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Opportunities, Interactions and Our Sense of Community
As we career onwards through Term 4 and into the Silly Season, it is important to pause at times and savour the wonderful work people within our community are doing – teachers and parents working in partnership, the generous contributions and contributors to activities outside of the classroom, and the amazing achievements of the students we bring to school, work with, take home and put to bed each night.

Almost two weeks ago, just after the last Echo was published, we had the 2016 Prep Information Evening. It was a terrific night that saw our Prep teachers present so well, along with Mr Literacy himself, Chris Brown. Never was there someone so knowledgeable and passionate about literacy – and it showed in his presentation about the alphabetic code, the reciprocity between reading and writing – not to mention segmenting and blending, phoneme buttons and bars, grapheme-phoneme correspondence... Perhaps you just had to be there 😊

Well, a lot of people were, and it was lovely to get their feedback the next morning:

- "Last night was terrific – it reminded us why we send our kids here. Thanks."
- "It was so impressive last night. Our eldest came in after Prep so I’d never been before. It was so wonderful to get an insight into what the children do and why. Very impressive. Thank you."
- "Thank you for last night. Our older kids were at a great school in Melbourne and we’ve had some experience with other schools, but I’ve never seen such energy and enthusiasm as you guys have."
- "Last night was amazing. I’ve been to a number of information nights over my time at College, but I think last night was the best one I’ve been to."

We (as in parents and teachers in partnership) do good work. And whilst we’re always looking to get better and be the best we can be and know we don’t always get it right, it’s important to pause sometimes and reflect on the wonderful work we do along the way. So if you’re reading this – pause. If you’re with your children, look at them and marvel and what you’re helping create. If you’re not with them, visualise them at their best and give yourself a pat on the back – our kids (your kids) are pretty special – and that’s not by chance. It has to do with the love, care and support they receive in all facets of their lives – whether that’s on the sporting field, playing futsal on Saturday morning, in the classroom, running round the playground, or having a story told to them in bed at 6:30am on a Sunday morning – every interaction is so powerful and so meaningful.

Yet, unfortunately at times we tell ourselves we are too busy and we don’t make the most of those interactions or see important opportunities until they’ve passed us by.

It struck me the other day – when an uninsured lady driving on a cancelled licence with two children in the back suddenly turned right in front of us a few weeks ago and both cars were written off – that life is too short not to make the most of every minute, every opportunity and every interaction. I used to think making the most of every minute meant trying to multi-task and do about three things at once. I now know that multi-tasking is a furphy and that making the most of every minute is about being mindful and focusing on the single most important thing at that particular point in time.

In talking to people about mindfulness, I was pointed in the direction of this clip – it’s not bad if you can spare a few minutes: [http://themetapicture.com/if-this-video-doesnt-convince-you/](http://themetapicture.com/if-this-video-doesnt-convince-you/)

On the topic of mindfulness and making the most of every minute, we have the following things coming up in our community that you can enjoy being involved in:

- Junior School Showcase (Saturday 14 November)
  - As of Tuesday 10 November, there were only 40 tickets remaining! What a blast it will be, watching our children play, dance and sing. It doesn’t get any better than watching your kids do things and interact positively with others. It’s a definite highlight of being a parent.
JSPG AGM and opportunity to be on the 2016 committee (Wednesday 18 November)
  o The main purpose of the JSPG is to help foster a sense of community amongst all parents and families, and to support the ongoing teaching and learning. To achieve this, we need lots of contributing members who can take charge of one aspect, no matter how small, and run with it – be it organising a social event for a particular year level, cooking snags at a sausage sizzle, covering readers or organising the stall holders for the Touchstone Market – every bit contributes to what the Junior School is. The more we can share responsibilities for cultivating this sense of community and belonging, the better outcomes we will achieve for us all.

We look forward to seeing you all at both of the afore mentioned events – one, doing what parents love doing, and two, doing anything you can to contribute ideas or manpower to make our community the best it can be.

Chris Brown & Steven Belcher
Co-Heads of Junior School

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3YO Extended
The children enjoyed a wonderful trip to Ballarat Art Gallery where they took part in a puppet making class as part of Ballarat’s Children’s Week. The children were shown how to set out a puppet face and where each of the features were to be placed. They then decorated their puppets in bright colours and created different characters. We walked there and back from Kinder and everyone was rather exhausted by the end of the morning!

3YO Sessional
The children have been enjoying playing with finger puppets in Music. They have been listening to a variety of music and responding with their puppets accordingly – sometimes they need to move their puppets quickly and then other times slowly. The children have also used wooden blocks and shakers to respond to the music they hear and the tempo of the songs to which they listen.

Click here and here for photos

Room 3
In Literacy the four year old groups have been enjoying reading a variety of big books and listening to many picture book stories. The children can now identify many words in these books as they employ their blending and segmenting skills and use their developing bank of high frequency words. The children continue to enjoy their weekly Junior School Library visits and revel in the opportunity to select their own books. They also delight in having time to browse and share books with their friends. The children are very enthusiastic when working in small group focus sessions. They thoroughly enjoy playing alphabet games and reading and talking about books together.

In Maths the children have continued to consolidate their number knowledge and understandings. They have been working on their estimation skills by thinking about strategies that assist them to make a “good guess” of the total number of objects. The children have been thinking of different ways to make numbers by using their fingers to help them. For example, they have shown 6 as 3 and 3, 4 and 2, and 5 and 1. Counting activities continue to be important and the children have been involved in counting collections and many oral counting activities. They are very proud of their wonderful achievements.

The four year old sessional children have been happily watching our three goldfish swimming around in their tank. This has sparked an interest in "The Rainbow Fish" books and the children have been creating a rainbow fish mobile during their Art lessons. They have also completed an aquarium canvas painting after discussing the features of a sea scene. The children have continued to be fascinated by our stick insects. They have grown so much and have been very active in their enclosure. The children have been engaged in many other activities, including creating faces from a collection of spare parts, painting and decorating wooden flowers, exploring shapes on the light box and working together to solve many tricky floor puzzles. They have also enjoyed the opportunities to play with their peers from Rooms One and Two.

Room 1
Room 1 has had a busy couple of weeks. The children have continued to look after the vegetable garden, excitedly watching it grow and change. Last week, the children had the opportunity to assist in picking some of the lettuce and the ripe cumquats off of the tree. Many of the children described characteristics of the colour and shape of the fruit and vegetable, explaining which ones were ripe and ready to be picked. After picking the produce, they had the opportunity to try the lettuce at fruit snack. The discussion about the taste and texture was intriguing, with some enjoying the lettuce and others preferring not to eat it all. This week, the children have each taken home a jar of cumquat jam that Julie made, with most tasting it for the first time.

Room 2
In room two the children have enjoyed ‘going camping’. They have toasted the marshmallows on the camp fire, gone fishing, barbecued as well as making a comfy bed in the tent. They have used great communication skills to work together to ensure they have a great camping trip.

Science has also been on the agenda in room two this week. All the children have been making ‘bubbling potions’. The children have predicted what would happen when they added coloured vinegar to bicarbonate of soda. Their predictions included: “It will change colour!” and “The food dye will sink to the bottom!” As they added the vinegar the children watched the bicarbonate of soda bubble up. They used a pipette so they could watch the reaction closely. Once all the children had performed the experiment themselves, they watched the reaction occur when lots of vinegar was added all at once. That was the best part!! In the next couple of weeks we will plan to conduct more experiments to develop the children’s prediction and observation skills.
Click here for photos

Chris Brown
Head of ELC

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Year 3 & 4 Afterschool Netball 2015
Congratulations to all students who participated in the Term 3 and 4 Netball competition at Llanberris Stadium on Wednesday’s afterschool. It was a fantastic 12 week competition where games were played against other Ballarat Primary Schools. Well done to all our teams who played each game with enthusiasm, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Year 4 Black Team: Myah Grylewicz, Alannah Scott, Sophia Robinson, Sienna Robertson, Lily Dwyer, Paige Livingston, Sophie Reid and Gemma Walton

Year 3 Red Team: Imke Brouwer, Demi Candy, Molly Fraser, Jaya McRobb, Annabelle Moloney, Lyla Shorter, Olivia Carter and Erin McKerrow

Year 3 White Team: Sophie Atkinson, Charlotte Murphy, Miranda Pisani, Caitlin Benjamin and Harriet Tennant

Thank you to Mrs Moloney, Miss Trollope and Mrs Parkin for coaching our Year 3 and 4 teams this year.

Thank you to all the parents that came along to cheer us on and help with scoring.

Set a goal and go for it!
Setting a goal is one thing. Setting a goal, working hard and achieving that goal is another. Lewis Gilbert has been swimming for a few years. Two weeks ago, he set a goal to swim 4000 metres, 160 laps of the school pool. Did I mention he wasn’t going to stop?

After nearly an hour of non-stop swimming and only 2 laps to go Lewis whipped off his goggles to enjoy the last 60 seconds of the torture he had bestowed on himself. His coach thought that Lewis was in quite good shape and suggested he keep going and do a few more. As his goal was not to stop he had to do the final 1000 metres without goggles.

To his credit, Lewis powered through the water to complete 5000 metres (5 km) of non-stop swimming in about 75 minutes.

We congratulate Lewis on setting a goal, working hard and achieving that goal.

Challenge yourself this week. Set a goal and go for it!

Paul Stephens
Head of Junior School Sport & Physical Education

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visual arts

“Step by step”

This week I had the opportunity to see my grandson Dustin, he is 17 months old. Each time I visit I am delighted to witness the new things that he has learnt. This week he was able to place the plastic screw top lid on and off his squeeze sachet of yoghurt, and blow kisses while smiling. It’s amazing how these little things are so exciting for his Nan; these new steps are such a source of joy.

I was watching and helping my Year 2 art class this week understand the concept of transferring a small image into a large size drawing. They were to apply skills of observation and use basic shapes to draw the form of their chosen bird. There were lots of mistakes and as I was going around the room, I was wondering, ‘why don’t they get this’? The transfer of images from small to large scale is not an easy process but I suppose I expected them to ‘get it’ first time. So I needed to re-teach the steps and get them to look at the sample and see where or why their work was different and how it could improve?

As I was reflecting on my day, I thought about just how far these children have come since the beginning of the year. All the little steps have developed and built over the year. They now have better drawing skills, the ability to see details in artworks and visual examples, know all the art elements and to extend their imagination and thinking beyond the obvious. They are still enthusiastic and excited to come to Art each week knowing they will achieve something they are proud of, which makes me very happy.

My expectations are quite high, however I had to remind myself that these children have really grown and developed, I just hadn’t noticed. Dustin has only just figured out how to put the oven mitt on his head and my Year 2’s have only just learnt how to draw a flamingo onto an A2 piece of paper – an amazing feat!

Speaking of amazing events…please don’t forget that the Junior School Art show will be opening and available for viewing in week 8, November 24 to 27, at both the Junior School and the Morrow Gallery, Sturt street campus.

Vicki Gerardi
Visual Arts Teacher

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UnitingCare Christmas Appeal
The Junior School will be participating in the UnitingCare Christmas Appeal this year. Gift tags will be handed out to the children and we hope that families can purchase a gift to donate so that Christmas is a happy time for children and families everywhere.

A box will be placed in the JS foyer for all gifts to be put in to: please wrap your gift and securely attach the gift tag. We will be clearing the box regularly and will present the gifts to a UnitingCare representative on the last day of school. Please support this worthwhile community appeal: local gifts helping local people.

JSPG Secondhand Uniform Sale
There will be a second hand uniform sale held on Monday 30 November (Orientation Day) at the Junior School. This is a fabulous opportunity to purchase, or sell, good quality items of clothing and accessories. Please see attached documents for garment condition/pricing and clothing sales labels.

Drop off date – Friday 27 November
8-9am and 3-4pm

Sale day – Monday 30 November
8-9am and 3-4.30pm

Pick up of money from the sold uniforms and also any unsold uniforms - Friday 4 December
2-3.30pm

Please click here for further information

Christmas Pudding/Cake fundraiser
Thanks to everyone who purchased puddings and cakes in our fundraiser. We really appreciate your support. Please collect your puddings/cakes on Friday 4 December and Monday 7 December.

Junior School House Triathlon
We are looking for volunteers to help with the Triathlon sausage sizzle on Sunday 22 November. If you are free to help on this day, starting at 9am, we’d be extremely grateful.

Year level catchups
4YO Room 1 catch up for Term 4:
Friday 13 November
Yorkdale Estate Adventure Playground from 9.30am
Catch-up for parents/guardians and for the students in Room 1.
Notices will be put it in the students’ diaries.

Junior School Parents’ Group - 2016
The Junior School Parents’ Group is looking to fill some places on the Committee for the 2016 school year.

Positions currently vacant include:
- President
- Vice President
- Special Events Coordinator
- Parent Liaison Coordinator
- School Banking Coordinator
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- General Committee Member

The main role of the Junior School Parents’ Group is to support the Junior School with organising various activities throughout the year and assisting the school where necessary. Meetings are held monthly (during the term) and everyone from the JS community is welcome to participate. Committee positions are held for one year with the option of re-election for a second year should you wish to do so.

Involvement in this auxiliary also offers a positive opportunity for parents/guardians of children of the Junior School to be involved. It is a great way to engage with the whole school community, make new friends and help shape the concepts and direction of the group and their activities which, ultimately and most importantly, benefit the children at the school. It is an energetic, friendly and dynamic auxiliary with much potential: we have a strong volunteer base, we represent and promote a vibrant mix of views from across the JS community and we are financially very secure. The Junior School Parents' Group is a well-supported and respected auxiliary and has a proud history, having been established in 1992.
If you would like more information about the roles of the committee members, please don't hesitate to talk to someone from the current committee or, indeed, the Co-Heads of the Junior School. We look forward to hearing from anyone interested in any of the positions or from those simply interested in joining in and helping out. Information can also be obtained from the JS Office.

**The JSPG Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Junior School Parents’ Group will be held on Wednesday 18 November, 2015 at 7.30pm at the KD Baird Boat Shed. New office bearers will be elected at this meeting. Please note that nominations for the positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Special Events Coordinator, School Banking Coordinator, General Committee Member, and Parent Liaison Coordinator can be made at the Junior School Office, where forms and a locked box are positioned. All nomination forms must be completed and placed in the box prior to the meeting. Nominees must sign the form and have it co-signed for it to be accepted.

At the conclusion of this meeting, a general monthly JSPG meeting will be held. All members of the school community are welcome to attend.

**JSPG cookbook, our table**

Copies of the fabulous BCC Junior School 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](http://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.

Full of wonderful recipes and beautifully illustrated with colour photographs, this book is a must have for every kitchen. A great gift idea, too!

**JSPG Meeting**

The next Junior School Parents’ Group meeting will be held at the KD Baird Boat Shed on Wednesday 18 November, 2015 at 7.30 pm.

We hope to see you there.

**Nikki Bennett**

JSPG President
This year’s annual giving program has focused on raising funds to help develop a brand new Fitness Centre and state-of-the-art Rowing Tank. It’s a project that is in line with the school’s ‘Fit for Life’ plan, where the school takes an active role in providing learning opportunities for students to give them the knowledge they need to make positive health and lifestyle choices such as fitness both now and throughout their life.

It’s an incredibly exciting project which will commence its construction at the end of the year. Here are some of the highlights of the new Fitness Centre and Rowing Tank;

- The Rowing Tank, will be the first of its kind in Australia and has been designed by an internationally acclaimed rowing-tank architect.
- It will be motorised to generate water currents which simulate outdoor water conditions, and regulated by a remote-control system.
- It can accommodate 16 rowers, with two parallel pools, but can be used with as few as two rowers. Donors have the chance to ‘purchase’ a rowing seat and we only have 5 left! Please download the brochure for more information.
- Clear window along Wanliss Street will give bystanders a glimpse into the movement of the water.
- The new infinity pool will be heated using sustainable solar power.
- The new spin room will accommodate 30 spin bikes for group lessons, including early-morning sessions such as Pilates and yoga. The floor will be fitted with a ‘spring floor’ and mirrors along the wall, ideal for dance classes.

As the beginning of the construction for this project draws closer and interest from across the community grows, please contact the Communications Office if you are interested in a chance to learn more about the Fitness Centre & Rowing Tank from the project Architect at a reception on Wednesday 16 December from 5.30 to 7pm.

Emily Roffe-Silvester  
Director of Development

communications@clarendon.vic.edu.au

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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 1425 Sturt Street, Ballarat. The Uniform Shop is located in the building in front of the Girls Boarding House adjacent to the Tennis Courts.

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

**Trading Hours Thursday 12 to Saturday 28 November 2015**

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<td>12/11/2015</td>
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**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.

**Price List and additional Opening Hours**
Our Price List and details of our additional Opening Hours for Orientation Days, Head Start, Transition Week, P&F Secondhand Book Sale and January 2016 can be located on connect@clarendon. We would be happy to email you a copy of our Price List and Opening Hours.

**Buy Early and Save Promotion**
Our Buy Early and Save Promotion has commenced. Must purchase before Wednesday 25 November, 2015.

**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
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

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Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience
The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience tells the story of Australia’s involvement in the First World War and the ensuing century of service of our armed forces.

This once-in-a-lifetime event will be open to the Ballarat community from 8–14 November 2015. The event takes place at the Ballarat Exhibition Centre and runs daily from 9am–6pm.

The experience provides an immersive and interactive way for Australians to commemorate the First World War. For school students it provides an invaluable learning opportunity, with direct links to the Australian curriculum. It’s recommended for students from Year 5 onwards and a range of downloadable teaching materials are available online at www.spiritofanzac.gov.au.

Entry to the Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience is free, but booking is essential as places are limited. Find out dates, locations and booking details at www.spiritofanzac.gov.au.

Follow us on social media and find out what previous visitors have said about us on Facebook by searching 'Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience'.

Click here for further information

Did your son or daughter create a Young Archies Portrait?
The Marketing department would love to see photos of students with their Archie! We would like to showcase the amazing talents of our young students by posting a blog and an album on Facebook of students with their Archie.

Please send in your photos by Friday 21 November to communications@clarendon.vic.edu.au or call 533 08 188 for more information.

Crockers Schoolwear Sale
Crockers 10% schoolwear sale is now on and will continue till Saturday 19 December.
Lay by welcome.

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