

# IBIS FLYER

## Balnarring Primary School

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October 25th, 2018



Reaching great heights at Yr 3 Camp

### Principal's Report



#### Improvements

During December work will begin on a long overdue upgrade of the basketball courts. The new courts will have a Polysport acrylic surface and will take 6 - 10 weeks to complete. Improving the courts has been on a priority list for many years so we are thrilled that we are now in a position to improve this area. New goal posts are also on the priority list. These improvements are made possible by fundraising and through voluntary contributions. See design below.

#### Landcare

At the end of term 3 we had volunteers from the Merricks Coolart Catchment Landcare Group work alongside some of our children to plant nearly 500 plants in the wetlands. Below, is part of an email sent to me by one of the volunteers.

*"What a great day we had yesterday. The school should be very proud of the way the children conducted themselves. Their enthusiasm and inquisitive nature is a credit to the school and the teachers."*

*"We look forward to arranging future working bees next year."*

#### Parent Opinion Survey results

The school has received the results of the Parent Opinion Surveys completed last term. The results were once again overwhelmingly positive. Staff and the School Council will analyse the results and incorporate areas for improvement when planning for next year.

Thank you to all those parents who completed the survey.

#### Evacuation

Recently the school practised an off-site evacuation in readiness for the summer. The off-site meeting point is the grassed area next to Balnarring Hall.

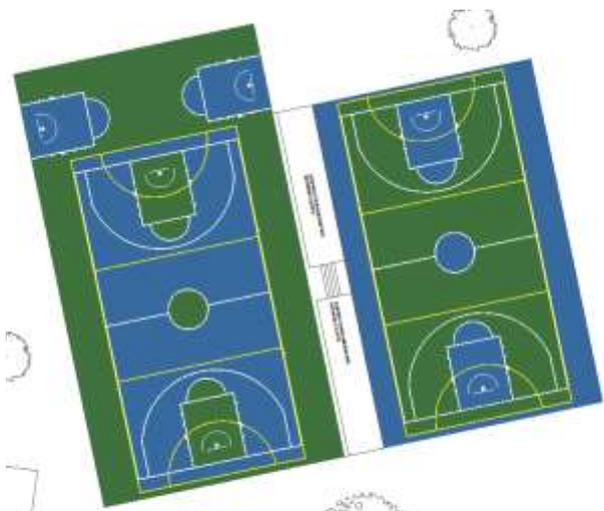
#### Planning 2019

As in previous years, parents are invited to write to me regarding class placement for children in the coming year. Any requests will be considered along with all the other factors teachers take into account when placing children in classes for 2019. Having said this, teachers work very hard to create a balance of gender, personalities and strengths within each class. Later in the term, students will be asked to select friends who they would like to be in a class with next year and our teachers do their best to ensure at least one of their friends are placed with them. If you have made requests in past years and you wish to address the situation again please write to me. Requests need to be given to the office, not the class teacher, by Friday November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Parent Reps

I had an interesting meeting with parent reps last Tuesday. We spoke on a broad range of topics. One of the questions raised was about the possibility of having fireworks at the Community Christmas Carols. Unfortunately, because of safety concerns we had to stop combining these two events. We also discussed the items on the school's wish list so it was most opportune that I was able to talk about the basketball courts and the goal posts. Jade, who is a counsellor used by the school, dropped by our meeting and explained her role which is to provide support to children and families in need. We also briefly discussed the Parent Opinion Survey and the possibility of hosting more parent information forums on topics of interest in the future. Thank you to our Parent Reps.

Rhonda Stephens



### School Captain Interview with Jack on the Year 3 Camp

- Favourite Part: Giant Swing/Leap of Faith  
"Because there was an unexpected drop"
- Scariest Part: Leap of Faith - "It's high with a drop"
- Hardest Part: Commando Course - "Spinning poles that you fell into pond water"
- Surprising: Hut Building - "Because you got drenched"
- Rating: 5/5

## Assistant Principal's Report



I am soooooooooooooo lucky to hold the Assistant Principal role at Balnarring Primary School - *no two days are ever the same!*

This week I have had the privilege of receiving 'visitors' in my office, excited to share their accomplishments.

Whether spelling the 'green words' correctly, writing a sizzling start to a weekend recount, blitzing the eight times tables or correctly giving change from 5 dollars, these students have arrived at my door with one thing in common – a pride in their achievement and a keenness to verbalise their success. I love listening to their teachers too who speak so proudly of these students when enquiring "how did the 'visit' go?"

I have also held conversations this week with students who made inappropriate choices. Although disappointing, it is pleasing to listen to their words as most articulate their mistake and resolve to do better next time.

During the week I have also held heart-warming professional conversations with staff members as they complete the Department's new *Disability Standards for Education eLearning modules*. Our teachers continually adapt or differentiate when planning their programs to ensure that learning is fair and accessible to everyone in their class.

Last week I also spent a day at Briars camp with our Year 3 students. What a privilege!

I watched these young people take responsibility for their personal belongings as they organised their huts, I observed them participate in activities such as the *leap of faith*, *giant swing* and an *obstacle course* that were, for many, well out of their 'comfort zone' and I witnessed them willingly (*and even enthusiastically*) assist with the 'kitchen chores' when on duty. Parents and teachers should be proud of these children.

Last week I also witnessed the expression of absolute delight on the faces of our Foundation students when the door of the new 'boatshed' in their *boat play area* was unlocked. What excitement!

Huge thanks to Chis Hackett and Jeff Fortuyn for their voluntary construction of this wonderful new asset. The boatshed will store the Foundation / Year 1 outdoor play equipment.

When taking prospective families on tours of our school – another lovely part of my role – I know I can walk into any of our classrooms or specialist sessions and be warmly welcomed by an enthusiastic teacher and happy, engaged students.

What a job!

Enjoy the next fortnight with me,

Sandy O'Meara

**ATTENDANCE:** All attendance must be entered onto Compass. Please ensure that if your child is absent or going to be late that you record this on Compass prior to 8.30 am daily.

Bendigo Bank School banking:  
Bring your bank books on TUESDAY

Uniform Shop dates-Term 4  
7th & 21st November  
5th & 11th December

### WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE COMING UP



PLEASE BE AWARE THAT DATES SOMETIMES CHANGE AND UNFORESEEN EVENTS MAY BE ADDED. CHECK COMPASS FOR UPDATES.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
				26 OCTOBER *Year 4 Camp ends *Year 5 Science Fair permission due *Whole School Assembly
29 *Science Talent Search presentation *Working bee 2.15 pm	30	31 *Yrs F to 2 Healesville Excursion *Wetlands Sausage Sizzle orders due	1 NOVEMBER	2 *Year 5 Science Fair *Year 4 Water Safety permission and payment due
5 *Yr 5/6 District Rugby permission and payment due	6 Melbourne Cup Public Holiday	7 *Yr 4 Water Safety	8 *Yr 4 Water Safety *District Rugby	9 *Wetlands Sausage Sizzle *Whole School Assembly-Curriculum presentation 3/4D and Foundation A

### CURRENT NOTICES

- ◆ 2019 Yr 6 Jumper/Polo Order Form (due by 21st November)
- ◆ Yr 5 Science Talent Fair Permission
- ◆ Year 4 Water Safety
- ◆ Wetlands Sausage Sizzle
- ◆ Yr 5 Camp