

### Principal's Report

June 17th, 2021

#### Back on-site

It was with much excitement that the students and teachers returned to on-site school after Remote and Flexible Learning #4. There were also many relieved and happy parents dropping off their children in the morning. Overwhelmingly, the feedback from parents was that it was much easier this time, even the first time Foundation parents found the transition to Remote and Flexible Learning smooth. Thank you to our hard working and dedicated teachers who again with last minute notice quickly prepared and changed plans to provide a fantastic remote learning program.

A big thank you to Sam in the office for all her time assisting parents and staff, and also to Jill for jumping in too when Sam was busy. A big thank you to the parents for juggling the tricky role of trying to be both, parent and teacher. Also a big thank you to Sandy who always makes sure everything runs smoothly for the whole school community: students, staff and parents.

The COVID-19 world situation continues to be a learning journey for us all. Pulling together to respond to the remote and flexible learning challenges has been a great example of the Balnarring school community being invested in learning and working together with a collaborative inquiry mindset and approach. We know that collective collaboration is how we achieve the best results for our students who develop their learner agency; taking responsibility and control to identify and address issues in their learning environments with teachers and parents.

#### Somers Camp Day

We had a lovely offer from Somers Camp yesterday for a 1 day camp experience for our grade 4 to 6 students at no cost to families. We really appreciate this offer and know our students will love to participate in these outdoor camp activities. A lovely end to the term after another bout of remote and flexible learning. The details and permission forms were posted on Compass yesterday. The Somers camp day will be on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

#### School Leaders

Our school captains, Matilda V, Bodhi C, Charli W and Jack W have been working hard looking after all of our students across the school. Recently they have been holding student forums to discuss student views and perspectives on student voice and agency. Once they have collected and collated data on this, they will meet with Ben Cornall and Andrew Gilmour, our Voice and Agency Leaders, to discuss how we can continue to promote and improve voice and agency at Balnarring Primary School.

#### Curriculum days

A reminder that Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July is a student-free curriculum day. No students will be at school on this day. Staff will be participating in a Professional Learning day around curriculum and data informed teaching practices to continue our strategic work in this area.

#### COVID check in

Just a reminder, when entering the school grounds the school buildings, all visitors must ensure you sign in with your mobile phone using the QR codes on the school entry fences and in the school office. This is today's directive from DET.

#### Information for Parents, Carers and Families: Education and Training Reform Amendment (Protection of School Communities) Bill 2021

This information is for parents, carers and guardians about the new Education and Training Reform Amendment (Protection of School Communities) Bill 2021.

Victorian school communities are overwhelmingly positive and safe places for teaching and learning where we all play a role in supporting students in their achievements, engagement and wellbeing needs.

It is likely that you have heard the recent media announcements that the Victorian Government has introduced the Education and Training Reform Amendment (Protection of School Communities) Bill 2021. If passed through parliament, the proposed Bill would come into effect in May 2022.

The Bill aims to protect and keep school communities safe by preventing and deterring violent and aggressive behaviours from adult members of the school community and ensure that schools are positive, safe and inclusive places to work and learn. This Bill will apply to the small minority of adult members of the Victorian school community who engage in this behaviour, after early conflict resolution measures through non-legislative avenues have failed.

The proposed law will empower principals and other authorised persons to issue School Community Safety Orders in response to parents, carers and other adult members of the school community who engage in harmful, threatening, abusive or disruptive behaviours on school grounds or places where school activities take place, or inappropriate and harmful communication through emails and social media.

This Bill will apply to the small minority of the school community who engage in this behaviour when all other reasonable interventions have failed. The changes would ensure that all members of the school community are kept safe and to minimise any harm to their safety and wellbeing. There will be internal and external review mechanisms in place if a person who is subject to a School Community Safety Order wishes to appeal an Order.

Arrangements will be available to ensure parents can still remain engaged in their child's learning to and to minimise any disruption to the student.

This Bill would not replace the existing avenues to raise any complaints, issues or suggestions with schools. [Schools may wish to [insert link to their Complaints or Parent dispute policies, or Schools' Statement of Values](#)]. By continuing to engage with these communication channels in a respectful and collaborative manner, we can continue to work together to support our students.

Further information about the details of the Bill will be communicated to you if the Bill is passed by parliament.

#### Book fair

It was great to see students and families participate in our Book Fair. As a direct result of all the sales, the school now has additional books, building up our library resources. Thank you for supporting our Book Fair.

#### Reconciliation Week

Both prior to, and before lockdown, we have been including many activities in our curriculum to acknowledge and learn more about Reconciliation week. We focus on the importance of our indigenous culture and people and recognise our responsibility to continually improve our relationships and acknowledge their ongoing close connection with our land and the significant contribution to the Australian character.

#### NAIDOC Week

As this falls in the school holidays, we have planned to celebrate NAIDOC Week in the first week of Term 3 and I look forward to sharing some of the great classroom work that will be done in Week 1 next term.

#### Student reports

Student reports will be released in the last week of term. Parents can log into COMPASS to download and read school reports.

#### Term 2 holiday break

Wishing everyone a lovely, relaxing holiday break. Hopefully the COVID restrictions will ease a little and we will be able to get out and about more. Enjoy the time with family and friends. See you all back in Term 3 nice and refreshed and ready for another term of great learning.

We would like to wish Sandy all the best for her long service leave next term and a long, healthy retirement full of joy and happiness. Sandy has dedicated many years and hours to contribute to the development of Balnarring Primary School and making it the dynamic and innovative school it is today.

Sandy has contributed to and led the school in so many different aspects that is impossible to cover all areas of her positive impact and ripple effects. To acknowledge a few; she has lead curriculum, teaching and learning and set the enviable culture of high aspirations and academic excellence. Sandy has also led and implemented the Wellbeing approach that is a multi-faceted and comprehensive approach that ensures the wellbeing of our students is a high priority and all student needs are catered for in a caring and strategic approach. Sandy has always ensured all support services and strategies are accessed and engaged. Her work in the areas of buildings and grounds has ensured that we have and are collectively committed to maintaining a unique, natural environment that supports the wellbeing and innovative learning programs across the school. One particular outstanding initiative is the Science and Sustainability program and our strong Indigenous lens supported by the school natural environment, Bimblemeer and the Balbirooroo Wetlands. Sandy has been instrumental in embedding the 'Balnarring Way' based on the values of care and respect that is lived and breathed by the whole school community. Sandy has led and created a positive staff culture with high wellbeing outcomes for staff, students and families. I know I can confidently say that our whole school community is, and will continue to be, very grateful for the legacy she is leaving behind for Balnarring Primary School community to continue build on in the future.

Sandy is admired as a strong, consistent and selfless leader who is always looking out for the best interests of the whole school community. Sandy has been the first one to jump into action and make sure everything is planned and organised efficiently to ensure that we have an outstanding school. She has an incredible high level of energy and an absolute dedication, love and passion for the Balnarring School Community. Sandy has put her heart and soul into the Balnarring Primary School community and as a result it is the lovely place it is today.

I would to thank Sandy for welcoming and inducting me as the new Principal of Balnarring Primary School. Sandy obviously has so much knowledge about the school and how it runs to pass on, but she has also been very patient, kind and understanding whilst supporting me to get to know all the wonderful things about Balnarring Primary School. I appreciate all her work and time to allow me a smooth, calm and enjoyable transition into the Balnarring school community.

Sandy must be entering her long service leave and retirement feeling very proud of the results of all of her work, commitment and genuine care and respect for the whole school community. Her positive impact will continue to have a ripple effect on the thousands of students and families that Sandy has worked with over the years and our staff, students and families will continue to live and lead in the 'Balnarring Way.' We wish Sandy all the best for her long service leave and hope that she can spend the time doing all the things that she enjoys without too many COVID restrictions!

We have plans to farewell Sandy at the end of her Long Service Leave, towards the end of Term 3, (and hopefully less COVID restrictions) in a way that will allow all of the school community to celebrate Sandy's work and express their thanks and gratitude for all of Sandy's incredible contributions as a teacher and leader at Balnarring Primary School. We will keep you posted next term. Sandy will be greatly missed, but not forgotten.



Nicky Walker

## Assistant Principal's Report

All good things must come to an end, so they say.

For me my ~~good~~ wonderful time at Balnarring Primary will soon end with my retirement.

In 1989, as a young teacher, I recall standing in the staff room of a neighbouring school being told that I had a position in the 'brand new one down the road'.

Back then we applied for teaching positions hoping that we held the most senior 'number'.

I was lucky to be next in line, *very lucky!*

Following my appointment a number of meetings were held with the new Principal, the other lucky staff members and parent representatives to prepare for the 1990 school year. Everything from school colours, uniform pieces, furniture, preferred reading materials, 'modern' maths equipment and sports gear was discussed; it was great fun to be involved from the very beginning.

As it happened there was a delay and the building was not habitable until May 1990; the school however did open earlier with the Year 1 to 5 students sharing the site at Red Hill Consolidated and the 'Preps' housed at the (now demolished) Balnarring Cricket clubrooms. As one of the two 'prep' teachers I welcomed the children each morning into those club rooms. What a term that was! There was certainly plenty of running space for our 32 amazing beginning students.

Thirty one years later I am still admiring our amazing students.

I have had the pleasure of both teaching and watching many, many children move through the school. I have shared their delight as they began to make sense of the black marks in a text, as they cleverly put their own thoughts into their personal writing, as they developed an understanding of the number system, found their passion for the arts, sport, environmental science or languages and most importantly, as they developed their independent personalities and an awareness and empathy for others.

As I begin to pack up my office I would like to thank the many parents and carers who have contributed so positively to this special school community. We have hosted many successful family events that have shown the inclusive, welcoming spirit of our school. In recent years I have had the thrill of welcoming past students back as 'new parents' excitedly enrolling their own children 'back into Balnarring'.

I also want to sincerely thank each and every member of staff I have worked with during my time here. I thank you for sharing your knowledge of best teaching practice, expert business and office management and strong, positive leadership but mostly I want to thank you for your generous, caring friendships. I have loved sharing your professional and personal journeys as we worked together to ensure that every Balnarring student had the opportunity to become the best young person they could be.

I am very proud of where I leave Balnarring and equally as excited for what lies ahead; please know that with such a passionate and caring staff your children are in very, very good hands.

Of course I am now looking forward to that 'next chapter' but Balnarring Primary will always hold a special place in my heart. I look forward to continuing many friendships over a more relaxed chai or two 😊

Stay safe, stay positive and continue to love your amazing children.



With love and thanks to you all,  
Sandy

SUPERVISION AT SCHOOL  
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL HOURS, AND CURRICULUM DAYS  
Supervision before school commences at 8.30 am and  
after school until 3.30 pm.  
There is no supervision on Curriculum Days.

UNIFORM SHOP  
(Please note that samples only are kept onsite)-Cash only  
Wednesday 2nd June 3.00 to 3.30 pm  
Wednesday 16th June 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
				18 June
21	22	23	24	25 LAST DAY OF TERM 2 2.15 PM FINISH

## ENJOY YOUR TERM BREAK

12 July	13	14 *Student Led Portfolios	15 *Kinect 2 Dance *Yr 5/6 Interschool	16
19 CURRICULUM DAY No students at school	20 *Regional Cross Country	21	22 *Kinect 2 Dance	23
26	27	28	29 *Kinect 2 Dance	30 *Yr 1 & 2 Moorooduc Railway Excursion
2 August	3	4 *Year 6 Dromana Secondary visit	5 *Kinect 2 Dance	6
9	10	11	12 *Kinect 2 Dance	13
16	17	18 *Year 6 Dromana Secondary visit	19 *Yr 5 and 6 Wakakiri performance	20
23	24	25	26	27 *District Athletics
30	31	1 September	2	3
6	7 *Year 6 Camp begins	8 *Year 6 Camp	9 *Year 6 Camp	10 *Year 6 Camp ends
13	14	15 *Parent Teacher Interviews	16	17