

School Values – RESPECT: Our School Community is encouraged to treat others with grace and kindness. The use of manners is respect in action.



Bendigo Special Developmental School

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Newsletter # 9

9th June 2017

Term Dates 2017

Term 2		Term 3
Tuesday 18 th April – 30 th June 2017		17 th July – 22 nd September
Important Dates		
Wednesday	14 th June	• Prep Information Session For 2018 – 10am & 7pm
Friday	16 th June	• Parents and Friends Gathering – Staffroom after Assembly
Monday	19 th June	• Student Achievement Conferences – Students attend meetings • School Council 7pm
Wednesday	21 st June	• Later Years Performance – The Yule Guardians - 1pm
Friday	30 th June	• Parents and Friends Gathering – Staffroom after Assembly • End of Term 2

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Hello SDS Community

Down to Earth



From all the stories I have heard, Rooms 8 and 9 students, parents and staff enjoyed a magical day at the Melbourne Arts Centre on Wednesday 7th June. Bamboozle Theatre Company (UK) presented an exceptional theatre, specifically for children and young people with physical and complex disabilities. The students were welcomed individually, experienced the feel of a vegetable patch, danced in their chairs with the performers and met a mischievous mole who causes mayhem! The students experienced a magical forest where shadows slide across the floor, and wildlife rushed through the trees. Photos in next newsletter and well done to all involved in making this magical day happen.

NDIS "In Kind" Funds

Many of you will have had your NDIS planning meetings or have them coming up, and I am aware of some families that have received notification of your packages already. Some families will note on their package break down a monetary figure attached to transport to and from school. At some stage in the future, the

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NDIS will be covering support for families in transporting students to and from school. The Department of Education has currently advised schools that this will not begin until at least 2019. This means that the monetary figure noted as part of a student's package, is actually a planning figure and not allocated money accessible at this stage, by either the family or the school. It is a defined figure generated according to a formula (that we are not aware of) and used by the Department of Education and NDIS to work out what the costs of providing support to get students to and from school will be. How the current bus system, taxi, agency, parent or carers will provide transport, for example, is still yet to be decided. This area of the NDIS that is still evolving. Suffice to say, the money allocated on the plan for transport does not come to the school. If you have questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Meg Holmes, our wonderful Family Support Teacher, who is doing a wonderful job helping so many families navigate this very confusing, and at times, anxious pathway to the NDIS.



Child Safety Standards

Prior to the Commonwealth of Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, there was a Victorian Government Enquiry into the handling of child abuse allegations. This inquiry's final report, 'Betrayal of Trust', set out new standards that all organisations, including schools, must comply with regarding Child Safety. Child Safety is, of course, the highest of priorities for our school and dictates many of our practices within the school on a daily basis. Some of the requirements of these new standards is that we have ongoing information sessions and sharing and open conversations with all members of the community, not just members of our school community. For this reason, we will be providing information about the practices that we use within our school to ensure Child Safety in many and varied ways. As a starting point, I have included a fact sheet entitled 'Protecting Children from Abuse: For Parent and Carers', with this newsletter electronically. You can also access this fact sheet on our website as well as our full Child Safety Policy. If you would like a paper copy, of the fact sheet or the policy, please contact the office; we will print one and send it home with your child.

School Review Report

Speaking of information available of our website, the Executive Summary Report from our School Review is also available for you to read on the website. This report gives an overview of the self-assessment and discussion that took place within the school review and the key findings that will guide the strategic planning of the school over the next four years. I am always available to go through these points with you in more detail should you wish and would be excited to share with you the future direction of our school.

Reports



We cannot mention reports without noting that in the next week you will receive your child's Personal Learning Support Plan report. Whilst from the front, this may look like the same document that was sent home at the start of the term, it is actually now filled with comments that detail your child's progress towards their learning goals for this semester. I have very much enjoyed reading all of the student's reports and noting the individual achievements of students for the year thus far, which is a great tribute to the knowledge, skill, dedication and application of our teaching teams. Whilst there is always something new

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to learn, this is a time to reflect on and celebrate the progress made by each student. I would like to thank you all for your participation in that success, as here at Bendigo SDS we recognise that the parent/carer input and relationship is critical to the overall success of the child.

Student Achievement Conferences (S A C Day)



With this newsletter, you will have also received a preference sheet to identify your preferred time to discuss your child's first semester report at our upcoming Student Achievement Conferences. This will take place on Monday 19th June 2017. Please remember that students are only required to attend school for their interview time.



Grant Success

Recently the school has been successful in obtaining two grants that will enhance the learning opportunities for our students. Two teachers who have joined us this year, Kim Burns and Tania Franks, both talented musicians in their own right, joined forces to submit a grant for musical instruments for the school. They were successfully awarded over \$4500 that will go directly to buying a whole range instruments such as African drums, percussion instruments, some amazing instruments called a Hapi drum (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDfBKekVSGI>); plus the storage equipment to keep them safe. This equipment will mean a growing emphasis on students generating their own music and performance for all our students, which has proven evidence based benefits in literacy and numeracy development as well as social and emotional regulation development skills. Congratulations also to Rosie Critchley who wrote the grant to secure \$4000 in funding to support the introduction of the Respectful Relationships curriculum into our school. This is an area of learning that relates to the way all relationships should be based on respect and is a Victorian Government initiative to tackle the large rates of domestic violence that are unfortunately present across our society. This learning is a mandated part of the Victorian Curriculum and the grant will support the school to implement the best learning experiences for all of our students. Thanks ladies for going the extra mile to support our students.

Therapist Model

You may recall that in some newsletters gone by, I have spoken about the changing way our therapists are going to work within our school. We have found that we have a lot of different views about what would be the best way for our therapists to work with our students and as such, we are going to be doing a small 'in-house' research program to identify how the therapist team will support students at Bendigo SDS. To do this properly, we need to have input from everyone in the school community. AS such – **we want you!!!** In the not too distant future, we will be having a parent forum to discuss five main questions about the therapist support at our school. Whilst we haven't set the date and time, please keep your eye on the TiqBiz,, which has changed to FlexiBuzz, for further information and please come along and have your say.

Kirshy McAinch, Principal



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R . D . A . Dates For Term 2

If you are unable to attend, please phone or text : **Jan or Nigel for Ride Days on**
5435 4140 or 0404 875 249
Diana for Carriage Days on
0409 959 271

Wednesday 14 th June	Carriage
Wednesday 21 st June	Riding
Wednesday 28 th June	Carriage

Bus Contact Phone Numbers	Driver and Chaperone
Town 1 : 0427 287 843	Jack & Joy
Town 2 : 0428 159 660	Peter & Cynthia
Town 3 : 0428 261 802	Max & Tracey
Town 4 : 0429 118 349	Darryl & Katrina
Wedderburn : 0427 380 040	Peter & Janine
Castlemaine : 0409 421 500	Ray & Debbie
Heathcote : 0429 177 732	Phillip & Angela
Malmsbury : 0428 271 824	David & Raelene
Kyneton : 0428 236 271	Steve & Helen

Buses

If you have any concerns or would like to make any changes to the buses, please contact the school.



★ HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ★

17 th June	Lachlan	Room 19	22 nd June	Jordan	Room 18
23 rd June	Mitchell	Room 16			



Student Awards RECEIVED at Assembly on Friday 9th June



Room 7	Rocco	For using his words and making good sentences
	Declan	For Being Your Best by making good choices

Children's Holiday Camp 2017

I would love to recommend this camp run by Xavier college year 12 graduates. I have had personal experience with the camp and was impressed with the high level of care and the involvement of such amazing young people. Not only do the campers have a wonderful time, but young people have a great opportunity to learn and experience disability, at a time where they are beginning new careers.

If you would like to more, come and chat to Meg Holmes (as places fill up fast).



National Disability Insurance Scheme

For more information and to register please go to

http://www.disabilityloop.org.au/news/bendigo_ndis_workshops.html?utm_source=Disability+Loop&utm_campaign=6e5a226fe5-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2016_11_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1f568c9dc3-6e5a226fe5-14669297&mc_cid=6e5a226fe5&mc_eid=a280afc385



CITY OF GREATER
BENDIGO



STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE and AMBULANCE COVER

Please note that insurance against injuries or loss or any kind by students is not part of the responsibility of the school or DET. It is possible to purchase this from a variety of commercial providers. Similarly, ambulance cover is not automatic.

Families with a Health Care Card may be covered but others will need to be ambulance members to cover the costs of an ambulance call if necessary. Please clarify if you are covered with Centrelink if you have a Health Care Card.

To assist with this, please ensure that all medical and personal details are up to date

