

IBIS FLYER

Balnarring Primary School

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Principal's Report

January 28th, 2021



I would like to introduce myself and welcome everyone in the Balnarring school community back for a fabulous 2021. I hope you all had a lovely, relaxing holiday. I am delighted and feel very privileged to be the new Balnarring Primary School Principal. It's very exciting to be the Principal of a school that has such a great reputation and is held in such high regard in the educational sector. Balnarring Primary School is a unique and vibrant school that has an incredibly dedicated staff, enthusiastic students and a supportive school community. Three of the most important factors to create a successful school.

I feel very fortunate to live on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula and to now be back working on the Peninsula at Balnarring Primary School. I worked on the peninsula at Tyabb Primary School and left there in 2010 to work at Lyndhurst Primary School and then moved to Cranbourne Carlisle Primary School. I have a husband, Carl and 3 children, Jesse who is a midwife at The Bays, Harry who is a university student and Jack who is completing Year 12 this year. We have a dog called Rocky.

We are all looking forward to a calmer and smoother year in 2021 and ready to welcome students and families back to school. Some children may feel a little more anxious than usual coming back to school after the disruptions in our lives in 2020. Parents and carers can rest assured that all our staff are very mindful of this and are experts in making children feel connected and comfortable at school. Staff have been busy working very hard to prepare for a great start to the school year. We can't wait to see what we can achieve in 2021.

It was lovely to meet a few parents today and watch our happy students come into school with big smiles on their faces, happy to be back learning with their friends. They all settled back into their new classrooms straight away today, which was great to see.

I am really looking forward to getting to know families a bit better on our "Meet the class community event" on February 10th at 5 pm.

Nicky Walker

Assistant Principal's Report



At the start of every school year I love watching our students excitedly catching up with their friends and meeting new classmates. In all rooms today children have engaged in a variety of activities planned to help them transition into their '2021 class community'.

Yesterday staff enjoyed catching up with one another too, sharing holiday stories - *congratulations to Andrew Gilmour on the birth of his third daughter Audrey* – and welcoming the newbies – Nicky, Prue, Airlie and Jessica. We are very excited to have them on our team.

No-one knows what lies ahead but our staff are both collaborative and flexible and the classroom preparation and planning that occurred during the holidays shows that they are committed to ensuring that your child has a happy, successful 2021 - whatever it brings.

The Victorian Chief Health Officer, Brett Sutton, stated in a letter to schools this week

"I am confident that with COVIDSafe plans in place, alongside our ability to quickly identify and respond to cases – schools remain safe places for all staff and students."

He went on to say *"It is crucial however for everyone to remain vigilant – to stay home when unwell, get tested, perform regular hand hygiene, wear a mask when required and maintain physical distancing from others whenever practical."*

Please be assured that we will continue to implement Covid safe practices at our school.

To begin our year together everyone is invited to join us for the "Meet the class community" event on Wednesday 10th February from 5 – 6pm.

As with most current events, this will look a little different to previous years. As we are not yet sharing food in schools, staff will not be manning the barbecue but families are warmly invited to BYO picnic and picnic rug. All staff will be in the grounds, near their classrooms to chat with you during this event. Classrooms will be open between 5 and 6pm for your child to take you on a tour of their room. Please be mindful of the number of adults indoors before you step in.

This is such a lovely opportunity to meet with other parents in our school community, we do hope you can join us.

Unfortunately we do need to cancel the welcome breakfast that was planned for next Friday 5th February for the same reason as 'no barbecue'.

As you would have seen on the Compass post parents are now welcome into the school ground but not inside the classrooms yet.

As we have maintained the two active breaks in our daily schedule all teaching and learning programs will begin promptly at 8:45 am. The classroom doors open at 8:40 am when the music starts to allow the children to hang up their bags and prepare for their day.

Much work has gone into supporting your child to have a positive start. I know this is going to be a great year!

Enjoy the first fortnight,

Sandy.