

NUMBER 30

16th September 2021

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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

REMINDERS FOR WEEK ONE: TERM FOUR 2021

Monday October 4 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start of Term 4 Resilience Project 2:30pm
Tuesday October 5 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Wednesday October 6 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 3/4 Port Fairy Camp – Covid Dependent
Thursday October 7 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 3/4 Port Fairy Camp– Covid Dependent
Friday October 8 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 3/4 Port Fairy Camp– Covid Dependent Greater Region Athletics – Arlee, Paddy & Charlie (Covid Dependent)

SCHOOL FINISHES AT 2:30PM TOMORROW

TERM 4

I am hoping that all students will be back at school on Monday October 4th for the start of Term 4. We will know more on Sunday as our Premier outlines the roadmap for schools. If we are unable to have everyone back, at least we know that we can make the most out of Remote Learning.

I hope your children have a great break. Holidays are very special for our young people. It's the time where we can create such positive family memories that stay forever.

Take care everyone!

ARLEE'S BIG CHOP

Arlee has raised \$2506, surpassing her goal of \$2000. We are very proud of Arlee, who sacrificed her beautiful hair for a great cause (Cancer Council).



NAPLAN – Remote Learning

Victoria's results in NAPLAN gave our educational leaders the comfort that remote learning during 2020 hadn't affected negatively student academic results. Victoria outscored all other States.

The great news for our Grade 5 students was that they outscored their Victorian counterparts in growth from their 2019 results to 2021.

Subject	State Growth from 2019 to 2021	Bolwarra Students Growth from 2019 to 2021	Differential
Reading	76	90	+14
Writing	54	64	+10
Spelling	78	85	+7
Grammar & Punctuation	59	76	+17
Numeracy	85	92	+7

SWIMMING LESSONS – Starts Week 1 Term 4

Swimming lessons are due to start first day of Term 4 on Monday October 4th for Prep/1/2M. All other grades will start on Wednesday, October 6th. Please find more information on the attached letter.

- Apologies for the late notice. With everything else going on I had completely forgotten that were booked in for Swimming. At this stage we are ok to start our lessons.

GRADE 3/4 PORT FAIRY CAMP

The current Covid restrictions do not allow for a camp. But, as we are now used to, this could change before Wednesday October 6th.

We are still preparing to go on camp and will only cancel once it is clear that it isn't allowed to go ahead.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

If camp goes ahead the Grade 3/4 students won't have the swimming lesson that week.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Jordan Araldi who turns six tomorrow. Sherryn Place will celebrate a birthday during the holidays on Friday October 1st.

PREP 2022

Enrolments - We are now taking school tours for 2022 enrolments. If you require an enrolment pack for a sibling, pop into the school office. Due to the current regulations, we are unable to conduct school tours for 2022 enrolments.

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>

LEE GIBBONS.....PRINCIPAL

FLOURISHING AT BOLWARRA

Vision & Values for Bolwarra P.S.

VISION

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

VALUES

- Positive & Respectful Relationships
- Positive Emotions
- Positive Health
- Positive Engagement
- Positive Accomplishment
- Positive Purpose

Chaplains' Corner – Is this your story?

It's a comment I've heard now from many around town. There are different ways of saying it but the meaning is pretty much the same, something like, "I'm over it." It's about the weariness, the fatigue, the frustration of living in a lockdown world. It's a cry from parents feeling at their wits end. Of trying to keep the peace at home. Of being genuinely grateful for all the effort invested by teachers in keeping the remote learning flag flying.

But I think there's a bit more to it than meets the eye. It's not just the tiredness of mum and dad managing cooped up kids, of vanished sporting activities, of trying to keep the peace. It's the worn-out spirit underlying all this, the loss of hope, the understandable longing for the old normal. Of kids being able to do what kids usually do. Of having down time when that's almost impossible with a crowded house. So, what to do about all this? Where to now? Consider....

- **The really hard part is accepting what is** – We can't dodge the realities of restrictions no matter how we think about them. All we can hope for is that they are genuinely limiting the spread of the Delta virus. If these restrictions are offering even a degree of protection, we have to live with them.
- **Families have to shape up a new normal** – And this isn't an easy assignment. Yet trying to find new ways of shaping our days is a heap better than being constantly uptight. The chances of the old normal returning are pretty slim by the look of it. There really is no turning back.
- **So our thinking has to shift gears** – And this is where acceptance and looking for the new normal kick in. Rather than reacting and being stressed, let's begin to figure out new ways of getting things done. It's about taking charge of our lives rather than living helplessly under the lockdown cloud.
- **Sure, every family is different so there's no standard recipe** – It's about what makes sense for you, your partner, your kids. It's time to look around for new outlets, new projects, new activities. How about consulting your kids about some new activity they may like the family to try?
- **We want our kids to see us looking forward** – The danger is that if these restrictive times are delivering dark, down days for us as parents, it's only a matter of time before our kids begin to feel depressed and anxious too. A family that feels trapped is a family that's become very fragile.
- **Go for a round table family conference** – Be up front with your kids. If you are feeling frayed and not finding life easy, find the words to tell your kids this. That you'd like the family to come up with suggestions as to how you all can do some new things, or old things in fresh ways.
- **Is there an issue in sharing your issues with your kids?** – You are not making your problem theirs if you go about it the right way. It's not counselling you're looking for. Rather, when you invite the herd to help you all make the most of each day, you are switching on their creative juices.
- **Be more prepared to say Yes than No** – This isn't the time to ride the cow, or make a plane to fly over next door's fence, or launch a moon rocket. Granted, all have merit but you'll need healthy life insurance. The big deal is to come up with the longest list possible. Even the little people can help.

So, now's the time for you and the crew to take charge of these difficult days. Working together on new projects and activities is wonderful family therapy. We're saying that the lockdown doesn't have the last word around here. That we are coming out the other side. That we will see this one through together.

John – stay in touch revsimmo@gmail.com 0428 780 421, Andreena 0428 233 082