Early Years Learning Centre Leader’s Report

It has been a busy fortnight. The students have been engaged in lots of fun activities about themselves and their classmates. It is wonderful to see the students getting to know their new groups and making new friends.

We had a very successful Meet the Teacher night last Thursday. Thank you to everyone who was able to make it. I hope you found the evening informative and we look forward to forming strong home-school links throughout the year.

The Curriculum Day last Friday was also a great success for teachers as we learnt about how to support our students in reading. We encourage you to read with your student every night as enjoying books is the best way to encourage young readers.

Caitriona Harkin
Early Years Team Leader
Groups 5, 6, 7 & 13

Groups 5, 6, 7 and 13 have been busy this week in English and Maths. We have been reading the story 'Who Sank the Boat?' and identifying our favourite characters. The students have loved engaging with items from the story such as puppets, animal toys and an inflatable boat. In Maths we are learning to display objects as data on a picture graph. Our students have been doing some great sorting!

Elaine, Tania, Liz, & Lauren
Middle Years Team Leader

It’s hard to believe that we are almost halfway through Term 1. I have been really pleased to see how well students are working in classrooms and following our school values each day.

Thank you to all of the Middle Years parents who came along to our Meet The Teacher evening last week. I really enjoyed wandering through the classrooms and having the chance to meet the parents. Our partnerships with parents are a crucial element to the success of our students and their learning. Please feel free to contact your child’s teacher or myself if you have any concerns or questions.

Next week Middle Years students begin their swimming program. Please ensure that you have returned your child’s permission note. We highly encourage all students to be involved in this learning opportunity. Not only is this important for safety reasons but it also provides students with a fun, healthy and relaxing sport to participate in. If your child wears a nappy during the day can you please provide swimming nappies for their lessons. Regular nappies do not absorb the water properly and can fall apart in the pool. If you have any queries regarding this program please speak to your child’s teacher.

Alison Balchan, Middle Years Team Leader

Groups 20, 39, 40, 41 & 42

It has been another busy fortnight with our students working on our Inquiry unit ‘How are we the Same and Different?’. We have been reading and writing about ‘Sunday Chutney’ by Aaron Blabey, and ‘It’s ok to be Different’ by Todd Parr. Students are learning to make connections and talk about themselves and others, and how we may like or look different, but still are the same in many ways.

Our students are well and truly into routine now and enjoying learning. Next week the Intensive swimming program will begin, and we are hoping to get as many students swimming as possible. Teachers and support staff will supervise students and take part in program as well.

At the moment teachers are very busy writing Individual Learning Programs for our students. Student Support Group meetings involving teachers, parents will be held in week 7 and 8 between Monday 7th March and Friday 18th March. We look forward to seeing you here then.

Andrew, Sonja, Anna, Kirsten (Teachers) Sue, Kerryn, Carmen, Emily, Vanitha and Mel (Support Staff).
Groups 22, 23, 24 & 25

It’s hard to believe the first term is already half way over. Over the last two weeks, students have been showing how great they are at “Data Collection”. Students have been learning about bar graphs, pie graphs and line graphs. They have done a great job collecting data from within their classroom from their classmates, as well as from other classmates. This has provided more opportunities to get to know their classmates more.

Last week, the classes looked at a book called “Handa’s Surprise”. It was great to see the students retelling the book’s story, describing the characters and setting in such detail. The connections they made to the inquiry unit and themselves provided some engaging lessons. One of the more popular activities around this book was walking with a basket of fruit on their heads, as the character did in the book.

Thankyou to those students, parents and guardians who have been bringing things to school related to their cultural backgrounds.

A reminder that swimming commences next week so please remember to send your child to school with their swimmers and a towel.
BUSY! BUSY! BUSY! Is what BRC have been since our last update.

Passion Projects, Electives and The Kitchen Garden Program have all started in the last week. It has been wonderful to see Students so engaged, eager and excited about their semester classes. All Passion projects are working towards celebrating Harmony Day on March 23rd. Students are exploring different foods, words, music, landscapes, sports and clothing. I am so excited to see the amazing work that our students will produce from these classes. Stay tuned!

Congratulations to Nathan L who was this week’s Student of the Week. Nathan received a sports kit from the Wyndham Council, which he can take home until the end of term. The sports kit includes tennis balls, footballs, soccer balls, a skipping rope plus much, much more. Well done to Meghna who was Week 3’s Student of the Week. She received 100 extra VIVO points. A fantastic achievement by both students.

Thank you to all parents you attended our Meet the Teacher evening last Thursday. It was great to put faces to the name and meet a lot of our new parents. If you were unable to attend please contact your child’s Teacher if there is anything you wish to discuss. On the evening a termly calendar was handed to parents; if you would like a copy please let your child’s teacher or myself know and I can e-mail or print you a copy.

Teachers and students are busy working on Career Action Plans (CAP’s), which will help track each student’s goals throughout the year. A draft of these goals will be sent to parents at the end of week 6.

Thank-you to the parents who attended Meet The Teacher Evening. It was wonderful meeting you and I hope you are now well informed of your child’s routine at Bethany Road Campus. To keep you up to date, BR2 have been working on a blog that is updated every Friday. Please have a look and if you would like to comment you will need to create a Blogger account http://brc216.blogspot.com.au/p/t1w3.html

We are looking forward to using the Wiki space to share our learning. We have continued with a focus of counting in Maths and working out the strategies we use to count and complete sums. Passion Projects and Electives are running as usual now and students have thoroughly enjoyed having more variety and choice in their learning.

News from Mellonie…

Year 8 and 9 students at Bethany Road Campus have recently been presented with a global challenge. The challenge is called Water Is Life and students have been learning about water supplies, ways we use water and ways we can save water. Students have been exploring the Wiki page that they will be using to collaborate with students across the world. Some of the schools we have been talking to are in Uganda, Tunisia and Taiwan, just to name a few. So far we have introduced ourselves to the page and read about the other students from across the world. It’s been wonderful receiving comments on our posts and replying to others.

Thank you to the parents who attended Meet The Teacher Evening. It was wonderful meeting you and I hope you are now well informed of your child’s routine at Bethany Road Campus. To keep you up to date, BR2 have been working on a blog that is updated every Friday. Please have a look and if you would like to comment you will need to create a Blogger account http://brc216.blogspot.com.au/p/t1w3.html
Later Years Warringa Campus

A great start of the year for the students in Later Years! Students have already started showing progress in their reading and are enjoying exploring our inquiry question “How are we the same and different?” The Year 9 students are excited to be in the kitchen and garden regularly and have already had a huge impact on the garden with Mel planting and harvesting a variety of plants and vegetables.

Later Years students continue to show off their cooking skills in the kitchen by using the vegetables they have grown. And in the process they have kept their stomachs nice and full (especially Sean’s). Students have shown great enthusiasm and confidence during our shopping trips to IGA for our Kitchen and Garden Program as well as for Café 11.

We all look forward to an exciting second half of term and thank Amy for her wonderful leadership in her maiden year in Later Years!

Sean Bissett
Cayleys Road Campus

Thank you to all the parents who have participated in CAPs meetings this week meeting with teachers to begin the process of developing goals for students future, sharing insightful information about their child’s interests. Well done to those students who came along and were able to be their own voice. Another opportunity will happen on Monday for a further group of parents and students.

Telephone conferencing has also been used to achieve this partnership of working together. Thank you to staff who gave their time.

It was also a great turn out to the Transition Information evening on Tuesday, with parents and students from Year 9 to 12 in attendance. The journey from school to beyond can be a daunting path and these opportunities provide some planning ideas and support for families to consider and commence putting into action. Thank you to Nancy Ishak (Careers Teacher) for organising the evening.

It has been fantastic to observe excellent teaching and learning occurring both on and off campus this past week.........song writing in music, kitchen garden cooking (yummy tabouleh salad), mosaics, sport, community access to parks and gardens, ICT, the Zoo feeding program, the Mansion garden volunteering, Red Cross, Vinnies, Dualware, café, travel education and the shared VET programs with VCAL – Warehousing, Ceres Hospitality and Horticulture.

Congratulations to Ta who has successfully started his SBAT with VCAL on a Wednesday at Second Bite. Well done everyone!

We have big music plans this year at Cayleys Road.

We have begun writing our own songs about subjects such as riding on public transport, looking after the chickens, and just simply “going for it!” with the work we do.

We are already recording our vocals on some of the songs for this year’s CD.

In the workroom Roger shows us how to construct a mosaic, and Luke is following written instructions to complete a numeracy task.

Monica Cooper, Cayleys Road Team Leader

Our Tuesdays and Fridays we have groups who work at the sausage sizzle tent at Bunnings in Werribee. Students go shopping for ingredients, serve the public, and prepare the food using top standard hygiene practices.
VCAL News...

It has been a busy and very rewarding couple of weeks in VCAL. Students have been preparing for work placements and TAFE programs, refreshing their OHS knowledge by completing Job Well Done Modules specific to the programs that they are in. A number of TAFE programs are at different venues this year. Staff and students have busily completed travel plans and practised getting to the new sites. Students have planned travel routes using PTV app, Metro Notify and Tram Tracker.

This year hospitality students will be involved in completing theory classes in one venue and practical sessions in another. Hair and Beauty students also have a new venue in Middle Park.

We also have students enrolled in new VET programs Ready Set Go a Sports & Recreation course at MSAC and a Warehousing course at Montague.

It has been very pleasing to see students doing so well with their personal organisation this term; remembering to bring ipads, Myki cards and the correct PPE for programs whether it be high vis shirts, steel cap boots, chefs whites, hats or whatever else is required.

We had a terrific turn out to our VCAL Meet the Teacher night and students and parents then attended the Year 12 Information Night organised by Nancy & Monica. It was very pleasing to see so many families come to discuss the VCAL program including timetables, CAPs Plans and TAFE programs.

I remind families that if students need to make personal appointments that these please be done after school. VCAL programs have strict attendance requirements. Please provide medical certificates if your students is away due to illness.

Natalie Aleksejevs
Acting VCAL Team Leader
Warringa Park School has called for nominations for the two vacant Parent/carer positions and the three DET positions. There were three nominations for the DET positions, hence no election is required for those positions. There were five nominations for the Parent/carer positions and hence an election has been called. Ballots will be sent home to parents/carers on Thursday 25th February and the ballot closes on Friday 7th March at 4pm. Please keep an eye out for the ballots in your student’s bag next week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notice of election and call for nominations</td>
<td>Monday 8th February 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closing date for nominations</td>
<td>Monday 15th February 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be displayed</td>
<td>Tuesday 16th February 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed</td>
<td>Thursday 25th February 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Close of ballot</td>
<td>Friday 4th March 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vote count</td>
<td>Monday 7th March 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Declaration of ballot</td>
<td>Monday 7th March 2016</td>
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<td>First council meeting to co-opt Community members (the principal will preside)</td>
<td>Monday 21st March 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)</td>
<td>Monday 21st March 2016</td>
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Students who applied for the SRC nominations from Warringa Park School and Bethany Road worked on their profiles throughout this term. I was impressed to see that the students were very eager to get their profiles submitted and understood the commitment and responsibility behind being a SRC member. Thank you to all those students and the staff that supported. Members of SRC from Bethany Road and Warringa Park School will be announced next week after this week's elections.

Upcoming Student Representative Council dates:
Warringa Park School - Monthly meetings at Wyndham Youth Centre:
16/3, 28/4, 24/5, 23/6, 26/7, 25/8, 27/9

Victorian Congress - Melton 29/4
Victorian Congress camp - 6th to 8th July

Joan Kurtis
Wellbeing Team
REVISED WORKSHOP CALENDAR
January - June 2016

Aspect Victoria is pleased to offer our highly successful, contemporary, evidence-based, three (3) day Autism specific Positive Behaviour Support Workshops across Victoria in 2016. Aspect PBS workshops are for parents and carers of children and young adults diagnosed with Autism, aged between 6–26 years and living at home.

February / March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frankston</th>
<th>Benalla</th>
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<tr>
<td>23rd, 24th &amp; 25th February</td>
<td>26th Feb, 1st &amp; 2nd March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ebdale Community Hub</td>
<td>Benalla All Blacks</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Ebdale St</td>
<td>Football &amp; Netball Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frankston VIC 3199</td>
<td>Ackerly Ave</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Benalla VIC 3672</td>
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In 2016, Aspect Victoria will again deliver workshops to culturally diverse groups and in languages other than English. Please contact us if you would like to be notified of these workshops.

March

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<tr>
<th>Hoppers Crossing</th>
<th>Bendigo</th>
<th>Northcote (weekend)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th, 8th &amp; 9th March</td>
<td>16th, 17th &amp; 18th March</td>
<td>19th &amp; 20th March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Resource Centre</td>
<td>Bendigo Bowls Club</td>
<td>Autism Spectrum Australia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66 Deminut Rd</td>
<td>169-183 Bamard St</td>
<td>305 Union St</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hoppers Crossing VIC 3029</td>
<td>Bendigo VIC 3550</td>
<td>Northcote VIC 3070</td>
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Register ONLINE: www.autismspectrum.org.au

NB. Registrations open at least 6 weeks prior to the workshop commencement date and will close one week prior if minimum numbers have not been reached and the workshop will be cancelled. Registration numbers are capped at a maximum of 30 participants and once reached the workshop will close for registrations.

Due to current program demands and restructure within Aspect, workshops previously scheduled to occur between April & June 2016 will now take place over July - November 2016. Our state-wide flyer for July - November workshops will be issued by the beginning of May.

What participants say about Aspect Positive Behaviour Support Workshops:

“Brilliant information and concrete strategies to use, thank you. I have learnt very important self-reflection, being able to step back and really look at and examine behaviour, so valuable. I really value the focus on being positive and improving my child’s, my own and my family’s quality of life. Great workshop – I will highly recommend it to others”
MyTime @ Tweddle

MyTime Locations

Avondale Heights
Time 9.30 to 11.30am
Where Rhonda Davis Centre
54 Lakes Street
Avondale Heights

Sunshine
Time 9.30am to 11.30am
Where Sunshine Special Development School
Ivory Crt Sunshine
**Please enter carpark from Mounsey street.

Wyndham Vale
Time 9am to 11am
Where Manor Lakes College
2 - 50 Minindee Road
Wyndham Vale, Vic 3024

Point Cook
Time 10am to 12pm
Where Featherbrook Community Centre
33-35 Windorah Drive
Point Cook, Vic 3030

Werribee Gold
Time 9.30am to 11.30am
Where Wyndham Park Community Centre
53-57 Kookaburra Ave
Werribee, Vic 3030

Williamstown
Time 10am to 12am

What is MyTime?

MyTime is a peer support group for parents and carers, supporting children under 16 years of age with a disability, developmental delay or chronic medical condition.

Who is MyTime for?

Parents, mums, dads, grandparents, foster parents, or a primary carer receiving or applying for Carers Allowance.

What will I get out of MyTime?

- Meet other parents and carers in similar circumstances
- Share experiences in an informal setting
- A choice of topics and activities relevant to your needs
- Information resources and services available to you, how and where to access information.
- A facilitator to support, co-ordinate activities and guide group discussion
- A play helper to provide activities for the children whilst in your care and supervision
- Parent discussion
- Coffee mornings
- Group outings
- 8 sessions every school term

What do members say?

"This has been a fantastic experience for me and my children. The group has been helpful and I don't feel lost on my journey"

"I recommend MyTime to every family who has a newly diagnosed child and who is looking for community support"
Weekend & School Holiday Programs & Camps
Teenagers/Young Adults aged 12-21

Are you a primary carer of a teenager with a disability and looking for suitable social activities and recreation options?

Innovative Recreation and Respite Programs
- Weekend (11am-5pm) or School Holiday (9am-5pm) day programs for children/teenagers aged 12-18 (outside Western region)
- Camp options for teenagers/young adults aged 12-21 (Wyndham Vale residents only)

Staff Support & Activities
- Activities are tailored to meet participant’s support needs, interests and abilities
- Trained staff in Epilepsy management, PEG support, Manual handling, Mealtime assistance and communication support.

Eligibility
- Some eligibility criteria, such as age or council area, applies for specifically funded programs.

Contact us for further information
Amelia Ballard
(Western Children/Youth Programs Coordinator)
Phone: 8851 0816
or 0419 375 087
Email: Amelia.Ballard@yoorafla.com.au

Caroline Novak
(Camps & Holidays Coordinator)
Phone: 8851 0816
or 0409 165 184
Email: Caroline.Novak@yoorafla.com.au

Parenting Children who Worry Too Much
for parents of children aged 2 - 10 years
Does anxiety stop your child enjoying life?
Come along to find out more about anxiety and strategies to help your child to worry less.

Friday
11th March, 2016
12.30pm - 2.30pm
Wyndham Private Medical Centre
Level 1, 242 Hoppers Lane
Werribee
FREE

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
Phone: (03) 9663 6733 or email: enquiries@ds.org.au

Raising Happy, Healthy Kids
for parents of children aged 2 - 12 years

All parents want to raise confident and happy children
This seminar will explore ways to promote strong and positive relationships with your children.
Learn how to:
- encourage your children to co-operate;
- help your children manage their feelings; and
- strengthen your children’s self-esteem.

Tuesday
1st March, 2016
6.30pm - 8pm
The Grange Community Centre
260-280 Hogans Road
Wyndham

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
Phone: (03) 9663 6733 or email: enquiries@ds.org.au

Parenting Toddlers
Tantrums and Tiaras
For parents, supporting toddlers to grow and explore can be both exhausting and exhilarating!
Come along to this seminar to get some ideas for supporting your toddler through this stage of growth and at the same time make parenting easier!

Wednesday
16th March, 2016
1pm - 3pm
The Grange Community Centre
260-280 Hogans Road
Wyndham

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL
Phone: (03) 9663 6733 or email: enquiries@ds.org.au
Limited child minding available on request
Compass Portal for Parents

Warringa Park now uses Compass as our Parent Portal / Communication system

Using Compass allows you to access up-to-date and meaningful information about our school and your child’s progress.

Initially Compass will be used for:
- Monitor your child’s attendance, and enter approval for absence or lateness
- Communicate with your child’s teachers, and update your family contact details
- View your child’s timetable and the school calendar
- Download and view your child’s progress and semester reports
- Update your Mobile Number and Email address to ensure that the school can contact you.
- SMS alerts for School Closures / Emergency Situations

If you received your username / password during the meet the teacher night or have received it via post, there is nothing more you need to do. Simply log in and you will be right to go.

If you have not received this information and would like to log in, please go to [http://helpdesk.warringapark.vic.edu.au/open.php](http://helpdesk.warringapark.vic.edu.au/open.php) and select Parent Compass Request Form. Due to privacy concerns we will only contact you via the email address / phone number you have on file. If you need to change this, please contact reception directly. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the school and ask for IT.

Apple AC Wall Plug Adapters

Apple has determined that, in very rare cases, the two prong Apple AC wall plug adapters designed for use in Australia may break and create a risk of electrical shock if touched. These wall plug adapters shipped from 2003 to 2015 with Mac and iPads.

All adapters that have the round shape head are affected and will need to be replaced by Apple Australia. If you have any of these adapters around your house now is the time to replace them.

You have 2 options available:

If you prefer you can exchange your adapter(s) at your local Apple or an Authorized Apple Service Provider. (Please visit [http://www.apple.com/au/retail/storelist/](http://www.apple.com/au/retail/storelist/) to find your closest Apple Store) This is the best option if you are in a hurry or have more than 3 adapters to change over.

If you prefer I’ve managed to negotiate a limited number of exchanges with Apple Australia through Warringa Park Campus. If you would prefer to exchange the adapters at Warringa Park Campus, please fill out the form located at [http://helpdesk.warringapark.vic.edu.au/open.php](http://helpdesk.warringapark.vic.edu.au/open.php) selecting Apple Adapter Recall under help topic. Someone from the IT team will be in touch with instructions on how to return the chargers to the school to be replaced. Please be aware that there is a maximum of 3 wall plug exchanges per family. If you have any more then 3 please make an appointment at your local apple store to arrange the exchange. Exchanges will only happen at Warringa Park School during the week of 29th of February through to the 4th of March between 8:30am and 4:00pm. We will not be able to assist with any exchanges outside of these days/hours.

Please note if you go to Apple or Warringa Park for the exchange, only Genuine Apple AC wall plug adapters as shown below will be replaced. After market plugs, cables or the charger will not be replaced.

If you have any questions feel free to visit [https://www.apple.com/support/ac-wallplug-adapter/](https://www.apple.com/support/ac-wallplug-adapter/) for information from Apple or contact the IT department through [http://helpdesk.warringapark.vic.edu.au](http://helpdesk.warringapark.vic.edu.au)
Warringa updates!

Dates for the diary:
Term 1: 28th January-24th March 2016
No Preps at school: February 24th
14th March: Labour Day holiday
15th March: Post School Expo: 3:30-6pm
23rd March: Harmony Day
11th May: Main campus school photos

Term 2: 11th April—24th June 2016
9th May: School Photos Bethany Road Campus
9th May: School Photos Cayleys Road Campus
11th May: School Photos Warringa Park School

School Tour Dates:

Prep/Early Years
10th March, 21st April, 26th May, 21st July, 25th August, 15th September, 20th October, 17th November

Middle Years
19th May, 2nd June, 26th July, 1st September, 27th October, 24th November

Message from Nurse Nicole...

Epilepsy Plans: Please ensure epilepsy plans are taken to your next Neurologist appointment and signed by the neurologist and yourselves. I like to keep these plans as current and relevant as possible. If any student has a recent seizure please contact me, so I can update their plans.

Asthma Plans: I have posted Asthma plans to all families who have students with Asthma. Please take to your GP and have them filled in and return to school as soon as possible. There are a number of plans that have not been returned.

Toilet Training Workshop: The continence foundation will be conducting a parent workshop on Thursday 25th February at 11am-1pm. This workshop is an informal round table discussion about the steps required to toilet train children with special needs. It is a five step process which we as a school follow. Please register your attendance with reception, there is a maximum of 15 people per workshop.

Medication: As per school policy we ask parents to commence all new medication over the weekend or holidays. So this can be closely monitored for any possible allergic reactions or side effects. We appreciate your cooperation regarding this. If you have any questions regarding medication or need your child to take medication at school please contact me.

Please note:
All medication needs to be in the original packaging with child’s name, dose and time on the box.
If medication is being transported in students bags please contact the school as soon as possible, so we can remove the medication. Chaperones can secure school bags whilst on the bus but must not be used as a courier.
If at all possible directly handing over the medication at reception or myself would be appreciated.

Drink Bottles: In order to maximise students fluid intake especially during the hotter weather, I encourage all parents to ensure their child brings a drink bottle to school. This enables staff to identify how much each child is drinking. Dehydration can contribute to: tiredness, fatigue, loss of concentration, abdominal pain (constipation), nausea & vomiting & dizziness. Many of our students visit sick bay for these complaints. Thanks, Nicole