



# Bendigo Special Developmental School

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

Newsletter # 2 Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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Assistant Principal: Kirsty Phillips  
School Council President: Leah Thomas  
f @bendigospécialdevelopmentalschool

## Term Dates 2021

Term 1 2021	Term 2 2021
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> January - Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April Last Day of Term 1 : 2pm Finish	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April - Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> June

## Important Dates

Tuesday	23 <sup>rd</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Photo Order and Money Due</li> <li>All Abilities Cricket Carnival Shepparton</li> </ul>
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Photos</li> </ul>
Friday	26 <sup>th</sup> February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Photos</li> </ul>
Friday	5 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Council Nominations Close</li> </ul>
Monday	8 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Labour Day : Public Holiday (No School for Students)</li> </ul>
Monday	15 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Council AGM; 7:00pm</li> </ul>
Thursday	1 <sup>st</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End of Term 1 : 2:00pm finish</li> </ul>

## Our Values



✦ Driving *learning* growth

✦ Uniting to achieve *excellence*

✦ Valuing *diversity* with kindness and respect

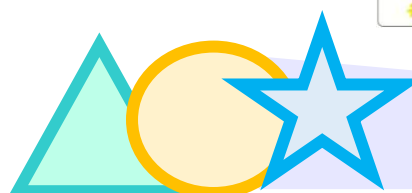
✦ Ensuring *equity* of opportunity



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



SWPBS  
Act Safely  
Show Respect  
Be your Best

SWPBS



✦ Act Safely



✦ Show Respect



✦ Be your Best





## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



### *Hello BSDS Community*

#### **COVID update**

Thank you everyone for your patience and understanding during the recent sharp lockdown and return to remote learning for three days. We appreciate how difficult such sudden changes at short notice are for all of our families, as to our staff. Thankfully the lockdown had the desired effect and the lockdown has ended. We are, however, aware that this kind of lockdown could potentially happen again before the full vaccination program has been completed in Victoria, and more widely in Australia. As such, if there was to be another instance of this type of snap lock down, we will adopt the same model of remote learning through the SeeSaw app. I am aware that for some, there may have been some confusion between the two different SeeSaw apps. We have included an explanation from our Learning Specialist, Chris Smith, in this newsletter. If you feel that you need further support to access these SeeSaw apps, please do not hesitate to contact the school and speak to your teacher or Chris himself.

#### **Cultural Day**

What an amazing celebration we had on Thursday 11 February. Auntie Marilyn Nicholls opened the celebrations with a Smoking Ceremony & Welcome to Country, sharing the creation story of Bunjil and how he made the land. Auntie Marilyn then announced the Dja Dja Wurrung name given to our undercover area of our school is 'Manyá' meaning 'Meeting Site'. (It is pronounced Ma-na). During the Ceremony students listened to the captivating didgeridoo playing of Jason Kerr, while watching the smoke rise across our new area, and smelt the gum as the medicinal leaves smoked.

The Koorie Engagement Support Officer (KESO) Team from the Department of Education facilitated activities that included Boomerang painting, Rock Art, Ochre Face Painting, traditional games like Juluhya, Weme & Koolchee Koolchee. The students also explored artefacts worn for ceremonies, spears, shields, boomerangs and tools used for gathering foods, carrying young children, preparing foods on and weapons for hunting.

Bush Tucker was on offer, prepared by the Murnong Mamas. Students, staff and parents and visitors tried roasted emu, marinated in salt bush and strawberry gum, crocodile, kangaroo sausage rolls, vegetarian sausage rolls and kangaroo meatballs with tomato chutney. The word around the school was the kangaroo sausage rolls and kangaroo meatballs were the BEST of them all!

A huge thank you to everyone who made today's celebrations possible, especially to Fiona Gray, our Koori Liaison Teacher, who has spent many months behind the scenes organising such an important day for our school and the Specialist Teacher team, who met with Simon Briggs, KESO, to learn all of the Indigenous games prior to the day.

We look forward to many more school community events being held in our newly named space, 'Manyá'.

#### **Individual Education Plan (IEP)**

You will all be aware of the Personalised Learning and Support Plans that our school has used to identify the learning goals for each child. These goals are developed in conjunction with families and other professionals who may be part of a student's support group at Great Start Conferences (GSC) or Student Achievement Conferences (SAC). Last year the Department of Education brought in a new template that is to be used across the entire Victorian system known as the Individual Education Plan. Whilst the format may look a different, the intent and content is still the same. These plans guide the specific learning goals for each student that will be woven into the learning programs across the week and term. These goals are then updated and their achievement and progress commented upon in Term 3. These plans are different to the academic based reports that you receive on your child at the end of each semester. Those academic reports provide a detailed overview of your child's attainment and progress against the Victorian Curriculum levels. This can all seem a





bit confusing, so if you do have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself, our Leading Teacher of Curriculum Tania Franks, or your classroom teacher.

## SeeSaw

There was some confusion around the two different Seesaw apps as we unexpectedly re-entered remote learning at the beginning of this week.

- The **Seesaw Parent and Family** app is the primary app for parents and family members. It allows up to 10 family members to connect to the school to view posts to their child's journal including photos, videos, drawings or Seesaw activities. It also allows family members to easily privately message their child's classroom teacher and receive class-wide announcements.
- The **Seesaw Class** app is for teachers and students. Teachers and students primarily use this at school to post photos, videos, drawings or Seesaw activities to their journal, so that family members can view them through the family app. This is the app that was used for remote learning last year. Due to the short notice of the state returning to remote learning, we recommended to teachers to send links to external activities through the Parent and Family app for the 3 days as it would be difficult to send out devices and remote learning codes for the whole school in such a short time frame.
- Going forward, please use the **Seesaw Parent and Family** app to link with your child's work journal and to privately message your child's classroom teacher. In case of another snap lockdown and return to remote learning, please use the **Seesaw Class** app and we will ensure that all families have their student's remote learning codes in preparation.

## **School Council Elections**

The School Council March meeting, which will be held on 15th March 2021 at 7pm in the staff room, will be our Annual General Meeting. I would encourage all parents and carers to come along and celebrate the achievements of our school over the past year and consider nominating to become a member of the School Council. Elections will also take place for positions that have become vacant due to the completion of the two year elected terms of several parent and DET representatives. Our school community is indebted to parent representatives Leah Thomas, our current School Council President, Louise Spofforth, Kylie Cleever, [Rebecca Quinn](#), [Sarah Chignell](#), [Vicki Gordon](#) and [Shanelle Cooper](#), and our community representatives Angela Whalen and current Vice President, and Bob Wiseman, and DET representatives, Barb Johnstone, Davina McCurdy, Tania Franks and Kirsty Phillips. Due to some parent terms ending, we have 6 parent positions available this year. Whilst all of our representative are able to renominate, I am aware that Louise Spofforth and Kylie Cleever will not be doing so. I would like to thank both Louise and Kylie for the incredible contribution they have made to our school over many years of service. We wish them every future success. Joining the School Council will give you the opportunity to have a direct say in the future direction of our school, which is a wonderful way to shape the learning of your child. School Council nominations forms are attached to this newsletter and if you have any questions, I would urge you to give me a call or speak to one of the current parent members.

Kirshy McAinch

**Principal**





## BIRTHDAYS

21 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>Brianna</b>	Room 15	22 <sup>nd</sup> February	<b>Bodhi</b>	Room 3/4
22 <sup>nd</sup> February	<b>Bella</b>	Room 11-12	23 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>Oscar</b>	Room 22
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>Ruby</b>	Room 7	24 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Mandy</b>	Room 8/9
25 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Jye</b>	Room 22	27 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Tyler</b>	Room 22
1 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>Jason</b>	Care Attendant			



## BUSES



BUS	DRIVER / CHAPERONE	TELEPHONE
Heathcote	Gary & Jodie	0435 900 890
Huntly	Graeme and Nicole	0428 261 802
Fryerstown	David & Debbie	0409 421 500
Kyneton	Steve & Raelene	0428 236 271
Lockwood	David & Kim	0428 271 824
Redesdale	Steve & Joy	0427 287 843
Serpentine	Peter & Janine	0427 380 040
Spring Gully	Chris & Heather	0428 159 660
Wedderburn	Shaun & Kathy	0437 108 408

## Easter Raffle

*Please send in Easter Donations*

### Timeline:

- 18<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
- 19<sup>th</sup> March – Raffle tickets (sold or unsold) and money to be returned to school
- 29<sup>th</sup> March – Raffle drawn at assembly (last Monday of Term 1)
- More books available from the office

Thank you for your support  
The Team at Bendigo SDS





## Welfare and Family Support Team

### **PARENT TO PARENT GATHERING IS UP AND RUNNING.**

A new year, new parents to our school and time for parents to gather and support our students at Bendigo SDS.

Our parent support group has starting up again, come and join us,

**When: Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> of February.**

And each following fortnight.

11th March **Speaker from the disability royal commission** and 25th March

**Who:** Mums, dads, carers siblings are all welcome. **9:00 after drop off- 10:30** ish, stay for as long or short as you can manage.

**Where:** the new **Kangaroo Flat Library**, across the road from the school, enter down the right hand side of the library (not the main entrance). They have a new meeting room, that is perfect for us. School will provide tea and coffee.

**Why:** We believe it is important to support each other, often other friends and family members don't understand our kids' achievements and struggles. An avenue to ask for advice, share strategies, laugh, cry and celebrate our kids' individuality. We are led by you, at times we will discuss a particular topic or bring in guest speakers, at times we will just have a cuppa and chat. Happy to be led by your interests.

Meg Holmes and Drew Barrett

Any queries please call

the office on 54473267



I would like to introduce to our parents/carers Rusi Varani **I am a Disability Royal Commission Advocate with RIAC based at our Bendigo office.** Part of my role is to invite, assist and support people with disabilities, including their parents and carers, who have experienced violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation to come forward and share their stories with the Disability Royal Commission. We all agree that these stories have the potential to effect changes in legislations and policies relating to how people with disabilities are treated and looked after by individuals and organisations now and into the future.

It is for that reason that Rusi will attend **our Parent to Parent meeting on March the 11<sup>th</sup> to speak to our families.** (This is not next weeks session, but the following fortnight)

He will be spending up to ten minutes with his presentation and be open to questions. He will also be available to visit parents and carers, individually at the comfort of their homes should they wish for that to happen. For further information, call the office and chat to Meg, Family Support Worker.

### Our Values



✦ Driving *learning* growth

✦ Valuing *diversity* with kindness and respect

✦ Uniting to achieve *excellence*

✦ Ensuring *equity* of opportunity





# School Wide Positive Behaviour Support



Show Respect



Be Your Best



Act Safely

**Hamish Morcom – SWPBS coordinator**



## Hands and feet to yourself

For weeks 4-6 of Term 1 at school, our SWPBS teaching focus is: 'Be your best' by 'keeping hands and feet to yourself'. We know at Bendigo Special Developmental School that our students often use their hands to interact with the world around them. Often this is done in a fun and safe manner, however, this is not always the case. It is important that we teach students when to keep their hands and feet to themselves, the way we would teach any academic skill (e.g. adding two numbers together). When we have taught students, we must then monitor and provide feedback to ensure they can refine the skill during their schooling journey. When we teach clear expectations for different locations throughout our school there is less confusion for our students. This leads to more comfort and security for all.

Any questions, please feel free to ask the SWPBS leadership team.





## The Therapy SPOT

Why is it called the Therapy SPOT?

**S**peech Pathology

**P**hysiotherapy, and

**O**ccupational

**T**herapy - our Bendigo SDS Therapy Team



In this Therapy SPOT we want to say a massive well done to all of the school community - students, parents and staff for their flexibility and resilience in getting through another Lockdown.

With sudden changes to routine and times of uncertainty for adults and children there can be lots of different feelings and consequent challenging behaviours.

From a wellbeing and physical health perspective we would encourage you to try and keep a simple routine that works for you and your family in difficult times. Having a schedule that helps your child understand what will be happening through the day can be very useful.

Trying to keep doing some physical activities can help with physical and emotional wellbeing. Lockdowns and hot weather can make this very difficult.

You could try some ideas like:

- Going for an outdoor scavenger hunt looking for objects of different colours, shapes, weight or properties
- Watching Youtube videos that encourage movement like Go Noodle clips, action songs, or your favourite songs to dance to
- Setting up an obstacle course around your home or yard
- Playing balloon volleyball inside
- Playing 'the floor is lava' crossing the room only standing on 'safe' areas like cushions on the floor
- Water play

Have fun with movement, go easy on yourself and your child/ren.

Til next time,

The Therapy Team





## OSCH NEWS

### What's been happening at OSHC .....

We've had a busy start to 2021, we've spent lots of time enjoying outside play.

This term we have some exciting new activities to add to your program with a focus on group activities which will create an environment for children to interact with each other and further build relationships and friendships.

**Charmaine Bravington** has been appointed as the **Educational Leader at SDS OSHC**. Charmaine has worked incredibly hard and has had great success during her time as the acting Educational Leader.

### COVID-19 UPDATE

During these uncertain times, we continue to be vigilant with hygiene practices and social distancing for the children. The children are washing their hands on arrival at OSHC and again before afternoon tea. We have supplies of hand sanitiser which the children are using before helping themselves to fruit from the platters after school. When preparing and serving afternoon tea, Ned is ensuring the highest standards of hygiene are practiced. Benches and tables are being wiped down regularly and a deep clean of all surfaces and high-touch areas are being completed daily. If you have any concerns at all, please feel free to speak a staff member.

#### CONTACT US

Information and Program Bookings

0439 821 680

[oshc@interchangelm.org.au](mailto:oshc@interchangelm.org.au)

To speak with Staff onsite during Program

0423 799 257



## OTHER INFORMATION

### SunSmart



We would like to remind parents/carers that we have a SunSmart Policy that outlines the procedures to keep our students safe during our warmer months. We encourage students and staff to wear broad-rimmed hats and apply sunscreen before each playtime and outdoor activities. The school supplies the sunscreen. If your child has any allergies to brands of sunscreen please advise your teacher or office staff to organise a Student Health Support Plan so we can arrange for appropriate accommodations.







## Are your contact details up to date?

It is most important that we have your correct contact and home address details at all times, especially if we need to contact you in the case of an emergency or if your child is unwell.

Please ensure you forward on any change in your details to the office as soon as possible or you can submit them on the Flexischools App.

Thank you for your cooperation with this.

## Conveyance Allowance 2021

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 2020 and your circumstances have not changed, you are not required to reapply in 2021.**



**Bendigo Support Group 4 Carers 2021 meetings**

Long Gully Neighbourhood Centre  
52-54 Derwent Dr, Long Gully  
ALL WELCOME 10:00 - 12:00

February 16th	Welcome and RIAC overview
March 16th	NDIS Goal setting/writing
April 20th	Cuppa and Catch Up
May 18th	NDIS internal reviews
June 15th	Advocating within the Educational system
July 20th	Guardianship and supported decision making
August 17th	Your NDIS plan - Intereach?
September 8th	Communicating with Professionals
October 19th	Managing transitions
November 16th	Finding other funding
December 21th	Christmas-planning for 2021

Register your interest by calling 03 5222 5499 or email us at [referrals@riac.org.au](mailto:referrals@riac.org.au)

Let the staff member know that you would like to come along to our support group

RIAC acknowledges its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their Elders and Respected Persons, their wisdom and strength and respects their connection to Country, water and community.

RIAC is committed to ensuring diversity and equality in regard to gender, race, ethnic origin, disability, religion or belief, marital status, sexual orientation or transgender status.



**CELEBRATE FAMILY FUN DAY 2021**

WITH DSV AT

**WERRIBEE OPEN RANGE ZOO!**

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY  
SUNDAY 21 MARCH  
10:30AM ONWARDS