

The Cassowary

Official Newsletter of Beverley Hills Primary School

11th March 2009, Number 03



READING

Of all the skills that children have to learn when they get to school reading is undoubtedly the most important. Practically everything else they do at school is influenced by this skill. The ability to read not only permeates all areas of the curriculum, it also has a profound effect on the way children think and on their understanding and knowledge of their own language.

Fortunately most children receiving a competent instructional program find learning to read relatively painless, even fun, however there are some children who find the task difficult, and still others who can be devastated by the process. Educators have known for a long time that it is not simply a question of intelligence, but to date there is no agreement on what causes this difficulty – although numerous theories abound.

At Beverley Hills we have reading programs to assist the very able, and programs to assist those in difficulty. We are proud of our achievements but also realise that our efforts can be in vain if encouragement and assistance are not forthcoming at home. Reading with your children, reading to your children and having them read to you are all ways to improve this important skill. But be sure that these activities are conducted in a relaxed atmosphere where encouragement, rather than criticism, is emphasised. Frequent visits to the local municipal library, setting aside regular reading times in the evening, ensuring that home readers are returned and exchanged, and discussing concerns with the school are some other ways you can help your child.

Reading opens doors to a multitude of new experiences, it enables children to pursue interests of their own and to eventually take control of their own learning. Something so important should be given your highest priority.

Calendar

MARCH

16th – P&F Meeting
18th – School Council
26th – School Photos

APRIL

3rd – Term 1 Ends (2.30pm finish)
20th Term 2 Starts
20th – P&F Meeting



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Principal: **Malcolm Corr**

EAST DONCASTER SECONDARY COLLEGE is pleased to offer students the opportunity to apply for admission to ALPHA, an advanced learning program for high achievers.

Students who would benefit from the program are those who give evidence of high performance capability in specific academic disciplines, or general high achievement in intellectual, creative, artistic or leadership fields. The curriculum for the program is an enhancement of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards and includes a range of interdisciplinary projects maximising the individual's ability to utilise their thinking skills. Students in the program will complete the usual six years of secondary education, thus preparing them for their best possible Tertiary Entrance Score at the end of their secondary schooling.

Applications for registration to sit the ALPHA 2010 examination are now available online. The cost of the ALPHA examination is \$50.00 (non-refundable). Please forward application with payment to East Doncaster Secondary College, 20 George St, East Doncaster 3109. Registration closes Wednesday 6th May, 2009. The ALPHA entrance examination will be held at the college on Saturday 9th May. For further details regarding ALPHA please contact Mrs Marchant on 9842 2244.

BALWYN HIGH SCHOOL offers places in the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) to a limited number of very capable and committed students. Generally, they are Grade 6 students who may benefit from taking part in an accelerated learning program. Suitable students will have academic skills above those of their age peer group. Students taking this program are expected to progress to the VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) program after three years instead of four.

- The tests are conducted on Saturday, 2nd May 2009 at Balwyn High School.
- The closing date for applications is Sunday 26th April 2009.
- The cost is \$100.00, (non-refundable) which can be made using you credit card.

Please note that all applications must be made online.

'Bridges' Time Again! - *Enrol Now!*

Give your child a *'smooth'* transition to school. Open to all 4YO old pre-prep children from local Kindergartens, Crèches and Child Care Centres. An exciting learning program conducted by Early Years' Coordinator- Christine Leembruggen where children undertake a variety of literacy activities and learn to adapt to different social contexts. Stories come alive! Maths made fun! Routines established in preparation for school next year.

Enrolment forms and further information can be obtained from the school office.

WHEN: Term 2 - (from 7th May to 4th June)
Term 3 - (from 30th July to 27th August)
Term 4 - (from 29th October to 26th November) (Prep Transition)
DAY: Thursday
TIME: 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. (Please bring snack for morning recess)
COST: \$10.00 per session
VENUE: Prep Classroom

Parents wishing to enrol their children in the 'Bridges' program should complete an enrolment form and return it to school no later than Thursday 30th April.

FAMILY PICNIC/MOVIE NIGHT

What a terrific night for both the parents, teachers and children. The movie was a big hit with the children. Thank you to all parents who came along and to our hard working volunteers who worked in the canteen.

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Tuesday last week and the children and teachers enjoyed the hot food on offer. Thank you to all our parent volunteers, it was great to see some new faces during the day. Also, thank you to Mr Joksic for cooking the sausages on the day and to all the parents who donated all the delicious cakes and slices.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 16th March - 8.00pm in the staffroom. Please feel free to come along and join in, meet other parents and help support your child's school.

EASTER RAFFLE

Easter eggs donations - we are seeking donations of chocolate eggs, novelty rabbits and bunnies and baskets for our annual Easter Raffle. The Easter Hat parade will be held on the last week of term. Please leave any chocolate donations at the school office.

CADBURY DAY SHOPPING DAY

Tuesday 31st March at 11am. We will be meeting at Cadbury Ringwood. Limited spots are available. Please RSVP, Helen Drossinis on 9842 7213 if you would like to come along.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS COMING SOON!!!!!!

Will be available to purchase from the school office. The cost will be \$65.00. Please help and support the school as a percentage goes back to the school.

President - Susan Kent - P.9891-7037

Secretary – Helen Drossinis – P.9842-7213

Treasurer – Yasmin Tibb – P.9842 4875

SACRAMENTAL CATECHIST CLASSES

Classes to prepare children (grades 4 and over) for these Sacraments of Reconciliation and first Communion, will commence on Sunday 22nd March 2009 at 10.00 – 11.00 at Ss Peter & Paul's Parish, 23 Leeds Street Doncaster East. Confirmation Classes are also available. Please contact the Parish Office on 9842-1480 during business hours for an enrolment form.

PREMIER'S ACTIVE FAMILIES CHALLENGE

The Premier's Active Families Challenge is a new program run by the Victorian Government. It is part of the 'Go for your Life' Initiative to improve the physical activity, health and well-being of Victorian families.

The program aims to encourage families with children to participate in an inclusive and achievable physical activity that is fun, easy, accessible and worthwhile. To complete the challenge each member will do at least 30 minutes of physical activity for 30 days between 8th March and 19th April 2009. Participants can complete the 30 minutes of physical activity on their own or as a family. To participate, families need register on line or by mail for certificate, information or prizes. The free booklet contains a diary to record your activity during the challenge. When families register, they receive 15 YMCA passes and 15% off at Rebel Sport. They can also nominate the school their children attend and the school will go into a draw to win one of eight \$3,000 sporting equipment packages. Try the 30 minutes challenge 8th March – 19th April 2009. For further details call 1300 739899 or www.goforyourlife.vic.gov.au

P.E. Teacher - Mrs Wallace

VICTORIAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS CRICKET TRIALS

Cricket Victoria will be again holding trials. Good luck to the children who are trying out- Tommy Williams, Sam Hume & Monique Webb.

Sport Co-ordinators - Mr Nicola & Mrs Wallace



2008 DISTRICT SWIMMING CARNIVAL



Thursday 23rd of February, B.H.P.S. Swimming Team travelled to Aquarena to participate in the District Swimming Carnival. Thanks to Mrs Williams, Mrs Kent, Mrs Kim, Mrs Watson, Mrs Steele and Mrs Tibb for transporting the children to the pool and supporting the children by cheering and helping out with the numerous jobs. Your help is invaluable.

Outstanding Swimming Results were;

4th Place – Doyun K. (Breastroke), Callum J. (Breastroke), Carmen W. (Backstroke), Ben W. (Backstroke), Monique W.(Butterfly),

10yo Girls Relay Team - Lauren E., Carmen W., Ally S. & Mia T.

11yo Girls Relay Team - Alana E., Emma C., Doyun K.& Annalee M.

11yo Boys Relay Team - Callum J, Naryman T., Raymond Z. & Ben W.

3rd Place – Callum J. (Freestyle).

2nd Place – Lachie S. (Breastroke), Jason L. (Backstroke), Tommy W. (Butterfly),

Girls Medley Team - Carmen W., Doyun K., Monique W. & Emily L.

Boys Medley Team - Jack T., Lachie S., Andrew K. & Ben W.

1st Place and representing B.H.P.S. at the Zone level on Wednesday 11th March at Northcote Aquatic & Recreational Centre are:

Jason L. (Freestyle)

Tommy W. (Breastroke)

12 yr Boys Relay Team - Tommy W., Jack T., Christopher H. & Jason L.

Congratulations to all swim team members & thank you to Jacqueline P. and Jason L. for being supportive team captains.

Teachers - Mrs Wallace & Mr Nicola