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Can you believe we are already halfway through Term 1?

Although the Christmas holidays seem a long time ago, we are all still getting used to the routines, challenges and social change that a new year brings. Adjusting to some of these complicating factors (that can be huge in a young person’s life) will take time. It is also important at this time of the year to keep the communication lines open – nothing is too trivial and no one is too busy to listen and strategize. Education is a partnership between the school and parents – we all want what is best for the children in our care, and together we make each other better.

Thank you for your ongoing feedback, support and care.

Curriculum Information Nights – ELC and JS
The curriculum nights for ELC, Prep – 2 and Years 3 – 4 gave us an opportunity to inform parents about the teaching and learning that goes on in the classroom every minute of every day, and more importantly to talk about what parents can be doing at home to support their child’s development. Thank you to all those who came along to share in the learning of their children.

Pastoral Care Interviews
Parent-Teacher Interviews with Homeroom Teachers this Friday will provide parents with feedback as to how their children have commenced the year.

Homework
Homework is one of those topics that will always cause controversy and people will view it in different ways depending on their situation, their own experiences and how their children feel about it. Homework should not be a stress and should not cause anxiety. Easy to say! But if it is, then we need to look at the causes and diagnose what is contributing to these feelings. Often the homework is a trigger rather than the reason itself.

Homework should not be an onerous activity, unrelated to the learning being undertaken at school. It is an opportunity for students and parents to work together and engage in this learning at home. It was wonderful talking to a Year 3 boy last week who was so proud of the homework he and his dad had completed. When I spoke to his father he said he had never felt more connected with the learning his son was doing at school and just cherished the 10 minutes where he got to work with him at home each night. It was the favourite part of his day.

When working with your child at home – although you will be guiding them and sometimes cajoling them – it is important to set up a supportive dynamic where your child sees you as a support and a resource, not as someone who picks up every mistake and makes the task less enjoyable. As parents, this is sometimes a difficult task, especially when you’re trying to get dinner ready, deal with the demands of multiple children and maintain your own mindfulness!

JSPG
The JSPG film night last Friday was a great success. Thank you to all those people within the school community who supported the evening and were entertained by some quality comedy and Billy Connolly at his best!

As you will read in the JSPG report, the parent group is backward mapping from its mission to re-evaluate and assess what it does and how it does it. We see the JSPG and all those within the JS College Committee as partners in the education of the next generation of thinkers. The children are the centre of everything we do – so long as their social, emotional and academic development is the key driver by which we measure what we do, our motivations and actions cannot be questioned. We look forward to working together to make the educational experiences of the children in our care the best they can be by any measure.

Watson Hall Works
The completion date of March 23 looms closer on the horizon!!!

New Café Ordering system – Flexi-schools
We have introduced a great new online ordering system for Junior School lunch orders called FlexiSchools. From now until the end of term, we will be using both the online ordering system and the existing system. From Term 2 all lunch orders will be online only.

This system allows parents, students and staff to place orders from home, work or school at any time. The payment is also done online, so less paper bags and no cash sent via your child to school and no forgotten lunch orders still in school bags! The online orders are much faster and easier so it
makes everyone’s life a little easier. FlexiSchools is well established and tested, operating in hundreds of schools across Australia.

Getting online is easy and only takes a few minutes to register. Simply go to www.flexischools.com.au and click "Register Now". You will be sent an email with further instructions on how to complete the registration. Once registered, you can start placing orders immediately. If you have any questions, FlexiSchools provide a great help desk on 1300 361 769, or you can contact them via their website.

You can also access the FlexiSchools website via a link on the Ballarat Clarendon College phone app.

There are a variety of payment options supported, including Visa, Mastercard (credit and debit) and Bank Transfer. The system operates via a pre-paid account, so you no longer have to worry about the manual process of sending payments into school, and you can easily budget your child’s spending and expenses throughout the year.

The system is now open for registration and you can place orders for Monday onwards. We look forward to seeing your next order online!

If you have any questions about the online services we are introducing, please ask the Junior School Office for more information.

**Chris Brown & Steven Belcher**
Co-Heads of Junior School

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Last Thursday 19 February, the 3YO and 4YO Curriculum Information Evening was held in the Senior School Lecture Theatre. During this evening, the educators spoke about and explained the curriculum document we use within the ELC and how it supports the teaching and learning taking place. An insight was given in what children learn from different, common experiences such as sand play, construction and role play.

During this evening, it was also clearly explained how the children learn through self-initiated experiences, through educators joining children in their play and through intentional teaching.

A copy of the Power Point presentation is available on Connect and I encourage you to have a look at it. Please feel free to contact me, via the Junior School Office, if you have any questions or would like to discuss some of the content with me.

Please find below an insight in the learning that has and is taking place within the different groups.

**Annie Jacox**  
Head of ELC

**3YO Sessional Group**  
The children in 3YO Sessional have enjoyed playing together in the room and exploring the activities available to them. The children are starting to play together rather than alongside each other (parallel play) and are all beginning to demonstrate an understanding of the room routines and expectations.

Excitingly, one of the parents has brought in some special friends and Room 3 has now got tadpoles! The children have been eagerly observing the tadpoles each session and have a competition, running to see who can be the person to spot the first frog! The children have listened to books about tadpoles and frogs being read and have learned about what they need to eat, to stay healthy. The addition of these new pets has allowed for much discussion and the introduction of a range of new vocabulary. Very importantly, much talk has surrounded the topic of frog names and how we will remember which one is which!

**3YO Extended Group**  
Each of the 3YO Extended children has been buddied up with two Year 1 children who will come down to visit the room each Day 10 to read and play with them. The first meeting was a huge success and it was evident that both parties benefited from this experience. The Kinder children were delighted to listen to the older boys and girls read and it was wonderful to see them engaging with the stories by asking questions. The Year 1 children were delighted to have been given such a responsibility and were excellent role models for the younger children. The Kinder children are already looking forward to the next visit, as undoubtedly are the Year 1s!

[Click here for photos](#)

**Hannah Williams**  
3YO ELC Educator

**4YO Sessional Group**  
The 4YO Sessional children have enjoyed reading the big book of ”Shark in the Park” by Nick Sharrett. The story focuses on a little boy who visits the park and looks through his telescope to see what he can see. The children then made their own telescopes and explored the Kinder playground. They spied flowers, trees, rocks and flags. This was part of our study on our senses and our discussions about the importance of our sense of sight. We also explored the sense of hearing by listening to sounds from the Kinder room and identifying different environmental sounds. In the coming weeks, we will also focus on smelling, tasting and touching.

The tadpoles in the fish tank in Room 3 have sparked an interest in these curious creatures. We have discussed the lifecycle of the frog, read stories and factual books and have been singing our favourite frog songs. One of the children brought along a frog that they had hatched from a tadpole at home. The children have delighted in finding out new facts and sharing their knowledge with each other.

[Click here for photos](#)

**Jenny Harbour**  
4YO ELC Educator
Room 1
The children in Room 1 have used their sight to explore and look carefully at different objects in their environment. They have experimented using magnifying glasses and discussed how various features of an object can be seen clearer or larger when they are seen through a magnifying glass. The children have played a number of listening games in which they had to identify their peers’ voices and sounds in their environment.

The children in Room 1 have shown an interest in pirates in the outdoor environment. They have built pirate ships and engaged in role play in which they were pirates, sailing the seas. The children have been developing their gross motor skills by walking the plank, using their balancing skills to ensure they do not fall into the shark infested waters. Treasure was buried in numerous areas of the sandpit and garden beds with an X-mark to ensure it would be found again. In the coming weeks, the pirate theme will be further explored by sharing stories and experiences indoors.

Click here for photos

Shawnee McIntosh
4YO ELC Educator

Room 2
In Room 2 the children have been learning about ‘The five senses’ with a specific focus on hearing and seeing. They have been on a ‘listening walk’ which involved the children closing their eyes and describing the sounds they heard. This allowed the children to focus their attention on their listening skills. The sounds they heard included a truck reversing, the wind rustling in the trees and a motorbike driving past. Back in the room, the children listened to a CD of everyday sounds which they had fun in determining what they were. The sounds included someone brushing their teeth, a telephone ringing and a lawnmower.

The children have investigated light and dark by creating shadows using their bodies. They experienced how a shadow is made.

The children have settled well into a daily routine and have enjoyed making new friends. They have spent time out of the room constructing cubby houses with wooden blocks, tyres and sheets. Working together, the children created ‘cakes’ in the sand pit.

Click here for photos

Kate Cartwright
4YO ELC Educator

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**JSPG Movie Night**
It was terrific to see so many people enjoying a fun night out at the movies! Thank you to the parents, friends and staff of BCC who attended, we really appreciate your support. Thank you, also, to everyone for selling the tickets and to Robyn Gibson for coordinating this event.

**Year level catch-ups**
Thank you to the Parent Reps and Julia Stansbie for organising year level catch-ups for this term: it is great to know that these events continue to be enjoyed by so many people. Upcoming dates include:

- Tuesday 24 February, 8.35am: Year 4 – Lakeview Hotel (Wendouree Pde)
- Tuesday 24 February, 11.15am: 4 year old sessional – Racers (Cnr Webster St and Wendouree Pde)
- Friday 27 February, 8.35am: Year 1C – Lakeview Hotel (Wendouree Pde)
- Tuesday 3 March, 8.35am: Year 3 – Lakeview Hotel (Wendouree Pde)
- Tuesday 3 March, 2.15pm: 4 year old Extended Room 2 – The Turret (Cnr Errard and Sturt Sts)
- Friday 6 March, 1.30pm: Prep V – Lakeview Hotel (Wendouree Pde)
- Tuesday 17 March, 8.35am: Prep S – Lakeview Hotel (Wendouree Pde)

**Call for Office Bearer Position**
A position as a General Committee Member on the JSPG has become available and we are calling for nominations to fill this place. If you are interested in becoming involved in this auxiliary, please collect a nomination form from the front office and place the completed form in the JSPG drop-box. We will be voting this position in at our next JSPG meeting on Wednesday 18 March, 7.30 pm in the Chapel Room.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Scott McQueen for his help and support for the JSPG this year: sadly, Scott has resigned from his position of School Banking Coordinator.

Denielle Beardmore, General Committee member, has kindly offered to take over the role of School Banking Coordinator. I’d like to thank Denielle and wish her all the best in this new role.

**Volunteers**
We are always keen to hear from anyone who is able to volunteer their time for school-based assistance and JSPG events: please leave your details on the JSPG email (jspgbcc@gmail.com) and note any particular events you might be interested in helping with. We will post details of upcoming events on our JSPG Noticeboard (adjacent to the JS Staffroom) and in the *Echo*.

**JSPG Drop-box**
The JSPG has recently purchased a ‘drop-box’ that is located outside the window of the Junior School Office. This can be used for contact details for volunteering, dropping-off correct money for events/fundraising, and general JSPG administration notices. It will be cleared each day and will be kept safely between drop-off and pick-up hours. We hope this helps.

**JSPG cookbook, *Our Table***
Copies of our fabulous cookbook, *Our Table*, are available for sale at $40 per copy. You can also purchase 3 cookbooks, or more, for the price of $35 per copy. The book is also available for purchase online (www.clarendon.vic.edu.au) $55 including delivery or you can pick up a copy at the Sturt Street campus for $40. Online purchases can also be collected at the Junior School Office on presentation of your receipt.

**Noticeboard**
Please check the noticeboard for anything related to the JSPG. The noticeboard can be found in the corridor adjacent to the JS Staffroom.

**Junior School Second-hand Uniform Sale**
We have a Second-hand uniform sale coming-up on March 19 and 20. We will provide further details regarding this event shortly.

**JSPG – general review**
A conversation regarding the JSPG has begun and is intended to provide full community involvement in the process of reshaping our events program, in order to fully reflect the needs of the entire school. We have been looking closely at the things we do and how best to do them. Our aim is to build a program of events and support services that are realistic to achieve and fun to be involved with.
This year, due to the planned renovations of the school buildings, (resulting in a lack of available space, storage and facilities) we will be running a slightly reduced program. We have had to put on-hold Pancake Day and the Easter Raffle. We are also looking to reconfigure the Mother’s and Father’s Day stalls and utilise the children’s artwork as gifts for these occasions. We will invite volunteer parents from all year levels to assist with each event.

Your thoughts and opinions, regarding the JSPG and its programs/support services, are valuable to us. In the coming days, we will be providing a questionnaire for you to convey your thoughts, ideas and suggestions to us. Please add your comments and return these to the drop-box at the JS Office. We will also be using the coffee catch-up as a touch-point for further discussions regarding this matter. We hope you can attend and continue this conversation.

**JSPG and Friends coffee catch-up**
The next coffee catch-up will be on Wednesday 4 March at the Lakeview Hotel after school drop-off. We will be discussing, in particular, the calendar of events supported by the JSPG. We hope you can attend this informal gathering and meet new people, catch-up on information and enjoy a coffee.

**Nikki Bennett**
President JSPG
**Student Achievements**

Congratulations to Jimmy Lennox and Alexander Grove on their selection to represent Australia in the Under 10 Futsal team in Nagasaki, Japan. The school is very proud of their achievement and the boys are extremely excited!

Please read the boys report below

Jimmy and I (Alexander) are going to Japan in the term two holidays (June/July 2015). We’re travelling to Nagasaki to represent Australia in an Under 10’s Futsal team! We’ll be there for 16 days; 8 days training and 8 days playing. Jimmy’s a defender and I am the goalkeeper. We’ll only be playing against Japanese teams. In Japan we’ll need to play our best because we’re representatives of Australia and opponents will be hitting the ball like 20 year olds, or so we have heard!

Jimmy and I have been learning Japanese so we can communicate with our hosts. Here are a few key words we have learnt – hello is konnichiwa and goodbye is sayonara. Yes is hai, no is iie, please is douzo, thank you is arigatou, and congratulations is omedetoo. Excuse me is sumimasen and sorry is gomennasai.

We are excited to be travelling to Japan because it will be the first time overseas for many of us in the team - everything will be different! Jimmy and I are looking forward to learning about a different culture, seeing Mt Fuji, eating lots of sushi, travelling on a Bullet train, and experiencing the sights and sounds of a massive city like Tokyo. We are also very interested to see Nagasaki and learn more about its history, especially as it was bombed by an atomic bomb which caused catastrophic damage. But most of all, we want to come back proud of ourselves for representing Australia and having made new friends in Japan.

Written by Alexander Grove and Jimmy Lennox

**Melbourne Rebels – Regional Roadshow**

The RaboDirect Melbourne Rebels will be coming to town on Wednesday 4th March on a Regional Roadshow. The Rebels will be visiting 3 major regional centres in one day, being Ballarat, Geelong and Shepparton.

We would like to invite your students, whether they are rugby enthusiasts or not, to join us at St Patrick’s College to take part in a fun, interactive clinic facilitated by a host of Melbourne Rebels players, Rebels coaching staff and professional development officers.

This Clinic will be provided absolutely free-of-charge to all students/participants that wish to participate between the ages of 6 – 18 years. Parents are also invited to come along and watch.

The Ballarat Rugby Union Club will be supporting this event, and guests will enjoy a BBQ and refreshments provided by the Club to raise money for local rugby.

The clinic will be followed with a signing session, an opportunity for the kids to meet the players and get some autographs.

**EVENT DETAILS – click here for flyer**

**When:** Wednesday 4th March 2015

**Where:**

Ballarat Rugby Union Club  
St Patrick’s College  
1431 Sturt Road, Ballarat

**What:**

Clinic facilitated by a host of Melbourne Rebels players, Rebels coaching staff and professional development officers  
Melbourne Rebels players signing session

**Who:**

Participants aged 6 years to 18 years – no prior rugby experience necessary

**RSVP Online:**

By Friday 27th February 2015

**Cost:**

Free of charge
Ballarat Clarendon College has an on-site 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 1425 Sturt Street, Ballarat. The Uniform Shop is in the building in front of the Girls Boarding House adjacent to the Tennis Courts.

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

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

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.

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

**House Polo Tops**
A range of House Polo Tops currently available. Orders also taken.

**King Island Polar Fleece**
Just arrived – a full size range of King Island Polar Fleece.

**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 and Rowing Caps.

**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

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**The Uniform Swap Shop**

For buying and selling your child’s requirements for Primary, Secondary and Tertiary levels visit www.uniformswapshop.com.au

Buy and sell: uniforms, books, sports equipment, musical instruments, camera and film, art supplies, electronics, CD and DVDs.

All sales assist YOUR School community and The Alannah and Madeline Foundation.

Easy to navigate, easy to buy, easy to sell. 24 hour access to goods.
No commissions - 100% of money received by the seller.

**Try it today:** www.uniformswapshop.com.au
**Host Families Wanted**
AIIU are bringing a group of 21 Japanese students to Ballarat from the Monday 16 March to the Saturday 28 March, 2015 to study at Federation University SMB campus.

All these students need a family to stay with during this time.

[Click](#) here for more information

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**YMCA Outside School Hours Care to Primary School**
The YMCA of Ballarat are the leaders in providing quality, fun and fulfilling Outside School Hours Care to Primary School aged children in the Ballarat region. With our services, families can have the peace of mind knowing their children are cared for in a safe, fun and stimulating environment.

[Click](#) here for more information

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**YMCA Swimathon - Sunday 1 March**

[Click](#) here for more information

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**Walk4BrainCancer Port Fairy**

Come and Walk 5kms Together

- **Date:** Sunday 8 March
- **Time:** 8.00am start
- **Location:** Fiddlers Green, Sackville Street
  Port Fairy

Registration from 7.30am
$10 per person or $20 per family, pay on the day

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**Melbourne Japanese Summer Festival**

You are invited to participate the Melbourne Japanese Summer Festival.

The Melbourne Japanese Summer Festival is one of the biggest annual Japan-related events in Victoria. The Festival will be held at Federation Square on Sunday 8 March, 12-6pm.

Enjoy delicious Japanese food and cultural experiences!


**Ms Kennedy**
Head of Senior Languages

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