I have been visiting many classrooms over the past three weeks to see all the programs in place. With our School Wide Positive Behaviour Support program in full flight, students, staff and the school community are participating wholly by using respect, acting safely and being their best. Work books, wall displays, our assembly presentations, awards, and so much more, have students engaged in every room. I really enjoy sharing in the pride that our students feel when they show me their work or when I join in an activity right alongside them. We truly do have a magnificent community!

We welcome Ethan G and his family to Bendigo SDS. We all hope you enjoy your new school Ethan!

**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

To all our very special ES Staff, I hope you experience something very ‘special’ within our school during the month of August because you deserve to! It is with the help, encouragement, guidance, willingness, happiness and friendship of each and every ES Staff member that the teachers can provide (and students are able to experience) the great programs offered here each and every day. Our office staff provide courteously to all staff whilst running a very efficient ‘ship’! We value all of you!

**HAPPY ESS MONTH…**

Last chance to nominate someone for the School Council Award for Excellence
The School Council has endorsed an annual award which is known as the:

‘Bendigo Special Developmental School School Council Award for Excellence’
School Values – ENCOURAGEMENT: Our School Community promotes encouragement to inspire and build confidence.

This award is available to all members of the community – staff, parents or community members who have made a significant contribution to our school or students in any of the areas of: Dedication to Students, Generosity of Spirit, and Passionate Endeavour.

This prestigious award will provide a means of acknowledging and thanking those who have made such a significant contribution.

Nominations for this award are being called for now. Please contact the office for the appropriate form.

**Parent Opinion Survey**

Recently a random selection of families received our 2015 Parent Opinion Survey. The overall objective of this survey is to collect data about parent opinion across the state, and for individual schools to use the data to inform school improvement. The survey is designed to take no more than 20 minutes to complete and your feedback and opinions play an important role in making our school the best it can possibly be.

Please return completed surveys to the school by Monday 3rd August.

**Sign in and out book at the bus bay**

Thank you to our parent members who suggested we introduce a sign in and out book to the kitchen area of the student services block. This will enable parents / carers to sign in and out as you make your way to and from assembly at the bus bay on Monday and Friday mornings. This also alleviates it being necessary to visit the office first.

**Visitors to our school**

We have been actively supporting many tertiary students, secondary students and medical students during their rounds at Bendigo SDS during the past three weeks. Staff take the time to offer their skills, knowledge and experience when teaching others about special education and what it entails to be a successful educator in this field: it is very unique and requires many different approaches to ensure our students are offered the best education – ‘Excellence in Special Education’. I applaud the willingness of all staff to share their expertise and know-how with those who may one day join us in what is a very challenging yet rewarding career. Thank you to Mandy who is doing a wonderful job at coordinating this area.

Until the next edition…stay warm!

**Julie Hommelhoff**

**Principal**

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

**Positive Behaviour Support (PBS)**

This term the whole school focus for our whole school community is “Show Respect”. As you would know by now, this means that teachers are busy conducting teaching sessions on what showing respect looks like in their classroom, and other environments across the school. It is a good idea to keep up with your classroom PBS curricula, which focuses on social skills, because they are easily transferred to home. A reminder, Natalie (parent) is available after Monday Assemblies for you to chat with too. Parents and Carers who have attended recent assemblies would have noticed the inclusion of PBS video scripts. Thanks to Jenny and Rosie for their fine camera, direction and editing skills! Our teachers and students also feature in these very effective Tier One teaching tools.
**School Values**

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

- **HONESTY**: Our School Community demonstrates honesty in our daily actions by behaving with fairness, truthfulness and sincerity.

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**Positive Partnerships**

Last week I again joined the Positive Partnerships Victorian Parent Carer presenting team to deliver a one-day workshop on autism, in Carlton. The workshop attracted over forty parents, which was terrific.

I also really enjoy being part of this team, as it provides me with an opportunity to extend my knowledge and skills in autism education and to learn from very experienced people in this field. My responsibility for this workshop was to deliver content on sensory processing.

I also really appreciate these opportunities to network beyond our school.

**Kids Chat**


Kids Chat is a Scope pilot program that provides individualised non-electronic communication aids to children with complex communication needs in Victoria.

Through Kids Chat, children under the age of 17 can receive a customised communication aid that is theirs to keep.

The Kids Chat aids are fully funded, thanks to the generous funding from Westfield’s Charity Partnership with Scope. The pilot is running for 6 months.

**Who can receive a funded communication aid?**

To qualify, children must meet all the following criteria:

- be 17 years old or younger
- live in Victoria
- have complex communication needs (where speech alone does not meet communication needs)
- be eligible for services under the Disability Act (2006).

For further information on eligibility, please refer to the Kids Chat guidelines. I will make a copy of the guidelines available at the office.

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**Student Awards…**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heath M</td>
<td>Room 13</td>
<td>Being kind to his classmates!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talia B</td>
<td>Room 18</td>
<td>For always using her manners and being kind to her friends!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latara P</td>
<td>Room 18</td>
<td>For always using her manners and being kind to her friends!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seth T</td>
<td>Room 2</td>
<td>Completing 50 nights of reading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caiden J</td>
<td>Room 2</td>
<td>50 nights reading.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Thought for the day**

“Ability is what you are capable of doing. Motivation determines what to do. Attitude determines how well you do it.”

~ Aldous Huxley
School Values – ENCOURAGEMENT: Our School Community promotes encouragement to inspire and build confidence.

School Values – PROFESSIONALISM: We honour our job descriptions and work place values.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Buses Contact Phone Numbers</th>
<th>Driver / Chaperone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Town 1: 0427 287 843</td>
<td>Jack &amp; Joy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town 2: 0428 159 660</td>
<td>Peter &amp; Cynthia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wedderburn: 0427 380 040</td>
<td>Peter &amp; Janine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town 3: 0428 261 802</td>
<td>Max &amp; Kathy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castlemaine: 0409 421 500</td>
<td>Darryl &amp; Wendy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malmsbury: 0428 271 824</td>
<td>Bevan &amp; Kathrynn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heathcote: 0429 177 732</td>
<td>Phillip &amp; Christine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyneton: 0428 236 271</td>
<td>Leigh &amp; Helen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town 4: 0429 041 763</td>
<td>Sue &amp; Katrina</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A big thank you to Good Earth Garden Supplies for their very generous support of our school. It is greatly appreciated by the students, staff and whole school community. The mulch that they donated will be used in the Later Years Garden.

A big thank you to the Kangaroo Flat CWA, for the donation of feeders that they made for our school. They are greatly appreciated by our students, staff and the whole school community and will be used on a daily basis.

Another big thank you to the Yarrawalla Social Club for their recent donation of $2,500.00 to our school. It was greatly appreciated by the students, staff and whole school community. The donation will be put towards the extension of our Sensory Garden Stage 2.

Jacqui Righetti
Assistant Principal

Student Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26th July</td>
<td>Rodger T</td>
<td>Room 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st August</td>
<td>Cole B-J</td>
<td>Room 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th August</td>
<td>Lachlan F</td>
<td>Room 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th August</td>
<td>Paige S</td>
<td>Room 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th August</td>
<td>Oscar C</td>
<td>Room 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff Birthdays

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31st July</td>
<td>Caroline W</td>
<td>Room 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st August</td>
<td>Leonie H</td>
<td>Room 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Free LED down light – No cost, no effort!
Bendigo Bank (thanks to Stuart Johns, Manager Kangaroo Flat Branch and Community Representative on our School Council) has made

**Bendigo Special Developmental School one of the participating schools in Bendigo to receive $1 for every down light replaced in the community.**

Replacing Halogen down lights with FREE LED down lights, can save you up to $500 a year on your power bill. All you have to do is register – Registration forms are attached to the newsletter this week or contact the office for a registration form. Please return your form to the school as soon as possible and the Bendigo Bank will collect them from here.

Thank you for supporting our school and the environment and saving $$$$ for yourself!

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**Bendigo Buzz – Facebook**

I have started a face book group called Bendigo Buzz for all parents and carers of BSDS students. It is designed to be a place to connect with and support each other, exchange ideas and be a safe place to talk. Just search for Bendigo Buzz. Put in a request to join and I will join them up. Thanks for your help.

Jeannie

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**CONTACT US:**

Principal: Julie Hommelhoff; Assistant Principal: Jacqui Righetti; Business Manager: Margaret Butler; Reception: Karen Pratt / Jodie Appleby; Contract Bus Coordinator: Jacqui Righetti; Leading Teachers: Student Voice & Wellbeing Barb Johnstone; Transition & Coaching Rosie Critchley; Information Communication Technology Jenny Annett; Curriculum & Data Collection Angie Bysouth; Specialist Coordinator (Health & PE, Art and Sensory): Chris Novak; Early Year’s Coordinator: Krystal Downing; Middle Year’s Coordinator: Mick Ring; Later Year’s Coordinator: Amanda Bourdon; Before & After School Program information: Angela Whalen Ph: 0407 844 090 ; School Council President: Brett Scholes; Parent Club: Please contact the office; RDA Coordinator: Julie Hommelhoff; Help Lines: Nurse-on-call 1300 606 024; Lifeline Phone: 131 114; Parentline: Phone: 132 289; Department of Human Services Phone: 5434 5555; Bendigo Community Health Services; Phone: 5430 0500; Interchange respite care Phone: 5441 1599 St Luke’s Phone: 5440 1100; Homestyle Respite Phone: 5441 3537 Carers Support Services: 1800 068 978

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School Values – HONESTY: Our School Community demonstrates honesty in our daily actions by behaving with fairness, truthfulness and sincerity.