GRADE STRUCTURE
We will have 25 grades across the school next year, with an anticipated total enrolment of between 620 and no higher than 630.

4 Prep grades @ 20 students per grade
5 Grade 1s @ 21-22 students per grade
4 Grade 2s @ 22-23 students per grade
3 Grade 3s @ 27-29 students per grade
3 Grade 4s @ 28 students per grade
3 Grade 5s @ 27-28 students per grade
3 Grade 6s @ 30 students per grade

We will be having all straight grades in 2018 and the grade sizes will vary, given that we are resourced at one classroom per 25 children across the school, with an expectation that class sizes in the P-2 area will be around 21 children per grade.

Next week I will be in a position to announce all teaching positions and associated teaching roles and responsibilities for all teaching staff. What I can say at this stage is that next year we will be again having 3 grades with 2 teachers job-sharing in each of the grades, with the same shared teacher arrangements.

PARENT REQUESTS FOR GRADE PLACEMENT FOR 2018
As is my policy, I am inviting parents with strong reasons for making a grade placement request for their child/ren to do so in writing, addressed to me, either in hard copy or via our school email address no later than close of business on Monday 20 November. I will be publishing our list of teachers with their 2017 teaching responsibilities on Thursday 16 November.
I think it’s important to provide you with guidelines so as to save everyone time and ensure a workable process. Firstly, strong reasons include such considerations as having your child with at least one reasonably close friend in their grade. It is preferable in some situations not to have some children in the same grade because of some history of personal clashes on the one hand, or on the other hand, a ‘dependency’ situation may have occurred and it is deemed wise to give them some space from each other. In some instances, certain teaching styles may be more appropriate than other teaching styles and in such cases it may be best to match a teacher with a particular style of teaching that would suit your child better.

Some parents are concerned about shared grades – I understand this concern, but in acknowledging that, I can reassure you that our track record with shared grades is very good indeed. We are very careful in the matching process of teachers for shared grades and to ensure that they will be an excellent team. In fact, over the years, more than a few parents have given me very positive feedback; this being, that whilst they had initial concerns over the prospect of a shared grade they were very pleasantly surprised at how well they worked. In saying this, we will be having the same shared teacher partnerships for next year as they again worked very well this year.

Please don’t make the mistake of sending me requests with lists of 3 or 4 children you would like your child to be with plus a list of 3 or 4 children you would not want your child to be with plus a particular teacher, etc, etc!!!! That is simply too much. Narrow your focus to the most important area of concern that you have please.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ’s)
Q. Do you have streamed grades?
A. No we don’t. We aim to have ‘balanced’ grades across the school – that is, in our view the best approach. Teachers provide a differentiated curriculum within their classes, taking into account the different learning needs and styles of individual children.

QUOTABLE QUOTE
Pointlessness is - trying to make sense of everything.

Henry Grossek
REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE
Tomorrow we will be holding our Remembrance Day service from 3.10pm on the basketball courts. This will include speeches from our school captains and a representative from the Berwick RSL. All families are invited to attend the service.

PREP TRANSITION – STORY TIME IN THE LIBRARY ACTIVITY
On Tuesday 14th November, we will be holding our Story Time Prep transition activity in the library between 10am and 11am. If you have a Prep child for 2018 and would like to attend, please contact the office to book, as places are limited.

LITERACY LEARNING – RESOURCE FOR PARENTS
Follow the website link https://www.alea.edu.au/publicresources/resources-for-parents-and-community/little-peoples-literacy-learning to view literacy resources for children beginning school or in the early years of school. The link includes 18 modules with information and practical activities to assist with Literacy development.

UNWELL STUDENTS COMING TO SCHOOL
If your child is unwell at home, especially with gastro/vomiting please do not send them to school as this spreads the illness very quickly within classrooms. Please wait until your child is fully recovered and free of symptoms before they return to school. Encourage your child to wash their hands after using the toilet, blowing their nose and before eating.

FUN RUN – TUESDAY 14th NOVEMBER
The Fun Run is on Tuesday 14th November. Please dress your child in appropriate clothing and footwear to participate in this event. Please apply sunscreen before coming to school and send a water bottle with your child. We look forward to having a fun day and enjoying the day together.

Continued...
FOREST ROOM
Being surrounded by nature and natural items provides infinite benefits to children. Nature grounds us and can be an antidote to the fast-paced, stressful world in which we live, instilling in us a sense of calmness.
The forest room is a multipurpose space that is currently being developed, located near to the administration area and sickbay.
The forest room is designed to serve a number of purposes, some of which are:
- To provide a space for children to rest and re-focus.
- To equip children with a range of positive strategies for managing their emotions.
- To provide a platform for project based social groups where children will learn about the natural environment and sustainability through a variety of engaging activities.

Watch this space for more updates and information about our wonderful forest room.
Thank you to Liz Blanchard, Community Participation Coordinator for her fabulous ideas and support in the development of the forest room.

PARENT PORTAL
A reminder to families that Berwick Lodge Primary School’s Parent Portal provides parents with 24/7 access to their child’s data. Parents can log-in to access their child’s report, learning maps and smart goals, attendance information and even update family contact details.

Sandra McCrum and Angela Maskery.

LIBRARY NEWS
Please be aware that from Monday 27th November 2017 there will be no borrowing of any books from the library for the rest of the year as we need to commence our annual stocktake.

Please also note that ALL books will need to be returned to the library by Monday 4th December 2017.
We appreciate your understanding.
Berwick Lodge Primary School will be conducting a Fun Run for the students as our major fundraiser for this year so we do ask for your support.

The run will take place on **Tuesday 14th November 2017**. All the monies raised from the Fun Run will go towards the replacing and updating of our school readers across all year levels from Prep to Grade 6.

The Fun Run will take place around our school ovals course as per the map.

Each year level will complete the following laps:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Number of Laps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1 and 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3 and 4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 5 and 6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The PFA will be having a **FREE** sausage sizzle at the end of the fun run. All students will receive a sausage, zooper dooper and small bottle of water (sausages are gluten free and gluten free bread will be available).

There will also be prizes for:
- Highest fundraising student in each class will receive a stopwatch
- Highest fundraising student overall will receive a Lenovo 7” Tablet

All students will receive a participation certificate for their efforts.

The **PFA need volunteers to help us run the event**. Volunteers are needed between 9:00am-11:30am. Without your assistance we cannot run days like this. If you can assist on the day, please fill out the reply slip below and return it by Tuesday 7th November 2017. We would also welcome parents and family members to attend the event day to help cheer on the students.

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**Fun Run Parent Helper Reply**

Child’s Name: ___________________________ Grade: ___________________________

**Yes**, I am able to help at the Fun Run on Tuesday 14th November 2017 between 9.00am-11.30am and I have a current Working with Children’s Check (please bring into office for photocopying if not already done so)

Parent’s Name: ___________________________ Contact Phone Number: ___________________________
As mentioned in our previous School Newsletter, after consultation with our school community, School Council has approved the introduction of a $30.00 Fundraising Contribution per family for 2017.

This is a new direction for our school and will significantly reduce the number of fundraising activities throughout the year. It is a voluntary contribution per family and parents are not required to pay it, however, for the concept to work – that is, reduce the burden of organising and operating a large number of fundraising activities throughout the year, we do need everyone’s support. This approach, if it works will also mean that less of the money currently spent on our fundraising activities will go to paying overheads and external providers. In effect, parents will be paying significantly less to raise the same amount of money. It is anticipated that this year’s fundraising contribution will raise $14,000.

The funds raised from this contribution will be put towards:

- Replacing & Updating our P-6 Readers: $4,000
- Installing seats and tables in P-2 play areas: $5,000
- Installing an Interactive whiteboard in library: $3,000
- Installing goal posts/soccer posts in P-2 grassed play area: $2,000

Payments can be made by cash, cheque, credit card, EFTPOS, Direct Credit, Centrepay (Centrelink), or BPay. Please make cheques payable to Berwick Lodge Primary School.

We thank families for supporting our school.
Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater
150th Anniversary
Schools Art Exhibition

GET CREATIVE FOR THE HELMETED HONEYEATER!
On the 1st of December 2017, FoHH will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of John Gould's official naming of the Bird.

To celebrate we are inviting the students from selected schools to participate in an art exhibition to coincide with a “street art event” in the reserve and the launch of a book on first 50 years of the reserve.

All works submitted will be displayed and can be in any media and size. Works are to be submitted by the 28th November.
Works that focus on the anniversary or on any aspect of the bird and its habitat are encouraged and multiple entries will be supported.

For further details please contact:
Cecilia Imre - Environmental Coordinator 0419 023 622
or Marita Hanigan - Secretary 0487 048 225

Helmeted Honeyeaters need Friends for Life
Morning Tea Session - parents of children with additional needs

Are you interested in joining us for our second meet up session on Friday 17th November at 9:30 am. Children are welcome.

“Share & Support 4 Additional Needs” (SS4AN) comprises dedicated individuals who come together to share challenges, ideas, experiences, information and resources.


It is a ‘One-Stop’ informal environment to provide encouragement and social support.

If you are interested in attending could you please RSVP by email to Liz – [lizblanchards@berwicklodgeps.vic.edu.au](mailto:lizblanchards@berwicklodgeps.vic.edu.au)

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**UNCLAIMED SCOOTERS**

If any of these scooters belong to your child, please contact the office.
Due to amendments to the Working with Children Act 2005, from Tuesday 1st August, all parents helping within the school, including morning reading in classrooms will require a working with children card. This needs to be current and registered with the office. If you have not applied for a card and you want to be able to assist with reading or other activities within the school, please do so via the link:

We are in the process of adding new knitted squares and long rolls of knitting onto the trees around our school to refresh the previous yarn bombs. Some of the old yarn bombs will be re-sewn on trees inside-out, showing their bright colours again. We aim to complete this project before the end of term, and in order to do so would appreciate help from parents who can spare a bit of time to help sew yarn bombs onto trees.

When?
After Monday morning assembly 6th & 13th November.
Stay as long as you would like.

Where?
Sign in and then collect the materials at the school office.

Who to contact?
If you would like more information or have any questions, contact Sarah Boyd through the school office or come visit her in Room 14. If you are able to help outside of the time specified above, it would be greatly appreciated. Please arrange a time that you can collect the materials by contacting Sarah Boyd.
Kingston foot clinic

Podiatry for Kids
Keeping kids moving:
- Hop, Skip and Jump
- Intoeing
- Outtoeing
- Toewalking
- Painful Feet
- Flat Feet

NDIS Registered

719 Princes Hwy, Berwick, (03) 9585 8144
Beleza Hallam

20% off VIP Sale

15 Nov - 18 Nov `17

Beleza Hallam
Shop 7, 151-159 Princes Hwy
P: (03) 9702 3181
TWILIGHT MARKET

The Berwick Neighbourhood Centre is hosting a Twilight Market at the Timbarra Community Hall, Timbarra Way, Berwick

Saturday 18 November 2017
5pm-8pm

A variety of stalls, jumping castle, face painting, sausage sizzle, food vans & much more. A great family day out!

For more information or to book a stall call 9704 1863 or email bnc12@westnet.com.au

Free Community Event
Milo In2CRICKET at Berwick Cricket Club
Girls and Boys Aged 5-9

Registration
http://www.playcricket.com.au
(Enter Berwick Cricket Club/Select Milo Cricket/Register)

Program Dates:
5:30 - 6:30pm Every Friday evening
Starting: 24/11/17 to 15/12/17
Resuming: 02/2/18 to 23/2/18

Cost is $75 and includes a free player pack!
Bag, bat, ball, drink bottle, hat and shirt

www.berwickcc.com.au

For more details please contact
Junior Coordinator: Ian Paul
Mobile: 0414 716 824
Email: berwickjuniors@hotmail.com
Try Summer Sports

WE HAVE NOW STARTED OUR TRACK & FIELD SEASON

Every Saturday Morning
Robert Booth Athletic Track
Bess Court, Dandenong

Starting at 8:30am until Noon

✦ Track Events
  ▪ Running
    • Short, Middle, or Long Distance
  ▪ Hurdles, Steeplechase

✦ Field Events
  ▪ Discus
  ▪ Shot Put
  ▪ Javelin
  ▪ Long, Triple or High Jump

New & Returning Members Welcome
Under 6 to Under 16
Registrations on line

HP – Ph: 0417 744 992 (Peter)
NW – Ph: 0417 144 963 (Paula)
DEH – Ph: 0427 352 852 (Veronica)