

Principal's Report for 2018

The beginning of the 2018 school year saw Belle Vue commence with an enrolment of 197 increasing to 9 classrooms, one up on the previous school year. We continue to provide a warm, safe and engaging learning environment for all our students at Belle Vue – catering for the many varied needs of our students. We work together with the wider community to ensure that our children feel supported.

Our staffing profile at the beginning of 2018.

Prep W – Ms Clare Woodhouse

Prep G – Miss Gemma Grimmond

1/2A – Mr Andrew Robinson

1/2B – Ms Brigitte Raymond

1/2D – Ms Rachael De Prada

3/4D – Ms Tanya Donaldson

3/4W – Mr Carl Ward (Higher Duties)

5/6G – Mr Bryce Griesheimer

5/6J – Miss Claire Jackson (term 1) Ms Sophia Bubner

Art – Ms Leanne Anstee

Phys Ed – Mr Carney Kucharski

LOTE (Italian) – Signorina Andria Piacentini

Computer (ICT) – Mr Ric Zalewski

Education Support Staff – Mrs Deidre Timms and Mrs Loree Spong

Library Technician – Mrs Emma Pringle

Groundsman – Mr Leo Cooper

Out of Hours School Care Coordinator – Jasnarinder Kaur (Camp Australia)

Business Manager – Ms Annette Bruce

Principal – Ms Cathy Caminiti

***EAL/Classroom support** – Mrs Helen Stafford

At the end of term one Claire Jackson handed in her resignation, due to personal reasons. Claire had formed strong personal connections with the students in her class and they were particularly sad to see her go. Term two saw us advertise, and then readvertise, to find the correct replacement. Mid way through, we found Sophia Bubner who came in and worked hard to win the students over. Sophia brought with her a high level of dedication and commitment – and is joining us again this year.

Our teaching staff deserve to be congratulated on the planning and implementation of the curriculum throughout 2018 and in their efforts to provide a vast array of extra-curricular activities for our students to participate in. These programs are only possible due to the commitment and dedication of our hard working staff.

In concluding staffing related issues, I wish to acknowledge the outstanding work of Annette Bruce in all that she does in her many roles as Business Manager (administration, personnel, secretary, first aid officer and HR!). I feel very fortunate to have her as my support.

Staff Professional Learning

In line with our 2017 - 2020 Strategic Plan, 2018 saw a focus on Building Teacher Capacity in particular with the work surrounding the FISO Communities of Practice on the High Impact teaching Strategies. All schools within the Network are keen to identify and improve quality of student learning and quality of teaching practice. It is a pleasure to share with other Network colleagues the current learning and teaching practices; and the collaborative team structures which occur at Belle Vue on a daily basis.

As part of the FISO (Framework for Improving Student Outcomes) initiative, we formed a Community of Practice with 4 other schools within our network – Balwyn North, Greythorn and Deepdene Primary – as each of these schools had a focus on Building Teacher capacity in their Annual Implementation Plans (AIP). The four schools worked on sharing best practice as a whole school and in levels; identifying 4 out of the 10 High Impact teaching Strategies to focus on as a collective.

Outlined is an overview of the PL undertaken throughout the year:

- Collaborative Teams and the High Impact Teaching Strategies (HITS) professional development facilitated by Tracey Ezard with Balwyn North, Deepdene and Greythorn Primary Schools
- Literacy leaders workshop - Bryce and Carl
- VIT Registration – Andrew and Tanya
- Reading – Data Analysis with Isobel McLennan (Education Improvement Leader)
- Revisiting our PLT proforma - aligning it with the FISO Framework
- Developing an Instructional Teaching Model for Reading (incorporating the HITS) – facilitated by Isobel McLennan
- Performance and Development Plans

- Social and Emotional Learning – including YCDI, Mindfulness, Growth Mindsets and Kindness
- Social and Emotional learning – Con Madden Workshop – Learning Curve
- Anaphylaxis training; and CPR update
- High Impact Teaching Strategies (FISO – Community of Practice Leaders – Bryce and Carl)
- High Impact Teaching Strategies (FISO – Community of Practice)- shared professional learning sessions with Balwyn North, Belle Vue and Greythorn Primary Schools (each term)
- FISO Convenors Meeting – Region (Cathy)
- Bricks and Mortar PD – (Cathy and Carl) As part of the OHS checklist
- Professional Readings – John Hattie's 'Visible Learning for Teachers' and Tracey Ezard's 'Glue'
- Revisiting the implementation of the Reading Instructional Model – data analysis
- NAPLAN and Teacher Judgement Data conversations – Leadership Team
- Peer Observation Process – ongoing (part of PDP)
- Mandatory Reporting Modules
- Working with Children with ASD (EMR Options)
- AIP Audit and Analysis
- Individual Education Plan (IEP) – Training – Rachael DePrada (Welfare Coordinator)
- Out of Home Care PD – Rachael DePrada (Welfare Coordinator)
- Victorian Principals Association (VPA) Conference – Cathy

As a result of the success we have seen in our Reading data, conversations turned to the Writing data and why we were not seeing the same level of success given that Writing has been a whole school focus for many years. Through breaking down the Reading Instructional Model – we were able to identify that we were not giving writing the same level of time, or structure, due to a number of contributing factors. (Parent reading in the mornings having the biggest impact on time). These professional discussions and data conversations has led to a change in structure for the 2019 school day – ensuring we are utilising maximum learning time at the most crucial part of the day. Already we are seeing a significant, positive, change in students being ready to begin the days learning.

The teaching staff work collaboratively in curriculum planning and delivery reflecting a strong commitment to teamwork. Equally, parents and teachers work in partnership to provide each child with rich learning experiences, optimising their potential and promoting a friendly, safe and secure learning environment over the seven years of their schooling.

Belle Vue continues to be recognised as a high performing school as evidenced by the Victorian Curriculum data and NAPLAN results for 2018 – especially when looking at relative growth compared to like schools. Belle Vue is a highly effective learning community providing challenging and varied learning opportunities. It is our goal that individual talents, interests and skills are identified, nurtured and developed so that all students achieve success, engendering a high sense of self confidence and a love of learning.

*Please see Annual Report 2018 for an overview of data sets.

Information and communication technology is successfully integrated into learning programs at all year levels. Each classroom is equipped with an interactive whiteboard and has access to a bank of lap top computers. Our students have access to a variety of challenging educational software programs and learning support equipment (e.g. multimedia projectors, digital cameras, flip cameras, ipads). Ric Zalewski, ICT technician, began working with all grades (Prep – 6) on Robotics and Coding. This proved to be highly successful and a definite inclusion moving into 2019.

While catering for all ability levels and learning styles, the focus has been on students achieving the best possible learning outcomes in Literacy and Numeracy. Our integrated units of work and our capacity to provide high quality specialist programs have provided every child with the opportunity to experience success. A number of support programs have also been provided for those students who present in our weaker cohort in Reading and English as an Additional Language.

All students participated in the Italian, Physical Education, Visual and Performing Arts Programs. Students celebrated Multicultural Day and participated in house events - cross country, athletics and swimming. All students contributed to the annual Art Exhibition and were a part of the highly regarded mid -year performance, 'Under the Big Top', held at the Karralyka Theatre in Ringwood. A large number of students participated in private instrumental lessons – run by Junior Rockers. Students also had the opportunity to participate in junior and senior choirs. These students performed at our Friday afternoon Performance Assemblies, local kindergartens and at the Market Night held in December. The Senior Choir also formed part of a 3000 strong choir at the State School Spectacular at Hisense Arena at the end of September.

Maintenance Works

We began the start of 2018 most excited about the funding we were receiving to renovate the hall – here we are 12 months later and the Hall is *almost* at completion.

The process to get to this stage was very involved –

- VSBA putting a tender out for the project
- Selection process for the project management
- Deciding on what work would be done
- Putting tenders out for contractors to complete the work
- Negotiating inclusions/exclusions
- Getting the work to completion!

Trees on Bulleen Road

It seems that this sub heading has been included in every school council report for the last 16 months! We have been trying to get assistance with the removal of these two trees for some time. The avenues we chased up last year included:

- Emergency Maintenance Program Funding Application – rejected on the basis that the we are to use the Student Resource Package funding to cover the cost of tree removal (this funding is allocated to staff the school and manage school programs)
- Lobbied local council to ask for assistance – even with Traffic Assistance – all to no avail
- Lobbied local and Federal Members of parliament to seek assistance – all to no avail
- Vic Roads – to tie in any scheduled road maintenance work with the tree removal, no works in the area scheduled
- Power companies – to see if they have any scheduled works that we could coincide with – again to no avail.

The last email came from Bruce Dobson at local council stating that 'the school has acknowledged the trees in question pose a safety risk based on advice that they have received from an arborist. In this context, the school has a duty of care to act on the advice received, failing which, in the event of an incident, the school, and the Department of Education and Training, could be held liable.'

Candice Rozario, Provision and Planning, Regional Services Group, North-Eastern Victoria Region has suggested *I reapply* through the Emergency Maintenance Program.

NELA Air Monitoring Unit

Last year School Council approved the installation of the Air Quality Monitoring Unit we now see out on the North West corner of the oval. The installation took a lot longer than anticipated – due to building permits, council permits – structural changes etc. Installation was to commence and be completed late 2018. To NELA's credit – they were (and are) very good with communication and informing the school regarding delays etc.

Gates (Staff Car Park)

The application for funding of the gates, through the Accessible Buildings Program, was approved by Region early term one. It then was the sent on to the Infrastructure and Sustainability Division (IFSD) for approval. This took close to two terms for it to be approved. The installation of the gate was completed over the September school holiday break.

Before and After Care (Camp Australia)

Our Out of School Hours Care Program has shown a slight increase in enrolments in both before and after care and is well managed and resourced by Camp Australia. Jasnarinda Kaur continues to do an excellent job of coordinating the Out of Hours Care Program. Camp Australia administer and manage the program on behalf of the school.

Hire of Facilities

- Greek School – all areas including Library and Hall on Monday evening 5 – 9pm
- Sports Star Academy – Tuesday and Thursday afternoons

Marketing

- LED Sign – has had a significant impact. Even in terms of putting us on the map!
- My First Child – Boroondara and Manningham Editions (3 months in each magazine)
- Progress Leader – Boroondara and Manningham Education Week
- My First day of Prep – Boroondara Progress Leader
- Chinese Directory (1 year subscription)
- Real Estate Boards – school fence line throughout the year. Manningham Council areas and Veneto Club beginning of year, Manningham private residence – intermittently.

- Clare Woodhouse and the Transition team worked with local kinders – visits to Yarraleen, Vista Valley, Glass Street and Belle Vue (taking prep students to talk about what it's like in prep). Closer work with Belle Vue Kinder – reciprocal visits and visits to mid-year performance rehearsals.
- Education Week Information Evening – was well attended
- School Tours – (Tuesday and Thursday)

All staff continue to promote the school through their learning programs via school website and newsletters, in order to increase our profile within the local (Boroondara and Manningham) community.

P & F

The Belle Vue Parent's and Friends (P and F) continued to be highly active under the coordination of Caroline Downey and the many parents who volunteer their time to organise various activities held throughout the year. As well as supporting curriculum and facility initiatives the P & F can be thanked for their organisation of a wide variety of community events and activities. A snippet of these have included Fathers and Mother's Day stalls, the Open Air Movie Night, weekly lunches, icy pole sales, weekly banking, uniform shop, Book Club and other school community events. The efforts of our hard working parents' group not only fund-raise considerable amounts of money, but provide enjoyment for all students and a variety of social opportunities for all parents and staff. Highlights of the 2018 school year were the very successful Open Air Movie Night, which was a fantastic community/family event, the Trivia Night fundraising event in August, a successful night for just the adults and lastly our (now annual) Belle Vue Christmas Market – which was a fabulous community event and a great way to celebrate the end of the school year.

School Council

Last year the Belle Vue Primary School community was well served by a hardworking and supportive School Council. Thanks again to all Council members for the support and involvement in Council. It is a challenge to keep people informed and discuss the complex issues involved in school policies, operations and accountability when we only meet for a few of hours twice a term. Council members give of their valuable time and endeavour to assist the effective running of the school when faced with such a vast amount of information. We are fortunate that we have a council that works together for the greater good of our school community. A special thank you to Fiona Iovenitti, whose boys are now at secondary school – so has moved on from our school community and Brigitte Raymond, for their time on school council.

Whilst we recognise and value the efforts of *all* school council members, each bringing valuable skill sets to council - a particular thanks must go to Kim McCormick in her role as School Council President. Kim has been a tremendous asset in her role – supporting, challenging and at times being an impartial sounding board, for some of the more complex issues that arise on a day to day basis.

Cathy Caminiti

Principal

2018 School Council President's Report (by Kim McCormick)

The 2018 school year was a very productive and successful year for our School community with continued improvements to our grounds and buildings, particularly with the long-awaited commencement of our hall renovation following receipt of specific funding for this initiative. Student numbers remained consistent and were 197 at the beginning of the year leading to an increase in classrooms to 9 in total.

In 2018, the professional learning of all staff continued to be a strong focus. Whilst parents and students enjoyed curriculum days, our teachers and staff enjoyed workshops which were run by external consultants. This was in addition to ongoing sessions and workshops regularly throughout the year.

Our focus on sustainability is now embedded at Belle Vue and thanks to the leadership of Carl Ward, the Junior School Council and staff, the school continues to educate our children regarding their overall footprint in society and becoming socially responsible global citizens. It is pleasing to see this conversation continuing by our students in their homes.

I would also like to acknowledge the staff for their efforts in providing a vast array of extracurricular activities that our children are able to enjoy. Given the size of our community and the number of staff we have – the opportunities our children are awarded are second to none. As a community we are very lucky to have such a dedicated group of teachers and staff, lead by our Principal.

In particular, I had the opportunity during the year to assist the school by attending the Grade 5/6 camp to Valley Homestead as a last minute addition. I now fully understand first hand, the benefit of camps for our students in developing resilience and independence particularly as they head towards the end of their primary school years and into secondary school. However, I am also more aware of the huge effort and commitment that camps require from our staff. I cannot express how impressed I was with the caring and dedication shown by staff during the camp towards all students.

School Council

Since 2017, a major issue affecting both the School and our wider community has been the announcement of Corridor A as the preferred route for the North East Link. Engagement with NELA is continuing and Cathy Caminiti is working hard to ensure lines of communication remain open. I have attended a number of meetings with both Cathy and NELA as well, and I would like to re-assure our school community that every effort is being made to ensure that there is minimal disruption to the school during construction and particularly ensuring access and safety for students and families who may walk or ride to school. We are hoping if anything that our continued engagement with NELA will result in improvements to traffic on Bulleen Road, near the School and better access to the School from Bulleen.

Kim McCormick
School Council President
Belle Vue Primary School