



We're  
dressed  
for the  
races

# IBIS FLYER

## Balnarring Primary School

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November 5th, 2020

### Acting Principal and Acting Assistant Principal's Report

Welcome to our week 5 newsletter - yes we are nearly at the half way mark of term already!

We hope you and your primary school child/ren have enjoyed the fortnight; we thank you for supporting our 'dress for the races day' on Monday. Oh my goodness there were some VERY smart outfits - and eager jockeys!

It has been a busy time on-site as children continue to adjust to life back in school.

During this fortnight we have met with most cohorts to ask them what they are enjoying about being back.

#### Responses included...

- seeing my friends
- talking to my teacher
- easier to access my work
- easier to learn at school

We also asked if anything was worrying them or causing them to feel sad now they are back.

- miss my mum, dad, sister, brother, dog, chickens....
- school is much longer, so not as much time to hang out with my friends
- got sore legs from all the active breaks
- lots of spiders here
- too far from my pantry

*(I think we are all missing being able to snack whenever it suits!)*

During these chats we also reminded our students that the expectation of everyone at Balnarring Primary School is that their words and actions are both respectful and caring.

We have asked all children to promise us that if they witness behaviours that are not respectful and not caring that they speak up - let their teacher or the yard duty teacher or Sandy or Fi know so that we can work together with the 'offender' to help him or her behave in such a way that makes everyone feel happy and safe.

We were so proud of the contribution many students made to these chats.

Apart from chatting with our students we have held many discussions with staff as we plan the end of year activities and the start of the 2021 school year.

Our 'Step into Foundation' program will look different but we will ensure our youngest students are well supported and warmly welcomed into our school at the start of the 2021 school year.

Children in Years 1- 6 return to school on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

To support students to begin the new school year feeling confident we have decided not to change the combination of students within each class.

After such a long period in remote learning some children will just begin to connect with their class mates when we break for another 6 weeks.

With limited time at school in 2020 some children have not had the opportunity to spend time with the friends they requested in November, 2019.

We are hopeful that knowing who will be in their class will take away some of the angst some children feel during the summer break.

The children will however work with a new class teacher in 2021. These will be made known to the children on Step Up Morning, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

We are all loving our new PA system that was installed last week.

More speakers were placed in the grounds to ensure both the music and messages can be clearly heard by all. On returning to on-site learning we decided to continue without bells. When children hear the music play they know it is the signal that they need to get to class. There is now a cute little chime programmed that reminds everyone when it is time to head outside. Many children have let us know that they like the new sound.

Finally, as you know, all schools are entitled to four curriculum (pupil free days) each year. We have had two so far, one being the first day of the school year and the second the THRASS Professional Development day back in March.

We have planned for one more only on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> November. This day will enable the SIT (School improvement Team) to set goals for the 2021 AIP (Annual Implementation Plan). It will also provide the opportunity for staff to continue the work mandated in preparation for the four yearly School Review and to finalise semester two reports.

Again we appreciate your understanding.

We hope you enjoy the next busy fortnight - *maybe with even fewer restrictions!*

Take care,  
Sandy and Fi.



Sandy



Fiona

## PARENT OPINION SURVEY

Thank you to the families that have had the opportunity to complete the Parent Opinion Survey. The response rate however is under 25%. To validate this information we need many more families to complete the survey. The survey should take about 20 minutes. We are hoping to present this information to the school's reviewer next term so for this reason we would very much appreciate your feedback. The survey has now been extended but the Department will close access on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> November.

We do thank you for your support.

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

Now that photographers are allowed back into the school we have been contacted by Leading Image to photograph our students for those parents wanting to purchase an official 2020 school photo. The photographer will be at the school on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November. Please see the information slip sent home with your eldest child today for details.

We are very mindful of keeping costs to a minimum for our families so we will provide a class group photo, taken by a staff member, for you to print at home if this is your preference for this year.

## YEAR 6 GRADUATION

Although the Year 6 graduation will look a little different this year we promise it will still be a lovely event for those students completing their primary schooling. We will hold the event in the school gym as is our tradition and the children will be served a meal by the staff (*which again is our tradition.*) The formal ceremony will be recorded for all parents /carers to watch in their homes.

WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE COMING UP					PLEASE BE AWARE THAT DATES SOMETIMES CHANGE AND UNFORSEEN EVENTS MAY BE ADDED. CHECK COMPASS FOR UPDATES.
MONDAY	TUESDAYS	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
				6 <sup>th</sup> November	
9	10 * Gate Shop 8.45 am to 9.30 am (Hats, Bags & Satchels)	11 * Remembrance Day	12 * Gate Shop 2.30 pm to 3.15 pm (Hats, Bags & Satchels)	13 * Free Dress Day Dress for Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25 STUDENT FREE DAY	26	27	
30	1 December * Free Dress Day Dress for summer	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16 * Yr 6 Graduation 5.00 pm	17 * Step Up Day * Reports on Compass	18 END OF YEAR 1.15 pm FINISH	