

# NEWSLETTER

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Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Dear Families,

As we come into week 5 of Term 1, I want to remind you all that it is reasonable to feel exhaustion left over from 2020 and the uncertainty that it created in our lives and routines. Children will likely be feeling tired, clingy, and not able to tell you what they have done at school that day. The teachers' weekly "preview" may be useful as a prompt for you to engage in school conversation with your children. Attached to this newsletter is a piece from our colleagues to Brunswick East Primary School's website. This write-up shows that the behaviours shown by children at this stage of the year are developmentally appropriate and expected. It is well written and helps us to know that small, country schools and larger, city schools experience the same emotions and experiences in schools.

This week:

We have participated in the combined celebrations of Pancake Day and the German Karneval. It is fabulous to be able to celebrate cultural and historical celebrations as a school this year. While we may not be able to do many of the things we are used to in this COVID affected World, the ability to share and celebrate through virtual activities, story telling, and other celebrations, has become more common place. It is wonderful to have this positive come from a challenging situation.

While the school celebrated on Tuesday, I have been at a professional learning forum. The forum was attended by the Inner Gippsland Principals to share important legislative information and requirements for all school staff.

From the Office:

Michelle and I have worked hard on an application for a large grant that, if successful, would enable major upgrades to our playground.

Exciting news:

We would like to congratulate Ms Elrick and her family on their expected addition to their family later this year. We are very excited to have a new member of our Gormandale & District Primary School family on the way!

School Wide Positive Behaviours:

As a School Wide Positive Behaviours Scheme school, we are working towards consistent routine's, expectations and outcome for student behaviour. Part of this, that is shared by a number of schools in our Network, is the School Behaviour Promise. This document was co-created with students to empower them with the knowledge of their rights and responsibilities at school, during school events, and while on the school bus. The document will be sent home this week with the expectation that it will be signed as an acknowledgement that students and their families have read and understood these rights and responsibilities, in line with our Anti-Bullying Policy, School Values, and SWPBS.

We understand that this document is not a magic solution to inevitable schoolyard differences. We do hope that a consistent approach that is expected across the school and known at home, will help to de-escalate situations, encourage forgiveness and moving forward, and a happy and safe school for everyone.

Our rescheduled welcome afternoon will be confirmed and advertised as soon as possible.

Have a great week, Tamara Halket

## Reminders

- **Prep Parents School Nurse forms to be completed and returned asap**
  - **Chaplaincy permission forms to be returned**
- **Parents Club welcome morning tea and meeting Thursday 26th at 9am**

# Behaviour Changes

We get inundated with queries about the changes in children's behaviour during the first few weeks of school so we thought we would share some info about what to expect. We hope this will help reassure you as parents and carers and support you to support your child's transition into school life and all that it brings!

During the first few weeks you may notice one or all of the following characteristics blossoming in your child's behaviour and attitude. Please be confident that all of these things are completely normal whether you are experiencing one or all of the following:

## **Your child is TIRED AND STROPPY!**

The emotional build up to school and then the actual routine of getting up, facing a new environment with new social expectations and experiences is utterly exhausting for your child (and yourselves!). We have many children falling asleep after recess! This is NORMAL and completely OK. You can support your child by ensuring they get to bed at a consistently early time, eat big breakfasts and pack super healthy lunches. Don't worry, they will adapt themselves but expect it to take at least one term.

## **They are clingy and teary in the morning- even though they weren't on the first day!**

Most kids go through a phase of getting progressively more clingy and teary as the reality sinks in that they will have to come to school day after day. The great news is that this generally lasts a couple of weeks as they become more confident socially and begin to engage with their learning.

The absolute BEST THING YOU CAN DO EVER is to please please please continue the quick kiss, a big smile and "see you soon" routine in the morning.

This goes for everyone. When we have adults hanging around at the beginning of the day it can be very overwhelming for the children, especially those who are already feeling anxious. From a child's point of view, they need a calm and quiet space to settle once they have said goodbye. It is distracting and unsettling if there is an increasing volume of adult conversation and strangers towering around them. It can be difficult for teachers to then create a sense of calm for the children.

We understand that you love seeing your kids at school but we do respectfully ask that as parents and carers you respect all of the students and give them the best chance to settle by quickly saying goodbye, keeping the noise level down, exiting the room promptly and taking conversations outside.

Continued

## Your child doesn't tell you what they did at school!

We get this one all the time! First of all, your kids are so busy learning how to be at school that they don't tend to store and record activities as conscious memories. Rather, they engage subconsciously with an activity because they are focusing intently on skills and techniques. For example, your child may be able to tell you how to roll a plasticine sausage if you ask them but may not remember that they spent an hour playing with plasticine today. This is because they have been focused on the skill, not the activity. Check out our Triciclo blog for some great insights into your child's school experiences and if in doubt, ask the teacher.

## You're not sure if they are eating or drinking enough and sometimes there are things left in the lunchbox.

Every day we have a morning fruit/snack time plus half an hour of lunch eating time after Big Play. At other times during the day, children are encouraged to take have fruit & veg snacks from their lunch boxes if they are hungry and to drink water from their bottles.

Often, kids are so ravenously hungry that they eat a few things really quickly and feel full. We try to encourage the children to eat the small things at snack and the big things at lunch. We also maintain that eating is a social time for them to make conversation whilst enjoying their meal and this practice doubles as preparation for socializing outside. We do of course, ensure that children are eating whilst getting to know each other and that food is not shared or left behind on the carpet.

If you have major concerns about your child's eating behaviours, please do let us know so we can help them!

[This article was sourced at: https://www.beps.vic.edu.au/general/behaviour-changes/](https://www.beps.vic.edu.au/general/behaviour-changes/)

<b>TERM 1 2021</b>	<b><u>DATES TO REMEMBER</u></b>	<b>TERM 1 2021</b>	<b><u>DATES TO REMEMBER</u></b>
Wed 24th	No Preps, 9am Finance Meeting (FC Committee)	Tue 9th	Hot Lunches
Thu 25th	9am Morning Tea & Meeting	Wed 10th	Staff PD—Student Free Day
Mon March 1st	MARC Van	Mon 15th	NO MARC Van
Tue 2nd	Hot Lunches & School Council Meeting AGM 6.30pm	Thurs 17th	District Athletics—4/5/6
Wed 3rd	No Preps	Mon 22nd	MARC Van
Mon 8th	Labour Day— No School	Tue 23rd	Hot Lunches

## School Leaders Report

Today was pancake day. Before school started Mrs Elrick, Mrs Judkins and Dorrie served pancakes in the under cover area. We were able to choose our toppings. There was jam, honey, whipped cream and maple syrup. Everyone enjoyed it. We got as many as we liked.

We also celebrated Karneval(Carnival). In Germany Karneval is a big celebration that goes for 6 days! There are huge parades. The most famous one is seven km's long. We had jam donuts because in Germany this is traditional.

We all made masks to wear. There were foxes, dragons, clowns and cartoon characters. It was interesting to see and compare different celebrations.

By Oscar & Hollyanne.



# AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Community House held a street stall and sausage sizzle on Saturday morning, it was a great success thanks everyone who supported this fundraiser.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Grade 4/5/6 students have the District Athletics Carnival coming up on Tuesday 17th March in Traralgon. This is where they compete against the other schools in our cluster in events such as: long jump, triple jump, shot put, discus and running. After missing last year's event due to the lockdowns it will be a lot of fun to get back out there! This year will be significantly different to previous years, as **only the 4/5/6 students will be competing** (in the past it has been a whole school event). This is due to the growing number of enrolments at each of the schools in our cluster, however each grade will be learning and practising the different events during P.E this term. Another big change is that **parents will be unable to attend** due to COVID-19 restrictions. I will be sure to take a lot of photos so you don't completely miss out!

More information will be sent out in the coming weeks.

-Ms Elrick



Thank you Thank you Thank you

Kerry and Elle for collating and preparing hot lunches today.

Thank you to all staff and Dorrie for making Pancake Day a big success.

Community House for donating Icy Poles last Thursday, they were much appreciated

Thank you Thank you Thank you

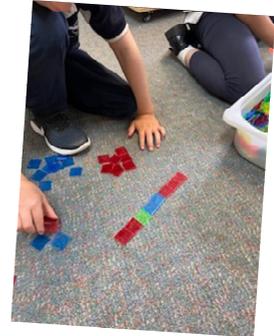
## BREAKFAST CLUB

We are offering the children breakfast in the undercover area most mornings 8.40am

# AROUND THE CLASSROOMS

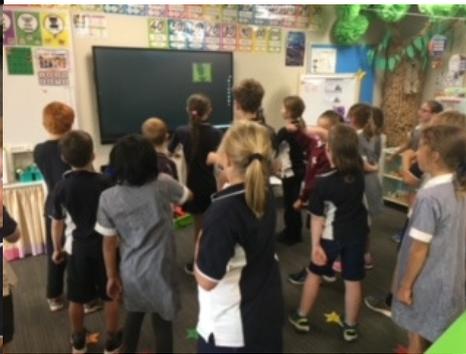
## Junior Room

Patterns, patterns, patterns! In Prep/1 we have been learning how to make all the different kinds of patterns with colour. The students have been thoroughly enjoying working together to investigate how to use the different tools in our classroom to create a pattern.



## MIDDLE ROOM

Last week we began practicing our KungFu Punctuation in writing and learning about nouns. In Maths we are looking at chance and continuing our focus on place value.



## SENIOR ROOM

What an exciting day we have had celebrating pancake day and the German Karnival. The students have spend some time this morning finishing their masks that they will wear to the Karnival celebration as part of the German tradition.



# ART ROOM

I'm glad to be back in the art room after missing a session during lockdown last week. This week the Prep/One class will be finishing their self-portraits, which will then be ready for display in our hallway. The 2/3/4 class will be using their 'scratch art' paper they made to etch their own interpretation of a self-portrait, and the grade 5/6s will be fine tuning their sketching and shading skills. Photos to come next week :)

-Ms Elrick

## Parents Club

Just a reminder that our welcome morning tea and meeting is this Thursday morning.

From next Tuesday the Kinder children will be able to put an order in Hot Lunch Orders :)

Thank you, Elle Sykes, Parents Club President



**Eagles of the  
week  
Bailey,  
Billie-Rose &  
Hunter**



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