



Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

*'Quality Education in a Friendly, Caring and Supportive Environment'*

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## BPS Newsletter – Number 2 Friday 12th February, 2021

**Respect**

**Excellence**

**Relationships**

### SCHOOL COUNCIL

#### Acting Principal

Julie Ladd

#### President

Leah Bailey

#### Treasurer

Heidi Ferguson

#### Finance Committee

Leah Bailey

Heidi Ferguson

Julie Ladd

#### Minute Secretary

Janine Andrews

#### Members

Leah Bailey

Heidi Ferguson

Rae O'Toole

Joelene Simsen

Dear Parents,

It has been a busy week with students re-establishing and developing learning routines. Our Prep students have settled in well and their older buddies have been a wonderful support. Our youngest cohort have been loving Chinese and enjoy saying 'Ni hao' whenever they can.

### COVID Restrictions

As many of you will have heard, Stage 4 restrictions are being reintroduced over the next five days for Victoria.

I am waiting on further information from the Department of Education and Training (DET) and will communicate this via our [Parent Facebook page](#) as soon as I know more.

### Welcome BBQ

We are hoping to hold a 'welcome back to school' BBQ, it will be held at Bridgewater PS on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> of February. This will be an opportunity for parents and staff in our school community to come together and welcome new parents and students.

The school will supply sausages, hamburgers and bread. You are welcome to bring your own salads to add to your families. Normally we would create a smorgasbord and share but due to the current COVID restrictions, that is not possible.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for us all to come together for a social chat and I look forward to seeing you all there – COVID restrictions permitting

### Family Statements

Please see your family's statement attached to the newsletter this week.

### School Council

#### [What is a school council and what does it do?](#)

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school in accordance with their constituting Order and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

#### [Who is on the school council?](#)

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. DET employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school
- A mandated elected DET employee member category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members

- An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members
- A small number of school councils have Nominee members.
- Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

#### *Why is parent membership so important?*

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

#### *Do I need special experience to be on school council?*

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. However, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

#### *Code of conduct for school councillors*

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*. School councillors must abide by the *Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities* issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** (be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty)
- **act in good faith** in the best interests of the school (work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds)
- **act fairly and impartially** (consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self interest)
- **use information appropriately** (respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available)
- **exercise due care, diligence and skill** (accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school)
- **use the position appropriately** (not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage)
- **act in a financially responsible manner** (observe all the above principles when making financial decisions)
- **comply with relevant legislation and policies** (know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law)
- **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** (set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable).

#### *Indemnity for school council members*

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or

the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

### [How can you become involved?](#)

The most obvious way is to participate in and vote in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider:

standing for election as a member of the school council  
encouraging another person to stand for election.

### [School council induction video](#)

The school council induction video provides a summary of the purpose and responsibilities of school councils as well as the roles and responsibilities of school councillors. The video can be viewed on the [Department's website at School Councils](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/community/Pages/schoolcouncils.aspx). <<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/community/Pages/schoolcouncils.aspx>>

### [What do you need to do to stand for election?](#)

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent member category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for Parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

### [Remember](#)

Consider standing for election to school council.

Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.

Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.

Contact the principal for further information.

### *School council election process and timetable*

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>
Notice of election and call for nominations	Friday 12 February 2021
Closing date for nominations	Friday 19 February 2021
Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Friday 19 February 2021
Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	On or before Monday 22 February 2021
Close of ballot	Monday 1 March 2021
Vote count	Monday 1 March 2021
Declaration of poll	Monday 1 March 2021
Special council meeting to co-opt Community members (the principal will preside)	Tuesday 2 March 2021
First council meeting to elect office bearers (the principal will preside)	<b>Wednesday 17 March 2021</b>

## STAFFING

We have enjoyed having Aimee Phegan at our school but unfortunately, we will be seeing her take on another position next week. I want to say thank you to Aimee for the cheerful energy that she has brought to our school and we wish her well in her teaching journey. I will be communicating with you further about staffing when I have some further processes in place.

Aimee asked that I pass the following message on to our school community:

*"This first newsletter entry was supposed to be my big 'hello' to the school and the community. Sadly, I've come to see over the past fortnight that I'm just not ready to return to working full time away from my family and young child. I've decided to take a part-time job at a Bendigo school that will allow me to spend more time at home and with her. I wanted to make this decision as early as possible so as to cause as little disruption to your child's school life as possible. I'm sorry for any inconvenience, I've absolutely loved meeting your families and appreciate how welcoming everyone has been. Bridgewater Primary School deserves a teacher that can be %100 committed to the role and the students and whatever teacher replaces me will be lucky to be here. I have nothing but fantastic things to say of the school and members of the community here.*

*I hope to stay in touch in some way, and so it's not goodbye, it's see you soon."*

Aimee Phegan

Thank you to everyone for your ongoing commitment to your child's education and support of our school.

Stay well,

Julie Ladd

Principal

HOW LUCKY I AM TO HAVE  
SOMETHING THAT MAKES  
SAYING GOODBYE SO HARD.

An advertisement for Art Smart Online. The background is white with colorful paint splatters in red, orange, yellow, and blue. At the top, the text "Art Smart Online" is written in a large, black, cursive font, with "FANTASTIC ONLINE ART CLASSES" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it. Below this, a bold black line reads "Brilliant artists and instructors take the classes in real-time on Zoom." A bulleted list follows: "•Easy to organise - we make it simple for you.", "•The kids will produce amazing art!", "• The classes are so much fun we had to start a parents' class – Art Play for Adults. Why should kids have all the fun??", "• All age groups covered!", and "•To see the activities planned for the classes click [visit our website.](http://www.artsmartforkids.com.au) [www.artsmartforkids.com.au](http://www.artsmartforkids.com.au) There are some amazing art ideas planned!". A red brushstroke graphic contains the text "FIRST CLASS FREE!". Below that, it says "Just \$12.50 a class (exc GST)" and "The full price varies depending on the number of classes in the term." The text "LIMITED PLACES BOOK NOW!" is in blue. At the bottom, it says "To book go to [www.artsmartforkids.com.au](http://www.artsmartforkids.com.au) (don't forget the 'au' at the end)". The bottom right features an illustration of a fluffy orange cat sitting on a paint can, painting on an easel. Various art supplies like brushes and paint tubes are scattered around the base of the easel.

# Important Dates

Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
<b>Monday 15th</b> Breakfast Club Playgroup  <b>Wednesday 17th</b> Breakfast Club Grade Prep rest day  <b>Thursday 18th</b> MARC Commences Lunch orders & money to school  <b>Friday 19th</b> Lunch order day Assembly	<b>Monday 22nd</b> Breakfast Club Playgroup  <b>Wednesday 24th</b> Breakfast Club Grade Prep rest day  <b>Thursday 25th</b> Inglewood Extension Lunch orders & money to school  <b>Friday 26th</b> Lunch order day Newsletter	<b>MARCH</b> <b>Monday 1st</b> Breakfast Club  <b>Wednesday 3rd</b> Breakfast Club Grade Prep rest day  <b>Thursday 4th</b> MARC Lunch orders & money to school  <b>Friday 5th</b> Lunch order day Assembly	Monday 8th Labour Day Holiday  Wednesday 10th Breakfast Club  Thursday 11th Inglewood Extension Lunch orders & money to school  Friday 12th Lunch order day Newsletter

*Birthdays...*

*No Birthdays this week*



EFT DETAILS BSB 633-000 YOU MUST MAKE SURE  
 A/C 132448242 YOUR FAMILY SURNAME  
 IS INCLUDED AS THE  
 REFERENCE!