FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Families,

Minato-ku Visit

Again this year, the International Student Services Unit, International Education Division within the Department of Education approached Beaumaris PS to host visitors from Japan. Our school is highly regarded within our education system. Our visitors from Minato-ku arrived at school on Tuesday evening. They were warmly greeted by their host families. We extend a huge thank you to our school families for kindly sharing their home and their family with our visitors until Sunday and for their hospitality. We know they will be made to feel welcome. Thank you to our office staff for liaising with our host families to prepare for their visitors. Thank you to Sensei Gall for all her planning to ensure their visit is a success. Last Monday Sensei briefed our families about their visitors and their customs. Sensei has also organised a range activities, for the visitors and host families, both within the school and out and about. We are sure our Japanese students, their teachers and principals will return with many happy memories of their time with us.

Japanese Visitor presentations tomorrow afternoon – Whole School Assembly postponed to next week

Our Japanese visitors will be demonstrating some of their customs and traditions in workshops with various classes on Friday afternoon so we will postpone the whole school assembly until next week. Parents are welcome to come along at 3.00pm to see the Japanese visitors’ presentation of thanks. The presentation will be in the Year 5 and 6 building.

Japanese Australia Day Celebrations

Our students really look forward to this day each year. There are photos of some of the activities enjoyed by the students later in Stop Press.

Parent Opinion Survey mailed to a randomly selected families

Each year the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development requires all government schools to conduct a parent opinion survey of 15 per cent of the school community. Parents are randomly selected to participate and we use the information to support future school planning and improvement. The survey is designed to take no more than 20 minutes to complete and your feedback and opinions play an important role in making our school the best it can possibly be. Please be assured that your responses are completely confidential. If your family has been randomly selected to participate in the 2015 Parent Opinion Survey the survey was posted to your home address on Tuesday. We ask you to take the time to complete the survey as your opinions are important to us and will contribute to the future management and organisation of our school. Please return the survey by Friday July 31st.

Sheryl M. Skewes
Principal

Neven Paleka
Assistant Principal
It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true. The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!
It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either
Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

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It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as “It’s not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!” Nice try. But the answer should be “No!”

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It’s reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

AS A PARENT:

- Commit to sending kids to school every day.
- Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.
- Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.
- Consider catching-up on missed work.
- Make kids who are away stay in their bedroom – that is where ill kids should be.

LEVEL LOW DOWN

**Foundation**

The Preps have been working very hard this week in literacy learning all about rhyming words, we even made our own rhyming word book- just like Dr Seuss! We have been having a fantastic time at Footsteps dance lessons learning different routines. We have a new area for our bins in the corridor, we are all becoming expert 'bin busters' in sorting our rubbish before we put it in the correct bin. Please try to only bring nude food to school to cut down on the rubbish consumption. Next Wednesday we celebrate our 100th day at school, don’t forget to wear your pyjamas for our party. If each student could also please bring a small plate of food to share with their buddies and each other.

**Year One**

Welcome to all the teachers and students from Minato-Ku! Today we celebrated Japan/Australia day. Our students looked fantastic dressed up in a variety of Japanese and Australian costumes including kimonos and ninjas. During rotations we made Koi fish out of paper, used paint to create our own blossom paintings and folded paper to make our own animal origami creatures. Our creations looked great! We also loved the Wild Action Show and seeing all the Australian animals in our own school yard.

This week in Year One we continued learning about time and why it is important to us. We have learnt how to draw a clock including drawing the digits 1-12 around the side of the clock face and what the big hand and little hand represent. The big hand tells us the minute and the little hand tells us what hour it is. We used paper plates and split pins to make our own clocks and make different times.

Time is all around us- watches, alarm clocks, digital clocks, and analogue clocks. Where have you seen the time? If your child has a watch at home we encourage them to wear it to school. It will help them get used to seeing different clock faces and practising reading the time.

**Year Two**

The Year 2s have begun writing persuasive texts. Student’s have chosen a variety of arguments that they are passionate about.

These include:

"Why you should go to school" by Indi
"Smoothies are better than milkshakes" by Maggie
"Grandparents are better than parents" by Mackenzie
"Children shouldn't watch horror movies" by Silas
"Winter is better than summer" by Elliott
"Jurassic world is better than Jurassic Park" by Josh
"Why we should have a longer recess and lunch time" by 1/2W
"Why we should get a pool in our house" by Ruby
"I should have more time on the Xbox" by Lewis
"More trams" by Quinn
"The sun is dangerous" by Ava
"Maths is better than english" by Olympia
"April is the best month" by Catriona
"Burgers are the best" by Georgia
“We should get a puppy" by Oscar
"Why we should go to Gold Class" by Eloise

We look forward to some more exciting persuasive writing this term.

**Year Three**

Meanwhile in Year 3...

Students are thoroughly enjoying our new subject focus: Science. They have begun the immersion process and the explicit teaching of our learning intentions. Our homework task for the next two weeks is to design a question and conduct an experiment to determine the answer - like a real scientist would do.

Today we celebrated Japanese and Australian culture by participating in rotations. Students were involved in playing traditional Aussie games, making Japanese bookmarks and singing karaoke like there was no one listening.

We’ve had a great week.
**Year Four**

Our Year 4s have been working enthusiastically on their ERPs. Just a reminder that our Year 4 History ERP expo is being held in our classrooms next Thursday 30th July from 3.00-4.00pm. This week the students are practising their History speech, focussing on speaking clearly and using appropriate volume, to share their learning with the visitors. Some of us have been visiting the Beaumaris Library where we have been browsing and borrowing books, using the catalogue, reading newspapers and playing chess.

**Year Five**

Year Five has had a wonderful week playing host to several Japanese students. It has been a great experience sharing with visitors from another culture. Next week we will have another visit from Hands On Science to continue our exploration of the world of science. Much of our writing this week has been directed at preparing and documenting “fair tests” with repeatable results. The students have also deepened their understanding of the correct units of measurement appropriate for area and perimeter. Congratulations to all the host families and the girls attending the Kingston Football Final for going the extra step and making the most of new experiences.

**Year Six**

This week in Year 6 we have been getting organised for our class debates. Students discussed the following topics:

- Kids have it tougher these days
- Beauty is better than brains
- Television does more harm than good.

It was a challenge for all the students to get up and speak about their argument, but they were all confident and worked hard on completing their first class debate.
FROM OUR PARENT CLUB......

Mother's Day Pressies for sale
We have a few items left from our fabulous Mother's Day stall. If you would like to buy anything in the attached pictures for yourself or for a pressie they will be on sale before school from 8.30am in the room near the office (next to the staff room) this FRIDAY 24th. All items are $7. Many thanks, Parent Club

Scholastic Book Club
Issue 5 of Scholastic book club is due back Friday 31st July. All children get age appropriate catalogues. However you are able to order from any catalogue. All the catalogues are available in the office foyer. Please feel free to help yourself. Please also remember we can’t accept cash. Please pay by cheque or online by credit card. Any queries please contact Ness Newell 0424 329008 lochnessmonst71@hotmail.com

FETE NEWS......

Supermarket Specials for fete donations:
Coles - 12 cans of Pepsi, Solo or Schweppes soft drink - $6.00
Woolworths - 24 cans Pepsi, Solo or Schweppes soft drink - $9.89
Woolworths - Cadbury Dairy Milk block - $3.50
See our fete newsletter attached to the email with Stop Press.
Ride wristbands are now on sale using the Qkr app under "Special events". Flyer also attached to Stop Press email. Maybe goes halves with someone!

Fete Market Stalls
Would you like a Market Stall at our fete? There's only a week left to get your applications in. Applications close 31/7. Please contact Nikki Marsh for an info sheet & application form. nikki.marsh@westnet.com.au

SOFTTOYS

Stuck inside because it's cold or wet?
Get ahead and spring clean this Winter!

Massive success last fete, the Soft Toy Pool where kids hoop a winning toy needs a lot more toys to fill it.

Donations can be dropped off at the office.
You’re invited to our BOOK FAIR!

All purchases benefit our school!

Date: Monday 7th Sept - Thursday 10th
Place: SALC
Time: 8.30 am - 4 pm

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 IGNITE EXCITEMENT AROUND READING