



Berwick Lodge Primary School

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NEWSLETTER NO 3

15TH FEBRUARY 2018

CANTEEN IS NOW OPEN ON MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION (PFA) ELECTIONS: MONDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2018

I was thrilled to see so many new faces at Monday's PFA meeting and the enthusiasm to move forward was very encouraging. A little background to why we will be holding elections for the PFA Executive between now and the 26th February – firstly, we conducted a survey of our community last year to ascertain the level of support for the continuance of our PFA. It was great to see an overwhelming majority of respondents wanted our PFA to continue. Less heartening was the lack of availability of parents willing or able to stand for office bearer positions. At the AGM held in early December we did not have sufficient nominations to hold the elections so the election process was deferred to term 1 this year. At Monday's well attended meeting it was agreed to conduct the PFA elections, consistent with the PFA Constitution, at a special meeting of the PFA on Monday 26th February 2018 at 9.30am in our staffroom after our school assembly.

Nomination forms are being distributed to all families today and will also be available on the parent portal of Sentral. To be eligible to stand for election, you must have a child attending our school and have completed a registration form prior to your nomination. Registration forms can be obtained via the parent portal or on request at our general office. If you have previously registered to be a member of our PFA and still have a child attending our school, you do not have to re-register as one registration holds for the entire time you have children attending Berwick Lodge Primary School.

In order to vote at the elections you must also be a registered member of our PFA and you can register at the meeting prior to the election process – registration forms will be available at the meeting.

Continued...

LEARNING FOR LIFE...



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS: President, Vice president, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, School Council PFA Representative and Emergency Representative.

Feedback we have received indicates that some parents are put off by concerns of workload, accountability and lack of knowledge of the roles and responsibilities. We significantly streamlined the fundraising projects undertaken by the PFA last year in response to your feedback via a community survey. This year the PFA will be holding only one major fundraising event – the annual Fun Run. In addition, our PFA conduct the Fathers and Mothers' Day stalls which raise a small amount of funds for our school. Our administration team provide outstanding administrative support to the PFA in conducting fundraising events – in short, we ensure compliance with all DET requirements regarding school fundraising and in doing so, minimise the impact on the PFA Executive. Similarly, school staff are always ready and able to provide support on the day with all events.

I was thrilled with the enthusiasm shown at Monday's meeting to broaden the role of our PFA to include seminars on parenting and child learning for parents. Again, we are only too happy to support the PFA in establishing a valuable educational aspect to the work of our PFA.

Should you wish to have more information on any of the above, please don't hesitate to contact us at the school and also Jade Thomas, via the school, your current PFA representative on school council.

Please note that nominations for office bearer positions close on Friday 23rd February 2018

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHTS

Thank you for your support on these valuable occasions to share dialogue on how we can best work as a team to ensure your children have the best possible schooling here that they can. As always, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher should you have any queries or concerns during the school year.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)

Q. When should I raise any concerns I have regarding my child's education with the school?

A. Sooner rather than later I would suggest. You know your child better than we do and you would know when it was time to act. From time to time parents tell me that they hesitate to contact us on the basis of not wanting to be seen as being a 'complainer' or troublesome in some way. I can understand this and obviously, unless a matter is serious, a little patience can work wonders. Nonetheless, don't leave it too long.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

'For such a connected world in which we live, it is a paradox that so many remain un-connected.'

Henry Grossek

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 21st February

Thursday 22nd February

Tuesday 27th February

Thursday 1st March

Friday 2nd March

Friday 9th March

School Photographs

Grade 5 excursion "Scienceworks & Planetarium"

Grade 4 "Healthy Mind, Body & Soul" incursion

Grade 6 excursion "Imax Theatre Melbourne"

Grade 3 "Marvellous Me" incursion

Curriculum day - no school on this day

NOTICES DUE BACK

Friday 16th February

Grade 5 Scienceworks & Planetarium

State School Spectacular

Wednesday 21st February

Grade 4 Healthy Mind, Body & Soul

Wednesday 21st February

Grade 6 Imax Theatre Melbourne

Monday 26th February

Grade 3 Marvellous Me

Assistant Principals' Report

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHTS

Thank you for your outstanding support in attending our first Meet the Teacher Night for this year. Attendance levels were very high and teachers welcomed the opportunity to chat with you regarding your child's education and wellbeing this year. We also wish to acknowledge the time that our teachers contributed towards making the two evenings a success.

BOOK FAIR

Thank you to all the families who have supported our Book Fair. This is a great fundraiser for our school, which enables us to acquire much-needed resources to benefit our children's education and encourage a love of reading. A BIG THANKYOU to Mrs. Collinson for setting up and running the book fair.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EDUCATION FUND 2018

Families holding a current Centrelink Health Care Card or Pension Concession Card are eligible to apply for the 2018 Camps, Sports and Education Fund (CSEF). CSEF payments of \$125 per child can be used to pay for students attending school camps, sporting events or excursions. Application forms for 2018 CSEF payment **ONLY** need to be completed by those families who are new to Berwick Lodge Primary School, have new enrolments in 2018 (eg: new siblings started in 2018) or there is a change in family circumstance (ie: change of name or concession card number). **All other families do NOT need to submit an application if you applied in 2017.** The school will submit this application on your behalf. Application forms are available from the school office. For further information, please visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

BIRTHDAY TREATS

A reminder to parents when bringing in birthday treats for the other children in the grade, any food treat must be individually commercially packaged with the ingredients listed (ie: fun-sized chocolate). These will be distributed at the end of the school day.

DISABLED PARKING BAYS AND STAFF CAR PARK

It has been brought to our attention that some parents are parking within the designated disabled parking bays when they are picking up or dropping off their child at school. We have children and parents at our school who require this parking and we request that all families consider others and do not park within the disabled bays unless you display a disabled parking permit.

Some parents are also picking up and dropping off students in the staff car park. The staff car park is not a drop off/pick up zone and for everyone's safety, we appreciate all parents parking in the areas outside of the main school grounds.

LEARNING WEBSITE

Learning Potential Resources – was created by Education Services Australia (ESA) with support from the Federal Government. It includes hundreds of educational ideas, activities, games and videos which give parents access to the resources that teachers are using in the classroom, adapted for the home environment. Learning Potential Website: <http://www.learningpotential.edu.au/>

Continued...

Assistant Principals' Report

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Next Wednesday 21st February is our whole school photo day. We encourage all students to be on time to school on this day and wear their school uniform.

THINK DIGITAL

Today, we had the Think Digital STEAM bus visit our school for the grade 5's. The bus travels around all areas of Australia sharing Digital Technology ideas with students. On the bus, the students learnt about 360 degree photos, mini cameras, 3D and virtual reality. The students really enjoyed the opportunity to experience the virtual headset and view their peers utilising the latest technology. We thank Nicole and the team from Officemax and Tim the presenter, for providing our school with this opportunity.

FULL SCHOOL DAYS FOR PREPS

From next week, our Preps will attend school for full days, 9am-3.30pm. Our Preps have settled into the routine of school very well and our Prep teachers have been very impressed with how the children are taking everything in their stride.

Sandra McCrum and Angela Maskery

PREP PERCEPTUAL MOTOR PROGRAM (PMP)

Parent Helper

Students Name: _____ Grade: _____

I am able to help with the Perceptual Motor Program from 9am – 9.45am on the following days each week.

☐ Tuesday ☐ Thursday

(Please tick days you are available)

☐ I have a valid working with children's card (WWCC)
(your card will need to be sighted at the office and must be present on you at all times)

Parent/Guardian Name: _____



GRoW A GARdeN



What to plant now?

Summer is nearly finished and Autumn usually brings cooler evenings and pleasant days. Now is a great time to plant beetroot, beans, cabbage, carrot, cucumber, potato, pumpkin, spring onions, sweet corn and zucchini.

Want to grow plants from waste parts for free?

Have you tried to grow vegetables from the parts we often place into the compost such as the roots or leaves? There are many great links on the web with instructions to follow and children love watching the vegetables grow.

Two links with simple step by step instructions.

<https://foodrevolution.org/blog/reduce-food-waste-regrow-from-scrap/>

https://www.buzzfeed.com/jesseszewczyk/16-food-scrap-that-you-can-regrow?utm_term=.aawq5qzro#.qfMEBERe6



Interesting articles:

Our school is a member of 'The Diggers Club' and often receives interesting articles, two are included below.

Source: 'The Diggers Club'. <https://www.diggers.com.au/>

What does The Great Barrier Reef and Rockdust have in common?

During 2017 Munash (the producers of Rockdust), were invited to participate in an environmental program in Mackay to help save the Great Barrier Reef. It's no secret that a history of intensive farming, along with industrial and domestic practises, has led to concerns over water quality and run-off which subsequently impacts the overall health of the Great Barrier Reef. Rockdust is being trialled as a way to improve water quality, naturally. Being trialled at the Mackay Botanic Garden with selected crops (and dual-cropping) to measure water run-off, water quality, soil health, crop yield, plant health and commercial implications, it's Rockdust's ability to negate heavy metals and de-toxify soils, which is of most interest. Not only being trialled in the north, down south researchers from the Antarctic research division based in Hobart are also keen to test Rockdust to see its possible application in the decontamination of human interaction in our pristine environments of the Antarctic region and Macquarie Island. More than just a soil supplement and fertiliser, Rockdust looks to find a strong foothold in a sustainable future.

Ban for the bees

When Bunnings declared the removal of all neonicotinoid based insecticides from their shelves by the end of 2018, bees everywhere breathed a sigh of relief, however many growers are set to fight back as these insecticides are popular in the production of many plants sold in garden centres and nurseries.

Bunnings ban follows a draft regulation proposed by the European Commission (EC) to ban all neonicotinoid insecticides in the EU. This is a modification of their last ban which involved only three key neonicotinoids on some crops in 2013 ([The Guardian](#)).

The importance of bees to life as we know it is unquestionable. Albert Einstein famously said, "Mankind will not survive the honeybees' disappearance for more than five years." The loss of bee populations overseas (referred to as Colony Collapse Disorder) has raised growing concerns, and traces of neonicotinoid based insecticides in honey samples from across the world has put this chemical under scrutiny as the main cause. A study reported by the BBC showed that from 198 honey samples gathered from across every continent (except Antarctica), neonicotinoid based insecticides were present in 75%, with the highest concentrations in North America, Asia and Europe ([read the full article here](#)).

Seed treatment has been blamed, which strongly links to the Genetic Modification of food crops, and their need for chemical treatment in order to grow and crop.

GRoW A GARdeN *Continued...*

COMMUNITY GARDEN WORKING BEE FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2018 3.30PM–4.30PM

We are planning to hold a working bee in the school community garden next Friday 23rd February from 3.30pm to 4.30pm (Weather permitting). Everyone is welcome to assist and we will be weeding, tidying and preparing the garden. As they say, many hands make light work! All children need to be supervised by an adult. If you are able to help, even for a short time, please come to the garden and enjoy working in this outdoor space, meeting other people and helping get the garden ready for the students to plant.



Happy Gardening, Mrs.McCrum



2018 SCHOOL PHOTOS

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY IS: WEDNESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2018

Online Orders: Order forms will be distributed to all families on Monday 19th February 2018. To pre-order online, take your personal Order and ID Numbers found on your order form and go to www.schoolpix.com.au. Orders can be placed online up to Sunday 4th March 2018. *You do not need to return the order form if you order online.*

Remember: All orders placed online before midnight on Sunday 4th March 2018 will receive a free 20cm x 25cm black and white portrait print.

Sibling Orders: For a special photo of you children together order online by **8am on photography day**. Alternatively collect a Sibling Order Form from the office or download it from the SchoolPix website and return it on photography day. Only siblings that place an order will be photographed.



PFA NEWS

Next Meeting Date

Monday 26th February 2018

At 9.30am after assembly in the staffroom

Office Bearers elections to be conducted at this meeting.

Second Hand Uniform Shop - Opening Days/Roster

Day	Time	Volunteer
Friday 16th February	8.45am-9.15am	Hannah Bedford
Monday 5th March	8.45am-9.15am	Colleen Moffatt
Friday 23rd March	3.15pm- 3.45pm	Hannah Bedford
Friday 20th April	3.15pm-3.45pm	Hannah Bedford
Monday 30th April	8.45am-9.15am	Colleen Moffatt
Friday 11th May	3.15pm- 3.45pm	Hannah Bedford
Monday 21st May	8.45am-9.15am	Colleen Moffatt
Friday 1st June	3.15pm- 3.45pm	Hannah Bedford
Monday 18th June	8.45am-9.15am	Colleen Moffatt
Monday 16th July	8.45am-9.15am	Colleen Moffatt
Friday 3rd August	3.15pm- 3.45pm	Hannah Bedford
Monday 13th August	8.45am-9.15am	Colleen Moffatt
Friday 31st August	3.15pm- 3.45pm	Hannah Bedford
Monday 10th September	8.45am-9.15am	Colleen Moffatt
Friday 12th October	3.15pm-3.45pm	Hannah Bedford
Monday 22nd October	8.45am-9.15am	Colleen Moffatt
Friday 9th November	3.15pm-3.45pm	Hannah Bedford
Tuesday 20th November	prep transition -TBC	Jade /tbc
Tuesday 27th November	prep transition -TBC	Jade/tbc
Tuesday 4th December	prep transition -TBC	Jade/tbc
Monday 10th December	8.45am-9.15am	Colleen Moffatt

Coles Sports for Schools is back!



Every \$10 spent at Coles during the program, will earn a Coles Sports for Schools voucher. The more vouchers you collect the more gear our school could receive.

The program is open from the 7th February until 3rd April 2018.

Vouchers can be placed in the box located inside the office.

How does it work?



Step 1

For every \$10 spent at Coles, customers will receive one Sports for Schools voucher.



Step 2

Your school's families can then bring vouchers to your school, placing them in the collection bins provided.



Step 3

Every voucher received by your school will go towards your tally to help you order sports equipment.

SICK BAY NEWS

If your child has medication at school, new Medication Authority forms need to be completed if you haven't already done this.

Any outstanding Asthma or Allergic Reaction plans need to be completed by a G.P and returned to school immediately with your child's medication.

Should you have any concerns please contact the office or Mrs Tsekouras in the sick bay.



NEW CANTEEN DAYS



Canteen is now open on;

Monday

Wednesday

Friday

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Date/Time: 24/02/2018 Saturday 星期六下午 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Contact: 0433 966 251 Richard Ng 0421 174 505 (Tim Cao)

Website : <http://riverchineseband.org.au>

COMMUNITY ADVERTISING

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Are You Maximising Your Government Rebates for Outside of School Hours' Care?

If not, you could be paying more than you should. With Child Care Benefit (CCB) and Child Care Rebate (CCR) you could save 50% off the price of after school care.



How do I find out if I am eligible?

For more information on Government rebates, how to locate your family Customer Reference Numbers (CRN) and how to claim, please call the Family Assistance Office on 13 61 50.

You can link your CRN's to your Camp Australia account via the Parent Portal, alternatively you can call our friendly Customer Care Team on 1300 105 343.

For information about our program and to book visit www.campastralia.com.au or stop by and visit us in the program and see for yourself how we make kids smile.

From the Team at Camp Australia



* Out of pocket expenses to be used as a guide only as rebates are based on individual circumstances and are subject to change. For a full listing of program details and fees for the service, please visit our website.



Net Set GO! at
Sweeney Reserve,
Narre Warren

The program, run by Narre Warren Netball Club, is for boys and girls from 5 to 10 years and teaches them basic netball skills.

The Net Set GO! Program incorporates skill activities, minor games, music and dance in a fun and safe environment. The weekly program is coordinated by accredited coaches to ensure a quality experience for all participants.

When: Every Tuesday

Time: 4.15pm – 5.15pm

Location: Sweeney Reserve, Golf Links Rd

Cost: \$95 (includes the Net Set GO! pack)

For more information or to register, please contact

Lynette on 0409 984 412 or email

enquiries@NarreWarrenNetballClub.com.au



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