B.E.P.S

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Balliang East Primary School Newsletter

Volume: 11 Issue: 1

30th January, 2019

WELCOME:

Welcome back to all our 2018 families and a special welcome to our new families for 2019. This year we have 69 students at the school and 13 staff.

All of our 8 new Preps have settled in really well on their first day and adapted quickly to the rules and routines. We have 3 new families starting here with us which is great to see. We look forward to getting as many families as we can, involved in our school activities. A special welcome to our new Integration Aide, Mrs Tracey Sheppard who will be working at our school on Wed, Thurs and Friday each week.

Grade levels/staff for 2019:

This year our grade structure will be:
Grade Prep – Miss Rees
Grade 1 – Miss Speirs
Grade 2/3 – Mr Smith
Grade 4-6 – Miss Wood / Mr Yeatman
During Specialist classes the students will be split into 3 grades – P/1, 2/3 and 4-6.
MARC Van will be on a Thursday this year.
LOTE will be every 2nd Friday.

Student Information:

Today every child has brought home a Student Details document. Could you please carefully check all the details on it, particularly phone numbers, email details and Emergency Contact details and update if required. These documents need to **be signed and returned to school by Friday** even if no details need to be corrected. There is additional information for your employment / occupation, please read carefully before changing any information.

A number of families have also received additional forms to sign and return ie. CSEF, Payment Plans, Laptop Agreements.

Staff Meetings:

Our Staff Meetings will be held every Tuesday. Every second Tuesday will be a morning meeting from 8:15 – 9:00am. We would really appreciate it if parents could bring their children to school as close as possible to 9 am on these days and avoid phoning the school whilst the meetings are in progress.

Laptop Payments:

Students in Grade 4 who opted to lease a laptop this year will have full use of them as of today. If you feel you were misled in any way regarding the laptop program please read the article attached to today's newsletter email. If you want to withdraw from the program after reading the information please let me know ASAP and the school will absorb the cost and the laptop purchased for your child will be used by all students.

Family Accounts:

Statements have been sent home. This year the fees are as follows:-
Book Pack - $80:00, Essential Items - $30:00
Voluntary - $40:00, Sports Fee - $5:00
Total: $155:00
Please pay the Book Pack component by Friday 1st February. The remaining total must be paid by Friday 15th February. This includes the Term 1 laptop payment for those children in Grade 4-6 who lease a laptop. If you need to organise a payment plan, please advise Mrs D.
The students will not be receiving their Book Packs until payment has been received.
If you have applied to receive CSEF funding your statement will still show a $5:00 Sports Fee component until we are sent the funding from DET. We will then remove this fee from your statement.

Bush Telegraph / DVD:
The Bush Telegraph school magazine and Concert DVD have been sent home today to those families who ordered them. If you didn't receive yours please see Mrs D.

Lunches:
A reminder to parents that the children are expected to eat their entire sandwich before they can play. If your child has an issue eating crusts please remove them at home, otherwise we will assume that your expectation is the same as ours and we will ensure the entire sandwich is eaten.

Library Bags:
All new students require a yellow library bag. The cost of $6:00 per bag has been added to family accounts. The staff will distribute these to the students.

Breakfast Club:
Breakfast Club will operate each Friday morning throughout the year. We will start the program once the term's food has been delivered. More information to follow.

Voluntary Contribution:
The $40:00 Voluntary Contribution component of the school fees can not be added to family accounts until after payment is received. Therefore, all families are asked to bring this payment to the Office by Friday 15th Feb. This payment is very important to us as it is used for the purchase of items for extra-curricular activities.

Code Red:
Our school is a 'Code Red' school which means that we will be closed on days declared 'Code Red' by the CFA. To ensure our SMS system is working I will be sending every family a text soon, which will ask you to respond with the time you received the text – not when you read it. This will allow me to test that group texts are being received within an acceptable timeframe. We will have a 'Code Red' information session soon.

School Account Name:

Balliang East Primary School

BSB: **063543**

Account Number:**10047398**

Important Dates:

Principal:
Mrs Caryn Fox

School Information:
School No: 3787
Phone: 5369 5148 Fax: 5369 5226
BEPS Mobile: 0418 316 148
Email: balliang.east.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

School Council President:
Amanda Hare

Friday 1st February:	Book Pack to be paid
	Check, sign and return Contact Details form
Tuesday 5th February:	PA Meeting – 9.30 am - All welcome
Wednesday 6th February:	No Preps
Wednesday 13th February:	No Preps
Sunday 17th February:	Bunnings BBQ – Parent Helpers Required.
Monday 18th February:	Grade 6 'Getting to know you' evening – 3:30pm – 6;30pm
Wednesday 20th February:	No Preps
Friday 22nd February:	Family Welcome BBQ including Pink Stumps Cricket Match
Wednesday 27th February:	No Preps
Tuesday 5th March:	Pancake Day
Monday 11th March:	Labour Day Holiday
Tuesday 12th March:	Curriculum Day – No Students

PREPS:

Please note the above dates that the Prep students do not attend school in February.

Icy Poles:

During Term 1, the students may like to bring an icy pole which they can eat at lunch time. These can be put in the freezer in the Multi-Purpose Room. With our enrolments increasing, we need to be able to easily identify each child's icy poles. Therefore, we would like all icy poles to be sent in clear, large sandwich bags that have a sealed top with your child's name written clearly on in permanent texta. We have some of these bags at school if you need them. Do not send more than 5 per student at a time please as we don't have the freezer space to store a packet per child.

Absences:

DET are reinforcing attendance this year with a strong emphasis on students being absent for less than **5 days** per year. Families with unexplained on-going absences will be followed up by the Department and a fine may be issued. Could parents please make sure that an absence form is filled in and signed immediately once your child returns to school?
Schools are being asked to supply student's names to the Department if they have already had 2 days of 'unapproved' absence by the end of February. 'Unapproved' refers to absences where the child is not genuinely ill or away on holidays. The Principal has the discretion to approve or disapprove each absence based on background knowledge.
Schools are being directed by the Department to follow up all absences on a daily basis via a text to parents unless the school has been informed of the child's absence.

Traffic Awareness:

A reminder to parents that you need to take great care when turning out of School Rd onto Bacchus Marsh/Geelong Rd. The on-coming traffic is travelling at 100 kph and quickly gains on slower cars. We have heard several near miss screeching of brakes over the years and we don't want to have to deal with an accident involving our parents.

Stationery:

Please **do not** send any extra pencils, gel pens, erasers, etc. to school with your child. We supply all of these items as it eliminates the issue of having children wanting to use other students' belongings, which may be of better quality than theirs. If these are brought to school, we will be sending them home again.

Medications:

A reminder to parents that the staff **will not** administer any medication to students at school other than Ventolin, ADHD medication and insulin. Any students who require hay fever medication, antibiotics, panadol or other medicines, will need to take these at home or parents will need to come to school and give them to their child themselves. **We are not doctors and we will not accept the responsibility of administering the wrong dose.** Parents often ask us to overlook this 'policy' for their child but we refuse to do so.

Discipline Policy:

Our school has a Discipline Policy, which involves the 'Stay on the Green' system. The policy has been attached to the newsletter reminder email. Please familiarise yourselves with this process.

Asthma Plans:

If your child/ren have asthma, we request that you provide us with a new asthma plan from your doctor. As these plans are only effective for a twelve-month period, it has been recommended that we have all asthma plans renewed at the beginning of each year to ensure that we don't miss a renewal date half way through the year. This is a legal requirement; therefore we ask that you support us to meet this legislation.

PINK STUMPS:

Our Pink Stumps Evening will be on Friday 22nd February. We will send out forms explaining how the evening will be run and requesting names for our cricket matches. More information to follow, please save the date.

CSEF:

Parents holding a Centrelink Card in their name are eligible to claim the Camps Sports and Excursion Fund. Please supply Mrs D with a copy of your current Centrelink card.

Outside the School Gate:

Please send in any photos of events/activities that your children participated in over the holidays so that we can include them in our 'Outside the School Gate' segment of the newsletter.

P.A. Meeting:

Our first Parents Association Meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th February at 9.00 am in the Multi-Purpose Room. The first meeting will include election of office bearers for 2019. The role of P.A. is to support the school by providing assistance with fundraising activities, organising Special lunch days and assisting at extra-curricular activities and events. To be eligible to have voting rights a 'fee' of 50 cents needs to be made at the first meeting of the year.

It would be fantastic to see more parents coming along to P.A. contributing to ideas and helping organise activities. As our school grows, we will be depending more and more on parent assistance so that we can provide these opportunities for your children.

Working with Children Check:

Our school practice is that we expect all parents to have a current Working With Children Check. Voluntary cards are free and can be applied for online. Please see Mrs D and she will explain the process. When applying could parents, please list our school as the 'Organisation' so that we receive a copy of the paperwork directly from the Department.

School Banking:

Students who have a School bank book can start bringing it in each Monday. New students will receive an information pack as soon as we receive them from the bank.

Birthday Cakes:

If you are sending a birthday cake for your child please don't cater for the whole school, just your child's classroom. Please make sure the cake is at school at the start of the day.

Book Pack:

If you would like an itemised list for the book pack component of the school fees ($80) please ask at the office. I did a list for a parent this morning and it highlighted that we are undercharging the students. The Grade 1 Booklist came in at $96.04c and this didn't include the $24 Reading Eggs subscription and the photocopying fee that we are entitled to charge for. We also don't charge a First Aid levy or ask parents to supply tissues and toilet paper like some schools do.

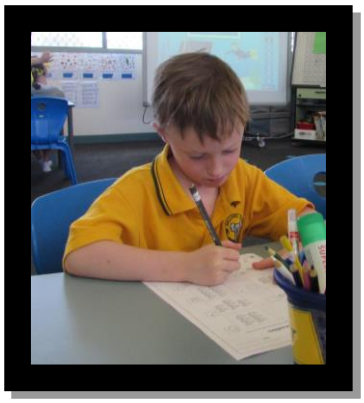
If you are unsure as to why we hold on to some books so they can be used the following year, this is so that the staff can monitor the progress, especially in the student's writing books. Within that year, these books are replaced with new ones so you are not paying for an item that your child doesn't receive. Several years ago we covered new books from another school which had names written on them. We sent these home for homework books. Parents were not charged for these books.

Reader Covers:

We generally only include reader covers in the book pack fee when your child starts school. If they need to be replaced either the staff will do this or we will do this if a parent requests a new one. They usually last about 2 – 3 years. We do not ask parents for extra money if the cover is replaced.

Could all new reader covers be covered with contact to help keep them in reasonable condition.

2019 Prep's



School Values: Commitment Friendliness Honesty Integrity Respect