Principal’s Message

Welcome and welcome back!
A warm welcome to all for the 2016 school year at Brunswick North West Primary School! We especially welcome our community, those Foundation and higher level students who are attending our wonderful school for the first time. To new parents and carers we extend our community family now, and look forward to getting to know you and building a strong bond of friendship and shared purpose. Schools are dynamic and intricate places with procedures and processes specific to the particular school and its community. We want to share with you how the daily life of BNNPS rolls on through each week, how we organised, think through and implement our learning program and what are the intrinsic patterns and rhythms woven into the texture of our school community. We will distribute information in different forms, and ask that the ‘old hands’ at the school take the opportunity to welcome new community members and assist where possible in explaining how things work. Alternatively, please contact myself, our Assistant Principal Hannah Reid or office staff if you have any questions. We also welcome Chris Moed teaching in Foundation, Linda Van de Wall teaching in Year 5 & 6, and we welcome back Kate McCormack from family leave, undertaking a range of teaching roles throughout the school. Congratulations to Deb Robins teaching in Year 1 & 2, who was married over the summer holiday period!

Works completed over the holidays
Over the holiday period we had a number of installations throughout the school buildings and grounds. A large screen was installed in each classroom, most specialist areas and the library. This gives teachers the capability to screen a vast variety of teaching and learning resources related to the current topic or learning intention. The screen connects to iPads, laptops, mobile devices and the Apple TV network, allowing work related videos, animations, graphs, maps and apps to be shown to motivate and support learning. Children can share with the whole class their latest creations, draw their solution to a problem, display their writing and thinking all in a digital format. We now have 120 iPads being used throughout the school by students and staff. These support a diverse range of information technology learning opportunities aimed at further developing the digital literacy and experience of our children. New laptops have been supplied to the senior classrooms for use in research, word processing and a host of interactive learning activities. New desktop computers are being installed in the library ICT area allowing whole class groups to learn ICT skills and access information in electronic formats. Additional wireless access points were also installed across the main building to improve the carrying load of our IT infrastructure with recent purchase of iPads and laptops. These additional teaching resources have been supported by the work of staff in further defining a curriculum for information technology within our school. Our staff is very excited by the opportunities now available to inspire and motivate children using digital resources to enhance learning outcomes. Our school will continue to seek a healthy balance of screen time and traditional learning formats. We believe we are accountable to provide our children with digital learning opportunities commensurate with the ever increasing role information technology plays in the life of us all. We also want to ensure children have the opportunity to write and be creative in formats which develop fine and gross motor skills, allow for self-expression in the traditional art forms and support cognitive development in a wide range of learning experiences.

A compacted base, gravel topped running and bike track has been constructed around the oval play area. The need to provide a barrier for Yakkai Barring from grass infestation from the oval gave us the opportunity to extend this into a circular track for use in PE classes, bike education programs and for general fun at recess and lunch time. An intersection and pedestrian crossing have been installed, along with appropriate signage, to further enhance the track. A low level rock climbing area has been constructed in the bush area, near the current vegetable patch. This provides another area for natural play in our fabulous playground, and gives children to opportunity to experience natural textures of rock and dirt.

Once again, I want to express my thanks to all those parents and carers who have been involved in recent fundraising efforts for the school. Due to the time and energy you have committed across a number of school fundraising events, we have been able to make the improvements to our learning programs, building infrastructure and our grounds, as listed above.

Floods!
It was discovered over the early holiday period, that a toilet cistern on the upstairs teacher’s bathroom had ruptured, and for 4-5 days water had flooding this area of the main building. There was a ‘lake’ in the upstairs corridor area, the toilet itself was underwater and two upstairs classrooms (Claire & Deb) had flooded carpets and floorboards.

(Continued over)
The lino in the teacher’s staffroom has also been affected with surface discolouration. The lino in the corridor was lifting in a few places and there was some buckling of skirting boards and architraves. The water had flowed down through the flooring and affected the children’s bathroom downstairs, the library and the corridor outside the library. The children’s bathroom had water dripping from electrical fittings and the ceiling plaster was bowed and water damaged. The library carpet had sustained a large area of flooding as well. A company was organised to remove the water and dry out the carpets. Power was cut to the lower toilet area and the ceiling of this room was temporarily reinforced. A number of assessors visited the school and a report detailing repairs works was submitted to the education department. The carpets in the library and Deb Robins’ classroom need to be replaced, the ceiling in the lower girls toilet needs replacement and repairs need to be made to lino areas and various other fittings. The lower inside toilet area is unusable until these repairs are agreed to by the department.

Compass
Compass is a web-based school management system focused on information distribution, attendance, roll marking, excursion management, parent payments, parent teacher conference organisation and reporting to parents about student achievement. Compass provides a portal for parents allowing them to log into an online stream of information about school organisational details. The Compass News Feed is the primary communication tool within Compass. Whole school, year level and individual classroom notices can be made available to parents and carers. We are currently at Stage 1 of the implementation plan, with classroom roll marking now being undertaken via the Compass software. Further details about Compass functionalities for parents and carers will be detailed in upcoming newsletters and notes home.

An exciting year ahead!
We look forward to a big year of learning and community life at BNWPS. Our teaching teams are working hard to implement a successful and motivating learning program using a wider range of engaging teaching resources. Our OSHC staff operate a quality program of care and learning for children, and our Sprout team provide warmth and nourishment for children and adult community members. Office and support staff work to provide assistance to children in classrooms and parents and carers in the daily organisation of our school. I encourage you all to take up the opportunities available over the year to be actively involved in school social and fund raising activities planned for this year. The 2016 School Planner sets out a number of events where your family can make a contribution to our community and support the learning and school experience of your child. Please see future newsletters detailing upcoming school community events.

We will commence our usual newsletter format next week. I look forward to sharing in the partnership with students, parents and staff, to ensure all children have an enjoyable and successful school year in 2016.

Trevor Bowen
Principal

Term Dates 2016
Term 1: 28 January to 24 March
Term 2: 11 April to 24 June
Term 3: 11 July to 16 September
Term 4: 3 October to 20 December

School Planner was sent out to each family on 29 January.

Birthdays for January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>8 Jan</th>
<th>11 Jan</th>
<th>12 Jan</th>
<th>13 Jan</th>
<th>15 Jan</th>
<th>17 Jan</th>
<th>18 Jan</th>
<th>20 Jan</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ginger CD</td>
<td>Fender KM</td>
<td>Finlay KM</td>
<td>Van LVW</td>
<td>Oscar LK</td>
<td>Nico RE</td>
<td>Xsodus LK</td>
<td>Jennifer SM</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Jan</td>
<td>23 Jan</td>
<td>24 Jan</td>
<td>25 Jan</td>
<td>Orla AH</td>
<td>Arty CD</td>
<td>27 Jan</td>
<td>29 Jan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive CC</td>
<td>Lex CM</td>
<td>Mara CC</td>
<td>Grace TP</td>
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<td>Henry SM</td>
<td>Yoshi CD</td>
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Happy Birthday!!!
Assistant Principal’s Message

I really do enjoy the holidays - weeks filled with rest and relaxation without any worries of deadlines, planning and organisation; though by the beginning of each new year I begin to wonder if my Executive Functioning skills will ever come back! Executive Functioning is a collection of self-regulatory processes and skills that people use in order to organise and act on information. These skills include:

- Impulse & Emotional Control
- Flexible Thinking & Working Memory
- Planning & Prioritising
- Task Initiation & Self-Monitoring
- Organisation

Executive Functioning skills are important because they influence so many aspects of our lives and can often play a determining factor on how successful our endeavours will be. Good Executive Functioning skills can even improve our ability to juggle and complete the constant stream of little tasks we all face every day; including but not limited to getting ready for school on time, completing tasks at school or around the house, concentration, managing time, setting priorities and keeping track of where your belongings are.

While some people develop Executive Functioning skills quickly, others require more support, guidance and opportunities for practising and improving on their skills. At school, staff and students work together on developing our skills at an age-appropriate level, however the beginning of school year is a wonderful time to improve on routines and develop skills at home, too! Some ideas for increasing your child’s Executive Functioning skills include:

- Modelling good Executive Function yourself – talk out loud about the thought processes and decision making required to set priorities and manage time.
- Establishing a morning routine with a checklist of all the tasks that need to be completed including bathing, dressing, eating breakfast and packing a bag.
- Asking your child to prepare and pack their own lunch.
- Establishing an after-school routine of cleaning out school bags, checking notices and reading or completing homework tasks.
- Tracking important dates on a calendar.
- Keeping a diary with homework tasks, after-school clubs and important dates listed.
- Allocating daily or weekly chores to be completed.
- Working on a home improvement or passion project that requires planning can be broken into smaller tasks.

With some careful planning, proper practice and persistence, I hope this year finds your mornings calm, your evenings productive and your tasks reaching completion!

Hannah Reid

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**Calendar**

- Wed 3 & 10 Feb    No Foundation Students attend
- Fri 19 Feb        Plant & Produce Market
- Tues Feb 23      Pupil Free Day-No School
- Sun 6 Mar        Working Bee
- Mon 14 Mar       Labour Day-No School

**Notices Sent Out**

- Local Excursion form-sent 28/1 to each
- Photo Permission form-sent 28/1 to each
- Sprout Menu –sent 28/1 to eldest in family
- Foundation grade class letter-sent 28/1
- Parent Charges-sent 29/1 to eldest in family

**Reminder from the office:**

If you have changed your phone number, address or emergency contact details, or if there are changes to medication or medical conditions please advise the school office straight away so we can update our records.

Please ensure we have Ventolin/spacer for your child and an asthma plan should they have asthma.

Many thanks!

**Sprout—Our Canteen**

We will be offering sandwiches only for lunches for the whole of the first full week (except Wednesday).

Lunchtime specials will commence from Feb 8.

All other services will be as per usual with coffee in the mornings and snacks at recess and lunch.

Reminder: Sprout is not open for lunch orders on Wednesdays.

If you require your newsletter to be sent via email, please supply your email address to the office. Please note your child will not receive a hard copy if you choose this option.
Camp Sport and Excursion Fund (CSEF)
School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is: $125 for primary school students and $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
Applications are open until 24 March 2016.

School Banking
School banking will commence on
Thursday 11 February.

There will be information about school banking at the school assembly on 19 February and account opening on Tuesday 23 February at 3.30pm for new customers.

Introducing Community Cooking Classes!
Kicking off Tuesday 9th Feb at 9.30am -11.30am in the OSCH kitchen (adjoining multipurpose room) we’ll be making sushi and rice paper rolls! Come along to be inspired, get to know others and enjoy some collective cooking and tasting as well as sharing your own knowledge and favourite recipes. All welcome, including any little people. Term 1 we will be focussing on summer lunchbox ideas, simple midweek meals and health conscious Easter treats. Please contact Justine Moir for more info or to save yourself a spot on 0425340536 or moir_mail@yahoo.com
Term 1 Dates:
Feb 9, 16, 23
Mar 1, 8, 15, 22

BNW French Club T1
Supportive, stimulating and fun learning environment with native -speaking local teacher. Awesome preparatory experience for future high school French language learners. Children of all ages and experience welcome.

French Club has moved to Wednesdays for 2016.

We have a couple of spots available for Term 1.

Wednesdays 3.45-4.45pm (Library)
Contact Jim 0432 719 034 /
jim.callahan@lcflclubs.com.au

Recorder Lessons at BNWPS – 2016 Beginner Enrolments
In 2016 instrumental recorder lessons will again be offered during school hours at BNWPS. The recorder program aims to help parents provide their children (year levels 1–6) with an opportunity to learn a musical instrument. If you may be interested in applying to enrol your child in a beginner group lesson, please pick up an information sheet from the School Office.

Students in Year 1 at school are an ideal age to commence recorder lessons in groups. Learning in groups is an enjoyable way to begin instrumental music studies and is particularly suitable for younger students. Lessons start Tues 2 Feb.
Happy music making!
Fiona Walters, Recorder Tutor

Woodwind lessons for 2016
Flute, clarinet, and saxophone lessons will commence with Lauren Mullarvey on Wednesday 3rd Feb and run for Terms 1 and 2, until Ceri Hale returns from maternity leave to resume the lessons in Term 3. Thank you to those who have already enrolled for lessons, Lauren will be in touch to confirm details shortly.

There are still some spots available for other interested students, for further information and to enrol, please collect an enrolment form from the office and respond ASAP. Ceri Hale and Lauren Mullarvey