

Term 3 Week 10 Newsletter

Belconnen High School



1 - Principal: Rebecca Pearce

111 Murrarji Street HAWKER ACT 2614

Front Office: 6142 1690 Student Absences: 6142 1698

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Principal News



The completion of Term 3 has seen yet again more fantastic work from, and increased opportunities for, our students. This has included: Poetry in Action for Year 7, Defence Careers in STEM Session for Year 8, Bell Shakespeare for Year 9/10, Year 10 PARTY Program Incursion, School Sport opportunities and today our Battle of the Houses. The leadership of our students throughout this term has been a highlight for me.

Who Are We?

Our virtual assembly in Week 8 responded to the question, Who are we? Highlighting for our school community the many talents and values we share and exhibit everyday. Some examples include:

We are kind – Poppi L and others promoting the Indigenous Literacy Foundation Fundraiser and making pins, organising guess the lolly's in the jar competitions and raising money to support the purchase of books and the translation of books in remote communities.

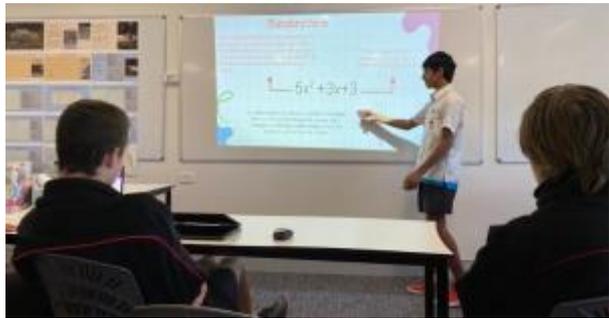
We are patient and proud – Students constructing models of prisms in Mathematics.

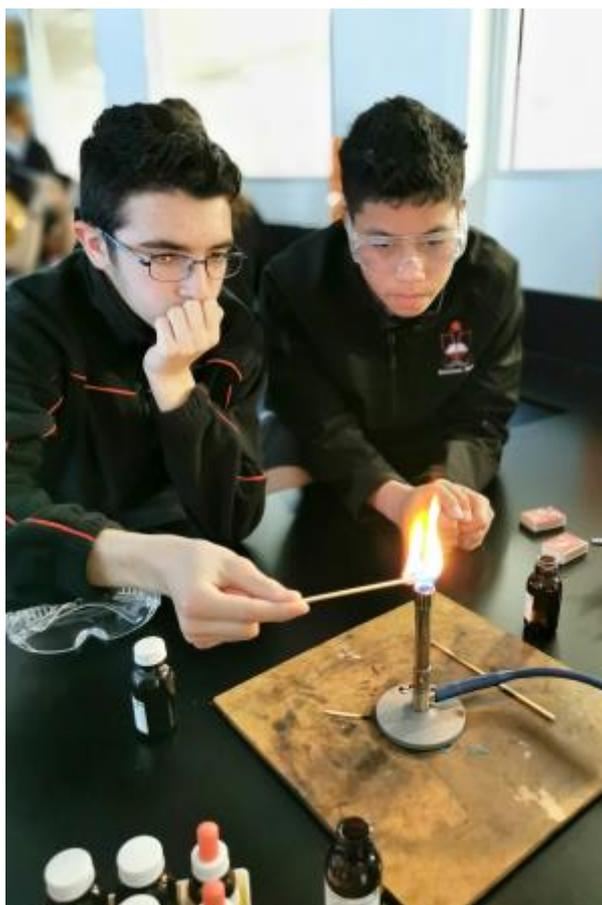
We are confident communicators – Students in the Year 10 Extension Maths Class teaching Polynomials to staff and students.

We are investigators – Science students studying chemicals and chemical reactions.

We are stylish sports people – Representing our school at School Sport competitions.

We are leaders – The SRC and the Sports Leadership class planning and running our Battle of the Houses, even with the challenges of re-designing for wet weather.





We are acknowledged – An email received acknowledging our students' positive impact in the community.

Subject: Commendation for Students

Good Morning,

I just wanted to send a quick email, hoping this can be passed up to the Principal.

On Tuesday a number of your students were witness to an incident that occurred in Belconnen.

Although I won't name the students for privacy reason, I did want to personally pass on my thanks to them for their assistance in the matter.

The information they were able to provide was extremely helpful to our investigation, not only this, but all the students were extremely polite, respectful and mature when dealing with the police members that attended.

Although we don't encourage people to get involved in incidents due to safety, we are grateful for their assistance in this matter.

I bring this to the school's attention as I think it is important for the school itself to receive some positive feedback about their students but also didn't want the students acts to go unnoticed. I also

think it is important, especially for school aged children, to have positive and meaningful interactions with Police.

Even without naming the students involved, they would all know who they are.

Please feel free to contact me if needed.

CONSTABLE ALICE JOHN

Morning Tea with the Principal

This week I had the pleasure of inviting 15 students in Year 7 and 8 to have High Tea with me. The students in the Hospitality Class, in particular, Emily and Emilee, arranged an impressive array of food for this event. We chatted for an hour about 2020 and Belconnen High School, COVID before, during and after, as well as areas that improvements could be made.

The students were engaging, well-informed and keen to share their experiences. I look forward to the next event where I will have the opportunity to meet with Year 9 and 10 students.



2 - Principal's Morning Tea



Parking in the Front Carpark

Over the break we will be painting the markings in the main carpark. As per the photo, we will have a designated Bus Zone and a pick-up/set-down zone. All other areas are NO parking. Please ensure you have made arrangements with your children to meet them in another location to avoid congestion in the carpark. The following link is a ACT Government website provided to support

families in looking at alternative locations for the school day pick-up or drop-off. Thank you for your support with this.



[PART WAY IS OKAY - Link](#)

Term 4

End of Year events are currently being planned and details regarding these important events will be out to families early in Term 4.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable break and look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 12th October for Term 4.

Mark Huxley, Executive Group Manager, School Improvement

This is reminder to help our children understand the importance of stranger safety and the need to report any unusual incidents or approaches to staff immediately.

If you become aware of an incident, or notice anyone acting suspiciously around a school or child, contact police immediately on 131 444 or in the case of an emergency call 000. If you witness incidents or if you have any information that could assist Police, contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Information can be provided anonymously.

Please support us to keep our children safe by having conversations about moving safely around the community and what to do if they ever feel unsafe. You may wish to visit the AFP website section on <https://police.act.gov.au/safety-and-security/child-safety>

for tips. In addition, the <https://www.safety4kids.com.au/> is a non-government website that has useful information and links.

The <https://www.constablekenny.org.au/parents/protective-behaviours/> also has a number of tips for parents.

The school and the Education Directorate will continue to work with ACT Policing on this issue.

Contact: schooloperations@act.gov.au

Ph: 620 53313

Connecting to Country



Connecting to Country Classes

Sustainability Game

The classes completed a game where the students were in the Yarning Circle and had a pot of M&Ms each colour representing the resources in the environment. Brown M&Ms – land Blue M&Ms – water Yellow M&Ms - grass (harvested and ground into flour and made into bread) Red M&Ms – possum fur for warmth Orange M&Ms - kangaroo for food and the Green M&Ms - vegetation for food, housing etc.

The students work in their class group without their teacher intervening with the main concept “only take what you need” and that they need to pass on the resources to their future generations. The classes came up with different scenarios, some being wiped out by disease others taking on drought and how our Australian flora and fauna are adapted to climate change.



Pinnacle Excursion

On Thursday 17th September and Friday the 18th September Mr Wright's Year 7 and Miss O'Neill's Year 8 classes along with Mrs Hoy took their students on a walk to the Pinnacle Nature Reserve. We looked at the very old trees including the Blackley Red Gum near the entrance at Dungowan road along with scar trees and many of the important plants that grow across the nature Reserve. We saw the beauty of Ngunnawal Country and looked out to the Brindabella's and the pathways of the Molonglo and the Murrumbidgee rivers.



3 - Mr Wright with his Year 7 Students



4 - Looking out towards the Brindabella's on the Pinnacle Reserve



Back in August Poppi L in Year 8 suggested the Belconnen School Community get involved and raise funds for the Indigenous Literacy Day (ILF). Poppi's mum, Rachielle donated the two 'guess the lollies in the jar'.

On Wednesday to Friday we took numerous guesses from students and staff as to the number of lollies in the jar. The winners of the competition were Nicole and Nate.



5 - Poppi L Year 8 with the winners Nicole L and Nate H in Year 7

On the days leading up to the Indigenous Literacy Day on Wednesday 2nd September the Year 7 & 8 Connecting to Country classes along with the Yr. 9/10 Aboriginal Studies class got involved in making pins to be sold to the Belconnen Community. These were very much sought after and I thank all the students, teachers and school community who brought and proudly wore a pin.



6 - Year 7 students making the pins for the ILF



7 - Mrs Cooke and Beth F Year 8

Alex L, Year 7 reading Indigenous Books

Many thanks to all who helped make this a successful activity towards the Indigenous Literacy Fund, especially to Poppi L and her mum Rachielle, Mrs Cooke and all the students for making the pins.



8 - Mrs Cowan supporting the ILF

Floriade Reimagined

With this year's cancellation of the traditional Floriade event in Commonwealth Park, the event has been reimagined with more than one million bulbs and annuals planted out across Canberra for the community to enjoy.

Floriade: Reimagined offers all the Floriade activities you know and love with a mix of virtual and in-person experiences. One of those activities is colouring activities. In class we have been Wiradjuri artist Kirstie Peters artwork from Yarrudhamarra Creations. Below are two students' work from the 9/10 Aboriginal Languages class where we were discussing young Wiradjuri artists and examples of their work.



9 - Artwork by Cody L



10 - Artwork by Cassandra D.J

Humanities News



"The Elements of Rhyme"

Poetry In Action sent a troop to perform 'The Elements of Rhyme' to our Year 7's, who are just coming to the end of a term-long unit of Poetry. Early in the Poetry unit, most of the classes had fun learning and reciting 'The Jabberwocky'. This came in very useful as the PIA actors started reciting the poem during their performance. As they did, about a dozen of our students spontaneously joined in. It was a highlight for everyone. You might like to ask your young person how much of the poem they can recite (or maybe you've heard enough of it already).





Bell Shakespeare

On the 15th of September, 100 year 9's and 10's gathered together in the hall to watch The Bell Shakespeare Company perform what they called a 'rehearsal' of the play 'Macbeth'. The play 'Macbeth' was written by William Shakespeare in 1606. The play was set as a rehearsal with the three actors going over each scene and breaking down the Shakespearian language.

The play 'Macbeth' is set in Ancient Scotland and is one of William Shakespeare's most famous tragedies. It was most likely to have been performed for the first time in 1606. The main theme within the play is political ambition and the consequences of that, as well as supernatural behaviour and marital issues. Macbeth, the main character, is told by "three weird sisters" that he will become Thane of Cawdor and eventually King. As the first revelation comes true and he is promoted to Thane of Cawdor, his wife urges him to murder the king in order to make the second part true. She eventually convinces him and Macbeth kills Duncan, the King at the time. Together, Macbeth and Lady Macbeth put the blame on Malcolm, Duncan's son. As Malcolm wasn't there at the time, the crown was given to Macbeth and he became King. This main event had a huge effect on Lady Macbeth as she slowly lost her sanity as a result and Macbeth became more and more obsessed with being in power forever. This obsession meant that Macbeth made many irrational decisions in order to stay King and ruined many relationships with other people as the play goes on.

The adaptation done by Bell Shakespeare was done with three actors. One being the 'director' of their adaptation during the 'rehearsal' who also played some other various roles as it was needed, because there were only three actors there. The second mainly played Lady Macbeth, but also helped play other roles as well as helping with directing and the conflict between her and the other actor. The third actor just played Macbeth, but also played 'himself'; a lazy but talented actor who knows nothing about Macbeth or Shakespeare, which is why the other two actors have to break down the language and explain each scene for him as he gets more and more invested in the storyline. The actors played each of all of their roles very well as they all had to play a character that wasn't just from 'Macbeth' and had to make it seem like that was their natural personality and did well to make it clear what character they were playing.

The play was done with minimal costumes, sets and props. They all wore a black shirt from Bell Shakespeare with black jeans. For some of their characters they had extra additions to their original costumes. For example, for the witches they added a head piece to pull over their face to give a mysterious effect, while the actor playing Lady Macbeth would put on a red skirt over her jeans and they also had various hats and sashes for the male characters such as Macbeth and Banquo. The set was a simple background with the pieces for the extra costumes hanging off the screen they used. They mostly used the floor space between the background and the audience as their scene and

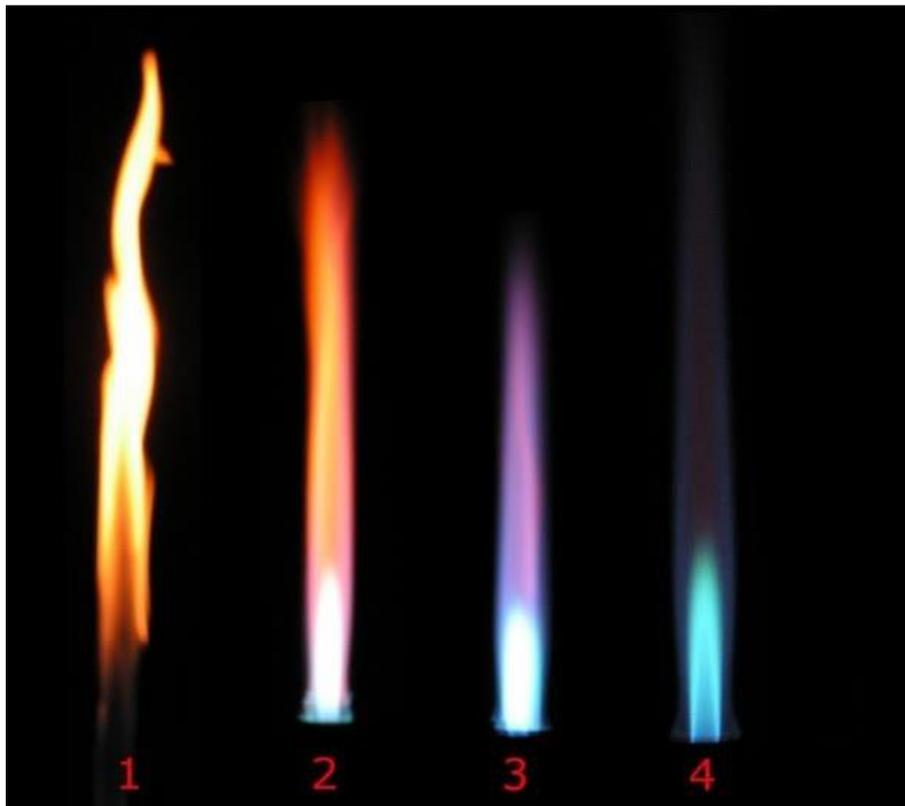
moved around a lot. They also had a book with the manuscript in it used for the main character as he didn't actually know the play or his lines, which was the main prop used throughout the play.

I would definitely recommend this play. It was done very well to engage the age group and with the minimal sets, props and costumes. They also explained and analysed the play very well for the kids who are still learning it, which might have helped them to understand the play better seeing it done in that form and having the actors explain all the aspects as well as playing it out. I would recommend this play for anyone but specifically people that don't understand 'Macbeth' very well as it would help them learn, as well as anyone that loves Shakespeare and 'Macbeth' as they would enjoy to see it played out the way it was done. Overall, 4.25/5. :):)

By Callan H

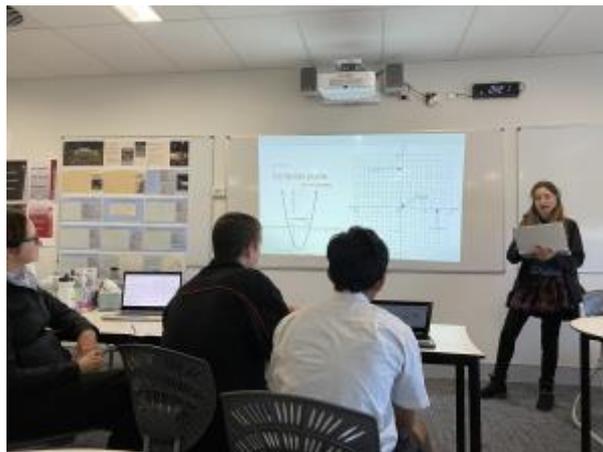


Maths / Science



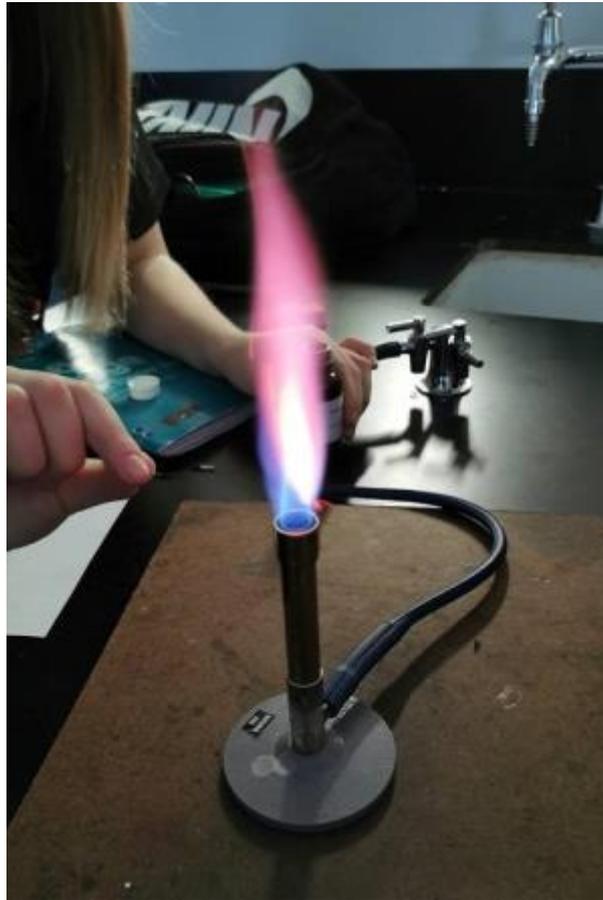
Maths

This term our Year 10 Extension Maths class had the opportunity to Teach a Lesson to Mrs Pearce, Ms Morris and Ms Bugledich. Teaching them all about how to understand and interpret quadratic graphs from equations. The students enjoyed the opportunity to share their knowledge with other teachers and were very proud to show what they had been working on. Whilst it is a very challenging topic, students have been rising to the challenge and demonstrating their problem solving skills to work through the challenges they are faced with.



Science

In Science some of our students have been exploring chemical changes in substances and through practical exploration have been busy trying to identify substances by looking at the colour of their flame.





Arts & Technology Faculty News



3D Art

There has been a lot of creativity flowing through the 3D Art classrooms with students putting the finishing touches on their Armature Wire Figures.

Inspired by sculpture Alberto Giacometti, students manipulated their modelling wire to capture various human emotions, using plaster bandages to cover their creation.



2D Art

The 2D Art classes have been busy printmaking this term. Students explored collograph, dry point etching and screen printing.



7 Music

This week 7 Music played a game called 'rhythm whispers' to help develop their musical literacy skills. A student writes a one bar rhythm on the classroom whiteboard while the others spread out in the quad. The student who created the rhythm will then try to communicate that same rhythm to the first student in the quad by whispering the count and clapping quietly. Then that student will try to communicate the same rhythm to the next student etc. The aim is to get through the whole class while keeping the rhythm intact. The final student will then write the rhythm they heard on the whiteboard for comparison with the original rhythm - it's harder than you think!



8 Music

In 8 Music students are working hard on a performance piece of their choosing. Here is Lachlan, Tom and Andy rehearsing 7 Nation Army by The White Stripes. Go boys!



Drama

In Drama the Year 7's and 8's are rehearsing for their scripted assessments. In character of course!



Production News



Showcase rehearsals for the Production are looking great!



In Publishing we are working on getting the memories presented just right for our Yearbook. Going well so far!



PE Faculty News



On Wednesday of week 7, the 7/8 boys soccer team competed in the SSACT soccer gala day.

Having been restricted to 8 a side and having several students prevented from playing by their weekend clubs, a tag team of mates from year 7 and 8 had a great time away from school, playing 7 games in one day. We ended up with a losing record of 3-4 but looked a far better team than it showed, especially for a group of boys with limited soccer experience. MVP for the day goes to Josh S with some phenomenal saves to keep us in every game and without him our results could have looked quite different.





Girls Football Carnival

In week seven the 9/10 girls participated in the Girls Football Carnival.

The lead up to the carnival was a bit shaky with bad weather, field closures and limited training sessions. However you would not have known this if you saw the team play on the day. The girls played like a cohesive team who had been playing and training together for weeks and the results of their games did not truly reflect their efforts and how competitive they were. The whole team should be really happy with their efforts. I would also like to thank the two students who volunteered to be our student referees

Learning Support News



This term in Life Skills we have been getting creative with some fine motor skills projects. The first one was sticker mosaic's where the students chose a famous artwork and had to delicately remove around 60 small stickers and place them by number onto the artwork. The students had to take their time and maintain a high level of patience to complete this task. We are currently finishing off an etching project with pastels which look spectacular. Term 4 we are going to tackle small dot design boxes, sidewalk chalk art and pebble garden painting.



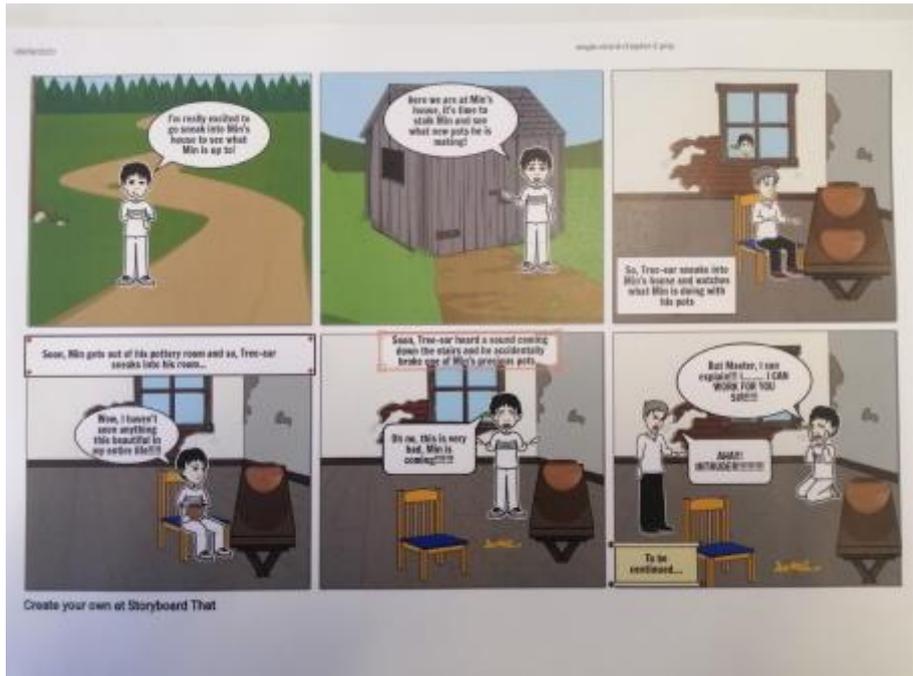


Literacy

Lachlan M | Riley M. | Cadar S.

In Literacy with Ms Saani-Adam, we have been reading a novel called "A Single Shard" by Linda Sue Park. It is all about a young Korean boy named Tree-ear. He works for a potter known as Min. So Tree-ear has to do some very hard work for Min and his greatest wish is to become a master potter. As we are reading it, we did some hands-on activities like carving soap. Soap carving is related to the whittling of a crutch in the book, we also did some inlay work using cookies in an attempt to replicate Kang's pottery inlay work, mat weaving using paper and raffia like Crane-Man who spends time weaving baskets and mats from rice straw, and a storyboard of our favourite chapter. Our next project is to make clay pottery. Hopefully, we will be able to make some fine pots similar to master Min's.





Belconnen Learning Commons News



Curious Creatures, Wild Minds

Book Week is fast approaching. We will be celebrating in Week 2 of next term with lots of activities centred around our theme of "Curious Creature, Wild Minds - the World of Harry Potter".

Activities will run all week culminating in our Hogwarts themed non-uniform day on Friday. Break out your magic wands and come as the character of your choice. There will be a "Cupboard Under the Stairs" museum, a curious creature drawing competition, "Curious Minds" character quizzes, a treasure hunt, puzzles, and much, much more. So all you Potterheads, get excited!



New

End of Year Awards
SPONSORED BY
SUPERSMILE ORTHODONTISTS

Award 1 – Leadership Awards

\$400 awarded to the top 2 Students in Yr 7 and Yr 8

The student awarded the Supersmile Orthodontic Leadership Awards are recognised for their outstanding ability to:

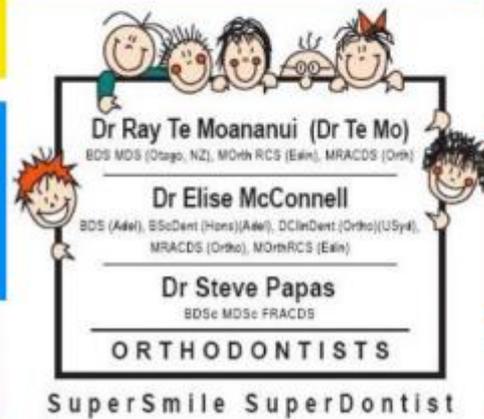
- Take on a challenge
 - Prepared to take the lead
 - Perform as part of a team
 - Self-motivated
 - Resilient
- And, engaged in school life and the broader community.

Award 2 – Academic Awards

\$400 awarded to the top 2 Students in Yr 7 and Yr 8

The student awarded the Supersmile Orthodontic Academic Awards are recognised for their demonstrated excellent academic potential:

- Intellectually curious
- Effective communicator
- Principled
- Inclusive
- Reflective



Dr Ray Te Moananui (Dr Te Mo)
BDS MDS (Otago, NZ), MOrth RCS (Edin), MRACDS (Orth)

Dr Elise McConnell
BDS (Ade), BScDent (Hons)(Ade), DClinDent (Orth)(USyd),
MRACDS (Orth), MOrthRCS (Edin)

Dr Steve Papas
BDSc MDSc FRACDS

ORTHODONTISTS

SuperSmile SuperDentist

Supersmile Orthodontics was created in Canberra in 1998 and has always had an exceptional team of specialist orthodontists within the practice.

Dr Ray Temo (Director) along with Dr Elise McConnell and Dr Steve Papas bring extensive experience in orthodontic treatment for both adults and children of all ages.

The Supersmile team are passionate about orthodontics. We want each and every person we treat to get the perfect result and ideal outcome.

Supersmile Orthodontics has three locations for the benefit of our patients throughout Canberra.

BELCONNEN

U 44
21 Wiseman St
MACQUARIE

P: 6251 0663

CITY

S1 L 6
17-21 University Ave
CANBERRA CITY

P: 1300 767 553

TUGGERANONG

L1
Lakeview House
232-242
Cowlshaw St

TUGGERANONG
P: 6171 7474

COVID-19 NEWS *Important Information*



Message from Executive Group Manager, School Improvement

Some of you may be aware the Chief Health Officer held a press conference 17 September warning about complacency in the ACT in relation to COVID-19. Daily testing numbers have halved and Dr Coleman has reminded people that anyone with any symptoms whatsoever needs to be tested, even if they assume it is just hay-fever. Please continue to be vigilant about asking staff and students to stay home if they are unwell with symptoms.

FINANCE - Contactless Payments



CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS

Due to unprecedented times with Covid 19, Belconnen High School will only be accepting contactless payments until further notice. We welcome your payments via QuickWeb which can be located on the "Payments tab on our website" <http://www.blch.act.edu.au/payment>

Family Contact Details- Have you changed your details recently?



It is important that the school maintains an accurate and up to date record of family/carer email addresses, home addresses and telephone numbers for all student. Please let us know if there are changes to your contact details by sending an email to info_BLCH@ed.act.edu.au or phone the front office on 6142 1690. We are always grateful to receive this information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Student accident/incidents



Ambulance transport for students at school This information is from the ACT Department of Education policy on Student accidents/incidents:

6. AMBULANCE TRANSPORT

6.1. The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during approved school activities within the ACT. Free ambulance cover does not apply to students who attend Jarvis Bay School.

7. STUDENT ACCIDENT/INCIDENT

7.1 Schools collect information about injuries and incidents, which occur at school or on school organised activities, on behalf of the Education and Training Directorate. Some of the information may be personal information as defined in the Privacy Act 1988 and the Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997.

The information is usually included in a Student Accident/Incident Report together with any accompanying witness statements or the Notification of a Critical Incident

P&C NEWS



The BHS P&C is intending to apply for the Education Directorate's [Supporting Parent Engagement Grants 2020](#) program.

The focus of our funding application will be for a series of parent seminars/workshops on relevant adolescent issues (e.g. online safety, relationships). We really want our application to reflect the needs of our school community, so would love to hear YOUR suggestions for potential topics. If you happen to know of a particularly good presenter/facilitator for your suggested topic – please share that too!

Please send any suggestions to bhspnc@gmail.com and/or join our **next meeting at 6.00 pm on Monday 19 October**.

Further details for the meeting will be provided by email closer to the date – make sure you're on our email distribution list by dropping a line to bhspnc@gmail.com.

In the meantime, please enjoy 'The McCarthy Times' – a compilation of stories, memories and quotes sent in to the P&C by members of the school community, to say 'thank you' to Mr McCarthy for his enormous contribution to the Belconnen High School community.

In response, Mr McCarthy wanted to pass on the following:

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS



Thanks to our fabulous community for your continued support of the Uniform shop. By donating, by shopping, by emptying the shelves of red jumpers!!!

Speak to the Uniform Shop Co-Ordinators about how you can order new uniform items online for collection from our Uniform Shop.

Have a safe restful holiday break.

CANTEEN NEWS



Download the app and register with [FlexiSchools](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS





Could \$500 help you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and we'll match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to \$500 for school costs.

-  laptops & tablets
-  lessons & activities
-  uniforms & shoes
-  books & supplies
-  sports fees & gear
-  camps & excursions

To join Saver Plus, you must be at least 18 years or over, have a child at school or starting next year, attend vocational education yourself, have regular income from paid employment (you or your partner*), have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card and be in receipt of an eligible Commonwealth social security benefit, allowance or payment**



everyday's family

Contact
your local Saver Plus
Coordinator
Phone
1300 610 355
Email
CanberraSP@theSouthFamily.com.au
Online
saverplus.org.au
Find us on Facebook 



*Other types of income and (unrelated) payments are eligible, please contact your local Coordinator for more information.
Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and FSC, delivered in partnership with The South Family. Being Green and other local community agencies.
The program is funded by FSC and the Australian Government Department of Social Security. Click to view the program for more information.