

Term 4, Week 10 Belconnen High School Newsletter

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Well it is with great pleasure that I can welcome you to the last newsletter for 2023 as the substantive (permanent) principal of Belconnen High School. I thank the community for making me feel so welcome from the word go and for being patient with the process which stretched on for over a term. Thanks for all the congratulations and well wishes.

As we start the school break, I want to reflect on the last five weeks of term and the happenings and celebrations over this half of the term.

There was a flurry of activities over the last three weeks mostly to do with Year 10 Graduation, Formal and Awards ceremonies. I want to thank Belinda Chaplin and Blake Hamilton for their work in setting up all these events and making them so successful. I hope you had a chance to get along to one of these events to see our students and celebrate their achievements.

The ACT Education Directorate also recognised our outstanding students through the Year 10 Excellence Awards. We had three Year 10 students honoured at a ceremony at the ANU. They are; Aimee E awarded as a Successful Learner, Toby B as a Confident and Creative Individual and finally Lucie B recognised as an Active and Informed Citizen. Well done to these students!



This is a further update on the second-hand sports gear drive for young people in the Northern Territory. Our Year 10 girls, Sophie and Jasmine, collected items of second-hand sports equipment, with the help of our school, and these have been handed out as X-mas gifts for the kids up in Arnhem land. Well done girls for your generosity of spirit.



Last week our school choir participated in Carols at Parliament House. This is part of a series of school performances held during the day in the foyer of Parliament House. Our students were outstanding, and the audience were treated to beautiful voices in a spectacular environment. Thank you to Annalise Spurge for organising, conducting and singing with our choir.



The Go Foundation was founded by Adam Goodes and Michael O'Loughlin when they finished their professional AFL Football careers as they wanted to do something to give back to the community. The scholarship is for two years, valued at \$1500 each year and students will be supported not only financially, but academically and culturally as well.

Assessing this year's applications was tough for the Scholarship Team due to the high quality and quantity of submissions. We were successful in having four students selected for the 2024 GO Scholarship: Bella L, Hamish J, Rylan B and Thomas L. This is great news for these students and their families, and congratulations go to all the applicants.

All that remains for me to say is have a safe and enjoyable break and I look forward to speaking with you again in 2024.

YEAR 10 GRADUATION











P&C NEWS



Thank You

As the year closes, I would like to thank the executive and general members of the 2023 BHS P&C for their dedication, hard work and for being wonderful human beings! I would also like to extend thanks to everyone who has attended meetings, contributed ideas and feedback, coordinated or supported our fundraising efforts. Life is busy and these contributions make a difference to our school community, so thank you.

I need to single out one of our outgoing Uniform Shop Coordinators, Toni Jones.

Toni played a significant role in the inception of the Uniform Shop, ten years ago and has been an integral member ever since. That's right, ten years of volunteering, throughout the entire high school careers of all three of her children! Toni has done this job with such care and attention, working with other wonderful volunteers, quietly and seamlessly running our Uniform Shop which is a wonderful community hub and service for our school. Toni, a huge BHS thank you.



Cherry Fundraiser

Thanks to all who supported our P&C Cherry Fundraiser! We raised over \$1,300, almost double what we raised in 2022! How these funds will be reinvested back into our school will be discussed at a P&C meeting in the New Year.

I am sure those that ordered would agree that the cherries were great quality and delicious. We got very lucky with our cherries being picked before the torrential rain and thank Stony Creek Orchards for their efforts to ensure we got our delivery despite horrendous weather conditions.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Lisa Elliston who managed the ordering, a huge undertaking this year with 133 individual orders, and to Ross Wilson, Celia Vuckovic, Danielle

Gilchrist, Nicole Phelps and Sharon Ding as well as the BHS Front Office Team who assisted with cherry distribution.

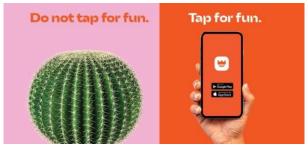


Ongoing Fundraising

Please support our ongoing fundraising efforts.

Looking for a last minute Christmas gift? Enjoy 100s of everyday savings! Entertainment is the easy-to-use App packed with incredible savings of up to 50% off and 2-for-offers, so you can save on takeaway, dining, shopping, groceries, gift cards, activities and more! The Entertainment App (formerly The Entertainment Book) donates 20% of each membership purchased goes towards our fundraising efforts. Sign up here https://shorturl.at/moTW1

Dining out over the school holidays? Perhaps consider the Canberra Southern Cross Club who will donate 7.5% of what you spend on dinner and drinks back to the Belconnen High School P&C, through their Community Rewards Program. If you haven't already selected BHS P&C as your preferred Community Rewards Partner here is the link to do so: https://csccmarketing.wufoo.com/forms/q1mgirhc0h426gp/





Looking forward to 2024

Please save the date! Our first meeting for 2024 will be held on Monday 12th February starting with drinks and nibbles from 5.30pm in the school café, followed by our 2023 AGM at 6pm. The BHS P&C is a great way to engage with and support our school community. Meetings are held once a term and are an easy way to meet other parents and members of the school leadership team, hear more about what's happening at Belconnen High, ask questions and raise issues for discussion. We hope to see you there!

Emma Dykes 2023 President BHS P&C

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS



Goodbye 2023! Hello holidays!!!!

Thankyou Belconnen High Community for supporting the Second-Hand Uniform Shop in 2023. When you buy from us it means the P&C can be generous in giving those proceeds back to the school. We have recently sent 4 boxes of "old style" tired white shirts, grey pants and polar fleeces to fabric recyclers Upparel, so our shop is brimming with good quality uniforms. However, it will take some time for us to build up a supply of Hoodies and Polo shirts…our most popular requests!

IMPORTANT SHOP DATES + TIMES for TERM 1, 2024

Week 1

Tuesday January 30th 8:30-9:30am *and* 2:30-3pm

Friday 8:30-9am

Week 2

Wednesday 8:30-9am

Friday 8:30-9am

Weeks 3-10

Fridays 8:30-9am

Contact email <u>uniform.shop.bhs@gmail.com</u> Please include a mobile number if possible when emailing us for the first time.

This newsletter is a final farewell to Toni who is a "graduating" parent this year and a very warm welcome to Aoife (pronounced Ee-fa) who is joining the Shop team in 2024.

For all graduating students, we wish you success and enjoyment in your next endeavours. And to the incoming students and families of 2024- Welcome to Belconnen High!

Have a safe and refreshing summer break.

Danielle, Aoife and Toni

Price List

Polo Shirt \$5

Skirt \$10

Grey pants and shorts \$10

Hoodie/polar fleece/zip jacket \$15

White shirts \$2

After an 18-year career volunteering in school P&Cs, Toni is retiring.

It has been a privilege to spend time in the uniform shop with Toni in recent years. Students, parents, carers and staff have all enjoyed the warmth and humour Toni brings. Best wishes and Thank You.

Danielle

ACTIVITIES WEEK

-BHS BATTLE OF THE HOUSES

Monday & Tuesday of Week 10 saw our annual BHS Battle of the Houses take place.

This year we saw a fantastic turnout of students participating in a range of activities across the school, doing their best to earn points for their respective houses.

We had 2 days of jam-packed action, including Nailed it, Escape rooms, Lego Masters, Console gaming, STEM activities, volleyball and so much more.

This year, we'd like to congratulate back-to-back champions, THORPE, on taking out this year's Battle of the Houses for the 2nd year in a row.

This year, teachers were dunked in water to represent the winning houses (3 dunked, 1 dry).

We'd like to thank Mr Beasley, John, Mr Branson, Mr Parr, Ms Pyner, Ms Barbour, Mr Miles, and Ms Ikin for being dunk tributes for our final reveal.

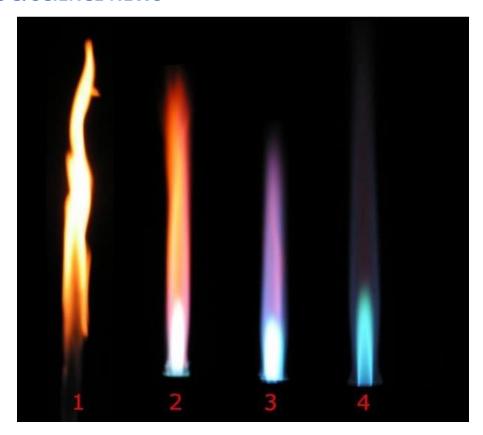
These 2 days couldn't have happened without Mr Bradbury and Ms Chaplin organising the event-we'd like to say a huge thanks to both of them, as a lot of work went into making this year's Battle of the Houses a huge success.



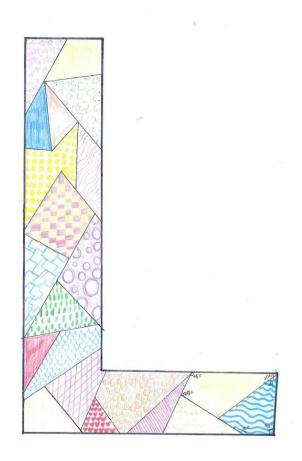


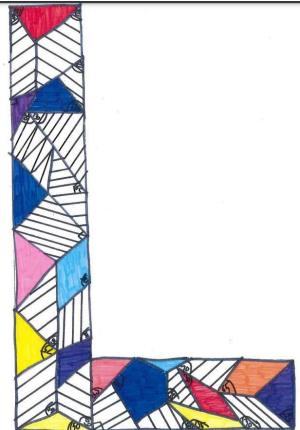


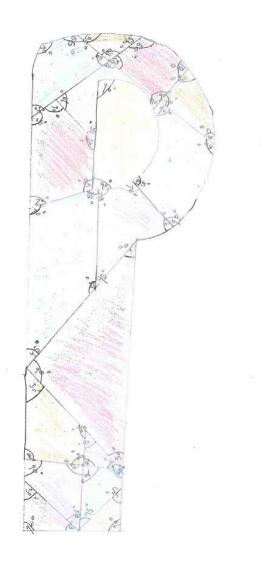
MATHS & SCIENCE NEWS

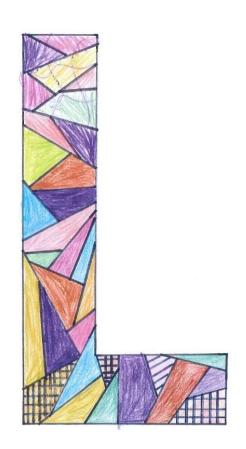


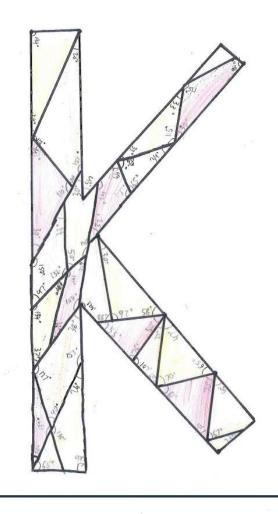
During Mathematics this year, angles within plane shapes was one of many topics investigated by our Year 7 students. One of the activities they worked on was angles within a design they created. The artworks include both triangles and quadrilaterals. Some students started measuring the angles using protractors and marked the angles on their designs. These are just some of the many designs created.

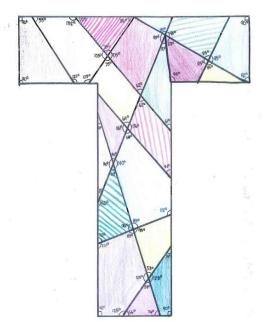












CULTURAL INTEGRITY NEWS



Cultural Integrity

It has been a very productive year for Belconnen High in the Cultural integrity space.

We are pleased to announce that next year we are growing our Connecting to Country program and that all of Year 7 will now do a year instead of just one semester over years 7 &8. This means that our students will be able to engage in the program.

We are thrilled to announce that our Connecting to Country Program is set to flourish, transitioning into a year-round initiative starting next year. This exciting development means that all students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a diverse range of cultural experiences, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation for Country, one another and Aboriginal and Torres Strait ways of knowing, being and doing..

As we extend the program, participants can look forward to a continuous journey of learning, celebrating, and embracing the richness of our First Nation's languages, cultures and heritages. The year-round format aims to create a sustained impact, allowing students to delve into various cultural facets and engage in meaningful dialogues throughout the academic year.

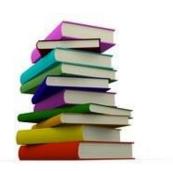
This expansion reflects our commitment to fostering a vibrant and inclusive community, where Cultural Integrity is not just acknowledged but celebrated. Students will benefit from a more comprehensive and immersive experience, gaining insights that extend beyond the confines of traditional classroom settings.

The Cultural Integrity Program's evolution is a testament to the importance of promoting Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing. We anticipate that this extended format will not only enhance cultural competence but also contribute to the development of well-rounded individuals equipped to navigate an increasingly interconnected world.

As we are growing this program we are also growing our teaching staff. Next year we will be welcoming thee new staff to our Cultural Integrity Team, Ms Vicky Jackson (also VET Hospitality), Ms Belinda Whyte (also Music) and Mr Daniel McKillop (also Health and Physical Education).

We are looking forward to working with our community as we grow this program together.

ENGLISH & HUMANITIES



As we bid farewell to 2023, it is a good opportunity to reflect on the collective journey we have undertaken together. As the Head of English and Humanities, it brings me great pleasure to share with you the highlights of the year and express my gratitude to the incredible staff and students who have made it all possible.

First and foremost, I want to extend my appreciation to our team of teachers. The commitment and passion that each staff member brings to Belconnen High School is truly commendable.

This year has presented its fair share of challenges, yet our educators have consistently gone above and beyond to create a nurturing and inspiring learning environment. From innovative lesson plans to tireless hours of preparation and assessment, their unwavering dedication has not gone unnoticed.

In the spirit of acknowledging the hard work and commitment of our staff, it is with mixed emotions that we say farewell to Megan Reed, who has decided to embark on a new adventure. Her impact on our students and her colleagues has been immeasurable, and while we will miss her dearly, we wish her nothing but success and fulfilment in her future endeavours.

As we say goodbye to Megan, let us also celebrate the countless moments of learning and growth that our students have experienced this year. The classrooms have been places of incredible learning in 2023. Students have challenged themselves and experimented with different ideas which highlights the importance of a humanities education in the 21st century. From conducting archaeological digs in history to writing poetry in English, they have showcased an ability to be curious and engaged learners and should be celebrated for their efforts.

Looking ahead, I am filled with optimism for the continued success and growth of English and Humanities. Students are well prepared for what comes ahead and should take this time to reflect on their goals and continue to seek opportunities to explore ideas and engage with the world with a sense of curiosity.

On behalf of English and Humanities, I wish everyone a restful and joyous holiday season, and I eagerly anticipate what awaits us in 2024.

Warm regards,

Dan Ewin

ARTS TECH NEWS



Arts and Technologies

The quality of work produced by our students in both Visual Arts and Applied Technologies this semester has been outstanding.

This semester students with outstanding work have been given a 'Golden Ticket'. This Golden Ticket means that their work has been selected to be displayed in our gallery at the front of the school.

We look forward to seeing what the students create in 2024.









Our Performing Arts students had several opportunities to showcase their talents as our semester closed.

We had our Orchestra, Choir, Drumline and bands perform in our end-of-year award ceremonies.

Our drumline students welcomed our parents and families into the award ceremony.



We had a number of students rehearse and perform in the Belconnen's Got Talent contest on Wednesday 13th December,

With the winning trio Amy, Amelia and Zara performing.

We would like to extend our thanks to our guest judges Ms Felicity Gallagher (from Hawker Primary), Mr Toni Marziano (from Hawker College) and Ms Belinda Whyte from Melba Copland College who will be joining us as our new music teacher next year.

With that in mind, we would like to thank Mr Glen Parr for all that he has done in building our Music program in his time here at Belconnen. We wish to express our deepest gratitude for the incredible program he has built and the lasting legacy he is leaving through his dedication to music education. His impact will resonate for years to come. We wish him all the very best for his retirement and the travel he has planned with his beautiful family.

Belconnen will miss you Mr Parr!

Farm to Fork

Year 9/10 Farm to Fork have been busy the last few weeks working on their last design brief, to create an ethically packaged hamper as a gift for someone. Most were designed as Christmas gifts, although one was designed as a Halloween gift. Students incorporated Strawberry Jam, Tomato Relish and Lemon Butter, learning about bottling, jar sterilisation and storage tips. Students also made meringues to be included in the hampers. Students then produced 2-3 additional products of their own choice to include in the hampers, giving consideration to storage and keeping quality of chosen recipes. Lastly, students learnt about labelling and packaging. Here are some of the finished products that you may have been lucky enough to receive!

Happy Baking and Merry Christmas!











PE FACULTY NEWS



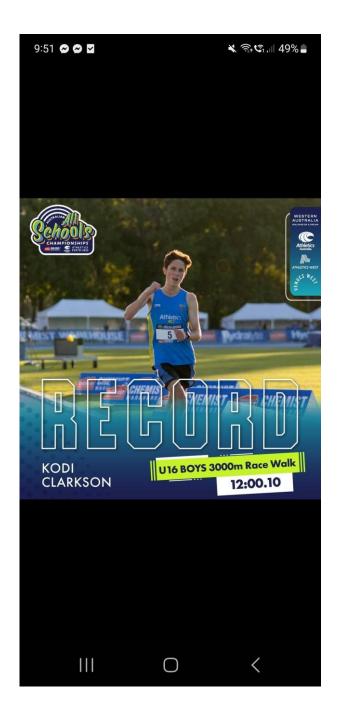
Kodi C, Tobias D.T and Kai H, all from year 9, recently competed in the All Schools Australian Athletics Championships at Perth.

Kodi smashed the Australian record in the 3km u16 racewalk to receive gold, also getting silver walk up in age for the u18 5km race walk.

Tobias, in his first national athletic meet, got bronze in the u16 200m, but was also part of the u16 4x100 meter relay gold -winning team.

Kai, also in his first national athletics event, achieved a Personal Best in the u16 shot put.





INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

We want to thank all our students for a fantastic year of learning and fun. To celebrate the up-and-coming holidays, we enjoyed a selection of festive activities in Week 9 including decorating our learning spaces and making gingerbread treats. From all the staff in Inclusion Ed, enjoy a well-earned rest and we look forward to seeing you back at school in 2024.









STUDENT WELLBEING NEWS



EATSS (Early Access To Support Services) Blakeleigh Gum Tree Mental Health Mural

In 2023 the SRC and Student Services developed a Peer-Lead Mental Health education program. The program aims to raise awareness of mental health and self-care, improve early access to mental health support services, and discuss supporting friends who are having difficulty with their mental health. Students have led the creation of this mural. The artwork has been developed with Leah Brideson, contemporary Aboriginal artist. The Blakeleigh gum tree symbolises the Belconnen High School community, working together as a school community to promote wellbeing, and standing together for strength. Students were given a gum leaf to write on, spending time reflecting upon their own mental health journey, or a message of hope to a loved one or friend. Some interesting facts about our mural: The tree's diameter represents the age of the school's community (52 years in 2023). Multiply the diameter of the mural (50.96cm) by 0.98 (tree diameter growth per year) to represent a 52-year-old Blakeleigh gum tree. The gum tree features an Aboriginal scar in the centre of the trunk. This traditional Aboriginal process was used to remove bark from trees, to make canoes, containers, and shields and to build temporary shelters. Scarred trees are easier to find than many other archaeological sites. They tell us where Aboriginal people used to live, and help us find other types of archaeological sites, such as scatters of stone tools. Scarred trees also provide Aboriginal people today with an important link to their culture and their past. The Blakeleigh Gum Tree has recently been considered an endangered tree species. The Blakeleigh gum tree is a Ngunnawal symbol of strength, community, and wellbeing.









Future of Education Student Equity Fund 2024 opens in January

Applications for the 2024 Round of the Future of Education Equity Fund will open on **Wednesday**, **17 January 2024**. The Fund provides financial support to eligible families, helping students access everyday essentials that assist with their education and wellbeing needs. It supports families with students who are enrolled in years P-12 in ACT schools (including non-government schools) or another approved form of education which meets the eligibility criteria.

The following payments are available to those who meet the eligibility criteria:

- \$400 for preschool students
- \$500 for primary school students
- \$750 for high-school and college students.

Schools may be asked to assist families to complete the online form. Direct any queries to the Equity Fund Team at EquityFund@act.gov.au or on 6207 1818. More details and the application form are available at financial and resource assistance for families

Student Services Staff Farewells

Our Student Services and Student Wellbeing team met for breakfast this week to celebrate the year that has been. As a team we have loved supporting BHS students through providing a space to listen, problem solve, mediate, reflect and seek help with emotional regulation, behaviour, relationships, learning challenges and class changes. We hope you have found our pastoral care program and wellbeing events useful, as well as access to career education, work experience, vocational learning options and transition support to college. The team would like to say a huge thank you for your contribution and farewell to our team members who are leaving this year: Betty Chau - SLC Student Services, Blake Hamilton – Yr 10 Coordinator, Janet Cooke - our literacy support teacher and Amanda Bruhn – our Art Therapist. You will be missed!



Pastoral Care 2023

Term 4 Pastoral Care focused on the following topics:

Year 7 — Giving back to our Community. Students worked on creating a story book for young readers in each pastoral care group. The books were donated to the Uniting Care Kippax Literacy program, who were most grateful.

Year 8 – Walking for Health. Students rotated through a variety of activities including Mindfulness Walks listening to the sounds of nature; Clean up Australia walks, counting your steps walks as well as opportunity to complete classroom Mindfulness activities and connection through Board and Card Games

Year 9 – Healthy Mind Platter. Students learnt about the importance of sleep, a Legal Aid talk on Alcohol, Drugs and Vaping laws and had time to work on their resumes.

Year 10 – Adulting skills. Students learnt how to apply for tax file number and a Medicare card, car care, a Legal Aid talk on Sex and Consent laws, hand shaking, how to tie a tie and how to make minor sewing repairs.

Giving Tree

Thank you to our BHS community for getting behind our Student Wellbeing Giving Tree this year. So many gifts from toys, handmade crocheted and knitted items, pantry goods etc.

Hemali from Uniting Care at Kippax was overwhelmed with your generosity and care for people in our community who are doing it tough at this time of year.

A special mention to our Crotchet Club for the handmade items that were donated. These were most gratefully received. Also, a special mention goes to our Year 7 PCG groups who created books for preschool aged children. These were also gratefully received and will be used in the Uniting Care Literacy Program. Thankyou Belconnen!







Congratulations to our Year 10 students and some Year 9 students who embarked on a Career exploration journey this year. This meant we had:

- 93 Work Experience (WEX) placements
- 6 Australian School Based Apprenticeships
- 8 Vocational Learning Option Programs (Electrical, AIE, Multiplex)
- 3 Volunteering placements
- 32 students completed White Card Training Certificates
- 25 students completed Asbestos Awareness Training
- 27 students completed Silica Awareness Training
- 10 students completed a RAISE Mentoring Program
- 7 students attended the University of Wollongong Discovery Day

All Year 10 students were provided the opportunity to complete a Career Interview in preparation for selecting Year 11 subjects.

All Year 10 students were provided the opportunity to attend the Canberra CareersXpo.

Students are welcome to continue to see Mrs Di Berardino in Student Wellbeing in the breaks in Student Wellbeing if they need help with a resume or would like to have a careers conversation.

SAVE THE DATE – 11 April 2024

As part of Youth Week 2024, BHS will be hosting a **Health, Wellbeing and Community Connection event**. If any of our families have expertise in Meditation, Yoga, Nutrition, Tai Chi etc and would be interested in running a 30 minute activity on the day or providing a talk, please contact Alison Di Berardino for further details. Email is <u>Alison.DiBerardino@ed.act.edu.au</u>

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Need support over the holidays? A list of community supports for young people and families is included in case access is required in the holidays.

Life Line

Lifeline provides all Australians experiencing a personal crisis with access to 24 hour crisis support and suicide prevention services

Kids Help Line

A free, confidential, telephone and online counselling service for young people aged between 5 and 25.

Suicide Call Back Service

ACT Crisis, Assessment & Treatment Team (CATT) Available 24 hours a day

Young Carer School Holiday Program

CYCLOPS and Carers ACT have planned lots of activities for the summer!

9 Jan - Jamberoo 7.30am-7pm

15 Jan - Phone Photography 2-5pm (16-25yo)

16 Jan - Tidbinbilla 10am-4pm (14-25yo)

22 Jan - Laser Tag 12-3pm

23 Jan - Coast trip 8am-5.30pm

We may be able to assist with transport for some activities, so please let us know if transport is a barrier. Email cyclops@anglicare.com.au

CYCLOPS' Young Carers Program provides case management support, social groups, and school holiday activities for young carers aged up to 25. We also support young carers groups in schools.

Email <u>cyclops@anglicare.com.au</u> to find out how our team can help. You can find our referral form <u>on our website</u>, or via <u>this link</u>.

FINANCE NEWS REGARDING 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 <u>Webpage</u>. or through the Parent Portal.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with this process for future payments

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING CONTACT DETAILS



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 students. 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.

CANTEEN NEWS

Download the app and register with FlexiSchools

COMMUNITY NEWS



The Christmas/Festive season is fast approaching, and along with it is the additional Christmas/Festive preparation expenses, not to mention the bills that will start rolling in come the New Year!

Care continues to facilitate the ACT Government's Rent Relief program for those who rent privately in the ACT. Eligible renters can apply for the one off grant of 4 weeks rent up to a maximum of \$2,500.

Please note: The current turn around for applications is 2-3 weeks, but could increase depending on the volume of applications received.

For more information, eligibility criteria and application form head to our website – www.carefcs.org/rent-relief-scheme

Care will be closed for Christmas from Friday 22nd December 2023 reopening Tuesday 2nd January 2024.











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



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17-21 University Ave Lakeview House
Macquarie ACT Camberra City ACT 232 Cowlishaw St
Tuggeranong
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