



NUMBER 19

22nd JUNE 2023

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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

FAREWELL MR GIBBONS

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY – TOMORROW FRIDAY, 23rd JUNE -12PM

All parents, students and school community, past and present, are invited to join in our assembly tomorrow, starting at 12pm to be held in the prep/1/2/3/4 area.

Our students & staff will be making special presentations to farewell Mr Gibbons.

Following assembly parents are welcome to join their children, at the front of the school, for lunch and may take them home after lunch.

School finishes at 2.30pm and buses will be running 1 hour earlier than normal.



REMINDERS FOR WEEK NINE: TERM TWO 2023

Friday June 23 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last Day of Term 2• Assembly 12pm
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REMINDERS FOR WEEK ONE: TERM THREE 2023

Monday July 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Day One of Term 3
Tuesday July 11 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
Wednesday July 12 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
Thursday July 13 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assembly 3pm
Friday July 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NAIDOC Week celebrations

RETIREMENT – Gratitude

When taking on this important role of Principal my children (Molly, Jack and Maggie) were the ages of 11, 9 and 7. This is an incredible busy time in any family's life. Despite Bernadette working full time herself, she supported my career change 100% and gave me the space to devote whatever time I needed to my new job. Now as I retire at the age of 58, again Bernadette is fully supportive of my decision. For this I will be enterally grateful.

NICOLE ON LEAVE

Nicole is currently taking some well-deserved long service leave. She is currently in London visiting her son, who is spending the English summer playing cricket. Nicole will be back on Wednesday July 19th

TERM 3 ACTING PRINCIPAL – DAMIEN KING

Yesterday Damien came and visited our classrooms and met with the students. Damien is married to Brooke and has 2 children, Eden (14) and Darcy (12).

I am very excited about being replaced by Damien because I believe he will fit into our school community very well.





AUSTRALIAN STORY – HUGH VAN CUYLENBERG

The founder of 'The Resilience Project', Hugh Van Cuylenberg, was featured on this week's Australian Story on the ABC. If you didn't catch it on Monday night I highly recommend that you go to iView to watch

LAST DAY OF TERM – tomorrow

12pm –Assembly

12:30pm – Lunch.- Adults and students eat with everyone at the front of the school.

- Parents are able to take children home after lunch.
- All buses will be running 1 hour earlier than normal.

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>

NAIDOC WEEK CELEBRATIONS – Friday July 14th

Portland and District school students and teachers will participate in a celebration of NAIDOC Week on the 14th of July at the Portland Foreshore from 9:45am. More details will be available at the start of Term 3.

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Our 2022 School Annual Report is available. It can be found on our school website <http://www.bolwarraps.vic.edu.au/> or we are happy to provide you with a paper copy on request.

CASUAL CLOTHES DAY





EXTRA-CURRICULA TERM 3 DATES

July	Monday	10 th	-	First Day of Term 1
	Thursday	13 th	-	Assembly 3pm
	Friday	14 th	-	NAIDOC Week celebrations Parent Community 3pm
	Tuesday	18 th	-	Resilience Project - Connected Parenting On-Line presentation 6:30pm
	Friday	21 st	-	Flourishing Friday 2:30pm Parent Community 3pm
	Wednesday	26 th	-	School Council 7pm
	Thursday	27 th	-	Assembly 3pm
	Friday	28 th	-	Pupil Free Day
August	Friday	4 th	-	Flourishing Friday 2:30pm Parent Community 3pm
	Thursday	10 th	-	Assembly 3pm
	Friday	11 th	-	Parent Community 3pm
	Friday	18 th	-	Flourishing Friday 2:30pm Parent Community 3pm
	Tuesday or Wednesday (T.B.C.)		-	Music Festival
Thursday	24 th	-	Assembly 3pm School Council 5pm	
	Friday	25 th	-	Book Day Parent Community 3pm
September	Friday	1 st	-	Flourishing Friday 2:30pm Parent Community 3pm
	Tuesday	5 th	-	Netball Clinic (Grade 3/4/5/6)
	Thursday	7 th	-	Assembly 3pm
	Friday	8 th	-	Parent Community 3pm
	Friday	15 th	-	Last Day of Term 3

LEE GIBBONS.....PRINCIPAL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following staff and student who will celebrate their birthday during the holiday period:
Mr Craig Cummins (30th June); Freddie (1st July) and Mykibie Trigger who turns 12 on (18th July).

Dear Mr Gibbons,

Congratulations on your very, very long service leave/retirement. You are an amazing leader and you show people how they should behave.

Thanks for being the goated PE teacher. You always made it fun but you challenged us when you timed our runs. The wall of fame made us try extra hard and we can use this in our everyday life. We loved how you let us choose the warm up games. You have lots of fun games that we enjoy. We use to love the lion/tiger trick you did when we were in Prep. It was funny and scary! PE has really helped us to become physically active.

Thanks for being a wonderful, sensational, imaginative, vital Library teacher. We enjoyed the books you chose and the way you used all those different funny voices.

Thanks for giving us a choice on the book that you read. You also let us choose our own books and have a bit of a chat too.

You were a majestic principal. You welcomed everyone in the community to our school. You took great pride in the yard by picking up all the rubbish. We would have loved to be able to watch M15+ movies but oh well! You were the god-mode principal because you listened to us before helping solve our problems.

So make sure you remember us while you're on the golf course, umpiring us in footy or on the beaches of Hawaii!

Enjoy retirement!

Your favourite grade,

Grade 5/6T

Chaplains' Corner - The chapters in our life's story

We all share in writing the story of our life, from cradle to grave. And our story has important chapters. So, what chapter are you writing now? That's an easy one! Parenthood. What chapters have you already written? Childhood is the opener for all of us. Next is the preschool or kindergarten chapter with the school chapter right after that. From that point we often write different chapters. Uni, TAFE, apprenticeship, employment. These days many of our young adults write the travel chapter.

One chapter written decades ago was my teaching chapter. Each with a memorable Principal: Laurie at Neerim South High, David at Maryvale High in Morwell, Mr Cramer at Carey (no first name there!) and Dan at Ukarumpa High, in Papua New Guinea's Eastern Highlands. Every one of those Principals became good friends, mentors, encouragers. I learnt something more of the teaching craft from each of them. Imagine my pleasure at writing another school chapter in my story. Right here at Bolwarra Primary.

- **The Bolwarra chapter arrived as a surprise really** - I hadn't ever planned on becoming a school chaplain! Shorthand for friend, sounding board and just being around the place. And I enjoy very much listening to our students and their mums and dads. An unexpected, delightful chapter.
- **And now I add our Principal to my earlier list of Principals** - Mr Gibbons, Lee from hereon in, has become a great friend. It has been a real privilege to serve alongside him and his wonderful staff. All special friends. Whatever I have brought to our much-loved Bolwarra, I have received more in return.
- **Every Principal flavoured their leadership in some special way** - Laurie insisted on accepting individual differences; David creatively brought different subjects together; Mr Cramer was committed to excellence; Dan revelled in his multi-cultural setting. And they all did their thing well.
- **So, what flavour has Lee brought to our Bolwarra Primary?** - Many flavours actually but there's a stand out for me - a real sense of community, and this doesn't just happen. We all know the hallmarks of a real community starting with genuine belonging, care and mutual respect.
- **And our Bolwarra is a real community** - Everyone is special. From the little person arriving for their first day or the Grade Sixer getting ready for their secondary education. And our students know the formula: Do no harm, and Treat others as they would like to be treated. Timeless wisdom.
- **Does this mean Bolwarra is a perfect community?** - We're all too human for that! But when a student puts a selfish agenda ahead of the wellbeing of others, that is attended to promptly. Most students are naturals when it comes to caring for each other. But not all get it right away.
- **There is another way of thinking about the legacy Lee is leaving for us** - Just check out his favourite lines! He wants us all to flourish. To be resilient. He's introduced us to gratitude, empathy and mindfulness through the Resilience Project. These are key community builders. Great gifts to us all.
- **Education is about getting literacy and numeracy sorted** - Lee and staff strive for this every day. But education without the capacity to be there for others and their welfare produces monsters. Learning is more than facts and figures. It's about learning how to care, how to be attentive to others' needs.

So, Lee, Mr Gibbons! Thank you for serving the Bolwarra Primary School with diligence, thoughtfulness, energy and insight. Thanks for going that extra mile. Thanks for nurturing a marvellous sense of community which blesses us all. We wish you well as you write your new chapter, retirement!

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

