**Normal Trading Hours (during School Term)**
- Tuesdays 1.00pm – 4.30pm
- Wednesdays 8.30am – 11.30am
- Fridays 1.00pm – 4.30pm

**Do you need an appointment outside of our Trading Hours?** We also offer individual fitting appointments. Please contact Leanne on (03) 5330 8305 during Trading Hours or via email bac@dobsons.com.au to arrange a suitable time.

**PE Uniform – Caps, Socks and House Polos**
In stock - caps, plain white sport socks and a small range of House Polos.

**Winter Uniform**
Currently available – a full size range of kilts, tunics, blouses, trousers and shirts.

**School Bags**
In stock – backpacks and trolley bags.

**Payment Facilities**
EFT and Credit Card facilities are available. You can also apply, in store or online, for a Dobsons Account. Credit Card Authority forms are available at the Uniform Shop. Cheques are not accepted.

**JSPG, Parents & Friends and 1920s Club Merchandise**
We have various items for cash sale on behalf of the Junior School Parents Group, Parents & Friends and 1920s Club. The items available include Organisational Bags, Knitted Beanies, Parents & Friends Caps, Rowing Caps, Rowing Badges and Rowing Polar Fleece Vests.

**Buying or Selling Second-hand Items**
Dobsons also sell, in store, a range of second-hand uniforms on behalf of parents. A donation will be given to the Parents and Friends for each sale of second-hand uniforms. Please contact us to discuss. For online buying or selling, please visit www.uniformswapshop.com.au
Friends of Performing Arts Ball

Save the Date for the Friends of Performing Arts Ball - Saturday 16 April at the Ballarat Golf Club. Please note the earlier date this year.

Further details and ticketing information will be sent out SOON!

Judi Eppingstall
President Friends of Performing Arts