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

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

Welcome Back BBQ – March 4th 5 – 6.30pm
Come along and meet other parents, families, students and staff on March 4th from 5.00 – 6.30 pm. Kiwanis will once again support our evening by cooking a sausage sizzle and serving our School Council Team will be there to help serve cans of soft drink for sale at a cost of $1.00 each. doors so you can see and learn about all the doing at school. Hope to see you there! The night will
be held in the Agora and in classrooms.

Safety
When you are dropping students off for school each day, please remember to enter the school via the SINGLE side gate nearest the Bus Bay and use the pedestrian crossing. This will ensure safety for you and the students. We have witnessed people walking through the double gates from where buses exit. This is extremely dangerous. The pedestrian crossing is a much safer option. Staff will redirect you away from the incorrect gate when necessary.

Lions Youth of the Year Quest
I feel really honoured to be one of the judges of the ‘Lions Youth of the Year Awards’ for 2012 - 2015. This panel convened on Monday and Tuesday night in Sailor’s Gully to establish who will be given the opportunity to become an outstanding young individual, an Australian ambassador, with the chance to travel overseas under the auspices of the Lions Clubs International. I am really excited to interview many potential winners. The quest began in Queensland before I was born – 1964 and now I get the chance to be a part of this quest that continues some fifty-one years later.
School Values – ENCOURAGEMENT: Our School Community promotes encouragement to inspire and build confidence.

Great Start Conferences

With such a successful attendance at the Great Start Conferences, I am confident that the goals set for all our students will meet the expectations of families and teachers. Thank you for your commitment and enthusiasm towards this day, creating a positive atmosphere for everyone. Together we will achieve the right things.

School Council Elections

Elections have closed and I am pleased to announce the School Council Team for 2015:

Brett Scholes – Parent Representative
Angela Whelan - Parent Representative
Mark Castle - Parent Representative
Matthew Gildea - Parent Representative
Nadine Lewis - Parent Representative
Leah Thomas - Parent Representative
Kylie Cleever - Parent Representative
Rosie C – Department of Education and Training (DET)
Barb J - Department of Education and Training (DET)
Caroline W - Department of Education and Training (DET)
Jacqui R - Department of Education and Training (DET)
Julie H - Department of Education and Training (DET)
Stuart Johns – Community Representative
Ivan Schmidt – Community Representative

Thank you to Kay Giovanetti – Kay has worked tirelessly for 47 years in Special Education and has now decided to call it a day. Kay has been treasurer of the Bendigo SDS School Council for many years making sure the school finances were in order and that our students received the very best resources possible to enhance their educational programs. We could never thank Kay enough for her dedication to the education of the many hundreds of students with additional needs, however, the Bendigo SDS School Council is forever grateful to Kay for her leadership, support and the vast array of knowledge that she has provided as a councillor, education support staff member and a friend to many. We wish you all the best Kay, in your retirement from the Department of Education and School Council.

Enjoy the weekend!

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

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Positive Behaviour Support (PBS)

Over the last fortnight staff have had robust discussion about behaviour reinforcement and acknowledgement systems (rewards for students). This professional dialogue has created vibrancy around our professional practice and an opportunity to reflect on how staff have provided rewards and praise to our students. One of the main benefits of PBS is that this strategy encourages consistency.

In Term Two we will sharing with parents and carers how students across our school- Early, Middle and Later Years’ are rewarded for demonstrating our Behaviour Expectations: Act Safely, Show Respect and Be Your Best!

We also aim to have a parent information workshop during Term Two to share the benefits and strategies of this positive behavioural approach with parents.

Perhaps, you could think about how you acknowledge positive behaviours at home. I know your child’s teachers will be happy to talk with you about possible strategies for your children.

Room 19

I would like to share an anecdote of how Roslyn and Lyn, Teachers of Room 19 have successfully used a reward system for their students this Term. Roslyn explained to me this week how she has individualised a visual reward system for one of her students. The flow on affect has also been positive; another two students have asked Roslyn to have the same visual reward system. The benefit of providing such systems is that they are lasting. Providing verbal praise is of course most important, however, ensuring that students (who are often visual learners) have something tangible to remind and provide a measure of progress is also important.

Roslyn explained how she was able to successfully individualise this for students in her classroom. For Roslyn the success of this approach is in how she randomly provides acknowledgements. This flexibility allows Roslyn to ‘step up’ her system when students need to be reminded of behaviours staff and other students want to see, and ‘back off’ a little when students are demonstrating compliance by verbal praise and self-motivation.

This example shows that this positive behavioural approach is also greatly influenced by the attitude and skill of the Teacher. Roslyn and Lyn share a common approach to positive behaviour techniques and as a most experienced team have a wealth of positive behaviour strategies to draw from!

PBS Bus Staff Workshop: Thanks to the initiative of Kalianna staff, Bus Drivers and Chaperones were invited to a PBS workshop at Kalianna yesterday. Kalianna Leading teachers Josh and Lara lead the session and I was invited to attend to support and explain the Bendigo SDS version of PBS, which does align with Kalianna. PBS has a similar formula, however, the language and strategies applied are organic to each setting. Bus Staff were most receptive to the strategies presented. Main points discussed were: 1. Ensuring that students receive more positives to behaviour corrections during their travels. 2. School and Bus Staff are a
School Values – ENCOURAGEMENT: Our School Community promotes encouragement to inspire and build confidence.

partnership where communication is the key and 3. An appreciation of how Bus Staff manage complex issues in a complex environment.

A Reminder - 1:6 Rule: PBS also reinforces the power of praise. The staff of Bendigo SDS have been applying the 1:6 rule for a little while now. This means that for every behaviour correction (when you tell a child not to do something), we ‘balance’ the ‘score’ by providing the student with six genuine praises. It would be great if you could try this approach at home too! Perhaps start with 1:4 rule and work up. I would love to hear how you are going with this!

Parental Involvement in PBS: Last year we were fortunate enough to have three parents involved in the development of this approach for our school; Natalie G, Louise S & Rachelle F. Parental and community involvement in this approach are vital ingredients. If you think you may be interested in becoming involved in this team, please contact me.

Buses
The bus proprietors and our schools (Kalianna and Bendigo SDS) are still working through some issues. This means that there may be further changes for some families next term. Families who will be affected by these changes will be notified in coming weeks.

Staff, “being their best!”
I would not have to explain to our parents how tough re-establishing a routine can be for some of our students. Credit of course goes to our students and families for their very important role in this process. However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for their classroom and program preparation to date. Their professionalism has ensured that all students have been provided with individualised activities and supports to make their transition back to school as smooth as possible. Thanks staff!

Student Birthdays
3rd March – Jesse M Room 19
13th March – Billie B Room 13

Staff Birthdays
1st March – Jason C Room 9

School Values – PROFESSIONALISM: We honour our job descriptions and work place values.
School Values – RESPECT: Our School Community is encouraged to treat others with grace and kindness. The use of manners is respect in action.

Student Awards...

To be presented at assembly on Monday 2nd March...

Jesse H – Room 5  
Talia B – Room 18  
Mackenzie S – Room 18

For great independent eating.  
Congratulations! A great start to school!  
For being brave and trying new things.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bus 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; Kathryn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heathcote: 0427 380 046</td>
<td>Russell, Jenny &amp; Kay</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>

Thought for the day
Without deviation from the norm, progress is not possible.  
Frank Zappa (1940-1993)

Jacqui Righetti  
Assistant Principal

Thank You!

A big ‘thank you’ to Trevor Marsh, Kangaroo Flat for the donation of goal posts, a handball board, balls etc to the school. We all appreciate your generosity!

School Values – HONESTY: Our School Community demonstrates honesty in our daily actions by behaving with fairness, truthfulness and sincerity.
ATTENTION FAMILIES: PAYING ESSENTIAL EDUCATION ITEMS Directly into the School Bank Account

Dear Families

If you are paying your Essential Education Items directly into the School’s Bank Account, it is VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU IDENTIFY WHOM THE PAYMENT IS FROM - please make sure that you put the Family ID or the Student ID in the DESCRIPTION line.

Thank you for your cooperation with this. We do appreciate the number of families whom have paid fees already. We must ensure that payments are allocated correctly.

Don’t forget that whatever amount you pay in Term One, you will go into a draw to receive half the amount you have paid returned to you.

EFTPOS MACHINE
We have our Eftpos machine up running in reception now, making it more convenient for family payments.

CENTREPAY
Our Centrepay registration with Human Services has also been finalised, enabling family payments to be deducted directly from Centrelink payments. Please contact the office for more details.

Thank you and regards
Margaret Butler
BUSINESS MANAGER

Conveyance Allowance 2015

In some locations, eligible students are unable to access free school buses, or have to travel 4.8 kms or more to the bus pick up/drop off point. The conveyance allowance helps cover the costs resulting from any transport gaps between the public transport system and the school bus network, or where multiple transport services are required to get to and from school. The allowance can be applied to the use of public transport, private cars, private buses and taxis.

Eligibility for a conveyance allowance is based on the following criteria:

- Students must attend the nearest specialist school
- Students must live at least 4.8km from the school or nearest bus pick up / drop off point.

If you consider your child is eligible for this allowance please contact the office for an application form as soon as possible.

If you have already applied successfully in 2014 and your circumstances have not changed, you are not required to reapply in 2015. FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY MONDAY 2ND MARCH
School Values – RESPECT: Our School Community is encouraged to treat others with grace and kindness. The use of manners is respect in action.

All parents/friends/carers the 2015 SDS AFL footy tipping comp is starting up now and we want you!

Cost $25 – paid to Adam, Chris or front office
Prizes – 1st 55%, 2nd 30%, 3rd 10%, 4th 5% of total prize pool

For those who played last year (2014)
1. Enter your login details as you would have from last year at www.thegreatfootytipoff.com
2. Search for group to join – SDS2015
3. When it asks for the password type in: SDS2015
4. You should now be registered for this year’s SDS footy tipping BONANZA

For all new players
1. Go to www.thegreatfootytipoff.com and register
2. Search for group to join – SDS2015
3. When it asks for the password type in: SDS2015
4. You should now be registered for this year’s SDS footy tipping BONANZA

You can call the school and ask for Adam or Chris and we can help you register over the phone if that is easier for some people. Last year we had 38 people this year we want 50.

Easter Raffle
Dear Parents and Carers, this term the Fundraising Team has once again decided to hold the Easter raffle. We would greatly appreciate your support in this, and all money raised will go towards valuable projects to improve our school facilities and equipment. The raffle prizes are to be hampers of Easter eggs. If each family could donate an egg, bunny or other relevant Easter item, this would make for a brilliant prize pool!
Donations will be collected from classrooms each day, and it would help us greatly if these could be brought in no later than Friday, March 20th so that the hampers can be put together.
Raffle books and sales money also will need to be returned no later than Friday March 20th.

The raffle is to be drawn at assembly on Friday, March 27th.

Thank you for your support,
The Fundraising Team

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School Values – ENcouragement: Our School Community promotes encouragement to inspire and build confidence.

Community News...

- **Harcourt Applefest Kids Karnival & Baking Contest**
  Saturday 7th March.
  For information visit [www.harcourtapplefest.com.au](http://www.harcourtapplefest.com.au)

- **A Sporting Chance Program**
  “An inclusive sport and physical education programme aimed specifically at young individuals who have an ASD”
  For information contact John Doherty @ Girton Grammar School. Email: johndoherty@girton.vic.edu.au

- **Bendigo Cinemas**
  Sensory Friendly Film: Big Hero 6
  Sunday March 1st – Time to be announced.
  For information contact Julie Williams. Phone (03) 54408028 or Email: Julia@bendigocinemas.com.au

Head Lice
Head lice continues to cause concern and frustration for children and their parents. We have had a number of reports of head lice in different classrooms, recently. In order to minimise the incidence of head lice infection, it is vital that all members of the school community are diligent in checking their child/ren’s and family member’s hair. Children’s hair should be checked on a weekly basis, using the conditioner and lice comb technique. Detailed information on successful treatment of head lice is available from the office. In line with the School Policy on Head Lice, educated and informed staff of Bendigo SDS will conduct classroom screening on students with consent, on the first day of each term. If you have any concerns regarding head lice, please contact the office. Alternatively, you may wish to contact Helen Fulford, a specialist in this area on 5447 7071 or 0408 477 071.

**SCHOOL APP – TIQBIZ**

Have you signed up for the School App?
We are using an app to communicate with you.
You’ll be notified of our news, messages, event and other communications.

**ABSENCES:**
You can notify the school via the app if your child is going to be absent from school.

**PERMISSION FORMS:**
You can give permission for your child to attend an excursion/outing via the app.

**CANTEEN ORDERS:**
Canteen lists are also on the App, you can send your order through via the contact envelope on the App.

**PARENT PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL:**
You can let us know if you are coming to an event at School via the app e.g. International Day of People With a Disability, Christmas Basket Tea etc.
Contact the school office if you have any further enquiries.
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**HOME / SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THIS FORTNIGHT**

*Be involved in your child’s school…………*

- Have you checked out our Website or better still, made it your homepage?
- For Better or Worse tell us first if you have a concern
- **School Banking** every **Wednesday**
  - Whole School Assembly Monday and Friday mornings 9.30am. Parents/Carers welcome to attend
  - Parents and Friends / New Families - come for a cuppa! Fortnightly on a Friday morning. Date below.
- Keep the school up to date with your contact details. This is a very important safety issue.
- Are you moving? Please notify the office to assist with planning.
- Download the new Bendigo Special Developmental School App to your iPhone and iPad. It’s FREE

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**For purchase of New School Uniform – please see CentaVic clothing**

**Second Hand Uniform:**
Second Hand Uniforms are available from the school. If you would like to purchase an item please put a gold coin donation into an envelope. Please write your name and order on the front of the envelope (and your child’s name). If you have any enquiries, please contact the office.

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**Our Website**
[www.bendigosds.vic.edu.au](http://www.bendigosds.vic.edu.au)

Have you checked out our website lately? Each week we download our newsletter.

We have now added our newsletters to the site. If you would prefer to read the school’s newsletter on the website please let either your classroom or the office staff know and we can take your name off receiving a paper copy of the newsletter – or take your name off the e-mail list.

- To view our newsletter go to: [www.bendigosds.vic.edu.au](http://www.bendigosds.vic.edu.au)
- Then click on the ‘Newsletter’ tab along the left hand side of the page.
- You then select/click on the particular newsletter you would like to view
- You can also choose to subscribe to the newsletter on the website
- If you have any questions or problems with the website please contact the school office.

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**Sensory Garden**

I / We are willing to donate the following amount of money for the Bendigo Special Developmental School Sensory Garden Project.

**Name:** ……………………………………………………………………………………………

**Donation:** $

You will be issued with a Receipt for Tax Purposes upon receipt of Goods and / or Services.

Your generous contribution to our school is greatly appreciated by the students, staff and whole school community. Thank you.

ABN: 38377856296
DGR: 9004622602 (Deductible Gift Recipient)
School Values – ENCOURAGEMENT: Our School Community promotes encouragement to inspire and build confidence.

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:
Narelle Lyons / 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

NEWSLETTER: E-mail Registration – Please Return Form to School Office.
Your Name:…………………………………………………………………………………………
Students Name:…………………………………………………………………………………………
Students Room No:…………………………………………………………………………………………
E-mail Address that you would like us to E-mail the newsletter to:
………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

‘Find A Carer’
Find A Carer at www.findacarer.com.au is a website which connects carers and children with special needs, people with a disability and the elderly.
Web: www.FindACarer.com.au Ph. (03) 9769 8917
Email: info@findacarer.com.au Mob.0402 635 285


Parents & Friends Group / New Families
Our Parents (and Friends) gather once a fortnight to have a chat and a cuppa. Pre School children are most welcome to join in the fun! Our next meeting is Friday 6th March. Our meetings are held in the school staff room straight after School drop off. So why not come along and join us for a cuppa!

Access Travel Pass
Do you have the above assistance cards? We have application forms in the School Office. Our Health Professionals: Cherie (Occupational Therapist), and Callum (Speech Therapist) are willing and able to support you with the endorsement of forms if necessary.
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“Welcome Back BBQ”

You are invited to attend our Welcome Back BBQ on Wednesday 4th March From 5.00pm - 6:30pm

Entry is off Neil Street, through the double gates

This is an exciting time for our school community as we celebrate the start of 2015

Visit your child’s classroom and meet the classroom staff for 2015

Mingle in the Agora with old and new friends

BBQ will be served in the Agora by Bendigo SDS School Council Members

Cans of soft drink available for sale

Please RSVP to the school office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student’s Name and Room</th>
<th>Number of Adults</th>
<th>Number of Children</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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Please RSVP to the school office