



What clubs are
on today!

IBIS FLYER

Balnarring Primary School

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

Phone: 03 5931 4444

Email: balnarring.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Principal's Report

March 11th, 2021

It has been lovely to be back to on-site learning and to welcome all our families onto the school grounds. There is such a great feeling around the school and a real learning buzz in all the classrooms. I had the pleasure of showing my Principal Coach, Karen Turner, around our school today. Karen is a retired Principal from the Bellarine Peninsula and now works in the Principal Coaching and Mentoring Program for the Department of Education. Karen has worked and coached Principals in many schools. We visited many classrooms and Karen was able to observe a science lesson where students were completing scientific drawings of a squid. We were both very impressed with the high-level student curiosity and knowledge and their display of high order thinking and questioning skills. We were also lucky to join Jill Olle's Foundation class and listen to the big book, We're going on a Bear Hunt. Karen was astounded with the high level of concentration and engagement we observed with the Foundation students in Week 7! She was so impressed with the high level of student engagement and our beautiful natural playgrounds that we are so lucky to have. She said it's like paradise and I agree whole heartedly, Balnarring Primary School has all of the ingredients of a highly effective school. The school and its culture of high expectations and the embedded 'Balnarring Way' of 'respect and care for self, others and the environment and to always do our best' is clearly seen as a lived and breathed culture in each and every classroom. I was extremely proud to be able to say that I am now Principal of this dynamic school that offers such a rich learning environment that has students at the core and a pursuit of continuous improvement. Every staff member, student and family member should be very proud of the fabulous school they have all worked hard to create. As parents, you should be very proud of your children and we are very proud of them too!

School Review Update

We had our first review day on Tuesday 2nd March and some of the panel members enjoyed visiting our classrooms. Due to unforeseen absences of a few panel members, we have included an extra review day to the schedule. We will now be holding review days on the 16th, 17th and 23rd of March. Our school captains are looking forward to introducing themselves to the panel and doing our Acknowledgement to Country to open the day on Tuesday. We will also be holding student and parent discussion forums.

Swimming Trials

Thank you to all the parents who attended the swimming trials and congratulations to all the students who qualified to the next level.

Learning Walks

Leadership staff have continued our 'Learning Walks' this term in our classrooms observing the students and teachers at work. Sandy and I have thoroughly enjoyed participating in classes and chatting to students about their learning. Our students are very insightful and have a well-developed learning language that assists them to take responsibility and make choices to ensure their learning is challenging and at their point of need. I particularly enjoyed observing a PE lesson where Year 6 students were learning how to play softball, learning how to pitch a softball, hit a softball and how to play a game with loaded bases. I also enjoyed observing the Year 3's writing an Introduction to a narrative with a 'sizzling start'. I was impressed with the level of engagement, enthusiasm, the obvious joy of learning and persistence of all students.

Play-Based Learning

This year, the DET have proclaimed that, in response to the interruptions of COVID to the learning development of young children, schools should be investigating and implementing play-based learning in their classrooms. Our Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 teachers have ensured that our students are developing those important social and emotional skills, language communication skills, physical and cognitive skills through play-based learning first thing in the morning. Students have settled into the school morning routine beautifully as a result and are eager and keen to enter the classroom each morning.

This approach also sets children up with the positive brain chemicals to continue learning to the best of their ability for the rest of the day. See the link below for more information.

["Play-based learning can set your child up for success at school and beyond"](#).

Balnarring Primary School has also been fortunate to be invited to be a part of a Monash University project called Conceptual Play World. It is designed to improve the teaching of STEM-Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in the junior primary years.

Laureate Professor Marilyn Fleer, PhD, Australian Research Council Kathleen Fitzpatrick Laureate Fellow, *Foundation Chair of Early Childhood Education and Development* Faculty of Education, Monash University is leading the project and we are excited to be part of this work and continually improve our teaching and learning practices.

For more information on the project see the links below:

[Foundation year](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yggGe7yNY9A&feature=youtu.be>

[Conceptual PlayWorld website](#)

This work is funded by the Australian Research Council. Our Foundation and Year 1 teachers will participate in professional learning and feedback sessions and there are sharing platforms for teachers to share great ideas with each other.

ICT Leaders

Our ICT leaders, Coco, Micky, Jordy and Landon have enjoyed taking on their new role and have led the way to help our classes download and install the App version of Microsoft 365 so we can utilise all the functions of the program. Teachers and students have really enjoyed having the ICT leaders work in their classrooms. The ICT leaders will continue to work with Ashleigh Dickinson our ICT team leader and also attend the team meetings to ensure student voice is included in our strategic planning.

David Keystone is Retiring!

We are very sad to announce that our iconic science teacher, David Keystone is retiring at the end of this term, but also very happy for him and wish him all the best in his new adventures and life's endeavours. David has enjoyed a fabulous teaching career spanning over many schools for 50 years, a commendable effort! He has worked at Port Melbourne PS, Albert Park PS, Clarinda PS, Jordanville South PS, Elwood PS, Hawksburn PS, Mornington school for Deaf Children, Albert Park PS, Richmond North PS, Seaford PS, Mornington Park PS, Mt Eliza PS and we have been very fortunate to have David working at Balnarring Primary School for the past 15 years. He has educated thousands of students and developed high level scientific knowledge, curiosity, high order thinking and questioning skills and a passion for learning in students. STEM is now an important initiative Australia wide and the Balnarring community has been fortunate to have had David Keystone who was a pioneer before his time, forging the way forward with innovative science and sustainability work in our school and in the Balnarring community.

Balnarring past and present students and many community members, will go on for many years making a positive impact in the world we live in due to the time spent learning about our world and scientific concepts with David Keystone. David's passion and enthusiasm is admirable and he must be very proud looking back over his career and the lasting impact he has had on all those lucky enough to have spent time with him!

We wish him a long and exciting retirement as he moves on to more adventures and pursuits.



Nicky Walker

Assistant Principal Report

Our Year 6 leaders are beginning to make quite an impact as they engage with their new roles.

The Yard leaders – our happy safe people outdoors – are keen to ensure that all students treat one another with both respect and care in the school playground.

Next Friday the 19th March is the National day of Action against Bullying and Violence. Our active yard leaders have planned the first whole school event. They are inviting all students to **“wear their favourite colour or colours” with the message being that whatever your choice it will be respected by others.**

Ellie, Charlie, Luna, Ella, Liam, Max N, Ebony, Rose, Ava C and Tily adamantly argue that there is *no place for unkind, bullying comments in a respectful, caring school.*

It is very important that children begin their day with their accepting peers confidently. The vast majority of our students arrive in time to greet their teacher as s/he opens the classroom door. This happens at 8:40 am each morning as the music begins to play.

As adults we know how difficult it is to join a workplace meeting when we are late. It is no different for children. Children can become quite anxious having to enter their classroom after everyone else has unpacked their bags and begun their day. Teaching and learning programs begin at 8:45 am in all class and specialist rooms. Please **help support your child's learning** – and confidence - by ensuring they arrive at school on time and allow them to hurry to their classrooms when the music plays. If a child is late a parent does need to sign him/her in at the kiosk in the office. Thank you for your assistance with this.

Enjoy the next busy fortnight,



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 17th March 3.00 to 3.30 pm

Wednesday 31st March 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
				12 March
15	16 *School Review Validation Day	17 *School review field day *Dromana Secondary College Year 6 Visit	18	19 *Anti Bullying Day Wear your favourite Colours—see note in Sandys report
22	23 *School Review Final Day	24 *School Council Mtg 7pm	25 *Yr 5 and 6 Summer Lightning Premiership	26
29	30 *David Keystone's final day	31 *Online Parent Teacher Interviews—information will be provided soon.	1 April LAST DAY TERM 1 2.15 PM FINISH	2 Good Friday
Have a great term break				
19 April TERM TWO BEGINS	20	21 *Whole School Photo Day	22	23

David Keystone retires

It has indeed been a privilege to teach your children for the past 15 years as science teacher. Your support and belief in your children is what gives me hope for their future. Your children's energy, thirst for knowledge and curiosity about their world has been my inspiration.

I thank you and my colleagues for your encouragement with our science pursuits over the years. It has been such an enjoyable and satisfying journey for me.

I shall retire in the last week of Term 1 of this year.

Farewell and good luck to the Balnarring Primary School community.

David Keystone

Family Fun Day
SUNDAY 14TH MARCH

Ninja Circuit
Gymnastics Circuit
Sausage Sizzle
Coffee
KinderGym Circuit
Ginger Bread & Chocolate Stall

11am - 2pm
MYC Gymnastics
Western Port
@ The Hastings Hub

Gold coin donation per circuit
1973 Frankston-Flinders Rd, Hastings