

NUMBER 15

25<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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

### REMINDERS FOR WEEK SIX: TERM TWO 2022

Friday May 26 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent Community 3pm</li> </ul>
Monday May 29 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilience Project 2:30pm</li> </ul>
Tuesday May 30 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 students leave for Somers</li> </ul>
Wednesday May 31 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
Thursday June 1 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assembly 3pm</li> </ul>
Friday June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bolwarra Staff involved in Day 2 Youth Mental Health First Aid</li> <li>• <b>STUDENTS ATTEND SCHOOL</b></li> </ul>

### PREP 2024

**Enrolments** - We are now taking school tours for 2024 enrolments. If you require an enrolment pack for a sibling, pop into the school office. If any family or friends would like a tour of our wonderful school, please have them contact the office.

**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>**

### RETIREMENT – ES STAFF

For any school to run smoothly requires the support of all staff members. Education Support staff (formerly known as Integration Aides) play a vital role in any school. At Bolwarra I have had the pleasure of working with numerous people who have enriched my career as a Principal. Over my 17 years I have worked alongside outstanding people such as Bob McIntyre, Wendy McCarthy, Brooke Smith, Rani Kane, Tyler Boots, Jake Davies and Katie Aldridge just to name a few.

Currently it is a delight to work with Sherryn, Julie and Annie. The joy and kindness they bring to my workplace every day is deeply appreciated. Their commitment to every student and to their fellow staff members is an inspiration to me.

### WINTER SERIES

It was a great day of Winter Series on Tuesday. Our football and soccer teams both had wins, draws and losses throughout a very competitive day.

Our mixed netball team comprising students from Bolwarra, Narrawong and Dartmoor went through the day undefeated. They will now go on to compete in Warrnambool on Friday June 9<sup>th</sup>.

### SOMERS

On Tuesday morning we farewell Jackson, Mykibie, Zach, Jack, Ava, Ellie, Dakota and Arlee as they go off on their great adventure to Somers camp. They will return on Wednesday June 7<sup>th</sup>.



### UPSTANDER, BYSTANDER AND NOSTANDER

In the past week we have been doing work with our students on the concept of a nostander (this is a word/concept that we have made up). The Grade 5/6T class presented role-plays to all the students where this concept was explained.

Often, we encounter (you may find this at home as well) that students will tell you that something has happened as if they have seen it with their own eyes. Often, they are only repeating what someone else has told them. In these situations it is common that students then may get blamed for something that didn't occur.

Our approach to these situations will now follow the script below;

- Were you there and did you see what happened?

If No.

- Who was there?

If yes

- Tell me what happened?

## EXTRA-CURRICULA TERM 2 DATES 2023

<b>May</b>	Friday	26 <sup>th</sup>	-	Parent Community 3pm
	Tuesday	30 <sup>th</sup>	-	
<b>June</b>	Friday	9 <sup>th</sup>	-	Report Writing Day (Pupil Free Day)
	Monday	12 <sup>th</sup>	-	King's Birthday Holiday
	Friday	16 <sup>th</sup>	-	Parent Community 3pm
	Friday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	-	<b>Last Day of Term 2</b>

**LEE GIBBONS.....PRINCIPAL**

**FRIDAY LUNCHES** – Tomorrow we have Roast Meat and Gravy Rolls; Laura and 1 helper is needed so if you can help from 12 to 2 pm it would be most appreciated.

**BOOKCLUB ISSUE 4** is due back at school by Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

### WELCOME MADDIE, JESS & TAY



At the start of the term, we welcomed Maddie, Jess and Tay to our school. Maddie is in Grade 5, Jess in Grade 3 and Tay in Grade 2. We also welcome their mother, Patricia.

All 3 kids have settled into our school wonderfully well. They have quickly made friends and have shown that they have empathy for others.

## Fun Food Fact

Avocados were once called alligator pears! The creamy insides of an avocado can be used to replace butter or margarine and is particularly tasty when spread on a lightly toasted slice of crusty grain bread.

Sprinkle with fresh parsley for an alligator friendly snack.



Brought to you by Jane Killmister, your local Healthy Kids Advisor for Glenelg Shire.

The Healthy Kids Advisors initiative supports schools, local sports clubs, and after school-hours care to provide delicious, fresh food and drink to children and young people.



## Shadow Wall



# Portland Library

Sat 27 May  
10.30am - 11.30am



**FREE family event**  
Bookings preferred,  
phone 5522 2265

## Chaplains' Corner - The art of breaking in

I hope I'm not the only person around who has this difficulty. But I do have a question. Why do manufacturers seal up their products in such a way that there is next to no chance of undoing that lid, getting that cellophane wrapper off or even opening that box? Every TAFE should run a course now and then called, Breaking into What You've Bought 101. I'd sign up for sure. And I think there'd be a queue.

We bought some shampoo and conditioner recently. So, what could be so tricky about using the contents? Ah, excellent question. My Judith was beaten by the plunger on the top of each bottle. You know, the one you push to get a squirt or two. So, the problem was delegated. I figured, foolishly, that my much better half was just a tad behind the eight ball. So, the bottles were presented to me for a break and enter job. It was a proper fiddle. Tried every conceivable manoeuvre until, I'm pretty sure by accident, the plungers were sorted and hair washing could get going. Now, there's a lesson or two here...

- **It's not just lids, cellophane and boxes which are hard to open** - Try thinking about that child of yours who's clammed up. Not talking. Not sharing. You know there's something going on and, as mum and dad, you're concerned but you can't open a conversation. No talking is the deal.
- **The child who's always on for a yarn isn't any more** - Yes, you know something's up and you want to be helpful but the doorway to sharing is closed. Now, let's get this clear. This closed book problem happens in all families sooner or later. Take heart, most parents have been there and done that.
- **And, it's not just our kids either** - Families run into real stress when mum and dad clam up. Conversation stops. Sharing is history. Even swapping notes about the kids becomes limited. Under the surface there lies a hurt of some kind, a frustration, a disappointment. A blockage sits there.
- **So, how do mums and dads open up when life has gone quiet?** May be the number one priority is to stop talking and start listening. Real listening. Quit having an answer for everything. Ask questions. Pay gentle attention to that hurt, or oversight, or unkind words spoken in haste.
- **When partners become defensive the logjam stays** - Here's the tough part. If you want to break into new ways of teamwork and parenting, criticism and fault finding are prohibited. This will be pretty hard if you have a catalogue of issues but it's the best way to find ways forward.
- **Good listening, questioning and patient responding are super powerful** - These lead pretty quickly to fresh ways of making life work for you both. The old stalemate is broken open. Strategies are discussed, putdown ceases, mutual wellbeing and shared care of the family become the new day.
- **And the payoff for the family is huge** - Teamwork from the top sets the stage of getting close to that quiet child. Mum and dad can work together to find out what's happening. A single parent might call on a close friend to help unlock a child who's not talking anymore.
- **The whole point of undoing lids, tearing the cellophane and opening the box is obvious** - We want to get to the contents. That's why we bought that item in the first place. It's no value if it stays unopened. The whole point of family life is to have a joyful crew who share their joys and difficulties.

So, here's the big deal. Let's not get stressed over that annoying lid or whatever. Rather, pay close attention to creating a family atmosphere where sharing, problem solving, listening and encouraging are just what we do around our place. Get it right and there'll be less fretting over who's not talking!

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