

# IBIS FLYER

## Balnarring Primary School

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

Phone: 03 5931 4444

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

December 5th, 2022

### Principal's Report

#### SUSTAINABILITY FAIR UPDATE

I am extremely pleased to announce that the Sustainability Fair raised a total of \$27,509.37. A fabulous effort by our Sustainability Fair Committee.

As written in the previous newsletter, the Sustainability Fair is our major bi-annual school fundraiser and these extra funds enable Balnarring Primary School to continue to operate and resource our innovative and unique sustainability programs and maintain and upkeep Bimblemeer for the next two years. Without the Sustainability Fair fundraising, we wouldn't be able to continue to operate the Sustainability program and Bimblemeer, the heart of our Sustainability program, with our limited DET government funding.

Alongside the funds raised from our Fair, our parent voluntary contributions are what enable us to maintain and operate our community wetlands- Balbirooroo. Balnarring Primary School has an outstanding reputation as one of the best primary schools on the Peninsula. This is due to the dedication and professionalism of our staff, the cohesion of our parents, carers and community and the provision of an enviable education offering Science and Sustainability programs enhanced with real life learning experiences by our incredible natural resources- both Balbirooroo and Bimblemeer.

The only reason Balnarring Primary School can offer additional Science and Sustainability programs that are stand-out learning experiences for our students in these amazing natural learning spaces and beneficial to our whole community, is because of the funds raised in the bi-annual Sustainability Fair and the annual contributions made by you, our families to care for and maintain our community wetlands- Balbirooroo.

#### FAMILY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

We rely on the annual family voluntary contributions to continue to provide the rich learning experiences across all areas of the curriculum to supplement our limited DET funding. We appreciate the support of parents in continuing these payments so we can continue to resource our programs.

Please see Sam in the office if you would like to organise a payment plan.

#### BPAT- BALNARRING PRIMARY ACTION TEAM

I was pleased to be approached by three parents who would like to co-ordinate a parent group who will work as a team to assist us in keeping our school the best it can be. Our BPAT will meet regularly and work together to fundraise to assist us in actioning our priority lists for improvements across the school. The team will also organise and run regular working bees to tidy and clean up our school environment.

The more we all work together in partnerships, the better the learning environment and outcomes for our students. There will be more information and contact details in the next newsletter.

#### MERRICKS COOLART CATCHMENT LANDCARE GROUP

Well done again to Kate, our science and sustainability teacher who has been working hard in partnership with Merricks Coolart Catchment Landcare Group to be the successful recipients of a grant. This grant will enable us to complete a project working in a cooperative partnership with Merricks Coolart Catchment Landcare Group on the Balbirooroo Wetlands weeding project to continue to manage this unique school and community natural resource.

Balnarring Primary School grounds includes 9 hectares of wetlands and indigenous vegetation and is a catchment area for, and within 1 km of Western Port and surrounding sensitive waterways. This project will address the invasion of weeds in a way that also protects our environment and waterways requires specialists with specific knowledge and skills that the Merricks Coolart Catchment Landcare Group would be able to provide.

This partnership will also educate our students as future citizens, our families and community members in the many ways we act to protect our flora, fauna and waterways in our environment.

Our aim with this project is to target weeds in the wetlands predominantly through the use of manual labour, with limited use of chemicals. An important component will be ensuring seasonal work is undertaken to prevent seed spread and to maximise the number of weeds that are able to be removed. This will assist in preventing regrowth and having seeds travel along the waterways and growing in vulnerable areas between the wetlands and Balnarring Beach. A further important aspect will involve educating Balnarring Primary School students, equipping them to be more informed caretakers of the indigenous vegetation and wetlands and increasing their understanding and knowledge of the importance of our flora and fauna. The grant will also fund some of the equipment required for students to take part in appropriate aspects of weed removal and allow them to continue this work after the project is complete.

### 2023 and Step Up Day

We are all looking forward to Step Up Day on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December when students and teachers meet their new 2023 grade.

### 2023 Grade structures and Specialists

3 x Foundation Grades

3 x Grade 1

3 x Grade 2

2 x Grade 3

2 x Grade 4

2 x Grade 5

2 x Grade 6

### SPECIALIST CLASSES

Physical Education

First Nations

Science

Performing Arts

Classroom teachers also teach Respectful Relationships, Sustainability, Library and Visual Art sessions.

### Cyber Safety

Jana Hanafie, our Cyber Safety coordinator met with our e-safety advisor recently and he suggested some great links for parents navigating Cyber Safety at home for your children:

Links to Common Sense Media, Taming Gaming, the eSafety Guide and the Parent Hub:

<https://www.taminggaming.com/en-au/book>

<https://www.common sense media.org/>

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/key-issues/esafety-guide>

<https://dollysdream.org.au/parent-hub/>



Nicky Walker

## **Assistant Principal's Report**

### **Foundation Transition 2023**

Over the past few weeks, we have had very successful transition sessions with our new Foundation students for 2023. There was much excitement and fun during these fantastic experiences. This year's foundation teachers had the opportunity to see the children in a number of environments which will assist them, along with information from the kinders, in working out how best to group the children for 2023. This is a very well thought out process which our teachers take great care and diligence with before making final decisions.

### **Holidays**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you the happiest of Christmas's and hope that you all stay safe and have some great quality family time.

I would also like to encourage you to keep reading to your children throughout the holidays and ensure that they are also having that opportunity to read to you.

I leave you with the following article that outlines the importance of continuing good reading habits.

## No Excuses: Why We Need to Read with Our Kids Every Day

If reading with your children isn't a regular habit, try to make it one. Here are compelling reasons why we need to read with kids every day.

Reading with our kids is one of those pieces of advice everyone—experts, teachers, paediatricians—recommends, but can still fall off our radar. And we have plenty of excuses.

We:

- Are busy.
- Do read to our kids, but not regularly.
- Don't have enough books in the house.
- Think the kids are too old to be reading with us.
- Don't read ourselves.
- Meet resistance from our kids.

### Why we need to read with kids every day

Why is it important for kids to read? This one simple act can have a huge impact on our children's learning and success.

### Better performance at school

No doubt, avid readers [perform better at school](#) than those who don't. One of the biggest reasons is how many words a child knows. After all, a student needs to be able to understand his teacher and the lessons in class.

A student who knows more words will have an advantage understanding material, and all it takes is reading often and enough.

So, what exactly is enough? Just 20 minutes a day is all it takes. That can be 20 straight minutes, or different reading sessions throughout the day. Want to see just how much 20 minutes can help? Take a look at the chart below:

STUDENT A	STUDENT B	STUDENT C
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
1,800,000 words per year	282,000 words per year	8,000 words per year
90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile on standardised tests	50 <sup>th</sup> Percentile on standardised tests	10 <sup>th</sup> Percentile on standardised tests

Warm regards



Anne McDonald

SUPERVISION AT SCHOOL BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL HOURS, AND CURRICULUM DAYS Supervision before school commences at 8.30 am and after school		UNIFORM SHOP Please place orders via		
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
5 December	6	7 *School Council meeting 7pm	8 *Whole School Colour Lap-a-thon	9 *Buddies *Yr 5 and 6 Beach Water Safety
12	13 *Orientation Day 2023 Year 7's *2023 Foundation Transition *Step Up Day	14 *Year 6 Graduation	15 *Foundation Beach Day	16 *Year 6 Gumbuya World excursion *Assembly
19	20 <b>LAST DAY 2022</b> <b>1.30 PM FINISH</b>			