



Bungaree Primary School Newsletter

Term 1, Week 4
19th February, 2021

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Respect

Positivity

Determination

Creativity

From the Principal

Hello everyone

Well, that was quite a curve ball to work though—a circuit breaker lockdown and quick pivot to Remote Learning. I am so appreciative of the work of our staff to prepare Take Home Packs at such short notice, our now infamous “farm run,” and to our families and students for giving it a red hot go. Devices will be considered if/when another Remote Learning period is declared—with our increase in enrolments, this just wasn’t an option in this circuit breaker. Ms K and I enjoyed our phone calls with you to check in, catch up, and offer our support.

Welcome back to the Chalmers family, who had a term away last year. Marlow and Kainan have joined in with huge smiles and matching enthusiasm and it is lovely to see them at Bungaree again.

We have a few very big weeks ahead for us at Bungaree Primary School. Our School Strategic Review will be taking place in March, which is an opportunity once every four years for Victorian Government schools to review and reflect on what the school has achieved; consider what lies ahead and strategically plan for our future. Staff and School Council have all been involved in the preparation for the review, and David, as School Council President, will be on the panel. School Council and I had intended to catch up with you at the School Twilight Picnic to seek your feedback and input (but the lockdown was announced ...) Now we plan to include it in the review days. The questions we’re particularly interested in, to get your thoughts rolling, are:

- What’s working well?
- Where to from here?

School Council would love to hear your views. On the review days, staff and students will be asked for their input, and I really hope that some parents might also be available to share too. I’ll be in touch when details are finalised.

Diaries out, folks. Stacey and I are very excited to announce that we have been granted a Bunnings BBQ fundraiser next month. Please lock in Sunday, 21st March as we’ll need some help on the day! A volunteer roster will come home soon, so please keep an eye out in Reader Diaries.

I’d like to extend my thanks to the Van Den Heuvel family, who will be joining our mowing roster this year. It’s a job that really makes a difference to our school,

and I know that the Lee, Matheson and Cox families, along with our wider school community, will also be grateful for your support. The new Autumn roster is included in this newsletter.

It’s that time of year again for School Councillor nominations and we do have a one position available for a parent to join in—a wonderful way to be involved in the governance of our school. This will be for a two-year term. Please see me or David Lee if you are interested—I have placed some information in this newsletter that I hope you will find helpful, including some FAQs about School Council.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for snippets and updates in between newsletters. Have a wonderful week, and always stay grateful, kind and mindful.

Miss Catherine Barnes, **Principal**

Calendar

February

Week 5 (22nd-26th February)	Individual Learning Plan meetings with all families via WebEx
Wednesday 24th	Final Foundation Free Day (no Prep students at school)

March

Tuesday 2nd	School Strategic Review
Monday 8th	Labour Day holiday—SCHOOL CLOSED
Friday 12th	Cross Country (details TBC)
Tuesday 16th	School Strategic Review
Wednesday 17th	Cluster Life Education event at Lal Lal PS (details to follow)
Tuesday 23rd	School Council AGM and regular meeting
Tuesday 30th/ Wednesday 31st	Parent-Teacher Interviews

April

Thursday 1st	JSC activities TBC, Last day of Term 1, 2:30pm dismissal
Monday 19th	First day of Term 2

Learning times

The times for learning in class remain the same for 2020.

9:00am	School starts; formal class learning
11:00am	Recess
11:30am	Formal class learning
1:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm	Formal class learning
3:30pm	Dismissal

If you require to collect a child early or drop off a little later due to (for example) a medical appointment, please visit the Office and sign him/her in the Sign In/Out booklet.



Drop Off & Pick Up Times

Families are reminded that our school policy states that formal school supervision begins each day at 8:45am and concludes at 3:45pm. Before and after these times, teachers plan and prepare learning programs and meet together to discuss school matters.

Please respect this as important time for teachers in their professional practice; and ensure that you drop off your child/children between 8:45-9:00am each morning and collect them before 3:45pm.

Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of Bungaree Primary School.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00pm on 26/2/21. The ballot will close at 4.00pm on 19/3/21.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2021 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2023.	1

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Miss Barnes

Family Payments Due

Just a reminder to all families that statements have been sent home with regard to payments to date for 2021.

Could families please make payment as soon as possible, or alternatively, contact the office about setting up a regular payment plan.

Thank you.

Miss Barnes

Mowing in Autumn



Weekend commencing ...	Family
Saturday 6th March	Van Den Heuvel family
Saturday 20th March	Matheson family
Saturday 3rd April (or that week after Easter!)	Lee family
Saturday 17th April	Cox family
Saturday 1st May	Van Den Heuvel family
Saturday 15th May	Matheson family
Saturday 29th May	Lee family



Our Service Road to school has a 10km/h speed limit. For everyone's safety—students, families and staff, please abide by this speed limit when arriving and departing from school at all times. Thank you.

Meet our Junior School Council 2021



Our annual JSC election was held last Monday. Our candidates all gave their election speeches with confidence and pride with the hope to win those important votes in the ballot box from the audience.

We are so pleased to announce that Zac, James and Liza were elected and will form our leadership team this year. JSC meets every Monday with Miss Barnes and will be coming up with exciting projects, events and fundraisers throughout the school week and for special days.

Our JSC will also be representing Bungaree Primary School at the GRIP Student Leadership Conference in May at Federation University.

Congratulations to our new Junior School Council!

Privacy Reminder

Our school collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Victorian Government Schools' Privacy Policy, available from

www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx

Please take time to remind yourself of the school's collection statement, found on our website

www.bungareeps.vic.edu.au/uploaded_files/media/privacy_information_for_parents_and_carers.docx

For more information about privacy, see

www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/Schools-Privacy-Policy-information-for-parents.aspx

This information also available in nine community languages.

COVID Safe—updated conditions

Stay away if unwell

If your child/children are unwell or experiencing compatible symptoms with coronavirus (COVID-19), such as fever, cough or sore throat, they should not attend school. The school must be notified of all absences as soon as practicable, and you will be contacted if an absence is not reported.

Hygiene in school

Hand sanitising, personal hygiene, physical distancing and personal safety measures for all staff, students and visitors continues.

NEW: Face masks in schools

Following the Government's announcements regarding new statewide restrictions that came into effect at 11:59pm on Wednesday 17th February, there is guidance for schools regarding the wearing of masks. People aged 12 and over must wear a fitted face mask when in public indoor spaces unless there is a lawful reason not to.

Students aged 12 or older must wear a face mask indoors when at school, unless they are attending a primary school, an Outside school hours care (OHSC) program or an exception applies.

Children under 12 years of age and students at primary school or attending an OHSC program are not required to wear face masks.

School staff are not required to wear face masks while teaching or caring, but those who wish to do so, can. Staff must wear face masks in indoor areas of the school when not teaching or caring.

Visitors to school sites must also wear masks when indoors.

A face mask must cover the nose and mouth. Face shields, scarves or bandanas do not meet these requirements.

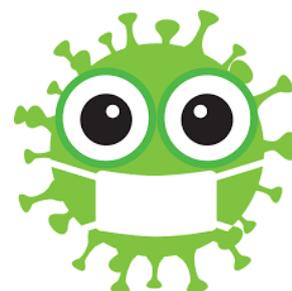
Visitors to school

Parents and visitors can come onto the school site, but must physically distance as appropriate. If physical distancing is not possible, all those 12 years and older MUST wear a mask indoors.

ALL visitors must sign in and record name, contact details, date and time of attendance at school (including contractors and parents if inside for more than 15 mins) to support contact tracing.

I appreciate everyone's commitment to these safety measures at all times.

Miss Barnes



School council elections - Information for parents

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad directions of a school in accordance with their constituting Order and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent member category - more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. DET employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school
- A mandated elected DET employee member category - members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members
- An optional Community member category - members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

For all schools with a year 7 and above cohort, there is a fourth category of membership:

- A mandated elected Student member category, 2 positions.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. However, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*. School councillors must abide by the *Code of Conduct - Employees* issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** (be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty)
- **act in good faith** in the best interests of the school (work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds)
- **act fairly and impartially** (consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self interest)
- **use information appropriately** (respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available)
- **exercise due care, diligence and skill** (accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school)
- **use the position appropriately** (not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage)
- **act in a financially responsible manner** (observe all the above principles when making financial decisions)
- **comply with relevant legislation and policies** (know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law)
- **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** (set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable).

Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

- the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or
- the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

Sun Smart in Term 1

We have reminded students that during Term 1 all schools follow the principles of being Sun Smart. Everyone, students and staff alike, are required to wear a broad rim hat during outside play or learning activities. Children who do not have a hat will be required to play in designated shady areas. If you need to purchase a new hat, please contact the office for details.



Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund applications

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible. There is also a special consideration category for asylum seeker and refugee families.

Payment amounts this year are \$125 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the school office on 5334 0253 and ask for an application form.

You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page.

Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school office as soon as possible.

Ange

Art Smocks

All new students will need to bring an Art Smock to school—these stay in the Art Room each week.

An old shirt, or an art smock purchased from any retailer is perfect.

Ms K

School Council Elections

... from previous page

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent member category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for Parent membership of the school council at that school.

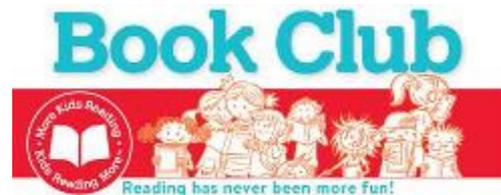
Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Consider standing for election to school council this year.
- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.
- Be sure to vote in the elections.
- Contact the principal for further information.

Scholastic Book Club



Orders for the current catalogue are due on:

Friday 19th February

Welcome to Book Club for 2021! The catalogues for issue 1 were handed out on Tuesday, and hopefully they made it home. There are instructions on how to order on the inside of the back page, you can order online yourself through LOOP (make sure you have Bungaree listed as the school) or with the paper form and cash/direct debit straight to the school. If you have any questions, just ask Anne on a Monday or a Tuesday. Orders for this issue are due back by Friday the 19th of February.

The book club catalogues were delivered before the number of students was updated, so only one catalogue went out per family. If you need more copies (or other family members would like to have a look) you can view a digital copy of the catalogue here:

<https://www.scholastic.com.au/media/5791/bc121.pdf>

Every order earns the school rewards for us to buy fun new reading resources, so please support if you are able.

Anne

In and around our school

See what's been happening this fortnight! Preparing for Remote Learning at school; learning from home (yum!); Juniors Perceptual Motor Program; origami in STEAM; vegie garden shenanigans.



Together we can grow