

Brunswick East Primary School

Friendship

Empathy

Resilience

Creativity

Wonder



'The BEPS Weekly News': 06 FEBRUARY 2018 – ISSUE 01

BEPS Calendar includes term dates.

From Janet

BEPS Community Events

Community Ads

TERM DATES – 2018

Term 1 2018:	30 January - 29 March
Term 2 2018:	16 April - 29 June
Term 3 2018:	16 July to 21 September
Term 4 2018:	8 October to 21 December

Please note: Janet's email: di.pilla.janet.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Our Vision: To create confident, passionate and curious learners who are highly literate and numerate, have high expectations and are engaged in their community.

www.beps.vic.edu.au

PLEASE NOTE: Children are supervised at school between **8.45am** and **3.45pm** each school day. They should not be on school grounds outside those times. If you require your child to be supervised outside those times they need to be at OSHC.

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From Janet

Hello!

Attendance and punctuality

As you know daily school attendance is important for all children and young people to succeed in education and to ensure they don't fall behind both socially and developmentally. Research shows us that children and young people who regularly attend school have better health outcomes, better employment outcomes, and higher incomes across their lives. Hence, it is important that your children develop habits of regular attendance at an early age.

It is also important that students are punctual. For many students it is unsettling to come into the LC late and for all students who are late, they miss that time in the morning when many of the day's instructions are given. Hence, being late makes the task of settling into the day a bit more difficult.

I know that for most of you, being late is unavoidable and rare. However, I am asking, if you find that you are one of the families that often struggle to get to school on time, maybe you could change your morning routine a little bit, or if you are really struggling then maybe you could come along and talk to me and we could try together, to come up with some different tactics.

Remember that the yard is supervised from 8:45am and at that time students may either play in the yard or go to their LC and settle in for the start of the day. The music will start playing at 8:55am and all students will be asked to go into their LC, pack away their bag and meet together ready to start the day at 9am. Between 8:45 and 9am parents are welcome to come in, help their child pack their bag away, sit and read to/with their child or just chat to the teachers. Before 8:45am students need to be accompanied by an adult as there is no supervision.

Our aim this year is that we start at 9am. Actually this has been the aim for ever but some don't quite make it.

Please remember that if your child is **absent** it is your responsibility to ring BEPS and leave a message informing the office of your child's name, and the reason that they will be absent from school. If you want to take time for an extended **holiday**, please remember that you need to ask (apply) for this leave before you go. Just an email will do. I don't think that I have ever made it difficult for any family to take holidays. However, could you please remember that I have a responsibility to ensure that your child attends school – everyday where possible. As a parent I know it is not always possible but could you please be diligent and let us know what is happening.

Change of bell times

I'm sure that you have all heard about it. The reason that the daily timetable has changed is in response to a number of things but mainly because of the new Victorian Schools agreement. In this agreement "Teachers are entitled to a paid lunch break of not less than thirty minutes free from assigned duties between the hours of 11:30am to 2:30pm". The old timetable just did not allow this to happen.

At the moment this is a bit of work in progress. We will trial this for a few weeks and see what the implications are. We will also talk to the students about it in a week or so. After that we will reconsider our options and see if the times stay the same or need to be 'tweaked' or even changed completely. If you have an opinion and you would like to let me know about it, please email and we will take your opinion into consideration as well.

Remember my email is: di.pilla.janet.j@edumail.vic.gov.au I'm sorry but it needs all the dots or it goes into that great email black hole.

Changed Curiosita

Last year we trialled a different system for Curiosita. The feedback I got anecdotally, and from surveys from students, parents and teachers, was that a majority liked the concentration of time so that students could concentrate on fewer Curiosita subjects at a time and have more time each week to do it. However, there was a concern, particularly from teachers and parents, that it was a long gap from one year to the next and skills may be lost in that time. Hence we have looked at another way to do the Curiosita subjects this year.

1. PE will stay the same and each child will get PE once a week for the year. There will also be whole school sport on Friday morning.
2. Students will get Curiosita for three sessions a week for one semester.
3. For Curiosita, the LC will be divided into two groups, half will do Art and Writing (storytelling with pictures and words) and the other half will do Music and Italian. In the following semester they will swap.
4. Hence they still get the same amount of time per year with each Curiosita subject. Sizes of the groups will be reduced (because we are dividing the LC into 4 rather than 3). Students will not have to wait a whole year to get to do the subject, just a semester and we will include writing for all students as an extra to what they get in the LC.
5. We hope that this will allow us to cater to students needs and provide enhanced educational opportunities for your children.

Thank you to all the parents who responded to the survey at the end of last year. Your contribution, especially your comments have really helped to shape this year.

Garden Educator and Jennifer



As I emailed last week, we are really lucky to have Debi as our Garden Educator this year. Debi has a wealth of experience in the garden and with artistic pursuits. Down the track she will be looking for parent support to help the preps in their garden, walk to Merri creek with older students to look at edible weeds, general help in the garden etc..... We will keep you informed of what they are up to. Please say hi to Debi if you see her around on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Jennifer is a new member to BEPS this year as she and Mark are exchanging their homes and work to teach in a different country. We are lucky enough to have Jennifer with us and Mark is in Canada – cold, I think. Jennifer is a great addition to the SNC team.



Traffic safety around BEPS

“The Nicholson Bend” is a community based project that BEPS is involved in to try and improve the traffic safety conditions along Nicholson Street from Blyth to Albion streets. We will have a lot more to say about it soon.

More immediately please look out for pedestrians and riders at drop off times. Young people are often hard to see if they move in between cars and bike riders are very vulnerable when car doors are opened in front of them.

Please encourage your children to cross roads safely and model safe driving. Remember they learn a lot from you and your behaviour.

School Council

I have had an email this morning from a parent who has asked me to explain what commitment you need to make to be on School Council. An excellent question.

Basically you need to make a commitment to turn up to the SC meeting once a month, 7-9pm. At the moment it is the fourth Tuesday of each month. We then ask that wherever possible each member of SC attend a sub-committee meeting (Grounds, Building, Education, Fundraising, OSHC, Finance) as this provides a conduit between the sub-committee and SC. These meetings are a bit less regular in some cases but are really important in providing support to the school.

I hope that this helps everyone who is considering to nominate for School Council. Any other questions please just ask. We want our SC to be a vibrant, supportive and active committee of dedicated parents and staff.

Multiage

We have been asked, particularly by our new members to the community and those going into Grade 1 for the first time at BEPS, to explain about Multiage. I have re posted a previous blog. I hope that it helps.

RRR B-B-Q

The RRR BBQ was washed out last year but it is back on Sunday 25 February 2018 - a great day for the whole of the community and an excellent fund-raising opportunity for BEPS. Hence we need some parents and some Grade 6's to be involved to assist with running the sausage and veggie-burger BBQ.

This is a great opportunity to welcome new people, get to know other parents at BEPS and continue to build our volunteer network - it's a fantastic day all round.

Chris is the main organiser so please contact him at chrisjbalfour@gmail.com Tel - 0409258780
Cooks, servers, accountants - and anyone who wants to join in the fun!!

HOT OFF THE PRESS!!

Today we found out that we have been accepted for Musical Futures Professional Learning program. Well done Sarah.

Have a great week and please remember to email or ask if you have any questions. I will try to reply in a timely manner.

Janet

