

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – August 19th

TPPD – Teacher Professional Practice Day, No Students to Attend Friday 2nd September

As part of our working conditions, teachers for the past four years have been allocated professional practice days. Professional practice days provide teachers with release from their scheduled duties to focus on the improved delivery of high-quality teaching and learning. The work undertaken on PPDs must be consistent with department and school priorities - School Strategic Plan (SSP) and Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) - selected from the following areas: planning; preparation; assessment of student learning; collaboration; curriculum development; relevant professional development; peer observation including feedback and reflection.

Our teachers have found these days to be incredibly beneficial. In the past, however you may not have been aware of when your child's teacher took them.

Because of the current CRT shortage all government schools have been directed by DET to take the Term 3 TPPD on the same day (as decided by the school), requiring students not to attend school. This means no CRTs need to be employed. Our TPPD will be on Friday 2nd of September. Team Kids will be providing whole day care on that day. If due to work or other commitments you are unable to have your children looked after at home, with a relative or with a friend, please book in with Team Kids. Our students love attending Team Kids – they run a fabulous program

Work Habits

As principal I do a fair amount of 'managing by walking about'. I am usually struck by the fantastic work which is occurring in the classrooms and the way in which the students are focussed on achieving their learning targets. I am extremely proud of the teaching and learning that is occurring at Birralee and it is indeed reflected in our excellent academic results. Most of our students are dedicated to achieving results and have extremely good work habits.

However, from time to time I notice students who are not focussed, fail to stay on task or are simply not giving their best effort. This has become a discussion point with teachers at times and we have put in place practices and expectations for student behaviour.

Often the difference between a high achieving student and an average student is simply one of attitude. I would greatly appreciate it if you, as parents, could reinforce the expectations that we have for students to focus and give their absolute best during class time. Education is a partnership and when both parents and school communicate the same expectations to students, student learning outcomes improve.

Cyber-Safety

As you are no doubt aware we have been focussing on cyber-safety over the past month. Our Year 5 students had sessions presented by Susan McLean and around 100 parents took the opportunity to attend an information session as well. The feedback from the students and parent sessions has been extremely positive.

Unfortunately, it has also come to my attention during this period that some students have become distressed about comments they have received from others online. When we become aware of this, and if it affects the wellbeing of a student, we will inform you about what we know. However, we cannot step in to change practices at home – that is a parental responsibility. Below are a few dot points about recent discoveries and some advice on what to do to help keep our children/students safe:

- Social platforms that are currently being used by students at this school are not legal to be used until a child is 13 years of age – legally speaking, none of our students should have social media accounts.
- Some of the platforms we know our students are now using at home are easily infiltrated by paedophiles (source: ex policewoman Susan McLean who worked in cyber safety)
- As a condition of having phones (and other devices connected to the internet), parents should avail themselves of software that enable parents to view on their own phones, what their child is doing. This is not an invasion of privacy, as parents you need to protect your child. Children do not have a mature pre-frontal cortex which is used for planning, judgement and risk assessment. Hence children can find themselves out of their depth online very quickly. Predators online are extremely cunning; children are naïve, and predators know this.
- In the past week we have discovered children going against their parents wishes and have been using phones in their bedrooms late into the night, talking with other children.
- It is strongly advisable to have all mobile phones, iPads, tablets and computers charged in a central place.
- Remove all devices from children’s bedrooms at night. This will ensure your child is not using them but will also stop your child being interrupted throughout the night by others trying to contact them. Your child needs adequate sleep to learn and socialise well the next day.

Emergency Contact Phone Numbers

If you have changed any of the following phone numbers: mobile, landline, or work, or if your emergency contact numbers for relatives or family friends have changed, please send the new numbers to school ASAP so that we can update our records. We have had occasions in the past where phone numbers have changed, and we have been unable to contact a parent in an emergency.

Ashley Ryan,

Principal

Word of the Week

Cacophony (noun): an unpleasant mixture of sounds; harsh noise; discord.

Etymology: mid-17th century: from French *cacophonie*, from Greek *kakophōnia*, from *kakophōnos* ‘ill-sounding’, from *kakos* ‘bad’ + *phōnē* ‘sound’

Quote of the Week

“The key to everything is patience. You get the chicken by hatching the egg, not by smashing it.” Arnold H. Glasow.

UV rating starting to rise

When the UV rating is expected to rise above 3 at any part of the day, the sunhat rule comes into action. As UV ratings are already starting to rise again, and in line with our Sun Smart and School Policy procedures, students and staff will need to bring broad-brimmed hats to school **from Monday**. On days when the UV level is indicated to rise, all students will need to wear their school hats at playtimes and during outside lessons.

Students must wear school uniform broad-brimmed hats only and can no longer use 'bucket hats' as these do not give enough protection. If a student has the wrong hat or no hat, they will be told to use the undercover area by the art room entrance during playtimes. Students do not have the choice to use other shaded areas outside, because apart from being safe from UV rays, the purpose of having a designated area is that they will be more motivated to find their hats to access other areas. If students do not have hats, they will not be able to participate in outside lessons (games or sports).

Please make sure that each child's hat is clearly named with their first and family name only, not classes (as these change over the years). Using initials as identification causes difficulty when returning lost property as there are often several children with the same initials or surnames. If second-hand hats are purchased from the school uniform shop, please ensure the new owner's name is in the hat, otherwise incorrectly named or unnamed items are returned for resale. It is advisable for students to have more than one hat in case they lose one.

It is permissible for children to continue to wear woolly hats to school in the mornings on chilly days, but during playtimes, they must wear their school sunhats.

Internet use misbehaviour is continuing to be a challenging problem

Over the past two weeks we have included items in the newsletter about Cybersafety. This was initially in response to an issue in the Grade 6 area. Despite all the information being sent out, this week we have had a new issue in the Grade 4 area, with children on **Discord**. The problems with internet usage now appears to be affecting younger and younger children each year.

During Covid lockdowns, children became adept at communicating with each other online so that now it is a part of their generational behaviour. As a community, we need to make sure that when they are doing this, it is at reasonable times, safe and respectful.

Please can all families check the sites that children are using and especially monitor what is being posted, and when. It is illegal for children to be on Discord if they are under the age of 13 years.

Not all the problems are associated with sites; children are also communicating with other children late at night without parent knowledge or consent using phones, laptops and tablets. If your child uses their phone as an alarm clock, please consider giving them an actual alarm clock rather than having digital devices in their bedrooms at night.

Food Traffic Light System for choosing canteen meals and snacks.

Attached to this newsletter is a *Healthy Eating Advisory Service (HEAS) Traffic Light System* to help parents, carers and children when ordering food from the school canteen.

This aid indicates which food to buy infrequently or in lesser amounts, and which food is a more nutritious so that children's diets are balance and healthier. All food in the canteen is linked to the traffic light system to help with these choices.

One of the areas that must be monitored is when children buy food from the canteen with pocket money (i.e., unaccompanied), as they may choose food only from one area (often the red category). We try to advise students to spread out their choices better and it would be helpful if parents and carers could also go through the list to help children with wise choices. Please also remind children that they are not allowed to buy food to share with friends as they are unaware of dietary limitations of other children, so we still discourage food sharing at school (for Covid and for dietary reasons).

Jac Clement
Assistant Principal

BOOK CLUB Issue 6 out now

The latest catalogue (Issue 6) for Book Club is being given out this week and it is available online now.

See the following website:

<https://www.scholastic.com.au/book-club/book-club-parents/>

You can look at the catalogue online and then to order simply scroll down to the **LOOP** link and login there. You can use the app instead, if you prefer. No cash and paper orders, thank you.

Please have all orders in by **Monday 29th August**.

Happy reading!

Cherie
Librarian

R.A. SPRATT BOOK WEEK AUTHOR EVENT



Order signed copies of Rachael's books!

STEPS TO PURCHASE ONLINE

- 1) Register/log-in at littlebookroom.com.au
- 2) Add desired titles to cart
- 3) In checkout, you will be required to enter your own address, but selecting 'SCHOOL EVENT' as delivery option will ensure delivery
- 4) In 'CART NOTES' Please write your school's name, child's name and their class
- 5) Safe and secure payment with Credit Card or Paypal
- 6) Orders due by midnight Friday 26th August for free delivery to classroom

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If you have booked a table for Trivia Night you are in for a fun evening!

Bring your own food platters and drinks.

Drinks will be available for purchase at this **ADULTS ONLY** event.

Date: Saturday, 20th August 2022, 7 pm to 10:30 pm (Quiz Starts 7.30 pm sharp)

Venue: Birralee School Hall

BIRRALEE

Parents & Friends Association

Bakers Delight Monday Lunch Orders

Bakers Delight Monday lunch orders can be placed between 9 am Tuesday to 5 pm Saturday for the following Monday's delivery.

To place an order, head to our PFA website
[Bakers Delight Monday Lunch Orders](#).

Bakers Delight

Calendar

August

Saturday 20th	Trivia Night
Mon 22nd—Fri 26th	Book Week
Wednesday 24th	Prep 100 Days Celebration
Friday 26th	Dress-up Day Assembly 2:50 pm
Wednesday 31st	Grade 5 Excursion

September

Thursday 1st	SRC Fight MND Free Dress Day
Friday 2nd	Pupil Free Day
Wednesday 7th	District Athletics
Friday 9th	Grade 1 Excursion Assembly 2:50 pm
Tues 13th	Production Rehearsal (Grade 2/4/6)
Wed 14th & Thurs 15th	Production (Grade 2/4/6)
Friday 16th	End of Term 3 (2:30pm dismissal)

October

Monday 3rd	Start of Term 3
Mon 3rd—Fri 7th	Grade 6 Camp
Monday 17th	School Council Meeting
Mon 24th—Fri 28th	Grade 3/4 Swimming

November

Tuesday 1st	Melbourne Cup Day
Mon 7th—Fri 11th	Grade 5/6 Swimming
Mon 14th—Wed 16th	Grade 4 Camp
Wednesday 16th	Prep Excursion
Monday 21st	School Council Meeting

December

Thurs 1st—Fri 2nd	Grade 3 Camp
Wednesday 7th	Year 7 Orientation Day
Monday 12th	School Council Meeting
Mon 12th—Fri 16th	Junior School Swimming
Friday 16th	Year 6 Transition night
Tuesday 20th	End of Term 4 (1:30pm dismissal)

Extracurricular Activities

We have various tutors and organisations who provide private tuition and programs before, during or after school. New programs are advertised via flyers or in the community news section of the newsletter. Enrolment forms may be available at the office or directly from the program organiser.

Name	Program	Contact
Lala Music	Music lessons and band for grade 3 - 6	Olivia 0419 131 868 lalamusic2@yahoo.com.au
Jill Scholfield	Piano	Jill 0401 972 664
Violin Program	Violin	Trent 0413 207 689 trentbunston@gmail.com
Kelly Sports	Multi-Sports & Basketball	Gary Hoskin gary@kellysports.com.au kellysports.com.au/events
Slamin Tennis	Tennis (flyer below)	Vicky 0403 129 648 https://slamin.com.au/
Sporty Stars	Dance, Soccer, Basketball (flyer below)	Russ 0422 043 853 info@sportystars.com.au
Team Kids	Out of school hours care	1300 035 000 https://teamkids.com.au/
Digimaker	Coding (starting term 2) (flyer below)	https://www.digimaker.com.au/enrol
Chess Education	Chess Club	Nick info@chesseducation.com.au
Bricks 4 Kidz	Lego building	Derek 0402 945 599 hychong@bricks4kidz.com Bricks4kidz.com.au/mm
Soccer-X	Soccer (starting term 3) (flyer below)	Www.soccer-x.com

2nd Hand Uniforms

Contact Ida on 0478 083 589 to arrange an appointment.

Canteen

Lunch orders are available Tuesday to Friday. Orders can be placed in advance and need to be in by 9:00am for same day processing. To place an order download the Qkr! App. [Click here for instructions on how to download and use Qkr!](#)

Community News



Call to arms - Referees

We need your help! We are experiencing a referee shortage, we are down 40% due to COVID and are facing event cancellations.

Please help us keep kids on the court for school basketball.

We ask that each School entered into the event bring a qualified referee if you have a contact and/or a parent helper.

Referees and helpers will be added into refbook so they can be covered by Basketball Victoria's insurance.

Each helper will be supplied a hand whistle on the day to help out with the Rookie Division.

Qualified referees will be reimbursed \$120 and parent helpers \$100 to a nominated bank account

Click below if you are able to help:

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/BasketballVictoria1/calltoarmsreferees>

Community News



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Community News

SKILLS ACQUISITION

FOOTBALL PROGRAMS

LOCATIONS IN YOUR AREA:

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Park Orchards Primary
Doncaster Gardens Primary

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9-12pm
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Community News

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WHAT'S ON TERM 3

Team Kids

BIRRALEE PRIMARY



Get ready for more FUN in Term 3 as we work together to transform our awesome Before & After Care program into an epic Winter Wonderland Zone!

What's on this term...



AUGUST

WINTER WONDERLAND CHALLENGE

SEPTEMBER

FATHER'S DAY

SEPTEMBER

SPRING HOLIDAY FUN

See you soon!

AWESOME PARTIES
YUMMY SNACKS
HOLIDAY FUN
EPIC EVENTS
FUN CLUBS

BEFORE, AFTER + VACATION CARE
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BOOK IN & PLAY

Team Kids

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Community News



Snap a winner 「2022 PHOTO COMPETITION」

Snap a shot around Manningham for your chance to win in our 2022 Community Calendar Photo Competition.

Submit a photo taken in Manningham that captures the theme *Finding Balance*.

There are prizes up for grabs and the shortlisted photos will be showcased in the 2023 calendar.

Submit before 1 September

 [manningham.vic.gov.au/
photo-competition](https://manningham.vic.gov.au/photo-competition)



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Community News

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Vista Valley Kindergarten 50th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday 27th August
10am - 2pm

Join us for a wonderful day to celebrate 50 years
of our kindergarten in the Bulleen Community!

- Official Welcome & Cake Cutting •
- Food & Drinks •
- Kids Activities, Face Painting, Scavenger Hunt & much more!
- Meet our Educators - enrolments for 2023 & 2024 now open •
- All Past, Present & Future families welcome •

Community News

BIRRALEE
COMMUNITY
HUB

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Free business listings available to...

- current parents, carers and staff
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Supporting the community that supports us!

BIRRALEE

Parents & Friends Association

pfabirralee@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER