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**Volume: 16 Issue: 02**

## **Check Your Child's Bag!!**

### **Forms sent home this week:**

Gr 6 Getting to Know You consent – due Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb

Pink Stumps Attendance – Due Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Payment for Pink Stumps Attendance online – prior to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Feb.

## **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.

## **Prep Days Off:**

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

## **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 Wednesday.

## **Parent Messenger Group:**

Our school has a Parent messenger group if anyone wanted to join. Search **BEPS Parents** on the messenger app to sign up.

## **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.

## **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.

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

## **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 with the link for payment was emailed to parents yesterday. 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.

**Please return the note by Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb with the number of people attending the names of those who would like to play cricket.**

# Important Dates:

Every Friday:	Breakfast Club – 8:15 – 8:45 am (starting Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> Feb)
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> February:	No Preps
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February:	Grade 6 "Getting to Know you" 3:30pm – 6:00pm
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

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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

### **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.**



# Students of the Week Awards:



Olivia



Ebony



Bryce



Nalani

# Family Accounts

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.

**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 PM**

## New Bank Details

**Balliang East Primary School Council**

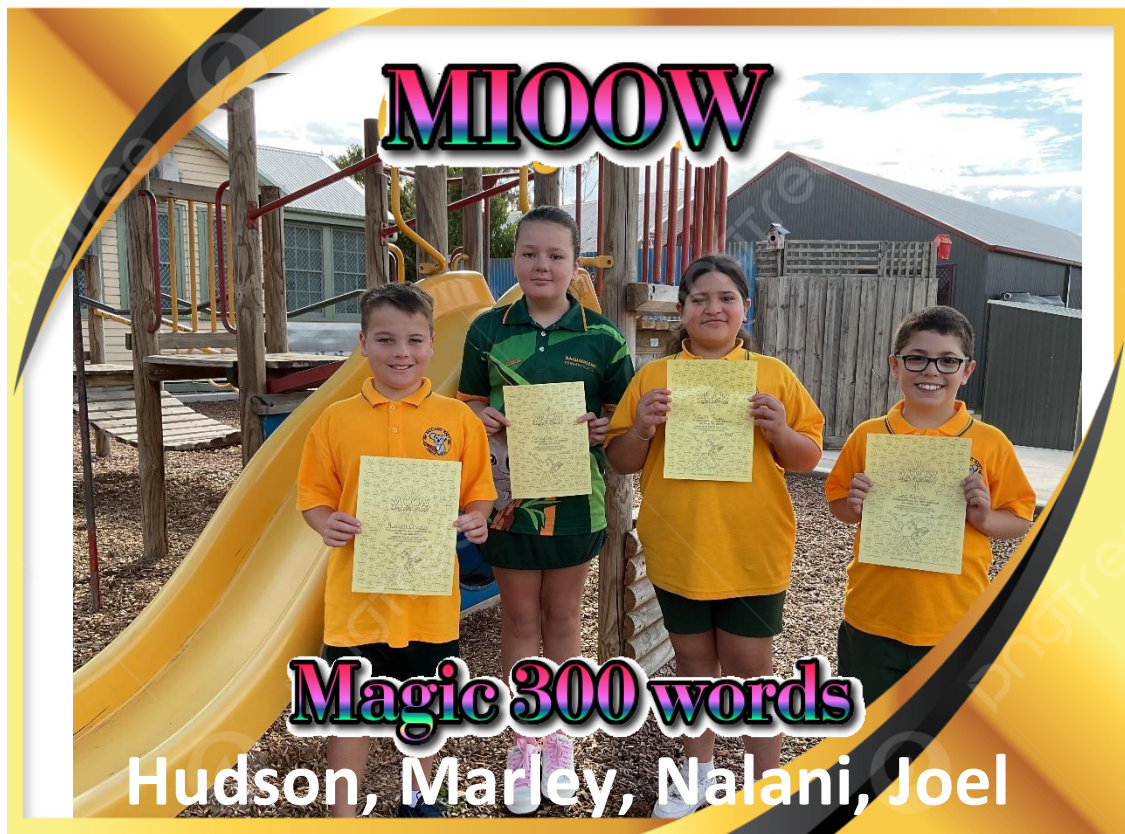
**BSB: 063 543**

**Account: 1004 7398**



School Values: Commitment Friendliness Honesty Integrity Respect





## ACTS OF KINDNESS



**Denzel**



**Ariah**





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.



**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**

- Meet our star of Issue 1, **Ninja Girl**

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>

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# 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**



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# 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)



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