



Mid Term - Principal Matters

Today brings to the conclusion Week 5 Term 2. In my short time at Belmont High School, we have certainly jammed a significant and rich amount of opportunities for all students to be involved in. I intend on doing a Week 5 and Week 10 Principal Matters as information for our community.

Yondr at Belmont High School

This week our Yondr program has been implemented across the school. I would like to thank our students, staff and community for their patience as well as their feedback about Yondr and what it will look like at our school. The rationale behind Yondr is a strategy for mobile phones designed:

- to maximise student engagement in learning,
- to minimise distractions and misuse of mobile phones at school,
- to support quality teaching of our teachers and the wellbeing of all students and staff.

This program will be evaluated regularly in its early stages and further feedback is welcomed at any time. I had the pleasure of meeting our P & C last Thursday and I mentioned the importance of our school being flexible in our approach with Yondr to support students on an individual basis. Working together with a focus on teaching, learning and wellbeing is our primary objective within this initiative.

Thank you to Mr Allenby for his tireless work in consulting, planning and implementing this program.

Student 'Stars'

Students are at the centre of everything that we do in education. Our social media platforms are full of student achievement, personal best efforts and engagement showcasing the wonderful opportunities at Belmont High School.

- We had 2 students at our annual **Athletics Carnival** break school records. U17's Amanda Young (Year 12) with a jump of 1.44m - previous record 2017 (1.40m - Elise Dorans-Knowles). U14's Matilda Granato (Year 8) with a jump of 1.45m - previous record 2017 (1.35m Mikayla Poulsen).
- Belmont High School is where **Starstruck** started, and this year is the 30th anniversary of the event. We have 24 dancers, 2 support group dancers and 21 members of the choir for Starstruck this year. Our featured artists include the following students: Featured Vocalists - Riley Stobbs Year 12, Jake Roseby Year 11 and Aqualina Denz Year 7. Backing Vocalist - Tyler Lannoy Year 10. Core Choir - Amelia Pilgrim Year 9. Starstruck Rock Band - Jake Roseby Year 11. Starstruck Orchestra - Jay Fairclough Year 12 on Saxophone and Maddison Jennings Year 10 on Trumpet.
- Thank you to all Year 7 and 9 students for their effort and diligence in completing their **NAPLAN** assessment earlier this term. This will give our school some rich data to further our teaching and learning practices.
- Thank you to all students who completed the **Tell Them from Me Survey** in Week 3. We hope to use this information to again improve what we do here at Belmont High School.

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National Sorry Day

Thank you to the students and staff involved in this week's National Sorry Day assembly. An opportunity to reflect, but also one to further our commitment to bringing our school community together and working in genuine partnership with our Aboriginal families.

We have a thriving Aboriginal Education team at Belmont High School that already balance in class learning support, and are key contributors to our learning and support team and the organisation and implementation of cultural programs such as our Didge and Weaving groups. They are also planning our Bahtabah Oz Tag and NAIDOC days with our partner primary schools and community.

Subject Selection

Our Year 10 students have been issued their subject selection information booklets and have participated in 'Taster Lessons' this week. On Wednesday 1st June from 5.30pm in our school gymnasium, we will be hosting our Subject Selection Evening for students, parents and carers. The evening will involve key information about a student's pattern of study and information about TAFE and University pathways for students. Canapes will be prepared and served by our magnificent HSC Hospitality students.

If you cannot make this event, please contact Nat Hilder our Careers Advisor or Mr Allenby the Year 10 Deputy Principal.

Belmont Community of Schools and Transition

A strategic focus of our school plan is enhancing our relationships and connections with our community. I had the pleasure of meeting with our 4 partner primary Principals last week to discuss the importance of what Public Education brings to our Belmont community. We discussed areas where we can work together and re-establish our opportunities for students academically or within the sporting, cultural or creative and performing arts domains.

This week we had students seeking enrolment in Year 7 2023 sit our academic enrichment test. This is a pathway to our enrichment class in Year 7 and we look forward to enhancing their learning capacity at high school next year. With the specialist CAPA class, there has been an extension to the date that applications are due (now June 10). Enrolment application information can be found on our school website.

Working Together – vaping and toilets

Unfortunately, I need to ask our parents and carers to work with our school to manage and deal with incidents of vaping by students. This is a statewide if not global issue currently impacting on the health, safety and wellbeing of students in schools. In our school, this only involves a handful of students but these behaviours impact on many other students throughout the school day.

Over the past fortnight I have asked staff for their feedback to manage vaping incidents in our school and our procedure will be updated next week. We will have a clear procedure within our whole wellbeing and discipline policy for staff to follow if students are found or suspected to be vaping on school site. Communication with relevant parents and carers will be a core feature of removing these issues on school grounds.

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As vaping incidents have increased, this has coincided an increase in groups of students congregating in our toilets at break time. This has led to damage and anti-social behaviours. Again, a clear process to manage groups of students entering our toilets at any one time will be implemented. The purpose and privacy of our school toilets speaks for themselves, it is not an area of our school we wish for socialising or negative behaviour to occur.

Can I encourage all parents and carers, if you have any ideas or information to support our school with these matters to please have these discussions with your child or contact me directly. My main objective is to create a safe and engaging learning environment for all students and staff and your cooperation with these matters is greatly appreciated.

Uniform

As we come into the cooler months, the wearing of correct school uniform still needs to be a key focus of the student's morning routine when preparing for school. In particular jumpers and pants. Wearing the correct uniform helps create a positive identity and develops pride in yourself and our school. Students are encouraged to be responsible for ensuring they are prepared to attend school in the correct uniform.

Our Senior Executive team will be having conversations with students as they enter the school over the coming weeks reminding them about the importance of wearing school uniform. If any family requires assistance in obtaining uniform, they are to contact the school ASAP. Further information about our uniform policy and BHS Uniform Shop operating hours can be found via our website: [BHS Uniform - Belmont High School \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.belmont-h.school.nsw.gov.au).

Strategic Direction 1 reflection from teaching staff

This week aligned to Strategic Improvement Plan; I have asked all teachers to reflect on the following. It is important all staff play their part in developing and achieving the goals of our school vision to enhance teaching, learning and wellbeing outcomes of students at our school.

1. *What does formative assessment practices look like in your classroom and your faculty area?*
2. *What impact does formative assessment approaches have on informing your future curriculum delivery to your students?*
3. *In Year 7, how do you utilise the BYOD program to increase engagement?*
4. *Within the BYOD program, do you assign learning tasks that promote high order thinking, problem solving and collaborative skills?*

Parents and Citizens Association

Thank you to Stephen and the P & C for welcoming me last week. The P & C is an integral voice within our school and a key consultation point on decisions made. Can I encourage more parents and families to become involved in our P & C so that we can continue to implement the goals and aspirations of our community for all students here at Belmont High School. The P&C meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 5:30-6:30pm via zoom. If you would like more information, please contact the school and we can get you in contact with Stephen.

Trent Colley

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