PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
Our annual School Council elections are upon us and this year we have a total of (5) parent category vacancies and (2) staff category vacancies to fill. I have included the details of eligibility requirements, the process and timeline for our elections and the obligations of school councillors and the vacancies below. All parents are most welcome to nominate for the parent category vacancies and staff are eligible to nominate for the DET representative category vacancy. Retiring members of school council can renominate for a further term of office provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

This year will see a larger than usual number of vacancies on school council. This is because we have two councillors whose children are graduated from grade 6 last year and they no longer have children at our school – Brian Gardiner and Jim Tsekouras – yet in other circumstances both Brian and Jim would have another year to run on their 2-year terms. As well, parent representatives, Narelle Ray, Andrew Coupar and Lauren Johnston are completing their 2-year term. Narelle is eligible to seek re-election to council for another term as she will still have children at our school next year. Both Andrew & Lauren cannot seek re-election as their children graduated last year and both have no other children at our school this year.

Both Robert Kelly and Sandra McCrum (staff representatives) have completed their 2-year term and are retiring. Both can seek re-election.

Our PFA representative, Jade Thomas is also retiring as the PFA position has a 1-year term. Jade can be re-elected by the PFA for another term or she can seek election to council as a parent representative.

As the Returning Officer for school council elections I will be conducting the election process over the coming month.

Parent Representative Vacancies (5 in total): Three (3) vacancies, each for a 2-year term and two (2) vacancies, each for a 1-year term.

DET Representative Vacancies (2 in total): (both for a 2-year term).
I thank all school councilors for their contribution during their time on council. It is quite a sacrifice to give up so much of your valuable personal time on behalf of the students of Berwick Lodge. In particular, I acknowledge the contribution made by our outgoing president, Brian Gardiner. I have really appreciated the wisdom and commitment that Brian has brought to his role, not to mention the pleasure of his personality in so doing.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS PROCESS 2019**

As the Returning Officer for School Council, I am now inviting nominations from parents for the (3) two-year vacancies plus the (2) one-year vacancies we have for the Parent Category and from staff for the (2) two-year vacancies we have for the DET Category.

Council currently meets 8 times per year on Monday evenings, with meetings being conducted between 7.00pm and 9.00pm. It is expected that school councilors will join one of our three subcommittees, which also meet 8 times per year at a time suitable to subcommittee members. Importantly, subcommittee membership is also open to parents and staff who are not on school council, so you can become involved with the work of school council via subcommittee membership if you don’t have the time to commit to school council participation at the moment.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION TIMELINE 2019**

Friday 22 February 2019 at 9.00am – Nominations Open
Friday 1 March 2019 at 4.00pm – Nominations Close
Friday 15 March 2019 at 4.00pm – Ballot Closes (if required)

In the event that we do not receive sufficient nominations in both categories by the close of nominations on Friday 1 March 2019 at 4.00pm, then I will extend the timeline for receiving further nominations by one week.

Should we receive more nominations than vacancies in either or both categories, then a formal election ballot will be conducted with all parents having the opportunity to vote for the Parent Category nominations and/or staff will have the opportunity to vote for the Staff Category nominations.

In the event that I receive exactly the number of nominations in either or both categories, then I will declare those nominated persons duly elected on 1 March 2019.

Please note that you can self-nominate or have other members of the category of which you are a member, nominate you. Nomination forms are available on request from our office.

Retiring members of school council are eligible to be re-elected provided they are still eligible – that is, have a child still in attendance at our school if you are a parent, or work for a minimum of 8 hours per week for Department of Education & Training (DET) members.

**CURRICULUM DAYS**

Earlier this week The Herald Sun newspaper published an online article titled, “School curriculum days: What are they for and why are there so many?” The article was written by Elissa Doherty and my comments featured in it. Incidentally, I do take issue with the view that there are, “so many” as the title states – four for the year does not strike me as an excessive number. Nonetheless, it is an interesting topic and I have included it in its entirety below for your information and interest.

*Continued...*
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

School curriculum days: What are they for and why are there so many?
Elissa Doherty, Herald Sun
February 20, 2019

What do teachers do when they roll up to school on student-free days?
It’s a question many a frazzled parent has wondered as they scramble to find care for young children on curriculum days, which are often tacked onto a long weekend.
The pupil-free days, held four times a year in public schools, are aimed at supporting activities including planning, curriculum development, assessment of student learning, professional development and peer observation, according to the Education Department.
Teachers say they can be invaluable when used wisely to dive deeper into the curriculum and the school’s direction, and not simply to catch up on tasks like report writing.
But parents often feel left in the dark about what they entail and are calling on schools to keep them better informed.

Berwick Lodge Primary School principal, Henry Grossek, says his school has used the days to concentrate on areas including numeracy and literacy, student wellbeing and first aid courses, with guest speakers regularly invited to address teachers.
“We will also use our own staff to profile different curriculum areas, most recently in science and technology, then hold workshops for the rest of the day around that,” he says.
“We are very big on student agency and are working with people in New Zealand in an empowering student project.
It’s very valuable to get our staff together for a whole day working as a team on a particular issue. They do a lot of work after hours, like staff meetings, but the best professional development happens I believe when people are fresh from the start of the day.”
He understands why parents can get frustrated when they need to arrange care, but says much thought goes into scheduling to cause minimal disruption.
The dates are set by individual schools and school councils, except for day one, Term 1, which is designated by the department to allow teachers to prepare for the commencement of classes.
“Cynics say it’s just more time off for teachers, but we try and make sure the dates work as best as possible for families,” he says.
“When there’s a long weekend quite a lot of families like to go away, and actually appreciate that extra day off rather than a day in the middle of the week.”

Mr Grossek says in recent times the Department has taken a “dimmer view” of schools using Melbourne Cup eve as a curriculum day, due to perceptions teachers were enjoying a four-day weekend or were less engaged.
Berwick Lodge switched out the date several years ago as a result, but has reinstituted it in 2019 after weighing up the pros and cons.
“It’s an interesting one, a few year ago schools taking Melbourne Cup eve were pressured by the Department against it, so we stopped,” he says.
“But a lot of families will take Cup weekend off, including the Monday. We had 158 kids away on that one day last year.
“At the same time there’s a big push from the Department to increase student attendance — and I fully agree with that — so we thought we could kill two birds with one stone by reinstating Melbourne Cup eve as a curriculum day.”

Schools say topics depend on the school’s direction for the year, with English as another language lessons, restorative justice workshops and medical training among other focuses.
Anne-Maree Kliman says curriculum days are valuable for teacher development.

Victorian Principals Association president Anne-Maree Kliman says the days are important for developing staff and the school in line with both their strategic and annual implementation plans.
“It will depend on what they’ve got as key goals and priorities,” she says.
“It might be a focus on student wellbeing and developing a student behaviour management policy, or bringing in a consultant around the reading process, or high impact teaching strategies and upskilling teachers.
“They are extremely valuable to dive deeper into the work the school is doing, further develop teachers and ensure a consistent approach.

Schools are encouraged by the Department to “co-ordinate activities with other local schools to promote cooperative professional development and planning and maximise the use of available resources”.

Online parenting forums query why they can’t be held in school holidays, so parents don’t have to fork out more in fees for after school care, take time off work or call in babysitters.
“It’s annoying because my two kids go to different schools and have different curriculum days and both are on days I’m working,” one parent says.
“My husband is working on those days too, and the schools don’t have out of school hours’ care, so we need to call in family recruits to babysit.”

Continued...
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Parents Victoria executive officer Gail McHardy says it is important schools communicate effectively with parents about the dates and attempt to cater for those who have children in both primary and secondary school. The days are useful depending on the content, she says, but she wants like schools to be more proactive in sharing the benefits, successes and outcomes of professional learning with their communities. The organisation would also like to see more involvement of student and school council leaders in some of the days, and a strong focus on family engagement to boost “learning, social and general school outcomes”.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ’s)

Q. Why do parents have to provide the school with an asthma plan, anaphylaxis plan and/or an allergy plan (authorised by their doctor) for their child/ren annually if relevant for their child/ren?

A. It is a legal requirement. I understand the inconvenience that this may well cause you, nonetheless, in the best interests of the health and wellbeing of all students schools are now required to ensure that they have up to date plans as appropriate for all children at the school for whom they apply. According to our records, we do not have 2019 plans for a number of children for whom we have 2018 plans. Should you require a replacement copy for you to have completed, please contact our office staff.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

‘That which goes unsaid too late, speaks forever’

Henry Grossek

DIARY DATES:

Monday 25th February
District Swimming
Tuesday 26th February
Grade 4 Healthy Mind Body & Soul incursion
Tuesday 5th March
Grade 3 Marvellous Me incursion
Friday 8th March
Curriculum free day
Friday 22nd February
Grade 5 Little Lunch T.V series
Monday 11th March
Labour Day public holiday
Thursday 7th March
Grade 6 IMAX excursion
Thursday 14th March
School Photographs

PORTAL PERMISSION TO BE GRANTED BY:

Friday 22nd February
District Swimming
Friday 22nd February
Grade 4 Healthy Mind Body & Soul incursion
Friday 22nd February
Grade 5 Little Lunch T.V series
Friday 1st March
Grade 3 Marvellous Me incursion
Monday 4th March
Grade 6 IMAX excursion

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER?

Please ensure you let the school office know if you have changed address or updated mobile phones with new numbers. This information alleviates stressful situations for students when they are ill and we cannot contact parents.
YOU CAN DO IT ‘CONFIDENCE’
As part of our You Can Do It Program our students will be focusing on the ‘Confidence Key’. Confidence means believing that you will be successful at many things you attempt. It means not being afraid to make mistakes or to try something new. Examples of confident behaviour in children include: raising their hand in class to answer a question, attempting difficult work without asking for help, sharing a new idea with a teacher or the class, or saying hello to someone new. In building confidence in children it is important to encourage Self-Acceptance (not thinking badly of yourself when making a mistake), Risk Taking (trying something new even though you might not be able to do it first go), and Independence (thinking it is important to try new activities).

STUDENTS WHO RIDE BIKES/SCOOTERS TO SCHOOL
Students who ride to school need to store their bike/scooter in the bike shed for the duration of the day. The bike shed is locked just after 9am and opened just prior to 3.30pm. Please remind your child if they ride to school and arrive after the bell they need to come to the office and we will organise for the bike monitors to unlock the bike shed.

CURRICULUM DAY – FRIDAY 8th March – No School for students on this day.
Friday 8th March is a curriculum day for our staff and no students are required at school on this day.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS
The Royal Commission into Family Violence identified the critical role that schools and early childhood education have in creating a culture of respect to change the story of family violence for future generations. Everyone in our community deserves to be respected, valued and treated equally. We know that changes in attitudes and behaviours can be achieved when positive attitudes, behaviours and equality are embedded in our education settings. Respectful Relationships is about embedding a culture of respect and equality across our entire community, from our classrooms to staffrooms, sporting fields, fetes and social events. This approach leads to positive impacts on student’s academic outcomes, their mental health, classroom behaviour, and relationships between teachers and students. Together, we can lead the way in saying yes to respect and equality, and creating genuine and lasting change so that every child has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

BERWICK SHOW – ART DISPLAY
This weekend is the Berwick show. Mrs Zammit has been very busy organising an Art display of students work as an entry from our school. If you are going to the show, please enjoy having a look at the wonderful art work. Thank you to Mrs Zammit for setting up the display.

ENGLISH ON LINE FOR PREPS
Our Prep teachers have nearly completed the English on Line assessment which is mandated for every child starting school. The information obtained from the testing will assist with planning the teaching and learning program for our Preps.

GRADE TWO VISIT TO WILSON BOTANICAL PARK
Yesterday and today our grade two students participated in a walk to Wilson Botanical Park. They were able to view the local area from the Hoo Hoo tower, see the turtles in the lake and investigate different parts of the park. Thank you to the parents who assisted on this excursion and the feedback from the teachers was that the students were very well behaved and wonderful ambassadors for our school. If you haven’t been to Wilson Botanical Park, it is definitely worth a visit. There are BBQ facilities, picnic areas, playground, walking tracks and of course the lake with many turtles and a variety of bird life.

Sandra McCrum and Angela Maskery
We had a great PFA meeting this week; the first for the year and it was full of new faces and donuts. We kicked around lots of ideas about activities and goals for 2019, from school discos to parent info nights, and we will work more on these over the coming weeks.

If you missed the meeting, our next meeting will be held in the staff room on Monday 18 March at 9:30am, right after the school morning assembly. At the meeting we will be firming up PFA events and dates for the rest of 2019 and selecting items to sell at the Mother’s Day stall in May. Come along and help us out.

Our next meeting will also be our AGM, where we will be electing the PFA committee for 2019. Have you thought about nominating? Being a part of our small committee is a great way to help move the PFA forward, to be a voice for parents, and to expand your own skills, as well as your social circle. It’s not time-intensive and you don’t need any prior experience or specific expertise to join the committee – just the enthusiasm to get involved. Nomination info including role descriptions and forms are available at the office.

A HUGE thankyou to Hannah and Cathy for volunteering to run the uniform shop sessions this year. We’ve nailed down the opening dates and times for 2019 and look forward to seeing lots of parents looking to snap up a bargain.

It’s going to be a good year!

---

**2nd Hand Uniform Shop**

**$1 SALE**

**Monday 25 February 2019 8:45am - 9:20am**

**Friday 15 March 2019 3:15pm - 3:45pm**
Welcome to the BLPS Parents & Friends Association

COME & JOIN IN!

The PFA is a friendly and relaxed group. Meetings are held during the school day and young children and babies are always welcome. There's coffee and sometimes cake too!

Come along if you have fundraising or project ideas or if you just want to meet new people or learn more about the school.

We're here to help parents connect and share ideas, to fundraise, run fun activities and to help improve the school's programs and facilities.

TO JOIN, fill out a PFA Membership Form at the school office or just come along to the next meeting - our meetings are always advertised in the school newsletter.

5 great reasons to join our PFA!

01
WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE
We help to provide resources that our teachers and students need to do their best work

02
WE RESPECT YOUR TIME CONSTRAINTS
There's no never-ending time commitment here - an hour or two each term really makes a difference

03
WE HAVE FUN
We achieve a lot, and not everything we do is easy. But we don't take ourselves too seriously, and we enjoy ourselves as we go!

04
WE ARE WELCOMING
To us, there are no 'outsiders'. We couldn't be happier to have you onboard!

05
YOUR CHILD BENEFITS
When parents get connected to the school, children feel more comfortable. We try to make school a little more fun too!
# PFA NEWS

## BLPS Second Hand Uniform Shop

### Opening Days/Roster 2019

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 15 February</td>
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<td>Monday 9 December</td>
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<td>Cathy</td>
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*extra sessions will be scheduled to coincide with November’s Prep Transition program*

# Uniform Shop news including sales, any opening changes and session reminders will be promoted through the weekly newsletter and via the school’s Facebook page.
JSC NEWS

Coming soon - Nude Food Day

Friday 1st March

Nude food

No Packaging

Clean The School + Australia

A JSC event!
Permission forms via the Parent Portal

All permission forms will now be online via the Parent Portal. Parents will be notified by email in advance of their child’s excursion, and the email will contain a link which will provide you with direct access to the parent portal on Sentral. Please remember you must access PORTAL VERSION 2 for all permission forms and sick bay notifications.

https://sentral.berwicklodgeps.vic.edu.au/portal2

If you are having trouble accessing portal version 2, please click on the tab in the top right hand corner that says “Portal Version 2”

Your username is your email address and if you have forgotten your password, you can reset this by clicking on “Forgot your Password?”

If your email address has changed, please contact the office immediately.

If you are experiencing any difficulties with the Parent Portal, please call into the office.
FOUNTAIN GATE SECONDARY COLLEGE
JOSEPHINE AVENUE, NARRE WARREN

2020 OPEN NIGHT
TUESDAY 2ND APRIL 2019

SEE DISPLAYS OF STUDENT WORK AND MEET STAFF AND STUDENTS
5.30PM - 6.00PM : BBQ, MEET TEACHERS AND STUDENTS
6.00PM - 8.00PM : INTRODUCTION AND PRINCIPAL’S WELCOME
FOLLOWED BY SCHOOL AND CLASSROOM TOURS

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT THE SCHOOL ON 8762 6839

2020 HIGH ACHIEVERS PROGRAM

The High Achiever Program at Fountain Gate Secondary College is designed to enable high achieving students to maximise and fulfil their academic potential in a stimulating and supportive setting, alongside others with similar abilities and interests. Applications for current Year 6 (Year 7 in 2020) will be open on Friday 1st of March and close on Tuesday 23rd of April 2019. Selection examination will be held on Saturday the 27th of April 2019.

For further details and application forms contact Ms. Nicole Titter on 8762 6839

WWW.FOUNTAINGATESC.VIC.EDU.AU
Timbarra P-9 College

Secondary College Open Mornings

We invite all families to join us
for a tour to see our Secondary School at Work
Friday 1st March or Friday 8th March, 2019
From 9.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. - morning tea provided

Please meet in the administration office

Join us for a tour of our facilities and information regarding:

♦ Curriculum
♦ College Programs
♦ Sports, Music and STEM Academies
♦ Facilities
Dear Parents/Guardians

We wish to advise of the following:

**School Tour dates for Term 1 and Term 2 2019 for transition purposes:**

Parents, guardians and students who have not yet been on a school tour are invited to attend on **one** of the following dates:

**Dates:** Friday March 8th, Friday March 22nd, Friday May 3rd, Friday May 10th or Friday May 31st

**Time:** 11.30am – 12.30pm - please arrive by **11.15am** to sign in on our premises

**Bookings essential via our webpage:** [http://www.kambryacollege.com/school-tours/](http://www.kambryacollege.com/school-tours/)

- More details to follow regarding our Year 7 2020 Transition Information Nights
CHESS CLUB at your school
Building mental muscles

Benefits of Chess Classes
- Problem solving
- Tactical and strategic planning
- Lateral and logical thinking
- Decision making
- Self-confidence
- Resilience
- locus of control
- Visualisation
- Memory

Learn New Thinking Skills
Our teaching methodology follows three phases during each lesson. First we illustrate a new theoretical concept, strategy, idea or skill. These skills are then reinforced in a staged environment, and finally students have the opportunity to explore their own creativity and apply what they have learned, with individualised coach feedback.

Classes Starting Soon In Your School!
Do you want to take part?
Go online to http://ku.zone and find out more about dates and times and costs. Programs are run in the school, but the location may vary depending on room availability. Please enquire at the school office.

HOW TO ENROL
1. Go to our mobile friendly Kids Unlimited Parent Zone at http://ku.zone
2. Search for your school name
3. View details about times, dates, costs etc for all programs on offer at your school
4. Continue to enrol your child online
5. Stay in touch through the ku zone parent portal - view invoices, update contact details, track your child's attendance, see lesson discussion points and topics taught each week and even print certificates at the end of each term!

Join the Chess Club!
Build friendships as you build mental muscle

"I love chess club because it's not just playing chess. We learn different ways of playing chess and find out what chess masters do. We also get bragging rights for being the best chess player in the family!"
Thomas, grade 3/4

Enrol now:
www.ku.zone

1300 424 377 | www.kidsunlimited.com.au
CASEY/CARDINIA
INTERSCHOOL CHESS COMPETITION

Take up the gauntlet and show us your best mental jousting moves!

DATE AND TIME:
Friday, 29th March 2019; 9:15am - 2:00pm
Division: Primary
VENUE:
Berwick Primary School

https://tornelo.com/chess/orgs/ku/events/casey-cardinia

REGISTER HERE

How to register

Already have a Tornelo account linked to your school?
Yes - click on the link above
No - please email us at events@kidsunlimited.com.au

Your students are welcome either as a school excursion or accompanied by parents

$24 per student

Upcoming later in 2019

Want to enter a tournament and test out your skills?

Please click link below to see our full calendar of interschool events


Tournament enquiries please email us at events@kidsunlimited.com.au

call Tim at 0421 164 677

More information on interschool chess

kidsunlimited.com.au/interschoolchess
“Application forms for 2019 CSEF payment ONLY need to be completed by those families who are new to Berwick Lodge Primary School, have new enrolments in 2019 (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 2018. The school will submit this application on your behalf. If you are unsure as to whether you need to apply or not, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office on 9707 1766.”
NEW COURSE IS DUE TO START ON FRIDAY 22ND MARCH 2019.

CLASSES START TERM 1 - 2019
BERWICK LODGE P.S
ENROL NOW!

Supporting the community who are returning to Work

Singies, Mums and Dads are you interested in studying:
- Certificate III in Education Support (Teacher Aide) - CHC30213
This is a nationally accredited course with state funding

All our adult classes are in between school pickup and drop off times.
9.30am-2pm, 1 day per week for 23-25 weeks.

TAmums will support you though your Job prep unit.
This is a community initiative with the help of our Industry expert our Principal at BLP and TAmums. 5 years in the making to create a multi-skilled teacher aide.

Please follow us on facebook for updates and more info on this course.
https://www.facebook.com/MatchLifeTeacherAides.577151239316315/

‘This training is delivered under Victorian and Commonwealth Government funding. We encourage people with disabilities to access government subsidised training’

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – TEACHER AIDE COURSES

We are very proud to announce that our popular Teacher Aide courses are delivering very good job outcomes for students. Our close working partnership with schools has enabled us to tailor courses to the specific needs of schools in this area. Three prominent education recruitment agencies are providing employment opportunities for our graduates. This is great news and is testimony to the quality of our courses which will multi-skill you in three different areas of employment in schools as a teacher aide – working directly with students supporting their learning, office administration and sickbay duties. We are confident that our courses will give you an edge over applicants for teacher aide positions. Furthermore we will provide you with guidance, following completion of your qualification, to maximise your chances of employment – firstly with the three education recruitment agencies with whom we are already working and in general.
get active

Participate in a non-contact Rugby League skills program in a fun & friendly environment.

START 18 February 2019
TIME Mondays 4.00pm
LENGTH 6 weeks
AGE 8 - 12 years
COST $60
WHERE IYU Recreation Reserve
165 Henry Road
Pakenham VIC 3810

Register and receive your NRL pack
PLAYNRL.COM/JUNIORPROGRAM
COMMUNITY ADVERTISING

GET THEM HOOKED EARLY

HOCKEY

GET THEM HOOKED EARLY

HOCKEY
These advertisers support us, please support them.