



## Balliang East Primary School Newsletter

30<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Volume: 16 Issue: 01

### Check Your Child's Bag!!

#### Forms sent home this week:

Grade 6 'Getting to Know You' consent – Due Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Contact Detail Form – due Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb

### WELCOME:

Welcome back to all our 2023 families and a special welcome to our new families for 2024. This year we have 68 students at the school and 16 staff.

All our new Preps have settled in well on their first day and adapted quickly to the rules and routines. We have 8 new families starting here with students in Grade Prep, 3 and 4. Please make our new families welcome.

A special welcome to our new staff member, Kylie Borchard. Kylie is replacing Mrs Gatt as the aide in the Grade 4 classroom on Mondays and Tuesdays.

### Bush Telegraph & Concert DVD/USB:

Our annual Bush Telegraph (Whole school yearbook) and concert DVD are in the process of being put together. Families who placed an order at the end of last year will be notified once they are available for collection.

At the beginning of 2023 there was some confusion with families who had ordered a 2022 Bush Telegraph. As such, we still have a number of copies available for those who didn't collect one.

### 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

LOTE – Ms Wang 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.

### Prep Days Off:

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

### 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. Our first delivery of food should arrive early next week so Breakfast Club will commence on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb unless I inform you differently.

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

### Parent Information Sessions:

We will be holding **two** Parent Information Sessions this year. The teachers will explain classroom programs, routine and homework expectations. Parents will be encouraged to ask any questions they may have. Both sessions will also include a brief rundown on our schools Code red procedures.

**Session 1 – Grade 4 & Grade 5/6 Parents  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb – 3:30pm  
Held in the Grade 4 classroom.**

**Session 2 – Grade Prep/1 & 2/3  
Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb – 3:30pm  
Held in the Grade 2/3 classroom.**

# Important Dates:

**Principal:**  
Mrs. Caryn Fox

**School Information:**  
School No: 3787  
Phone: 5369 5148 Fax: 5369 5226  
BEPS Mobile: 0418 316 148

**School Council President:**  
Joanne Darrington

Every Friday:	Breakfast Club – 8:15 – 8:45 am (starting Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February:	School Council Meeting – 6:00pm (Zoom)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hand Uniform Day
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February:	No Preps Parent Information Session inc. <b>Code Red</b> – 3:30 pm for <b>Grade 4 and Grade 5/6</b> classrooms
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February:	Parent Information Session inc. <b>Code Red</b> – 3:30 pm for <b>Grade Prep/1 and Grade 2/3</b> classrooms
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February:	<b>Check</b> , sign and return Contact Details Form
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February:	Grade 6 'Getting to Know You' night – 3:30-6:00pm
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February:	Pancake Day – students will make these for lunch
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February:	No Preps
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February:	Professional Practice Day (No students)
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February:	No Preps
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February:	<b>PINK STUMPS</b> Family Welcome BBQ
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February:	No Preps
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March:	School Photos Clean up Australia Day
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March:	Labour Day Holiday
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March:	Curriculum Day (No students)
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March:	Naplan Starts – Gr 3 & 5
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March:	Sports day – p-6 – Bacchus Marsh.
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March:	Cyber Safety Info session for parents – time and venue TBC
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March:	Ride to School
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March:	Easter Activities End Term 1 – 2:30pm
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April:	Term 2 starts



School Values: Commitment Friendliness Honesty Integrity Respect

## PINK STUMPS/WELCOME BBQ:

Our Annual Pink Stumps cricket match and family sausage sizzle will be on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. A fundraising page will be sent up soon. Families will be asked to donate \$5:00 per person to the Glen McGrath Breast Cancer Foundation. This will entitle each person to a sausage in bread and a drink. Additional sausages and other pink treats will be available to purchase onsite on the night. There will be merchandise available for purchase.

A note will be sent home next week which will explain the evening in more detail.

## 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 Attendance Meeting will be called.

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.**

**If you inform a staff member, preferably Mrs Fox, of your child's absence either via email, text or verbally, a signature will not be required on the absent note. Unexplained absences will need to be followed up with an explanation and signature.**

## 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.

Currently, there are works going on near the School Rd intersection as recycled water pipes are being installed along the fence line.

## Medications:

A reminder to parents that the staff **will not** administer any medication to students at school other than Ventolin, ADHD medication, hay fever medication and insulin. These students will need to have a parent consent form completed. Any students who require 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.

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### **CSEF:**

Parents holding a Centrelink Card in their name are eligible to claim the Camps Sports and Excursion Fund. Please supply Ms Fairall 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.

### **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 Ms Fairall 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.

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

Our next 2<sup>nd</sup> hand uniform day will be on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. All uniforms items will be put on the tables in the courtyard for parents to take. At this stage we do not need any extra items as we are trying to clear the stock we had donated from the families who have recently left the school.

### **Current School Council Members Meeting:**

**We will have a brief School Council Meeting on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb at 6:00pm for current members.**

**Next week all families will receive nominations forms which they can complete and return to be become School council Members for 2024. More info to follow.**

### School Hats:

We have plenty of school hats 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.

### Classroom Helpers:

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

### Grade 6 'Getting to Know You' Evening:

Grade 6 students will be staying at school from 3:30pm – 6:00pm on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb. They will have dinner onsite. A consent form has been sent home and needs to be returned by next Monday.

### 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.

### ICT Use Agreement/Upcoming Inform and Empower Parent Info Session:

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 20<sup>th</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.**

**All of our students will be participating in cyber safety webinars during ICT each term.**



# PREPS 2024



**Savannah**



**Jai**



**Dean**



**Olivia**



**Digby**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



DEAN



LOKI

~~ Mr & Mrs Lovett ~~



♥ Wedding day ~~~~

*OUTSIDE THE GATE*

Congratulations to Stacy and Jesse

on their wedding day.

31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

