

# B.E.P.S



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Balliang East Primary School Newsletter

31st January, 2023

Volume: 15 Issue: 1

## Check Your Child's Bag!!

### Forms sent home this week:

Student Details Document – Due 3.2.23

## WELCOME:

Welcome back to all our 2022 families and a special welcome to our new families for 2023. This year we have 75 students at the school and 17 staff.

All our new Preps have settled in 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.

## Grade levels/staff for 2023:

This year our grade structure will be:

Grade Prep / 1 – Miss Rees

Grade 2/3 – Miss Condon

Grade 3/4 – Mr Sautner

Grade 5/6 – Ms white

Welfare - Mrs Wood

MARC Van will be on a Wednesday this year.

LOTE will be every Friday.

## Staff Meetings:

Our Staff Meetings will be held every Tuesday. Every second Tuesday will be a morning meeting from 8:15 – 9:50am. 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.

These meetings are written on the noticeboard at the gate.

## Prep Days Off:

The Prep children do not attend school on Wednesdays during February – see 'Important Dates' below.

## Concert DVD:

Our 2023 Concert DVDs have arrived. Payment of \$25:00 is required prior to collection.

## Bush Telegraph:

The Bush Telegraph school magazine has arrived. Once payment has been received, the magazine will be given to your child. The magazines are \$12 each.

## Breakfast Club:

Breakfast Club will operate each Friday morning throughout the year. Students need to be at school between 8:15 – 8:45am if they would like to participate. If you would like to volunteer please see Mrs Fox. Our first delivery of food should arrive this Thursday so Breakfast Club will commence on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb unless I inform you differently.

All students are welcome to have breakfast – there is no cost for the service.

## Courtesy Reminder:

Parents who need to discuss any issues, concerns etc. with the classroom teacher need to make an appointment. The staff are extremely busy preparing lessons in the mornings and often have staff meetings after school so any 'chat' that is going to take longer than a couple of minutes needs to be scheduled.

Please remember to knock prior to entering any classrooms and do not enter the staffroom until invited as staff are often in discussions and you need to appreciate that student privacy is important.

## Classroom Helpers:

Parents are welcome to help in the classroom. Please speak to individual teachers to organise a day that suits.

School Values: Commitment Friendliness Honesty Integrity Respect

### **Parent Information Session:**

The staff will be conducting a parent Information Session next Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 3:45pm. The staff will be explaining the 2023 curriculum programs and general information. The session will start with a rundown on the Code Red procedures. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### **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 so that I can check that all numbers are correct. Please make sure your current phone number is correct on the Student Details Document. We will have a 'Code Red' information session on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb at 3:45pm. (see above)

### **Parent's Association (PA):**

Our school has an active Parent's Association which is made up of interested parents. The PA meet regularly, generally once a month, to organise activities, fundraisers and food days for the students. The first PA for 2023 will be **next Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 9:00am**. The meetings are held in the admin block in the room next to the office. We strongly encourage parents to attend as the more parents we have on PA the easier it is for things to get done. Next week's meeting will focus on organising the upcoming Pink Stumps BBQ and cricket match. Please speak to Mrs fox if you need more information.

### **Laptop Payments:**

If your child leases a laptop (Grade 6 students), payments are due at the beginning of each term. If we do not receive your child's payment, their laptop will be kept aside and they will use a general one until the payment is received.

### **School Fees:**

The \$55:00 curriculum fee and \$10:00 shared payment is (\$65:00 per student) is due by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February. If you need to make this payment over several weeks please speak to Mrs D to organise a plan.

### **PINK STUMPS:**

Our Pink Stumps Evening will be on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Discipline Policy:**

Our school has a Discipline Policy, which involves the 'Stay on the Green' system. The Discipline Policy, Hands Off Policy and Behaviour Policy are available to read on our website. Please familiarise yourselves with these processes.

### **Welfare Officer:**

Ms Wood is our Welfare Officer. She will be conducting PSG Meetings for all students who receive PSD funding as well as additional children who require Individual Education Plans. Ms Wood will also follow up with families who have low attendance or consistent late arrivals.

# 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@education.vic.gov.au

**School Council President:**  
Kylie Borchard

Every Friday:	Breakfast Club – 8:15 – 8:45 am
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> February:	No Preps
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February:	<b>Check</b> , sign and return Contact Details form
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February:	Uniform Swap Day Parent Information Session inc. <b>Code Red</b> – 3:45 pm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February:	No Preps P.A. Meeting – 9:00am
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> February:	Grade 6 'Getting to know you' night
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February:	No Preps
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February:	Professional Practice Day (No students)
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February:	Pancake Day
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February:	No Preps
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February:	<b>PINK STUMPS</b> Family Welcome BBQ
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Somers Camp
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> March:	Labour Day Holiday
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Somers Camp ends
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March:	Cyber Safety Info session for parents – time and venue TBC
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March:	Ride to School
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> March:	School Photos
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March:	Sports Day at Mason's Lane
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April:	Easter Activities End of Term 1 – 2:30pm
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> April:	Term 2 starts



## Attendance and Absences:

Attendance is extremely important at our school. The majority of our families have chosen our school for the many benefits we offer, and it is extremely frustrating when we accept enrolments from outside our zone and a small number of families don't commit to ensuring their child attends daily. If your child is away for consecutive days, then a medical certificate is required. We will be meeting with families who are consistently late as this has a significant effect on your child's learning. Attendance Plans will be put in place if required.

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 a pre-filled absence form is signed immediately once your child returns to school? The forms are kept in Mrs Fox's office.

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 daily via a text to parents unless the school has been informed of the child's absence. Please respond to these texts if you receive one.**

**This year, an Attendance Chart has been hung on each classroom's door. The students have been shown what to do with their photo on the chart when they arrive each morning.**

## 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 misses screeching of brakes over the years and we don't want to have to deal with an accident involving our parents. The speed zone will be dropped down to 80KPH once the roadworks are completed.

## 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.

## 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, all asthma plans must be renewed at the beginning of each year to ensure that we don't miss a renewal date halfway through the year. This is a legal requirement; therefore, we ask that you support us to meet this legislation. Students with Asthma or anaphylaxis must have a Student Health Support Plan which the school provides. These are to be signed by the parents.

## 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.

School Values: Commitment Friendliness Honesty Integrity Respect

### **Ambulance Cover:**

If your child requires an ambulance we will call for one regardless of **whether or not** you have cover. This can be very expensive. If you are no longer eligible for a Centrelink card please be aware that you will no longer have ambulance cover unless you have taken out a subscription.

### **Working with Children Check:**

The Department have added a Working With Children Check section to the enrolment data that is collected, therefore it is expected that we populate these fields in the electronic system filing system.

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.

### **Additional Underwear and Socks:**

If you have a child in the junior school, we would like parents to provide a named, sealed snap lock bag that contains a clean pair of underpants and a clean pair of socks. These can be kept in the front pocket of their school bag.

### **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.

### **Photo Policy:**

A reminder to all parents that, due to restrictions for some families, no photos of students other than your own, can be uploaded to social media platforms. Please crop images of other students out of photos or ask their parents' permission before posting them. Please check with individual staff before uploading photos, which they may be in.

Prior to all school events and activities parents will need to sign Photo Agreement Forms.

### **Catch Up Tutor Program:**

All children who participate in the Tutor Learning Initiative with Miss Rees, will require an Individual Education Plan (IEP) based on each individual student's areas of focus. Currently we are assessing these students to establish their areas for improvement. We will use this assessment data to create IEPs for each child. Once these are developed, which should be within the next two weeks, we will send the IEPs home to each child's parent for them to read and sign. Miss Rees (Trudi) will then begin working closely with these students, helping them to build their skills and improve growth. Students who access the MiniLit and MacqLit Programs do not require an IEP. They will have individual progress reports written and included in their mid and end of year school reports.

### **Second Hand Uniform Swap Day:**

Our next swap day will be on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. All uniforms items will be put on the tables in the courtyard for parents to take. You do not need to bring any in exchange. If you do have uniforms to donate, please bring them in on or before the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> Feb.

### **Bottle Caps:**

Ms Wood is still collecting plastic bottle caps. She needs ones that are milk bottle size or smaller so that she can complete her mosaic. Please wash them before sending them in.

### Somers Camp:

In December last year, the Grade 5/6 students had the opportunity to submit an Expression of Interest to attend Somers Camp from the 7<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> March this year. We have received notification that our allocation is 3 girls and 2 boys. The students who have been chosen, have received their paperwork. This must be returned by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb or their place will be allocated to another student. Unfortunately, not all students can attend however, they will have the opportunity to attend the Grade 3-6 camp at Phillip Island in May.

### ICT Use Agreement:

Every year, the students are reminded of the rules associated with correct use of ICT equipment and accessing websites and social media platforms. We have a strong focus on Cybersmart practices which we teach the students to be aware of. This year, we have added cyberbullying awareness to the Agreement and the consequences of inappropriate behaviour towards other students. The students have signed these Agreements and are aware of the consequences, including loss of computer privileges, even if the cyberbullying is done offsite. The effect that nasty comments have on students directly affects their attendance and mental health at school. The students are encouraged to take screenshots of any inappropriate messages they receive and bring them to school so that the staff can discuss and resolve the issues before they become exacerbated. We ask that parents assist us in getting on top of any potential issues.

**On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the local Bacchus Marsh schools including Balliang East, are teaming up with the Bacchus Marsh Police to present a Cyber Safety Information session. I strongly encourage all parents to put this date in your diaries as you will be astounded by what may be going on under your own rooves. This will be an evening session – more info to follow.**

### School Hats:

A new supply of school hats has arrived, so we have plenty in stock if your child requires a new one. It is preferable that you purchase your hat through us rather than at a shop. Our hats have an elastic cord above the brim rather than a cord which hangs around the child's neck and can cause accidents. The cords also end up being chewed which is disgusting, especially after flies and dirt have been on them.

In Terms 2 & 3, we will be selling our school beanies. The students will be able to wear a beanie on the days when the UV is below 3. If they don't purchase a beanie, they will still be required to wear a sun hat.

### Grade 6 Polos:

We are expecting the grade 6 polo shirts to arrive on Thursday morning. Each polo is \$34.00. Please transfer your payment into the school bank account and your child will be given their polo.

# BIRTHDAYS



**Ariah**



**Oliver**





# PREPS

Elizabeth, Sophie, Olivia, Indie, Ella



Ariah, Lucy, George, Ryder, Ebony

School Values: Commitment Friendliness Honesty Integrity Respect



# Mrs Gatt's Here or There Photography



Here or There  
PHOTOGRAPHY



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[www.hereortherephotography.com.au](http://www.hereortherephotography.com.au)

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