Three big changes to the vaccine program

In 2015 three major changes to the vaccine program will impact on parents of secondary school students:

- The Manningham City Council’s immunisation service may contact you about the secondary school vaccine program. Schools have been authorised to provide parent contact details to local councils for this purpose. Contact the school on (03) 9852 1631 by 28 February 2015 if you do not want your contact details given to the Manningham City Council.

- In 2015 only, the vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough will be offered to all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. From 2016, this vaccine will be offered to Year 7 students only. This will provide earlier protection from these diseases.

- The time-limited human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine program for Year 9 boys was completed in December 2014. HPV vaccine will continue to be offered to all students (both male and female) in Year 7 from 2015.

Look out for the vaccine consent form/s coming home from school with your child. You need to read, complete and return the form/s regardless of whether your child is being immunised at school.

To learn more about the changes, the diseases, the vaccines, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination go to immunehero.health.vic.gov.au

Principal’s Report

Welcome to our 2015 school year. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new families and their children and to the staff who have joined our skilled and specialised team at Bulleen Heights School. We look forward to working together to enhance the educational learning outcomes for all students.

Prior to students starting school, our staff attended school for professional learning and preparation for students starting. Last Friday we welcomed both our returning and new students. There was a real feeling of excitement as everyone gathered in the morning ready for their new classes. This year we welcome twenty new Foundation students and one student to the secondary campus. Our enrolment for the year is 281 students, with 156 at the primary campus and 125 at the secondary campus. We support 26 students in dual enrolment placements.

During the holidays a range of annual tasks were completed, such as carpet cleaning, painting and more intensive cleaning of the facilities. Last year we started a seven year plan for the painting of the secondary campus, with the external facilities being the first component. Very soon all of the buildings will be painted internally. We are looking forward to a seeing a fresh, new look to the campus. Student Support Group meetings will be held during term 1. This process supports the preparation of student learning goals for the year. Your class teacher will make arrangements for you to meet over the coming weeks.

As a school community we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Regards

Susan Merjan
Parent Request
I need someone to help me with after school care for Anvesh Gummi on Wednesday and Thursday till 4:00pm and can pay privately.
If you can help please contact Harish on 0452 543 737 or Manju 0415 505 533. Thank you

PFA News

The PFA would like to welcome back all existing families and welcome the new families.

Every Monday at 9am we have a coffee morning. After you drop off your child come along to the parents room at the Pleasant Rd Campus. Young children are most welcome. We have a few toys for them to play with.

Positions are now available for the PFA committee. If you wish to apply for a position please apply in writing attention it to PFA committee and send to the school with your child by Friday 20th February. You can ask Richard Wright for a copy of the Office Bearer Rolls, positions will be decided on Friday 27th February. There will be a morning tea to welcome new families on Monday 9th February to discuss the roll of the parents association within school.

There will be a PFA meeting 9am, Friday 13th February, in the parents room Pleasant Rd. This will be to discuss last years events and getting ready to hand over the positions.

Sunday 1st March, our school is hosting a BBQ at Bunnings Northland. A volunteer roster will be sent home next week for you to fill out with any times you may be available. Its a great chance to meet your fellow parents from both campuses. We really appreciate your help.
CHANGES TO THE EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

From 1 January 2015, the government will provide extra financial support directly to Victoria’s neediest schools instead of providing the Education Maintenance Allowance directly to parents. Parents will not be able to apply for the Education Maintenance Allowance in 2015. The money will be allocated to eligible schools through schools’ core operational funding mechanism, with neediest schools receiving the most funding. Not all schools will be receiving funding in 2015. This change to how the money is distributed was required by the funding agreement with the Commonwealth Government to make sure Victorian schools receive increased funding that will benefit all students and, in particular, those from schools with concentrated disadvantage.

The majority of parents who received the EMA payment already elected to provide the money directly to their school. If you are experiencing financial hardship, you can speak to your principal about how you can access assistance from the State Schools’ Relief Committee for clothing and uniforms.

The end of the EMA direct payments to parents will not affect any other payment you may be receiving such as the Schoolkids Bonus, which is provided directly to eligible parents to assist with education costs.

If you have any questions about this change, please speak to your school principal or business manager.

School Kids Bonus

From 1 January 2015, eligible families will receive Schoolkids Bonus in:

- 2 instalments of $211 for each child in primary school - a total of $422 each year
- 2 instalments of $421 for each child in secondary school - a total of $842 each year

If you share the care of your child with another person, you will receive a percentage of this payment. This will be based on the percentage of Family Tax Benefit you receive for the child.

Eligible families

To be eligible, you must be a parent or carer who gets Family Tax Benefit Part A for a dependent child attending primary or secondary education.

Your child may be eligible in their own right if they are in receipt of a payment from us and undertaking primary or secondary education.

Schoolkids Bonus may also be payable where the child is undertaking an ‘eligible activity’ such as being home schooled, overseas study or special education.

The Schoolkids Bonus will be paid to primary and secondary students if they satisfy the income test and are:

- turning 19 years of age or younger in the calendar year, and
- receiving:
  - Youth Allowance
  - ABSTUDY (Living Allowance)
  - Disability Support Pension
  - Carer Payment
  - Parenting Payment
  - Special Benefit

The Schoolkids Bonus will be paid to secondary students receiving Pensioner Education Supplement if they satisfy the income test and are:

- turning 19 years of age or younger in the calendar year, and
- receiving:
  - Disability Support Pension
  - Carer Payment
  - Parenting Payment, or
  - Special Benefit

Income test

From 1 January 2015, an income test will apply. Eligible families and young people with an adjusted taxable income of $100,000 or less will be paid Schoolkids Bonus.

Eligibility for Schoolkids Bonus will be based on the income information you have already provided to Centralkin.

There are some exemptions to the income test. For example, people receiving certain veterans’ education allowance payments or Disability Support Pension for those who are permanently blind.

If you claim Family Tax Benefit as a lump sum at the end of the financial year we will assess income to see if you are eligible for Schoolkids Bonus.

More information:
Dance Family 2015

A respite opportunity & a fun dance & drama activity for families with children with a disability

Are you looking for a new and exciting activity that the whole family can get involved in? Then Dance Family might be for you!

Guided by experienced dance therapist, Heather Hill, and volunteers, children can explore a mix of creative movement, dance, drama, art and music.

The Dance Family program aims to give children and their families an opportunity to develop self-awareness, self-expression, and connection to others.

This program also provides a respite opportunity for parents who need it on a weekly basis.

Venue: Bayswater Community Youth Centre  
(Cnr Station St & Pine Rd, Bayswater)
Time: Sunday 10.30am to 12 midday (during school terms)
For ages: 6-18 yrs
Cost: $10 per session (per family) - cost is subject to change at any time
For more information please contact:
Rosie Dyson on 9758 7981 or illoura@knox.vic.gov.au

Proudly sponsored by

EACH Respite for Carers invites you to a morning of Mindfulness & Tai Chi presented by Anja Tanhane

Living more fully in the present moment...

Mindfulness can help to:

- Relax the body and calm the mind
- Improve health and wellbeing
- Manage stress more effectively
- Increase energy and appreciation for life
- Manage chronic pain
- Develop confidence and resilience

When: Wednesday 18th February, 2015
Where: Bulleen Heights School
        Primary Campus
        49-61 Pleasant Road, Bulleen
Time: 9:00am for registration/cuppa
      9.30 to 11.30 session with Anja, with morning tea provided afterwards
      Please wear comfortable, loose clothing
Cost: FREE
RSVP: to EACH on 8720 1109 or relyforcarers@each.com.au

Presented by - EACH Respite for Carers in partnership with
Anja Tanhane, Qualified MBSR (Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction) Teacher
MAT is a physically active therapeutic program that combines the basics of behaviour management with the principles of traditional martial arts. The 8 week program involves martial arts activities and discussion to help young people build strength, focus, discipline and friendship in a safe and fun learning environment.

It focuses on teaching:
- How to identify various feelings
- Appropriate ways to respond to these feelings
- How to self-invest to achieve a positive future

**Where:** Boroondara Youth Services @ 360
Hawthorn Town Hall
360 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn

**When:** Monday 2\textsuperscript{nd} Feb – 23\textsuperscript{th} March (8 Weeks)

**Time:** 4.15pm – 5.45pm

This program is **FREE** for young people 12-16 who live or attend school in Boroondara or Manningham.

The group will be facilitated by qualified MAT program staff and is funded by the Boroondara and Manningham School Focused Youth Service.

Places are limited so please complete an application form to secure your place.

For more information contact:
Shaun O’Brien on 9835 7826 shaun.obrien@boroondara.vic.gov.au
Wendy Ross on 9840 9452 wendy.ross@manningham.vic.gov.au
The Lab

Ferntree Gully & Upper Ferntree Gully

Mondays 4.00—6.00pm for 13—18 year olds

At MDLC 13-15 The Avenue Ferntree Gully
97587859

And

Wednesdays 4.00—6.00pm for 10-12 year olds

At Coonara Community House 22 Willow Rd Upper Ferntree Gully
97587081

What is the lab?

The Lab is a technology club for young people with Asperger’s Syndrome or High Functioning Autism. It offers a safe social environment and tuition by technology professionals in areas such as programming, digital design and gaming. At each weekly two-hour lab session, two or more computer programmers and designers work individually with between 12 and 20 young people to develop their technology skills and interests. Young people also learn social skills and make friends with others who share their interests. Parents meet in a separate room to swap notes and strategies.

$20 per session (paid by the term) concession $15 per session

To enrol please contact each venue directly for enrolment forms.

Lab sessions commence February 9th 2015.