



# Bendigo Special Developmental School

*"A place of excellence in education that creates inclusive communities and success for all"*

Newsletter # 4 – Friday 25 March 2022

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f @bendigoespecialdevelopmentalschool

## TERM DATES 2022

Term 1, 2022	Term 2, 2022
Friday 28 January - Friday 08 <sup>th</sup> April	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June

## IMPORTANT DATES

Friday	01 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Easter Raffle Draw</li> </ul>
Friday	08 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last Day of Term 1 All students finish at 2.00 PM</li> </ul>
Friday	15 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good Friday</li> </ul>
Monday	25 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anzac Day NO SCHOOL</li> </ul>
Tuesday	26 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1<sup>st</sup> Day of Term 2</li> </ul>
Saturday	30 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> Vaccination Clinic Details can be found in the Principal's Report</li> </ul>

### Our Values



- Driving **learning**
- growing **diversity**
- Valuing **diversity** with kindness and respect
- Uniting to achieve **excellence**
- Ensuring **equity** of opportunity



Bendigo Special Developmental School community respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays its respects to the ongoing living cultures of Aboriginal peoples.



RESPECTFUL  
RELATIONSHIPS

LEAD  
SCHOOL



# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



## **A CALL TO ARMS FROM OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL BSDS PETITION**

Many of you will be aware that Kalianna School, our partner special school in Bendigo, has been rebuilt over the last few years. I was lucky enough to be invited to the official opening by the Premier, Daniel Andrews last Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2022. After the official opening, a round table discussion was held with four of our parents and carers, alongside parents and carers of students from Kalianna also. The meeting was a great opportunity to talk about the wonderful facility that Kalianna now is, and how, in comparison, our facilities, despite being well kept and cared for, are no longer fit for educational purpose with the advances made in teaching students with diverse learning needs. Our local members, Maree Edwards MP Member for Bendigo West, and Jacinta Allen MP, Member for Bendigo East, have taken up the case being led by our School Council, and are working to make our school, the next special school rebuilt. To do this, we need the support of our parent, carer and wider community, and we will demonstrate that by presenting a petition to parliament.

Attached to this newsletter, is a copy of the petition. Please take this to all of your family and friends, your neighbours, your workmates, anyone who is connected to your family, or a member of the wider community and get them to sign the petition. People must sign the petition of their own accord, they must live in Victoria, it must be handwritten, no digital signatures will be accepted, and you can only sign the petition once.

The School Council are aiming to collect 4000 signatures to show that our wider community believes that the students at Bendigo Special Developmental School deserve access to a great school that has first class facilities. If you fill up the petition sheet, please ask the office for more, as each sheet of the petition must have the formal petition details printed on the top of the page.

In Term 2, the School Council will be calling on parent and carer volunteers to help collect signatures on our petition, so if you have some spare time during the day, they would very much like to hear from you.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the School Council was held last Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021. There was very little change to the makeup of the representatives, with the only changes being Matthew Gildea taking up a Parent Representative position, and Tyler Dempster taking up a Department of Education employee position, after Tania Franks has stepped down. We farewell Tania and thank her for her contributions to the School Council over the last two years. We are very grateful to Matthew and Tyler coming onboard the School Council, bringing their valued input as we head into the first year of implementation of our new School Strategic Plan. Matthew joins other parent representatives Leah Thomas, Rebecca Quinn, Vicki Gordon, Rach Byrne, Terri Unger and Emma Bourke, and Tyler joins DET representatives Barb Johnstone and Davina McCurdy. Additionally, we are very privileged to continue to have Angela Whalen, a past parent of our school, and Bob Wiseman, an honorary member of the Kangaroo Flat Rotary Club continues in their roles of Co-opted Community members. Collectively, the School Council are a wealth of knowledge and experience and significantly contribute to the strategic vision of our school.



After the AGM, a general meeting was held, and the Office Bearers of the Council remain unchanged from last year. Leah Thomas remains our President, Angela Whalen is the Vice President and Treasurer, and Barb Johnstone is the Secretary. It was also wonderful to have our new Assistant Principal, Dehne Anstee attend the meeting, to gain further insight to the way our school operates. Leah, Angela, Barb, Dehne, myself and Business Manager, Margaret Butler, also make up the Finance and Resources Sub Committee, which meets two weeks before the School Council meeting. Leah and Angela are to be commended, congratulated and thanked for the time and effort that they put into ensuring the effective operation of the School Council.

Should you wish to contact the School Council with any of your thoughts, ideas or feedback, you can do so via Leah's education email address, which is [Leah.Thomas@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Leah.Thomas@education.vic.gov.au), or contact the office and they will put you in touch with any of the parent and carer representatives that you wish to speak with.

## ANZAC DAY – MONDAY 25th APRIL

Our school community has been invited to attend the ANZAC Day Commemorative Service hosted by the Kangaroo Flat RSL that takes place at the Soldier's Memorial Garden in High Street Kangaroo Flat. A march will commence at 0845 from the Anglican Church and march down Church Street and into View Street, before the Commemorative Service will commence at 0900. Senior Student Representatives will lay a wreath on behalf of the school community during the service, and all are welcome to attend and join in this significant moment of reflection for our nation.



## SECOND VACCINATION CLINIC SATURDAY 30th APRIL 2022

After the success of the first Pop-Up vaccination clinic last weekend, a second one will be held at our school on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022. This one will be open for both adults and adolescents 12 years and older, and for children aged 5-11 years during the following hours:

### Session 1 (Adults/Adolescent 12 years+):

**11:45am – 12:45pm**

### Session 2 (Children 5-11 years):

**1:00pm – 2:30pm**

Bookings can be made via the QR code underneath. Please remember that vaccinations are not required for students to come to school, no staff will be in attendance at this clinic and parents must provide written consent for their child to be vaccinated. This clinic is for our entire school community, so please pass this opportunity on to any of your family and friends.



## END OF TERM – FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL

It is very hard to believe that Term 1 is drawing to a close. It has been a very long (11 weeks) and at times, a challenging term, as we have navigated the ongoing impact of COVID 19 and the isolation periods for students and staff alike. Thank you for your patience and for partnering with us to give all of our students the most consistent streak of schooling they have had in nearly two years (touch wood!). It has been wonderful to see students engage in learning and really get back into the swing of things. We look forward to more opportunities to welcome our parents and carers into school events and recommence some of the community aspects of schooling such as assemblies, that we all enjoy so much. In the meantime, take care and I do hope you get to experience a sleep in or two over the holiday period.

**Kirshy McAinch, Principal**



## BIRTHDAYS

26 March	<b>Kieran</b>	Room 17	27 March	<b>Chloe</b>	ESS
01 April	<b>Jahkye</b>	Room 8	05 April	<b>Jesse</b>	Room 13
07 April	<b>Kelly C.</b>	ESS	07 April	<b>Melinda H.</b>	ESS



### INGREDIENTS

90 Grams of Butter  
 1/3 Cup of Sugar  
 1 Tablespoon Honey  
 4 Cups Kellogg's  
 Cornflakes



### HONEY JOYS

Preheat oven to 150 C°

Line 24-hole patty pan with paper cases.

Melt butter, sugar and honey together in a saucepan until frothy

Add Cornflakes and mix well.

Working quickly, spoon mixture into patty cases

Bake for 10 minutes, then cool

**ENJOY!**

## BUSES



<b>BUS</b>	<b>DRIVER / CHAPERONE</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>
Heathcote	Gary & Jodie	<b>0435 900 890</b>
Huntly	Helen, Nicole & Chloe	<b>0428 261 802</b>
Fryerstown/Castlemaine	David & Debbie	<b>0409 421 500</b>
Kyneton	Steve & Raelene	<b>0428 236 271</b>
Lockwood	David & Kim	<b>0428 271 824</b>
Strathfieldsaye	Steve & Joy	<b>0427 287 843</b>
Serpentine	Peter & Janine	<b>0427 380 040</b>
Spring Gully	Chris & Heather	<b>0428 159 660</b>
Wedderburn	Shaun & Cathy	<b>0466 367 656</b>



## WELFARE & FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM



Hello, all parents, carers and families,

Last Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> we celebrated '**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HAPPINESS**' as a school which was a major success.

International Day of Happiness is a day created on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March each year (this year fell on a Sunday) by the United Nations in 2012 in recognition of the pivotal role that happiness plays in our overall health and wellbeing as a society. This day celebrates the value of happiness in our lives and creates awareness around this.

From a pandemic to war, the world is currently facing unprecedented challenges which gives more reason to celebrate every ounce of happiness that we have around us, as well as looking at the skills of gratitude for the wonderful things we do have.

On Friday we were able to come together as a school and celebrate **CONNECTION** which has been difficult to do in the past few years. This was all in the effort to celebrate this year's theme of '**BUILD BACK HAPPIER**'.

Our students (and some staff) enjoyed some Crazy Hair Makeovers with coloured Hairspray, chalk drawing, art, bubble play and some party music, which created a great atmosphere.

There were lots of smiles all around and even some pretty groovy dance moves!

We thought we would share some photos of the action that is bound to put a smile on your face 😊

Have a great week,

The wellbeing team 😊

Drew Barrett – *Mental Health Practitioner*

Meg Holmes – *Family Support*











## WELFARE & FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM



# Cosmic Kids Yoga



This week we wanted to share a great resource called [Cosmic Kids Yoga](#) which is a YouTube channel that promotes yoga and mindfulness for children.

This resource is full of follow-along videos created to be engaging, fun, and can be a good activity for the whole family to enjoy.

A great way to support our student's participation in these activities is to join in on the fun and model the behaviour that is occurring in the video. Keep in mind that this does not have to be perfect by any means, as it is all about fun and exposing ourselves and our students to mindfulness practice.

Founded in 2012, Cosmic Kids attempts to smuggle in the benefits of yoga and mindfulness practice while kids are having fun.

They use stories, role-play, and a good portion of silliness to make yoga and mindfulness fun for kids.

They're encouraging them to move and stretch their bodies - and squeezing in breathing, relaxation and visualisation techniques along the way.

Some of the many benefits of yoga and mindfulness like this include a decrease in feelings of stress and anxiety, increased emotional regulation, better physical health, and a greater sense of overall wellbeing.

So, check it out below:

[Cosmic Kids Yoga - YouTube](#)

We hope you all have a fantastic week,

Drew Barrett (Mental Health Practitioner) & Meg Holmes (Family Support)



## SWPBS NEWS

### School-wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS)

This month, staff have greatly increased the amount of positive acknowledgements given to our students for showing behaviours displayed on our **student matrix**. As a staff team, we have gone from giving 48 bullions (see picture) to students for the month of February to a total of 98 for the month of March (and we still have a week to go!). This means that our students have had their efforts recognised much more regularly by staff and encourages them to continue behaving in a positive manner.

The result of all of this means that we have met the number of bullions required for our students and staff to receive a **whole school reward**. Watch this space!

Hamish Morcom  
SWPBS Coordinator and occupational therapist



## EASTER RAFFLE REMINDER



### Easter Raffle



Dear Parents and Carers,

A big thank you to all the donations we have already received over the last few weeks. We're sure they will make a number of beautiful and delicious hampers of Easter Eggs.

We would like to remind you of the following important dates:

- **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March** – greatly appreciated if donations could be sent in by this date so that hampers can be put together by our volunteers.
- **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March** – Raffle tickets (sold or unsold) and money to be returned to school.
- **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April** – Raffles to be drawn







## HARMONY WEEK 21 – 27 MARCH 2022

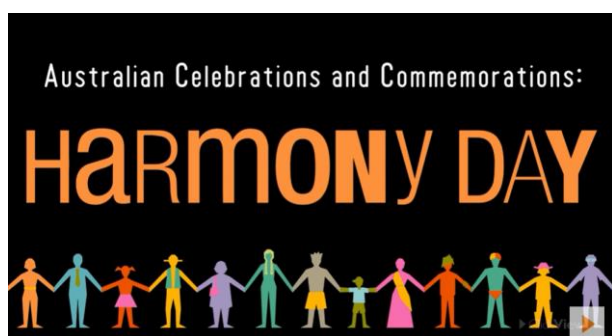
### Theme: 'Everyone Belongs, Belonging'

Harmony week is when we celebrate everyone's culture from every country around the world. Half of people that live here in Australia have been born in another country.

Valuing other people's opinions and ideas, listening to one another and being kind and caring is all showing respect for each other.

Diversity is our strength because together we can learn...

There are a number of short videos you can watch together at home and we're happy to share some ideas with you.



- What is Harmony Day/Week? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2YtEIKIVFM>
- Harmony Day – Looking Forward <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bBkqT5YYSIc>

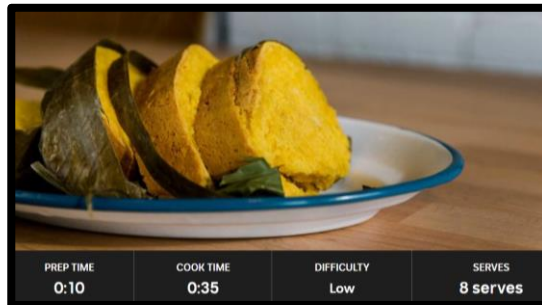
We hope to share some photos of our Harmony Week activities in our next newsletter.



## RECIPE OF THE WEEK

# Pumpkin damper recipe

from Madu Mabu's Nornie Bero



### DAMPER INGREDIENTS

- 500g Japanese pumpkin (preroasted)
- 3 cups self-raising flour
- 2 Tbs butter, room temperature
- 1 ¼ cups water
- 4 x 30cm sheets of banana leaves

(see at page bottom for where to purchase in Bendigo)

*You can add 1-2 teaspoons of saltbush to add a little extra flavour.*

### METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 200 degrees Celsius.

**If using pumpkin, start by roasting the pumpkin. Cut the pumpkin into cubes and roast in the oven until soft - almost mushy.**

2. In a bowl, add the flour and butter. Mix together using your hands by pressing together. Mix until fully combined.
3. Add the cooked pumpkin.
4. Add water to the flour and butter a little at a time and mix with fingers until you have a nice sticky dough.
5. Place some flour on your surface then kneed until you have a bread-dough consistency.
6. Place dough on centre of banana leaf (or baking paper). Wrap in banana leaf or baking paper then wrap in
7. Place on oven shelf for 35-40 minutes.

**To accompany pumpkin damper, whip room temperature butter with golden syrup.**

### GOLDEN SYRUP BUTTER INGREDIENTS:

- 4 Tbs butter, room temperature
- 1½ Tbs golden syrup

**This is delicious!**



## PEOPLE OUTDOOR – AUSTRALIAN CAMPS ASSOCIATION



The People Outdoors and the Australian camps association have been in operation as a non-profit organisation for over 30 years. We have delivered hundreds of camps and outdoor experiences for people living with disability across Victoria.

All sites are "Accredited Tourism Venues" with ACA membership, this ensures quality. Camp activities focus on individual and social development, skills and independence in the outdoors. Activities include canoeing, high ropes and low ropes courses, bush exploration and cycling, as well as less adventurous activities such as orienteering and archery. Each camper has a nominated carer or volunteer as required on a ratio of 1:1, 1:2, 1:3 (depending on the complexity of their needs). Our camps are for children, teens, and adults. The outdoor team has a high focus on the individual camper and the best quality experience each person can have on camp.

Our "Come and Try Day" on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2022 will be a family day event.

Cost: \$50.00 per family. Activities, equipment & Lunch Included

Please see the registration link below and flyer attached .

Everyone is welcome!

**Bookings for the "Come and Try Day" are essential.**

You can register through the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/people-outdoors-family-come-try-day-grampians-tickets-224816802107>

Feel free to pick up an information leaflet from the office.





**PETITION**  
**To the Legislative Assembly of Victoria**  
**The Petition of**  
*Bendigo Special Developmental School Community*

**Draws to the attention of the House**

*The unfit for educational purpose design and facilities of the Bendigo Special Developmental School including small classrooms and doorways, inadequate accessible toilet facilities, inappropriate 'withdrawal spaces' and common rooms, disjointed portables and exposed walk ways.*

**The petitioners therefore request that the Legislative Assembly of Victoria**

*Provide funding to develop a master plan to the technical works drawing phase for the future development of Bendigo Special Developmental School, to create a first class, evidence-based learning environment for students with special needs.*

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Signature</b>
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**Bendigo Special Developmental School**

*"A place of excellence in education that creates inclusive communities and success for all"*



**SEE YOU ALL ON MONDAY**



*Our Values*



- ✦ Driving *learning* growth
- ✦ Valuing *diversity* with kindness and respect
- ✦ Uniting to achieve *excellence*
- ✦ Ensuring *equity* of opportunity