



IBIS FLYER

Balnarring Primary School

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Acting Principal and Acting Assistant Principal's Report

What a fortnight we've had!

It is so lovely to welcome our students through the gates each morning.

Watching them greet others kindly before running towards their classrooms indicates that our students are returning enthusiastically to their friends *and their studies*.

Of course there will be days when an extra hour in bed or a walk to the beach in the middle of the day will seem more appealing than sitting in a classroom but all staff are fully aware of the importance of mental health and wellbeing and the priorities of the Department of Education and Training (DET)

All programs planned for students from Foundation – Year 6 are reflecting the DET priorities.

1. Supporting students' mental health and wellbeing
2. Identifying those who need help catching up and extending those who have progressed
3. Preparing for successful transitions.

Having spent a week or so with their students now, classroom teachers are even more appreciative of the amazing *support role* many parents performed during the *remote and flexible learning period*.

Parent involvement in their children's learning has proven to be most beneficial in many cases; we cannot allow this support to dissipate now that we have returned to face to face teaching.

We must maintain this strong partnership.

Every Thursday afternoon each year level will post on Compass an activity that has been completed in class during the week.

If you are missing your 'support teaching role' or would simply like to continue engaging in your child's learning the posts will provide a window into a class activity that you can then question your child about, discuss their completed work or attempt to perform the task together.

Look out for the first post later today.

When our senior students returned to face to face teaching we welcomed Susan Horvath back on staff. Susan is currently working in 6B. We thank her for returning earlier from her year's leave to work with these students, many of whom Susan has taught in earlier levels. We know Susan will be a most valuable contributor to the Year 5/6 team.

Hillary has also shared her exciting news with us. Hillary and Nick welcomed their beautiful little girl Sunni Willow into the world, weighing 4.2 kgs. I know you will join with staff in sending your best wishes to Hillary at this most exciting time.

A couple of important reminders as we settle back into face to face teaching:

- Children need to be at their classroom before 8:45 (*our doors open at 8:40*) instruction begins immediately with an active break at 9:35

- Staff supervision before school will return to 8:30am until 3:30pm from next week. Jenny, Fiona and Sandy will continue to meet the students at the gates
- The Walking Bus leaves from the skate park every morning at 8:30 am and leaves the basketball court at 3:20 pm in the afternoon for the return journey
- Children must wear their school hat whenever outdoors this term or they will be asked to remain under cover outside the library
- Our new bike racks near the shack are for children in Foundation – Year 2 only. (We have already made plans to extend this area due to the number of children riding – *which is brilliant!*)
- Covid 19 restrictions prevents the use of drinking taps so all children really do need a personal water bottle

If you have recently been given a Concession Card as a result of Covid restrictions, you may be eligible for the CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund) funding. Please contact the office staff if you wish to query your eligibility.

Every four years all schools are involved in a Review Process that is managed by a reviewer, nominated by the Education Department. The review gives schools the opportunity to celebrate their highlights, assess the goals and targets set at the last review (2016) identify any barriers to their achievement, if applicable and agree upon a clear direction for the next four years. Due to Covid 19 the process was delayed. Our review date is now term 1, 2021.

It is really important that we hear from all groups within our learning community – staff, parents and students – to present a true picture of Balnarring Primary School to our reviewer. To support this process we are asking all parents to complete this year's Parent Opinion Survey. The survey is anonymous and should take about 20 minutes to complete. It is designed to assist schools to gain an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour, student engagement and experiences of remote and flexible learning. The data will be made available to the school later this term and so will be a valuable source of feedback for the review.

Access to the survey is via the link on the news feed in Compass

We thank you for your time.

Finally what fun we have had today in our footy gear! Each class was invited to a special *footy parade Webex meeting*. As each team song was played children paraded in their classrooms to support their chosen team.

We are getting very inventive at using the on-line world!

We hope you enjoy your public holiday tomorrow and good luck to all the Tiger and Cat fans on Saturday.

See you next week,

Sandy and Fi.



Sandy



Fiona