

**NUMBER 25****19th AUGUST 2021**

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

VISION To provide a positive school environment that allows every individual the opportunity to flourish.

REMINDERS FOR WEEK SEVEN: TERM THREE 2021

Friday August 20 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whole School Excursion
Monday August 23 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resilience Project 2:30pm
Tuesday August 24 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
Wednesday August 25 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
Thursday August 26 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
Friday August 27 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupil Free Day• Flourishing Friday

VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY - Today

With the current Covid regulations we are able to meet as a whole group inside. Today the student leaders took the brave step to hold a virtual assembly knowing that many mistakes were likely to occur. Ask your child on how they thought it went.

ARLEE'S BIG CHOP

After raising money for Cancer Council Victoria it is now time for Arlee's Big Chop.

When – Friday September 3rd at 3pm

Where – In her Grade 3/4 classroom

Who – At this stage we won't be able to have parents attend but we are looking at live streaming the event.

THE RESILIENCE PROJECT – Student Mental Health

Reading media reports and talking to my fellow Principals there appears to be much concern about the effect of the recent lockdowns. Many students appear to have had a lot of difficulty in getting back to school routine. This hasn't been our experience here at Bolwarra. After speaking to staff, we are confident that all of our students have been able to settle back into school life on return from Remote Learning.

Are we making a mistake with this opinion? If you think your child is struggling please come and talk to us.

FLOURISHING FRIDAY TERM 3 EXCURSION – Tomorrow (Second Time Lucky)

For our excursion tomorrow we will break into 2 groups and do the following;

- Tour of the Port of Portland
- Walk around the Lagoon/Gardens
- Round Trip on the Portland Cable Tram

Students will need;

- Lunch
- Water Bottle
- Warm clothing
- Snacks

The Port of Portland provide their tour for free. The cost of the Cable Tram will be covered by the school as part of our commitment to Positive Education.

CURRICULUM DAY POSTPONED – Students required at school Friday August 27th

The pupil free day planned for Friday August 27th has been postponed. The staff were going to visit some neighboring schools on that day, but due to current Covid restrictions this is not possible. As a result we have decided to postpone the Curriculum day until later in the year when hopefully restrictions will ease.

PARENT SURVEY

The survey remains open until Friday September 3rd.

Thank you to those 19 parents who have already completed the survey.

PREP 2022

Enrolments - We are now taking 2022 enrolments. Unfortunately, due to the current regulations, we are unable to conduct school tours for 2022 enrolments, however, if you require an enrolment pack for a sibling please call the office to make pick up arrangements

All schools in the Portland and District area encourage students to go to their local school. Your local school can be found by visiting <https://www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au>

EXTRA-CURRICULA TERM 3 DATES

August	Friday	20 th	-	Whole School Excursion
	Friday	27 th	-	Pupil Free Day Flourishing Friday
September	Thursday	2 nd	-	District Basketball – Boys
	Thursday	9 th	-	District Basketball – Girls
	Friday	10 th	-	'Flourishing Friday'
	Thursday	16 th	-	Assembly 3pm
	Friday	17 th	-	Last Day of Term 3

LEE GIBBONS.....PRINCIPAL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Hunter Jennings who turns 7 on Saturday, and Scarlett Clark who turns 11 on Sunday. Apologies to Sophie Sharrock who celebrated her birthday on Tuesday but was omitted from the birthday wishes in last week's newsletter.

2021 PUPIL FREE DAYS

Friday August 27th
Friday December 3rd

RAFFLE – Winter Warmer Pamper Package

Tickets to be returned by **tomorrow, Friday, 20th August**. The package will include a Crochet Blanket, Coffee, Milo, Chocolates and a School Beanie!

“SILLY SOCKS” DRIVE

Last chance to put your orders in!

Attached to today's newsletter is an order form for anyone who may have mislaid their original form. Orders together with money need to be returned to school by **tomorrow, Friday, 20th August**. All profits will go towards this years' "wish list" being science equipment.


FATHER'S DAY STALL – Friday, 3rd September

Students will have the opportunity to purchase something for their dad for Father's Day at the stall which will be set up in the music room. A range of gifts, up to the value of \$6, are available to choose from. Students will go in their class group from 9.30 am onwards.

BOOKCLUB ISSUE 6 which was distributed today is due back at school by Friday, 3rd September. Orders will be back before the end of term.

SPIKEZONE Volleyball

Any students interested in playing Spikezone Volleyball can register their interest at **PORTLAND INDOOR SPORTS HUB** (formerly Portland Indoor Cricket Centre), **3 Cellana Crt. on Monday August 23 at 4pm**. Spikezone is a modified version of Volleyball designed especially for school students aged between 5 and 13 years.



MUFFIN MONDAYS

Student Leaders will be serving muffins on Mondays at \$1 each. If you would like a muffin at recess, come with a dollar on Monday. Half the money raised will go towards the Grade 5/6 camp and the other half will go to Beyond Blue. Muffins will be made by Andreena.

Chaplains' Corner – Who are you here for?

There's no doubt about it. We are living in unusual days. There are no obvious winners in this difficult, ongoing Covid battle. Pretty much everyone has their own view on how life should be managed, but there's no clear right or wrong way to go about it. Unlike our city friends, we at least have freedoms which they must long for. It's the hidden price tag behind these limitations which should bother us.

To put it simply, these are anxious days. Stress is a regular visitor. Even if we are not thrown by it all, we have friends who are. And we worry about their wellbeing, their loss of hope, their battle to survive especially if their income has dried up or has been seriously curtailed. There are no quick fix strategies, not even band aid solutions. It's the loss of hope, of the ability to cope, to press on which worries all of us....

- **We don't have the answer to every problem** – Who does? But we can get alongside those who are struggling. We probably won't have the right words or ideas to lessen the pain of those who are doing it tough but we can be there for them.
- **There are some things we can do** – Like the “how are you going?” enquiry. It's about our activating empathy, the capacity to feel for others even though we can't stand in their shoes or wear the pressures that are complicating their lives. Caring support carries its own gentle power.
- **Behind every good moment there lurks the reality of difficulty** – We all know this one. No matter how well life may be treating us, not too far away is a memory we'd rather forget, or a loss we've never recovered from, or a relationship that's turned sour, or bad decisions that still haunt us.
- **To be aware of our inner battles equips us to reach out to others** – As we accept our own setbacks, disappointments and mistakes, we are able to put our hand out to steady others. We don't weigh in with easy solutions. There aren't any. We check in because we too carry our own private pain.
- **Never underestimate the power of a listening ear** – Our regular problem is that we talk too much. But to be there for others, allowing them to unload in their own way gives us a bearing on how they are travelling. And if asked, we may be able to offer a suggestion or two rather than solutions.
- **To be in touch with our own inner turf delivers a genuine humility** – A humility which frees us from coming across as having it altogether. Instead, we become not just caring listeners but fellow explorers who understand the lie of the land of anxiety, upset and lost hopes.
- **The lessons life has taught us may help others** – If we have developed the ability to curb the arrows of anxiety, chances are that these lessons might help our family and friends. And if, along the way, we have shared some of our setbacks, there may be some interest in finding out how we have survived.
- **Being alone is a dreadful fear** – Although there may be many friends and acquaintances, these don't prevent loneliness taking up residence in stressed hearts and minds. So, we need to invest our time to be present, to listen, to encourage, to curtail this loneliness.
- **The secret is to stay tuned to the radar of our own inner selves** – If the name of a friend lingers on in our mind, it's time to follow that up. Don't ignore it. Send a text, make a mobile call, send an email. Let them know you are thinking of them. Such contacts carry a high impact, even a lifesaving one.

Let's not assume that we are all on top of the world. None of us are if we are being honest. In these hard times we need to be on the lookout for each other, backing each other up, holding the fort for each other.

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