



31<sup>st</sup> January 2025

Volume: 16 Issue: 01

[www.balliangeastps.vic.edu.au](http://www.balliangeastps.vic.edu.au)

## Check Your Child's Bag!!

**Forms sent home this week:**

### WELCOME:

Welcome back to all our 2024 families and a special welcome to our new families for 2025. This year we have 73 students at the school and 15 staff.

All our new Preps have settled in well on their first day and adapted quickly to the rules and routines. We have 7 new families starting here with students in Grade Prep and 5. Please make our new families welcome.

### 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.

### Grade levels/staff for 2025:

This year our grade structure will be:

Grade Prep / 1 – Miss Rees, Grade 2/3 – Miss Condon, Grade 4/5 – Mr Sautner, Grade 5/6 – Ms White, Welfare - Mrs Wood, LOTE – Ms Wang every Friday.

### Parents Association meeting and volunteer session:

Our first P.A. meeting is on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb straight after assembly. P.A is made up of parents wanting to help with fundraising ideas, special lunches etc. I strongly encourage all parents to consider joining P.A. I will be running a Child Safe Standards PowerPoint at this meeting. Any parents who volunteer at the school will need to attend a presentation of this PowerPoint. A second presentation will be run in a few weeks.

### 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. Breakfast Club will commence on Friday 7<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 school's Code Red procedures.

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

**Session 2 – Grade Prep/1 & 2/3**  
**Tuesday 4<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**  
**BEPS Mobile: 0418 316 148**

**School Council President:**  
**Joanne Darrington**

Every Friday:	Breakfast Club – 8:15 – 8:45 am (starting Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb)
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Parents Association Meeting – 9:30am. Includes Child Safe Standards Presentation for volunteers.
	Parent Information Session inc. <b>Code Red</b> – 3:30 pm for <b>Grade 4 and Grade 5/6</b> classrooms
Tuesday 4 <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
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February:	No Preps
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February:	Grade 6 "Getting to Know you" 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February:	No Preps
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February:	<b>PINK STUMPS</b>
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February:	No Preps
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> of February:	Life Education Incursion
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> of February:	Life Education Incursion
	No Preps
	Inform & Empower – Parent Session -Bacchus Marsh Hall
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March:	Pancake Day
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March:	Questacon excursion – Coimadai PS
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March:	Labour Day – Student Free Day
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March:	Curriculum Day – Student Free Day
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March:	Naplan Starts Grade 3 and Grade 5
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March:	School Sports Day
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> of March:	Photo Day
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> of March:	Ride at School Day
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> of April:	Term 1 Ends 2:30pm
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> of April:	Start of Term 2

**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 14<sup>th</sup> February. A fundraising page will be sent to families 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 an 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 'unauthorised' absence by the end of February. 'Unauthorised' 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.

## Pre-schoolers at 3:30pm:

If you are waiting for your child after school, please supervise your pre-schoolers in the playground, particularly in the warm weather. We are conscious that there may be a friendly snake visiting the yard when the students go inside after lunch and we don't need a pre-schooler being confronted by one if they are around in the playground. I suggest staying clear of the area during Term 1 and 4 or monitoring the area carefully.

## Onsite/Virtual NDIS Providers:

Thank you to the families who followed up my request for paperwork to be completed prior to onsite and virtual therapy sessions taking place this year. I still require information from a large number of families including those who have had therapists work here previously. Once I receive the Parent and NDIS consent, I will send home a letter of acceptance and will email the therapist a Licensing Agreement which will need to be completed.

### 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.

### 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.

### Birthdays:

During the year we have many students bringing treats to school on their birthday, to share with their classmates. Please limit the treat to a cupcake or lolly such as a chocolate frog or lollypop. Last year, some of the treats were becoming quite extravagant which put a lot of pressure on families who couldn't afford to outlay the expense of producing gift bags filled with treats.

### 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.

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

School Council Self-nomination forms will be sent home next week. If you are interested in becoming a School Council member, please complete the form and return it. More information 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, the students will be able to wear a school 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 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. They will have dinner onsite. A consent form has been sent home and needs to be returned by next Friday.

### **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 26th February, the local Bacchus Marsh schools including Balliang East, are teaming up with the Bacchus Marsh Blue Light Police team to present a Cyber Safety Information session call 'Inform and Empower'. 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 at the Bacchus Marsh Town Hall. See attached flyer for venue, time and registration details – more info to follow.**

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

## Parent Messenger Group:

If you would like to join, we have a parent messenger group. This can be joined by searching BEPS Parents in the messenger app.



School Values: Commitment Friendliness Honesty Integrity Respect

# Family Accounts and Fees

If you need any assistance with your family account or further information, please don't hesitate to contact me. You can reach me at:

- Email: [melanie.fairall@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:melanie.fairall@education.vic.gov.au)
- Phone: 03 5369 5148
- In-person: Feel free to visit the office.

## **School Saving Bonus (SSB) Update**

The School Saving Bonus (SSB) was introduced last year, and several families allocated it to their school uniform purchases. Now that our uniform order has arrived, I'll be applying your SSB to your uniform order. Please note, due to the start of the year, this may take some time. However, each family will receive an email within the next two weeks outlining their current SSB and account balances.

## **Curriculum Contributions**

The second part of the fees is called 'Curriculum Contributions', which is due directly to the school. If you need our school fee's outlined again, please let me know.

## **CSEF Funding**

Families who were previously eligible for CSEF funding will have their application rolled over from last year. If your Health Care Card has expired or if your circumstances have changed, I will contact you. If you're a new Health Care Card holder and wish to apply for CSEF, please collect a form from the office and provide a copy of your Health Care Card.

## **Uniform Orders**

Our uniform orders are placed twice a year, with the next order in May and November 2025. While we do have some items in stock, availability of sizes and items may vary.

## **Payment Options**

We prefer payments via Direct Debit, but we also accept cash, preferably for school lunches, raffles, etc. If you need assistance with payment options or setting up a payment plan, please reach out—we're happy to help.

Below are my office hours and our banking details for your convenience.

### OFFICE HOURS

**MONDAY 8:30 AM—2:45 PM**

**TUESDAY 8:30 AM—5:00 PM**

**WEDNESDAY 9:15—2:45 PM**

**THURSDAY 8:30 AM —5:00 PM**

**FRIDAY 9:15 AM—2:45**

### **New Bank Details**

**Balliang East Primary School Council**

**BSB: 063 543**

**Account: 1004 7398**



**School Values: Commitment Friendliness Honesty Integrity Respect**





School Values: Commitment Friendliness Honesty Integrity Respect



# Happy Birthday



Loki



Chaise

Dean

Book Club Issue 1 is now open, please look out for the catalogue in your child's bag, or you can access it online: <https://scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/issue-preview/>

In Book Club Issue One:

- Dive into a fantastic range of **Value Packs** on page 13 - there's something for everyone!
- Score up to **3 FREE BOOKS** and boost your collection.
- Discover the hottest **New Bestsellers** starting on page 2.
- Meet our star of Issue 1, **Ninja Girl**.



**SCHOLASTIC**  
**Book Club LOOP**  
for Parents

Here are eight easy steps for ordering via LOOP:

- 1 Log in, or create a new account
- 2 Follow the Wizard to set up the child's profile
- 3 Click the ORDER tab, select the child's school & class
- 4 Add the child's first name and last initial
- 5 Enter the product item number from the Book Club catalogue
- 6 Apply any promotional codes that have been earned
- 7 Make a payment via credit card
- 8 Await order arrival at the child's school

**SCHOLASTIC** **BookClub**

Please place your order online via Book Club Loop, by **Wednesday February 12th** by following this link and the steps below: <https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/Parent/Login.aspx>

School Values: Commitment Friendliness Honesty Integrity Respect

# RAISING KIDS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Cyber Safety Seminar for Parents & Carers

Presented by **INFORM&EMPOWER**

Social media

Online gaming

Strengthening family communication

Impacts of screen time

Cyberbullying

Managing devices at home

Child & tween online trends

Explicit/adult content

## Bacchus Marsh Public Hall

207 Main St, Bacchus Marsh

Wednesday 26 February | 7.00 - 8.30 pm



Register to attend:  
[bit.ly/BacchusParents](https://bit.ly/BacchusParents)

\*This session is strictly for parents and carers only  
as the content is not suitable for children.



Presented by  
Martin McGauran,  
primary teacher and  
**digital safety educator**  
and Carley McGauran,  
**psychologist and mum**  
to 3 school-aged kids.



An evening that provided  
some reality checks! A few  
new changes in our home  
this week! - Parent

Marty and Carley were simply  
sensational. Their presentation  
was relevant, honest and  
informative. A MUST for each  
school, every year. - Principal

Incredible session... Should  
be essential for all parents!  
- Parent



Proudly supported by

**Community Bank**  
**Bacchus Marsh**  
**Bendigo Bank**



School Values: Commitment Friendliness Honesty Integrity Respect



# Occupational Therapy Capacity

Little Fox Children's Therapy is currently accepting OT referrals for children aged 1 to 8 in the Geelong region.

Occupational Therapy can help children and families with the skills below:

**Gross motor skills**

**Fine motor skills**

Social  
connection  
Making friends

**Child development  
& family well-  
being**

**Play**

**Self-care skills:**  
Daily routines  
Toileting  
Sleep  
Mealtime challenges  
Dressing

**Sensory difficulties  
& emotional upsets**

**School  
readiness**

**Regulation**

**Handwriting**

**Little Fox Children's Therapy**

Referrals/Contact us: [www.littlefoxchildrenstherapy.com](http://www.littlefoxchildrenstherapy.com)  
or via email: [admin@littlefoxchildrenstherapy.com](mailto:admin@littlefoxchildrenstherapy.com)



School Values: Commitment Friendliness Honesty Integrity Respect