



BERWICK LODGE NEWSLETTER

MORE INFO:



(03) 9709 6700



berwick.lodge.ps@education.vic.gov.au



berwicklodgeps.vic.edu.au

NEWSLETTER NO 4

20TH FEBRUARY 2025

ALL CANTEEN ORDERS MUST BE DONE ONLINE VIA THE Qkr APP BY 9:00am

CANTEEN IS OPEN MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY

ACTING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

MEET THE TEACHER COMMUNITY AFTERNOON THANKYOU

Thank you to parents and families who visited the school for our Meet the Teacher Community afternoon. It was a wonderful to see so many people taking the opportunity to informally meet their child's teacher and visit the classrooms. Our students were very excited to share their work and classrooms with their parents. We look forward to many other community events during the year.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2025

Our annual school council elections are now due, and the process must be completed by 31st March. This year we have 5 parent representatives whose term of office ends - **Michelle Thompson, Rajkeerat Sethi, Karin Keylock, Keiren Walker and Michelle Dobbin**. We also have (1) staff representative whose term of office concludes – **Robert Kelly**. Our PFA co-opted position on council is filled on an annual basis.

All above retiring school councillors, other than those who no longer have children at our school, or who no longer work at the school are eligible to seek re-election in the forthcoming elections. As two of our parents will be vacating council due to their children moving onto Secondary School, there are 2 vacancies for a 1 year term and 3 vacancies for a 2-year term.

Members of school council who have one further year to serve of their current term are:

Parent representatives – Mel Dobric and Alana McGlashan.

DET representative - Angela Maskery and Sandra McCrum

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.

NB: The principal is always the Ex-Officio member of council.

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

Parent Representative Vacancies: Five (5) vacancies, 3 positions each for a 2-year term and 2 positions each for a 1-year term

DET Representative Vacancies: One (1) vacancy, for a 2-year term.

Continued...



BERWICK LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

LEARNING FOR LIFE

ACTING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS PROCESS 2025

As the Returning Officer for School Council, I am now inviting nominations from parents for the **(3)** two-year vacancies and for the **(2)** one-year vacancies we have for the Parent Category and from staff for the **(1)** two-year vacancy we have for the DET Category.

Council meets 8 times per year on Monday evenings, with meetings being conducted between 6.00pm and 7.30pm at the school and alternating meetings held online. It is expected that school councillors 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 do not have the time to commit to school council participation at the moment.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION TIMELINE 2025

Thursday 20th February 2025 at 4:00pm – Nominations Open

Thursday 27th February 2025 at 4:00pm – Nominations Close

Friday 7th March 2025 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 Thursday 27th February 2025 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 having the opportunity to vote for the Staff (DET) 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 27th February 2025.

Please note that you can self-nominate or have other members of the category of which you are a member, nominate you. Nomination forms will be available on our parent portal on Compass, under School Documents, Parent Resources, on the 20th February from 4:00pm. Completed nomination forms should be emailed to the school email address:

berwick.lodge.ps@ education.vic.gov.au

Retiring staff (DET) members are eligible to be re-elected if they continue to work for a minimum of 8 hours per week for the Department of Education & Training (DET).

I thank all school councillors 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.

PUBLICITY PERMISSION

Yesterday our publicity permission information was sent out to families via Compass. By giving permission, your child can then be photographed/filmed and included in any of our hard copy or electronic publications. If you choose no, then your child will not have their image published in any school publications. Please assist us by completing either 'yes' or 'no' by the 6th March.

PREP 2025: SCHOOL TOURS, ENROLMENT AND INFORMATION NIGHT -SAVE THE DATE MONDAY 24th MARCH.

We have commenced our personal school tours for 2025 Prep enrolments. If you have family or friends who would like a tour, please ask them to contact the office. If you are an existing family and have a child who will be starting Prep in 2025, please contact the office so we can record your details and then include you in all enrolment communications. On Monday 24th March we will be holding our 2025 Step into Prep information evening from 5.30pm-6.30pm. All prospective families are welcome to attend.

UP TO DATE PERSONAL CONTACTS

If you have recently changed email address, phone number or any other important information please contact the office to update your details. This is important especially if a child is unwell and we don't have up to date contact details. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated.

Continued...

ACTING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

CLEAN UP SCHOOLS DAY FRIDAY 28th FEBRUARY

Our school is participating in 'Clean up Schools Day' on Friday 28th February. We will be encouraging all students to think about the rubbish they create each day, bring nude food if possible and pick up any rubbish around the school. We look forward to seeing which is the cleanest area within the school. Together we can all make a difference.

EVACUATION FIRE DRILL

Last week we had our first fire drill of the year, and it went very smoothly. Our students and teachers are to be congratulated on how quickly and calmly they exited the buildings and made their way to the oval. Each term we participate in either an evacuation drill or a lock down.

CURRICULUM DAY Friday 7th March 2025

Our whole school curriculum day is on Friday 7th March. No students are required at school on this day. Camp Australia at this stage will be running their program on this day, please book your child in if required. Our staff will be working on literacy, numeracy and wellbeing professional learning on this day.

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSION (CSEF) INFORMATION

Please be advised that CSEF Applications for 2025 are now open. CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. If you applied for the CSEF in 2024, you do not need to complete an application form in 2025 **unless there has been a change in your family circumstances**. You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **New student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools in 2025 or you did not apply in 2024.
- **Changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing at the school in 2025. If you are unsure if you need to complete a new form or have any other queries, please contact the school office.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL INVOLVED IN THE CHINESE MELBOURNE CHILDREN'S SPRING FESTIVAL GALA

A very big thank you to Ms Wen Tian our Mandarin teacher and Miss Mao for supporting our students with their choir performance at the very special Chinese celebration concert on Sunday 9th February. Our students were amazing and received wonderful accolades for their performance. Well done everyone involved!



MEET THE PREP TEACHING TEAM

Our Prep (Foundation) teachers are from left to right: Belinda Felix, Nicole Perfect and Channiel Winter.

The teachers have been very busy at the start of the year settling in our new students for their first year of school.

We look forward to many wonderful learning activities in the Prep area.



READING – PHONICS

This year our Foundation, year 1 and year 2 students are explicitly being taught phonics as a part of the approach to learning to read. Please see the flyer further in the newsletter about phonics and how to support your child's reading.

Sandra McCrum

DIARY DATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grade 6 Inter-School Sports (ISS) begin	Friday 21st February
District Swimming Carnival	Wednesday 26th February
Schools Clean-up Australia Day	Friday 28th February
National Young Leaders Day Excursion	Monday 3rd March
Grade 3-4 Author Visit	Wednesday 5th March
Curriculum Day - No students at school	Friday 7th March
Labour Day - Public Holiday	Monday 10th March
Whole School Photos	Tuesday 11th March
NAPLAN	Wed 12th March - 24th March
Grade 3-6 House Athletics Day	Wednesday 19th March
Harmony Day	Friday 21st March
ISS Gala Day	Tuesday 25th March
Student Leaders Reception	Thursday 27th March
Last day of School - 2:30 Finish	Friday 4th April

COMPASS CONSENT AND PAYMENTS DUE:

Grade 6 Camp Deposit Consent and Payment	Friday 21st February
District Swimming Consent and Payment	Friday 21st February
National Young Leader's Day Consent and Payment	Wednesday 26th February
Student Image and Work Publicity Permission	Thursday 6th March

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.

Assistant Principals' Report

MEET THE TEACHER:

A big thank you to all the families who came to school on Monday to Meet the Teachers. We hope you enjoyed the afternoon! It was wonderful to see so many families around the school engaging in the activities and chatting to the teachers. Engaging in your child's education has been proven to offer numerous benefits, including enhanced academic achievement, improved behaviour and social skills and increased confidence and motivation. Your participation is vital in shaping your child's educational journey.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT:

Over the past few weeks, classroom teachers have been busy settling the students into their new classrooms, establishing routines and working together to define the classroom agreements/rules. All families have received copies of the Student Code of Conduct, via Compass. These foundational steps are essential in creating a positive and productive learning environment. As parents, your support in reinforcing these guidelines at home is invaluable. By discussing the importance of school rules and modelling respectful behaviour, you can help your child understand and adhere to the expectations set within the classroom. Thank you, as always for your support.

ACCESSING OUR SCHOOL COUNSELLOR WITH A MENTAL HEALTH CARE PLAN

At Berwick Lodge, we prioritize the mental health and wellbeing of our students; to provide comprehensive support we offer access to a qualified social worker for counselling through a Mental Health Care Plan. A Mental Health Care Plan is a document prepared by your child's GP that outlines their health needs and goals. It enables your child to access professional mental health services, such as sessions at school with the school counsellor, at no cost to you. For more information or assistance with the process, please contact our school office.

NAPLAN TESTING FOR YEARS 3 AND 5

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy tests for Years 3 and 5 students will be held between **Wednesday 12th March to Monday 24th March**. All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with special needs may qualify for special provisions which reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. A formal exemption may be granted for a student who has a significant intellectual disability or who has recently arrived in Australia and is from a non-English speaking background. While participation by all students is expected, students may be withdrawn from the testing program by their parent/carer. This is a matter for consideration by individual parents/carers. Withdrawals are intended to address issues such as religious beliefs and philosophical objections to testing. A formal application for exemption must be received by the principal prior to the testing. Please have a discussion with your child's teacher if you have any questions about NAPLAN.

Below is a link to access information and test questions related to NAPLAN.

<https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/public-demonstration-site>

The public demonstration tests show the types of questions students will answer and the functionalities that are available in NAPLAN tests.

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Our Year 5/6 students participated in Safer Internet Day. Safer Internet Day is a global day of action bringing communities, schools, organisations and families from more than 180 countries together to raise awareness of online safety issues and work towards a safer internet.

The eSafety Commissioner leads the day in Australia and we're calling on all Australians to help make the internet a safer, and more positive place.

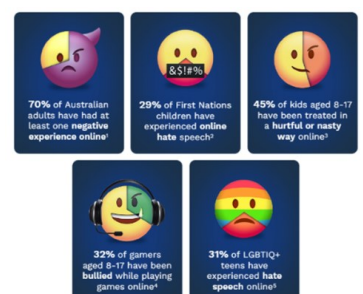
Why is Safer Internet Day important?

Whether you're working, learning, playing or scrolling – the internet is a huge part of life. It opens a world of opportunities, but also comes with risks, especially for young people and other at-risk groups.

Let's look at the numbers that remind us why online safety is so important.

To access more information regarding keeping your children safe online, please click on the following link:

[Parents | eSafety Commissioner](#)



Angela Maskery and Sharyn King

STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS

PREP

Prep F – Geroge and Berat

Prep N – Hannah and Tommy

Prep W – Seth and Maisie



GRADE 3 AND 4

3M – Charlee and Vedansh

3W – Sophia and Blake

3/4K – Jazlyn and Isaiah

4B – Ekam and Adele

4P – Aria and Zaylee



2026 ENROLMENTS

School Tours are now open!

Tours will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
Bookings are essential, please contact the office on 9709 6700.

For all those families who have a sibling starting prep next year, please inform the office if you have not already done so.

If you know of any friends or family who are interested in attending Berwick Lodge next year, please ask them to contact the office on 9709 6700 or they can send an email to berwick.lodge.ps@education.vic.gov.au



PHOTO DAY

COMING SOON!

Tuesday, 11th March 2025

Head to our website to view the available packages and to place your order

VISIT OUR WEBSITE & ENTER THIS CODE:

X3062EL54B



ORANGE

Berwick Lodge Primary School

www.theschoolphotographer.com.au



Meet our Acting
Principal Sandra
McCrum & our Prep
Teachers!

LEARN ABOUT:

- Prep Transition
- School Readiness
- Curriculum
- School Programs
- 2026 Enrolments

STEP INTO

PREP

Prospective enrolments information session

BERWICK LODGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

MONDAY
24TH MARCH

5:30pm – 6:30PM

Out of zone enrolments most welcome!

*BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.
PLEASE CALL OUR OFFICE TO REGISTER.
PLACES ARE LIMITED.



PREP NEWS



Prep News



Highlights



The Prep students have settled so well, getting more confident in their new learning environment each day!

We have started our Phonics Program, where students learnt about the letters; s, a, t, p, i, n. They also learnt to spell words using these letters. Each class continued practising writing and representing numbers 1-10 and worked on their counting skills.

We had an exciting trip to the school canteen, where each student bought their own icy-pole to enjoy!

It was lovely to meet so many of you on at the 'Meet the Teacher' night and we look forward to working in partnership with you this year!

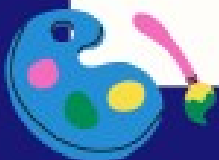
On behalf of the Prep teachers,
Mrs Felix



What do you think about school so far?

"It's so nice here! I want to stay here".
Spencer PF

"I love school!"
Elena PF



GRADE 1/2 NEWS

Welcome to 2LM!

In our first week at school we created a class birthday graph and discovered that next month we will be celebrating 4 class birthdays!

We've made class displays to help us recognise and continue counting patterns that skip count by 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s. We've been practising our counting patterns inside and out and feel pretty confident in our abilities.

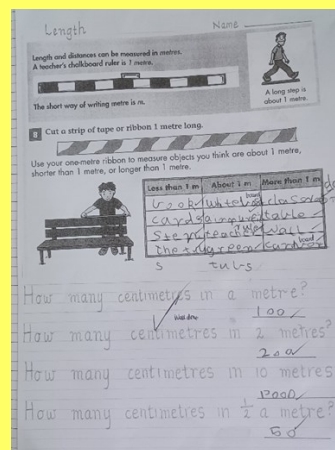


This week we are learning how to measure the length of objects.

Firstly, we have used informal objects in the classroom. Things like paperclips, unifix blocks and minis. Then we have used our rulers to accurately measure things in **centimeters**.

We have to make sure we always start at "0" when we measure on our ruler.

Did you know that the prefix "centi" means one hundred?



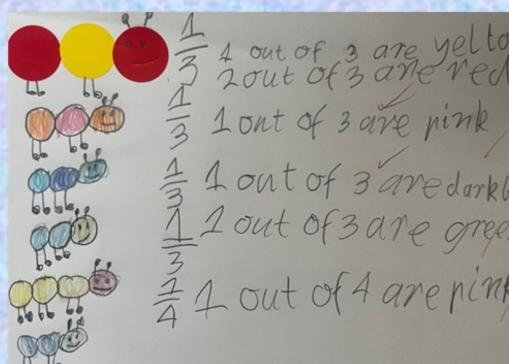
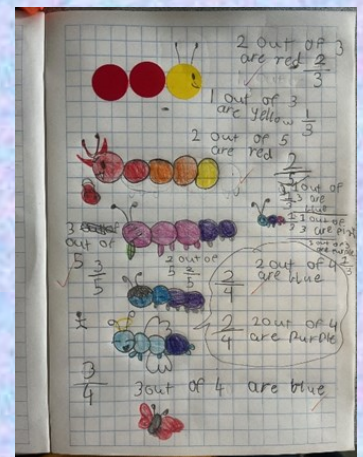
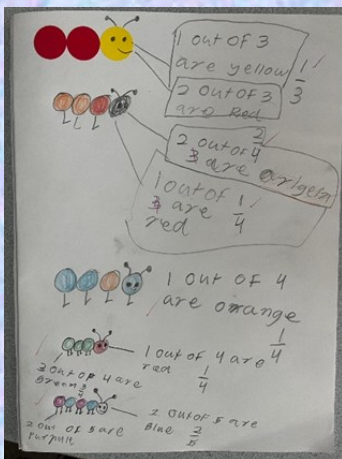
GRADE 3/4 NEWS

Grade 3 and 4 Explore Fractions and Place Value!

Grade 3 and 4 students have been diving into fractions this term, learning how to find fractions of a whole, fractions of collections and understanding proper fractions. Through hands-on activities with manipulatives, students have been able to visualise and explore these concepts in a fun and interactive way.

In addition to fractions, students have been deepening their understanding of place value through engaging games. These games help reinforce their skills in recognising and working with numbers in different situations.

They've worked in groups to discuss their reasoning and share their knowledge. It's been an exciting and collaborative learning experience and we look forward to seeing even more progress as the term continues!



GRADE 5/6 NEWS

Recently our Grade 5 students participated in a range of activities for Safer Internet Day on Tuesday, February 11th. Some classes took part in a webinar run by the eSafety Commissioner, while others engaged in eSafety lessons and activities in their classrooms.

The focus this year was on identifying fakes online, with key learning outcomes including:

- Using critical literacy skills to challenge misinformation and disinformation.
- Recognising fake online identities, such as impersonator and catfishing accounts.
- Developing strategies to handle harmful or dangerous online situations.

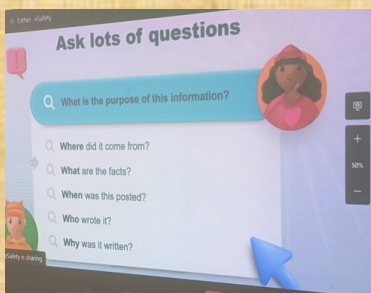
Identifying different support pathways when facing online challenges.

Through discussions and hands-on activities, students built important skills to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly.

Grade 5s have also been making the most of our school library, exploring the wide range of books available. They've particularly enjoyed activities such as designing their own bookmarks, discovering games and resources hidden within books, and competing in Where's Wally speed trials! It's been fantastic to see their enthusiasm for reading and creativity in the library space.

Rylie Bolton

On behalf of the Grade 5 Team





SWIMMING TRIALS

Last Wednesday 12th February, 43 students participated in the Berwick Lodge swimming trials. The trials were an opportunity for students to try out for the Edwin Flack District competition to be held on Wednesday 26th February. I would like to say a huge congratulations to all the students who tried out, it was amazing to see the effort, enthusiasm and encouragement shown by all the students on the day. Well done to the following students for their participation.

Roman 3/4K	Bastian 4B	Niamh 4B	Renette 4B	Isaac 4B
Charlotte 4B	Jya Chee 4B	Sabrina 4B	Taylor 4P	Kei 4P
Kesaven 4P	Ivy 5B	Evie 5B	Cooper 5K	Aaliyas 5K
Max 5K	Emese 5K	Sanchaya 5K	Christopher 5LS	River 5LS
Saxon 5LS	Boris 5LS	Ebony K 5LS	Hannah 5LS	Marli 5LS
Ruby 6CR	Zaria 6CR	Shepley 6CR	Elijah 6CR	Mikhael 6CR
Arya 6CR	Brody 6L	Ella 6L	Jasmine 6L	Aaliyah 6L
Clifford 6L	Ebony D 6P	Jay 6P	Jackson 6P	Dexter 6P
Leo 6P	James 6P	Eryk 6P		

Congratulations to the 20 students who have progressed through to the District competition. Charlotte, Bastian, Kei, Sabrina, River, Christopher, Cooper, Boris, Jackson, Ebony K, Hannah, Evie, Shepley, Dexter, Brody, Leo, Ruby, Ebony D, Ella and Aaliyah. We wish you all the best of luck. Go Lodgers!!

HOUSE ATHLETICS DAY - GRADES 3-6

Berwick Lodge's annual House Athletics Day for Grades 3-6 will be held on Wednesday 19th March beginning at approximately 9:15am. Students are encouraged to wear their house colours for the day as well as clothing that is comfortable for them to participate in.

Students will walk around in their age group (age as of 31/12/25) and compete in 7 events on the day. Students have been placed in age groups according to their age based on the School Sport Victoria guidelines. There is flexibility in which age group your child competes in however your child must be aware of the guidelines involved in competing up or down an age group. If a student chooses to compete up an age group they will need to remain in this age group if they were to progress to represent the school at district, divisional, regional or state events. If your child would like to compete in an age group other than their assigned one, please let myself know.

As this is a whole day event, students must wear their hats and bring plenty of water to drink. It is advisable that students have sunscreen applied in the morning before school and bring their OWN sunscreen to school so that they can reapply this in the recess and lunchtime breaks. Schools and teachers are not allowed to provide or apply sunscreen to students.

Parents are more than welcome to come and spectate but must remain out of the way of events and behind fenced areas to allow for the smooth transition and running of each of the events. Parents must also leave the school grounds during recess and lunchtime breaks.

We are seeking at least 8 parent helpers. If you would like to assist on the day and have completed the induction program and have an up to date Working with Children's check, please email the office at berwick.lodge.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

Thank you,
Kylee Muccignat
P.E Coordinator



MANDARIN NEWS

Meet our 2025 Mandarin Captains



My name is Elliott and I am one of your Mandarin captains of 2025. My favourite subjects are math and spelling, and I am also pretty good at speech writing. If you see me in the yard, you can talk to me, and if you have any problems, I would be happy to help. I am in the Victorian High Ability program which is something I do on the school laptops after lunch on a Wednesday.

Outside of school, I do some specialist classes, and they are: soccer, swimming, Chinese school, math/English tutoring and Scouts. I'm organised, confident and helpful which helps me out when making speeches, packing up and caring for others.

Hi! My name is Anujini and I am your Mandarin captain for 2025. And I am going to tell you a little bit about me. I am from Sri Lanka and I am 11 years old this year. I am the only child in my family.

I am really passionate about Art and I read a lot of books in my free time. I do sports like swimming and Karate. I also like Writing and most of the school subjects.



MANDARIN NEWS

2025 Children's Chinese New Year Gala

On Feb.9th, 22 students from Berwick Lodge Primary School had the incredible honour of performing at the 2025 Melbourne Children's Spring Festival Gala. We were especially proud because we were the only local school invited to perform at this prestigious event!

What made the night even more exciting was that China Central Television (CCTV) provided live coverage and followed us throughout the entire event with exclusive interviews and behind-the-scenes footage. We also had the privilege of performing in front of distinguished guests, including Mr. Fang, Consul General of the Chinese Consulate-General in Melbourne; Mr. Will Fowles, State MP; Cr Ben Stennett, Whitehorse City Councillor; and Cr Gladys Liu, Melbourne City Councillor.

Our students did an amazing job on stage. The organizers, special guests, and audience all gave us fantastic feedback, praising their confidence, enthusiasm, and the energy they brought to the performance. This wasn't just a performance—it was a huge milestone for our students, a celebration of culture, and an unforgettable experience. We are beyond proud of them and grateful for this incredible opportunity.



LIBRARY NEWS

We have had a fabulous start to 2025. There has been lots of reading and borrowing happening already. Our new Picture Story Book display has been a hit with all age groups with loads of new books being discovered, borrowed and read.

Our Prep students have been reading SPOT books, the Grade Ones are reading The Grandpa Series and the Grade Twos have been enjoying Pamela Allen stories during their library sessions.

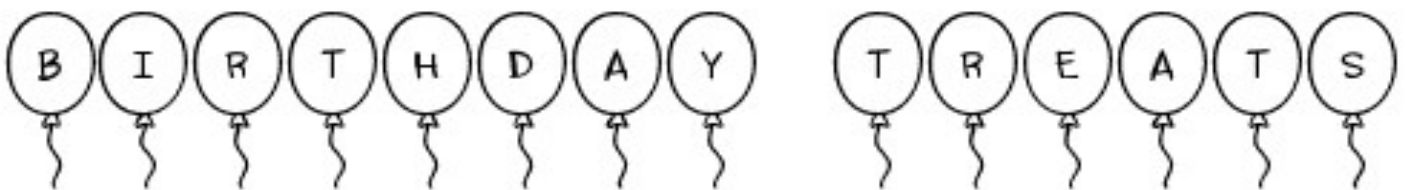
The first issue of the Scholastic Book Club has now closed and we sold a huge \$1311.00 of books. This is fantastic news for the library as we were kindly given \$195.00 to spend on NEW BOOKS. These orders should all be arriving in a few weeks and will be given to classroom teachers to distribute ASAP.

There will be a second catalogue coming out later this term and two per term after that. Please consider purchasing from the Book Club if you can, as this is an enormous help towards stocking our beautiful Library with new items for everyone to enjoy.

PLEASE remember to bring a library bag to EVERY library session so you are able to borrow and finally, please make sure you return your books on time. You can always re-borrow a book if you haven't finished reading it.

Happy Reading Everyone,

Mrs Tsekouras



Parents may bring in food treats to celebrate their child's birthday.

However, this treat **must be** individually commercially packaged with ingredients listed (ie: fun-size chocolate) and distributed to students at the end of the school day.



PFA NEWS

Parents and Friends Association (PFA) – Annual General Meeting

The Berwick Lodge Primary School **Parents and Friends Association** warmly invites all parents and caregivers to attend our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**.

Date: Thursday, 13th March

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: Camp Australia building (next to the basketball courts)

The AGM is an opportunity to reflect on the past year, celebrate our achievements, and elect the 2025 PFA Committee.

Why Get Involved?

Being part of the PFA is a great way to support your child's school experience, connect with other parents, and contribute to meaningful projects. By joining, you can:

- **Enhance the school environment** through fundraising and community events
- **Have a voice** in discussions that impact students and families
- **Build friendships** with other parents and staff
- **Develop new skills** in leadership, event planning, and teamwork

We are also seeking nominations for the following roles:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Assistant Secretary
School Council Representative
Assistant School Council Representative
Uniform Shop Coordinator

If you're interested in getting involved or simply want to learn more, we'd love to see you there!

Nomination forms and PFA Membership forms are available at the school office or email us at pfa@berwicklodgeps.vic.edu.au and we can send you a copy.

Join us and help make a difference in our school community!



PFA NEWS

PFA Second Hand Uniform Shop

The PFA Second Hand Uniform Shop has incorporated an online ordering system. Below you will find what we currently have in stock. If you would like to purchase items please email through your request to pfa@berwicklodges.vic.edu.au.

Orders will be ready for collection at **Reception on Tuesday from 3:30pm - 4pm**

Donations are currently being accepted at the office. Thank you for your support!

Place Order Email: pfa@berwicklodges.vic.edu.au										
Collection & Payment from Reception on Tuesday 3:30-4pm										
	Price	#	Size 4	Size 5	Size 6	Size 8	Size 10	Size 12	Size 14	Size 16
Top Blue Sports	\$5		6	1	1	1	2	2	0	0
Top Yellow Short Sleeve	\$5		3	3	2	3	2	4	0	1
Top Yellow Long Sleeve	\$5		2	0	2	1	2	3	3	4
Jacket Bomber	\$5		3	0	10	9	5	3	0	3
Jumper Crew Neck	\$5		3	8	3	2	1	0	0	3
Jumper Fleece Rugby	\$5		0	3	0	1	1	1	0	0
Trackpants	\$5		0	2	1	0	2	0	1	0
Trousers	\$5		0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0
Sports Shorts/basketball all shorts	\$5		1	0	1	5	5	2	0	1
Shorts - Thinner Fabric	\$5		0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
Shorts - thicker fabric			0	1	10	1	4	5	0	2
Shorts Pleated - girls	\$5		0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Skirt Netball	\$5		2	0	0	1	4	1	0	0
Skirt Sports Skort	\$5		0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Dress Summer	\$5		6	2	2	0	9	1	3	0
Dress Winter	\$5		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

PFA NEWS



Yellow Long Sleeve Top



Blue Sports Top



Yellow Short Sleeve Top



Blue Bomber Jacker



Blue Rugby Jumper



Blue Crew Neck



Sports Shorts - Basketball
Shorts - Thinner fabric



Shorts - Thicker fabric



Trackpants



Shorts Pleated - Girls



Skirt - Sports Skort



Skirt - Netball/Tennis Skirt



Summer Dress



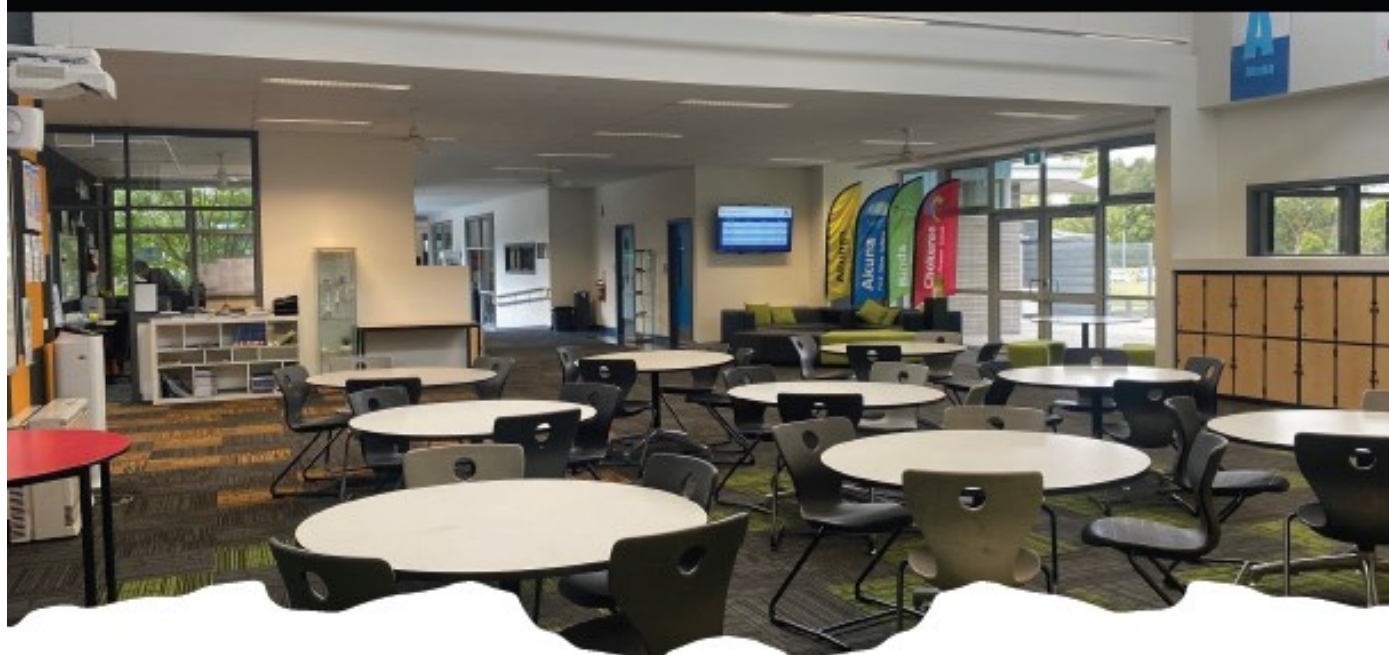
Winter Dress



Beanie

Transition News

Timbarra P-9 College, Berwick



Secondary Open Night

Monday 24th March
4:30-6:30pm



On the evening:

- ✓ Meet the teachers and school leaders
- ✓ Explore our learning spaces
- ✓ Learn about our curriculum programs
- ✓ Learn about our Academy opportunities
- ✓ Attend an information presentation
- ✓ Join a student led tour
- ✓ Watch student performances
- ✓ Ask questions to learn more



For more information
visit our website

www.timbarrap9.vic.edu.au

Understanding phonics: a helpful guide for families, parents and carers

Reading is a foundational life skill and a source of pleasure and wonder.

It is one of the most important skills children learn and the teaching of **phonics** plays an important role in helping them become confident, fluent readers.

This guide will help you understand what phonics is, why it is important in learning to read, and how children can be supported at home to develop their awareness of sounds, and of the relationships between sounds and letters.

What is phonics?

Phonics includes linking sounds (called 'phonemes') to their corresponding letters (called 'graphemes'). Students read words by recognising the relationships between written symbols and their corresponding sounds.

Phonics is one of 6 components that make up a comprehensive reading program.

The other components are:

Oral language	Knowing and using spoken words to express knowledge, ideas and emotions
Phonemic awareness	The knowledge of sounds (phonemes)
Vocabulary	Understanding words in isolation and in context
Fluency	Reading accurately and at an appropriate rate with expression
Comprehension	Making meaning from text which includes developing knowledge of grammar

These are the foundational skills that have a reciprocal relationship and are all necessary to enable students to independently read and respond to increasingly complex fiction and non-fiction texts.

Why is phonics instruction important?

Research and evidence show that phonics instruction is a highly effective way to teach children to read. It helps them develop **decoding skills** (translating printed words into speech), which assist in reading unfamiliar words. Phonics gives many children the tools to figure out new words and understand spelling patterns, building their reading fluency and comprehension.

How is phonics taught in schools?

The key elements of phonics are:

- 1. Phonemes:** the smallest units of sound in speech (e.g. the sound /k/ in 'cat').
- 2. Graphemes:** the letters, or groups of letters, that represent these sounds (e.g. the letter 'c' in 'cat').
- 3. Blending:** combining individual sounds together to read a word (e.g. /k/ /a/ /t/ = 'cat').
- 4. Segmenting:** breaking down words into their individual sounds to spell them (e.g. 'cat' = /k/ /a/ /t/).

Phonics is taught through a structured, sequential approach where children learn the simplest sounds (such as /s/, /a/, and /t/) and gradually move to more complex sound-letter patterns (such as /ee/), as in the sound in the word 'bee' and /oa/ as in the sound in the word 'boat'. This is known as teaching using a **systematic, synthetic phonics** approach. In simple terms, children learn different sounds, then practice blending sounds together to read words.

The Academy is grateful to Parents Victoria for their expert advice in producing this guide



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What might a phonics lesson at school look like?

Your child's teacher will use a range of ways to engage your child in a lesson on phonics. A typical lesson might include various combinations of the following and other methods:

Daily practice	This incorporates short, focused lessons on the key elements of phonics outlined above, that build on previous learning.
Reading	Students practice reading a variety of books that include words with sounds that the students have been taught.
Dictation	The teacher reads a sentence that includes taught sounds or spelling patterns aloud and students practice spelling and writing the sentence.
Multisensory methods	Phonics is often taught using visual (sight/auditory (hearing)) and tactile (touching) methods (e.g., saying sounds, tracing letters).

How can families support phonics learning at home?

Learning to read takes time, encouragement and support, and each young person progresses at their own pace. It's important to celebrate small achievements in progress, and encourage children to keep trying, even when it's challenging for them.

When children enjoy learning, they are more likely to stay motivated, which helps them develop a strong foundation in reading.

Making phonics practice fun is key to keeping children engaged and motivated. Here are some suggested engaging activities to support phonics development.

Activities

At the end of this printout, there's a list of phonics activities to stick on the wall and practice with your kids.

What if my child is struggling with phonics?

If your child is having difficulty, speak with their teacher. Some children need extra practice or a more individualised approach.

How long does phonics instruction last?

Formal phonics instruction typically begins in Early Childhood education and continues until children can read fluently. It intensifies from Foundation to around Year 2 or 3, but some children may need more time. Families can help by engaging in any of the activities listed in this guide before or during formal instruction.

Further reading

- Caimey, T. (2024). Literacy Families and Learning. Blogspot.com. <https://www.blogger.com/search/school-phonics>
- Castles, A., Parrila, R., & Kohnen, S. (2024). What is phonics and why is it used to teach reading? The Conversation. <https://www.conversation.com.au/what-is-phonics-and-why-is-it-used-to-teach-reading-2024/>
- Independent Schools Victoria. (2024). Phonics: A guide for parents. The Parents Website. <https://www.independent-schools.vic.edu.au/parents-website/phonics-a-guide-for-parents/>
- Literacy Hub. (2023). The big six of literacy: A guide for families. <https://www.literacyhub.com.au/what-is-literacy-the-big-six/>

www.academy.vic.gov.au



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Learning phonics at home

Print this list out and stick it on the wall or the fridge, so you can practice phonics with your kids at home.


Read together Choose books that interest your child and spend time reading aloud together.	Phonics bingo Create bingo cards with letters, sounds, or words. As you call out the sound (phoneme) or word, children mark it off the corresponding card.	Memory games Use flashcards with letters and images that start with the corresponding sounds on them. Have children turn them over and try to find matching pairs of letters and images e.g. Cc and cat.	I spy Play 'I spy' focusing on sounds and letters. For example, 'I spy with my little eye something that begins with the sound /b/.'
Sand or salt trays Encourage children to trace letters in sand or salt trays while saying the sound.	Playdough letters Encourage children to form letters with playdough and then say the corresponding sound as they make each letter. This can be extended by using the letters to form words and sound them out.	Hopscotch with sounds Draw a hopscotch grid outside with each square containing a letter. Children hop on the squares and say the corresponding sound of that letter aloud, reinforcing learning with movement.	Phonics songs Find fun phonics songs online that help children remember sounds through repetition and music.
Nursery rhymes and poems Rhyming helps children recognise sound patterns. Encourage them to point out rhyming words and identify the sounds and letters that the rhyming words share.	Sound hunt Ask children to find objects around the house or classroom that start with a certain sound or letter. For example, 'Can you find something that starts with /s/?'	Word hunt Hide cards with letters or words around the room, and have children search for and read them out loud as they find them.	Letter collage Have children cut out pictures from magazines of items that start with a specific sound. They can create a collage for each letter sound.
Phonics jump Write letters on pieces of paper, place them on the floor, and have children jump to the correct sound as you call it out.	Sound labels Label objects around the house or classroom with their phonemes (sounds). For example, place a label on the door with the sound /d/ and encourage children to sound it out each time they pass by.	Sound of the day/week Make one sound (phoneme) the 'sound of the day' or 'sound of the week' and encourage children to listen for it in conversation, TV shows, or books over that time period.	Make your own Have fun inventing activities together using sounds and words.

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COMMUNITY NEWS



BIG EMOTIONS, CALM RESPONSES PARENTS BUILDING SOLUTIONS

MANAGING OUR OWN, OR OUR CHILDREN'S, EMOTIONS POSITIVELY AND CALMLY IS DIFFICULT!

- Are you or your child/ren finding emotional regulation a challenge at times?
- Would you like to understand what fears, worries and behaviours are "normal" for your child/ren's age and stage of development, and how issues such as trauma or neurodiversity impact on them?
- Would it be helpful to explore strategies to respond to your child/ren's big feelings like anger, anxiety, fear, and frustration?
- Do you find it a challenge to establish clear boundaries that support your child's emotional regulation?

If your answer to any of these questions is "Yes!", please join us for this parenting session.

PARENTZONE

DATE: Mondays, 17th February - 31st March (no session on Labour Day)

TIME: 9.15 a.m. - 11.15 a.m. (after drop-off)

WHERE: Berwick Lodge Primary School
139 - 145 Mansfield Street, Berwick

COST: FREE!

For more information, contact:
Carey Cole - 0437 428 281
carey.cole@anglicarevic.org.au
OR

Register using the QR code or this link:
<https://events.humanitix.com/parents-building-solutions-big-emotions-calm-responses>



BETTER
TOMORROWS



Tuning in to Teens™ Cranbourne

This engaging six session parenting program is designed for parents and carers of adolescents aged 10 to 18 years.

By participating, you'll learn how to:

- Understand and nurture your teen's emotional intelligence.
- Confidently coach your teen through big feelings by tuning in to their emotions.
- Equip your teen with tools to manage emotions, solve problems, and navigate challenges.
- Teach your teen healthy ways to handle conflict and build resilience.

Based on an easy-to-follow five-step emotional coaching approach, Tuning in to Teens™ empowers families to build stronger relationships and support adolescent's emotional well-being.

Join us and make a lasting impact on your family's well-being!

This group is open to parents/carers living within the City of Casey, the Cardinia Shire, or City of Greater Dandenong only.

COST
Free

DATES
Thursdays 20th, 27th February, 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th March 2025

TIME
10am until 12:30pm

VENUE
Cranbourne Library:
65 Berwick-Cranbourne Rd,
Cranbourne East VIC 3977

Light refreshments will be served

Bookings Essential

ENQUIRIES
P: 9704 8377
E: groupwork.south@yt.uniting.org

REGISTER
<https://forms.office.com/r/1B1Ph2Wse>

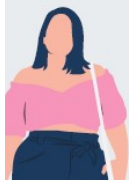


Uniting

Women's Group

Join us at Midday on Mondays. ✨

Are you looking for a space to connect with other women, share experiences, and have fun. Our group offers a welcoming and inclusive environment where friendships can be formed and new experiences shared through a range of guest speakers.



Mondays
12pm - 2pm
Multipurpose Room
Timbarra Community Centre

\$10 Yearly BNC Membership



March Guest Speakers / Demonstrations

3rd March
International Women's Day Afternoon Tea
Donna "Mix It With Me" Thermomix Consultant demonstration
(RSVP 20th Feb)

17th March
COTA Victoria: Employment, Volunteering & training support
12.30pm - 1.30pm

24th March
La'da Soaps and Scents: Natural products in the home.
12.30pm - 1.30pm



9704 1863 or admin@berwicknc.com.au
for more information.

COMMUNITY ADVERTISING

PUBLIC

POP UP PLAYGROUP

Discover Learn Play



The City of Casey free 'Pop-up Playgroup' Term 1 2025

Come along and enjoy playgroup activities outdoors with your child, music, art, reading, block, imaginary, sensory and active play.

You can also pick up more information about Community Playgroups, Maternal and Child Health, Kindergarten and Youth Services.

Bunjil Place Playspace

2 Patrick NE Drive, Narre Warren.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/34UoS942Mu2pGnaz8>

Wednesday 5 February 9:30 am – 11:00 am.
Wednesday 12 February 9:30 am – 11:00 am.
Wednesday 19 February 9:30 am – 11:00 am.
Wednesday 26 February 9:30 am – 11:00 am.

Silo Park Playground

Cavern Blvd, Clyde North.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/6M2z5VwCWetLSLSEa>

Wednesday 5 March 9:30 am – 11:00 am.
Wednesday 12 March 9:30 am – 11:00 am.
Wednesday 19 March 9:30 am – 11:00 am.
Wednesday 26 March 9:30 am – 11:00 am.

Please note Pop-up Playgroup is an outdoor event.

Please bring water, snacks, and spare clothes.

No bookings required.

Contact the City of Casey:

Web: casey.vic.gov.au
Email: caseycc@casey.vic.gov.au
Phone: 03 9705 5200
Post: PO Box 1000, Narre Warren VIC 3805
NRS: 133 677 (for the deaf, hearing or speech impaired)

Customer Service Centres:

Narre Warren: Bunjil Place, Patrick Northeast Drive, Narre Warren
Cranbourne: Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre, Cranbourne
ABN: 43 320 295 742

TIS: 131450 (Translating and Interpreting Service) الترجمة الفورية 131 450

CASEY.VIC.GOV.AU



MCH DISCOVER LEARN PLAYGROUP



2025

City of Casey FREE MCH Discover Learn Playgroup term 1 2025!

Come along and enjoy free playgroup activities with your child, including music, art, reading, block, imaginary, sensory and active play.

- connect with Maternal and Child Health, kindergarten and community playgroups.
- meet local families.
- get support for your child if you feel they are not like other children the same age.
- link into community playgroups, events and activities for children 0-5years.



Sessions are run during school terms. No bookings required.

Narre Warren South	Monday	9:30 am - 11:00 am	Littlecroft Family & Community Centre
Clyde North	Tuesday	9:30 am - 11:00 am	Ramleigh Family & Community Centre
Cranbourne North	Tuesday	9:30 am - 11:00 am	Woodbine Family & Community Centre
Cranbourne East	Tuesday	1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Livingston Family & Community Centre
Clyde North	Tuesday	1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Manna Gum Family & Community Centre
Hampton Park	Wednesday	9:30 am - 11:00 am	Coral Park Primary School
Berwick	Wednesday	9:30 am - 11:00 am	Gwendoline Family & Community Centre
Cranbourne West	Wednesday	1:00 pm - 2:30 pm	Fairhaven Family & Community Centre
Hallam	Wednesday	1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	Hallam Garden Children's Centre
Across Casey	Thursday	9:30 am - 11:00 am	Pop up Playgroup
Doveton	Friday	9:30 am - 11:00 am	Autumn Place Family & Community Centre
Lynbrook	Saturday	9:30 am - 11:00 am	Lynbrook Family & Community Centre

For more information email dipreferral@casey.vic.gov.au

go to www.casey.vic.gov.au/playgroups or follow the QR code:



Contact the City of Casey:

Web: casey.vic.gov.au
Email: caseycc@casey.vic.gov.au
Phone: 03 9705 5200
Post: PO Box 1000, Narre Warren VIC 3805
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WELCOME TO THE PLAYGROUPS IN CITY OF CASEY

Join a playgroup and enjoy activities with your child, including music, art, reading, block, imaginary, sensory and active play.

The City of Casey Playgroup Development Team can:

- Help you start a new playgroup
- Assist residents to locate and join playgroups
- Support the needs of your playgroup
- Connect you with other support services

For further assistance or information on Community Playgroups in the City of Casey please contact the Playgroup Development Officer.

Contact

(03) 9705 5200

TTY: (03) 9705 5568

TIS: 131 450 (Translating and Interpreting Service)

PO Box 1000, Narre Warren VIC 3805

caseycc@casey.vic.gov.au

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