



Artwork on display in  
all rooms!

# IBIS FLYER

## Balnarring Primary School

Civic Court (PO Box 38), Balnarring, Vic, 3926

Phone: 03 5931 4444

Email: [balnarring.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:balnarring.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

March 25th, 2021

### Principal's Report

What a great couple of weeks I've had since I last wrote to you all in our last newsletter and what a fantastic couple of weeks we have coming up as well, to finish the term off! What's made recent weeks so good is the amount of engagement I've been able to have with so many of our amazing students, teachers and families. I have really enjoyed continuing to meet members of the Balnarring school community and learn more about Balnarring Primary School and all the wonderful things it has to offer its' students and families.

#### Performing Arts update

Jess Mackie has taken on the music teacher role this year and all reports are that the students and Jess! are really enjoying music sessions. It's great walking past and hearing the music being produced and seeing the obvious delight on students' faces. Jess has started a school choir for interested students. Music Club is an optional lunchtime club that will be run by Zac Byrns and next term, Ben Cornall will start a school band for interested students. Teachers are really enjoying taking the weekly Art sessions in the Art room with their classes. As you walk around the school, you can see many vibrant artworks displayed on the outside of classroom windows.

The Year 5/6 teachers, led by Prue Fawke are organising Balnarring's participation in Wakakirri. Wakakirri is Australia's largest performing arts event for schools with separate events for Primary, Secondary, dance schools and schools in remote areas. Each year hundreds of schools across Australia create Story-Dances for Wakakirri that reflect student's thoughts, ideas and aspirations. These stories are performed in professional theatres in front of the official 'Wakakirri Panel' who are searching for 'Story of the Year'. The 2021 Wakakirri Panel includes Emma Watkins, Andrew McFarlane, Kat Hayos and Luke Carroll to name a few! A Wakakirri Story-Dance is a 3-7 minute performance by a group of students that theatrically tells a story using a combination of dancing, creative movement and acting to pre-recorded music. Schools can tell any story and use any combination of dance, acting, music, sets, props and costumes.

Rehearsals will begin in Term 2; our story will be shared soon. There will be only one performance held at The Arts Centre. The date of this performance will be between the 11th-13th of August. Under current COVID-19 restrictions, there will be no live audience, but a video of the students' performance will be available to families.

As you can see there is lots happening in the Performing Arts space for 2021!

#### Staffing changes

Fiona Forrest will be on leave for the remainder of term 1 and Long Service Leave in Term 2. A large part of Fiona's role, among many other roles, was leading curriculum initiatives and professional learning across the school. Melanie Phillips, our Learning Specialist, has worked closely with Fiona in this space will now be out of the classroom 3 days a week to continue this work. Susan Horvath will share the class with Melanie Phillips whilst Melanie leads curriculum and professional learning.

Susan Horvath and Erin Dawson have done a fabulous job starting our Tutor Program. They were both employed to begin the new program for this term. Sandy and I met with them both this week to discuss the progress of students who had participated in the tutor program and we were both very impressed with the impact that this program has had in such a short period of time.

As planned, Erin will now take on the Science program with Kate Prestney from David Keystone. David has been busy handing over his impressive legacy and we know Kate and Erin will continue to provide our world class science and sustainability program.

Meagan Resuggan, a trained and experienced Reading Recovery and Intervention teacher, will join the Balnarring staff to continue leading the tutor program for the next 12 months.

## Primary Mathematics and Science Specialists- PMSS

The Victorian Government recently announced \$32.8 million for Cohort 6 of the Primary Mathematics and Science Specialist (PMSS) initiative. PMSS has a long history of supporting schools to improve student engagement and outcomes in mathematics and science. The PMSS initiative is supporting 200 teachers from about 100 Victorian government primary schools to train as expert specialists over 2021 and 2022 in science or mathematics.

Balnarring Primary School has been fortunate to be successful in joining the PMSS initiative in the area of Mathematics. Krysha Renison and Suzanne Litchfield were the successful applicants for the Primary Mathematics specialist roles. **Katie Yarrow will return from leave to share Suzanne's classroom. We are currently in the process of recruiting a 0.5 teacher to share the class with Krysha Renison.**

This is an exciting initiative to be a part of and will build skills, knowledge and leadership capacity within our school that will continue to have a positive improvement impact for years to come.

## Review

Our school captains made us proud, opening the review period with the acknowledgement to country and talking to the panel about their school and what they are proud of. As did our students, parents and staff in discussion forums. It was really evident to me as a new Principal listening to the school's journey and all stakeholders' opinions that Balnarring Primary School is an inclusive and strongly connected community. A community, who can articulate 'what it is' that makes Balnarring Primary School the special place it is and what is important to all school community members. It is really clear that educating the whole child is the goal of all stakeholders and developing engaged citizens with a strong voice who offer suggestions for the good of the whole and take action and responsibility for what needs to be done.

Rich discussions were held around all the fabulous work that has been focused on over the last 4 years. The panel members were all delighted with our happy, friendly and engaged students, parents and staff. They were particularly impressed with the enthusiasm and passion shown by our students, parents and staff members. The students took the learning conversations very seriously and really enjoyed reflecting on their learning and having a voice around what they would like to see at Balnarring Primary School. The parent commitment, involvement, knowledge of student learning and teaching and the strong connections to our shared school community were a real highlight of the parent forum. The panel also commented on how **impressed they were with the teachers' honest and open reflections, obvious passion, love of learning and their striving to always improve to ensure they are implementing current research and evidence-based practices to ensure they continue to provide the highest level of education for our students.**

For me what really stood out, as a new principal, listening to the parents, students and staff members was the pride in the school and achievements. A strong sense of being connected and belonging to the Balnarring school community and feeling happy and safe was articulated and expressed over and over again. One of my classroom observation highlights was watching a class enthralled with a teacher demonstration and then all of the students being so excited to go and complete the task, with one student **skipping and singing with the biggest grin as she went to complete the task. It doesn't get better than that, seeing students finding joy in learning!**

The review panel ended the process with synthesizing the findings and setting out the Improvement focuses for the next four years in the form of a new School Strategic Plan. This will now inform the Annual Implementation Plan for 2021.

## Annual Report

The Annual Report to the school community (Annual Report) provides principals and school councils with an opportunity to share the year's achievements and progress with the school community. This includes reflecting on the school's performance and how improvement efforts have impacted student outcomes. School Council endorsed our Annual Report and it will be published on our school website soon.



Nicky Walker

## Assistant Principal's Report

Can you believe this is the last newsletter for the term?

Despite some battling with Covid weariness, *brought about by spending more weeks at school this term than for any period in 2020*, I would like to congratulate all students (*and their parents*) for the positive way they have engaged with the school, their teachers, their classmates and the many, varied programs.

At Balnarring we are committed to ensuring that students engage with academic AND wellbeing focussed programs. We have delivered a number of wellbeing focussed programs this term.

We began the new school year with the Kinect2self project that emphasised the importance of physical activity and mindfulness – *being intensely aware of what you're sensing and feeling in the moment*. Mindfulness is promoted as a tool to help support positive wellbeing.

The Department of Education and Training (DET) Rights, Resilience and Respectful Relationships program has been a focus in all classrooms at the same time each week.

This term the focus was on Emotional Literacy and Personal Strengths. As term 2 begins we will investigate Positive Coping, Problem Solving and Stress management.



Last Friday the children acknowledged the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Our active yard leaders encouraged us all to dress in our favourite colour and to be respectful of each other's choice. The message that 'Bullying is never ok' was a focus in the activities that cross-age buddy groups completed together.

We encourage teacher and student conversations about bullying, its causes, its impact, strategies to deal with it, if and *when it occurs* and ways in which we can eliminate all forms of bullying from our school.

The data we have and the conversations in classrooms and student forums all indicate that bullying is at a low level in our school. However *this is on-going work*. We need to constantly listen to our students, give them voice in our school and respect and acknowledge their experiences and their solutions.

This week is Harmony week, the theme being that EVERYONE BELONGS! All children are participating in discussions and activities about the amazing cultures that make up our country. Harmony week celebrates our country's cultural diversity. I enjoyed listening to a conversation in Year 2 where children were offering personal connections they had with other countries. Some spoke about grandparents they had overseas and another excitedly told us about the 'china food' she had enjoyed. Beautiful!

Next term our Year 5 cohort has the opportunity to participate in the excellent 'Zones of Regulation' program' run by DET Student Support Services Officers. The program aims to teach children *how to regulate their feelings, energy and sensory needs in order to meet the demands of the situation around them – to be successful socially*. A fabulous interactive program where again children are able to share their experiences and find solutions.

Later in the term our Year 4, 5 and 6 students will participate in the Body Education program. A parent information session will be held in the library at 7pm on Wednesday 5th May prior to Kelly working with the children. (Further details will be made available closer to the time.)

*Happy, active and healthy kids* is a DET priority in 2021; focusing on child safety and wellbeing is undoubtedly a focus for us too.

Enjoy spending time during the Easter/term break with your amazing children.

Stay safe,



Sandy O'Meara

**SUPERVISION AT SCHOOL  
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL HOURS:**

Supervision before school commences at 8.30 am and after school until 3.30 pm.

**UNIFORM SHOP**

(Please note that samples only are kept onsite)-Cash only

Wednesday 31st March 3.00 to 3.30 pm

Wednesday 21st April 3.00 to 3.30 pm

**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
				26 March *Yrs 1 to 6 House Activities— wear your house colours
29	30 *David Keystone's final day	31 *Online Parent Teacher Interviews	1 April LAST DAY TERM 1 2.15 PM FINISH	2 Good Friday
<b>Have a great term break</b>				
19 April TERM TWO BEGINS	20	21 *Whole School Photo Day	22 *Year 5—Zones of Regulation begins	23
26	27	28	29	30
3 May	4	5 *Body Education Parent Information Night Years 4 to 6 commencing at 7pm	6	7
10	11 *NAPLAN Yr's 3 & 5	12 *NAPLAN Yr's 3 & 5	13 *District Cross Country *NAPLAN Yr's 3 & 5	14

**SCHOOL SWIMMING**

Our school swim team has just completed a fantastic couple of weeks competing at both District and Division Levels. Many of our children finished either first or second against the District schools which allowed them a chance to swim against the best on the Peninsula.

Notable performances at Division Level:

Emmerson A - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place 12 Girls' Breaststroke

Betsy M - 1<sup>st</sup> Place 11 Girls' Breaststroke

Betsy will now compete at Regional Level against all the Southern Metro Schools!

Congratulations to all the swimmers on their achievements!  
Andrew Shannon



**ANZAC DAY**

Unfortunately with restrictions still in place, there will be no local Anzac Day ceremony at ANZAC Park in Balnarring. Services in Crib Point and Red Hill are going ahead if you would like to attend.

**Michael Gray Art Studio**

7 Kentucky Road Merricks North

**Easter Holiday Art Activities!**

Painting, Drawing, Clay, Printmaking

For more details and to enrol :

[www.michaelgrayartstudio.com](http://www.michaelgrayartstudio.com)

Ph. 0400119344