



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

NEWSLETTER #10  
 FRIDAY 1ST AUGUST  
 2025

**PRINCIPAL:**  
 KIRSHY MCAINCH  
**SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT:**  
 REBECCA QUINN



26-32 LOCKWOOD RD, KANGAROO FLAT, VIC, 3550



WWW.BENDIGOSDS.VIC.EDU.AU



BENDIGO.SDS@EDUCATION.VIC.GOV.AU



03 5447 3267



@BENDIGOSPECIALDEVELOPMENTALSCHOOL

## TERM DATES

### TERM 3

**Monday 21st July - Friday 19th  
 September**

### TERM 4

**Monday 6th October - Friday 19th  
 December**

# SAVE THE DATE

#### Monday 4th August

National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander  
 Children's Day

#### Wednesday 6th August

Student Support Group (SSG) Meeting Day  
 NORMAL CLASSES WILL NOT RUN

#### Thursday 7th August

Student Immunisations - *Selected Students ONLY*  
*BOOKING REQUIRED*

#### Saturday 9th August

International Day of World Indigenous Peoples

#### Monday 11th August - Friday 29th August

Martin Vale Dentist Van Visit  
*FORMS TO BE RETURNED TO THE OFFICE*

#### Saturday 16th to 23rd August

Book Week - *Book An Adventure!*

#### Tuesday 19th August

Book Week Parade

#### Friday 29th August

Wear It Purple Day

#### Tuesday 2nd September

Staff PD Day - Pupil Free Day

#### Wednesday 3rd September

Indigenous Literacy Day

#### Friday 5th September

Father's Day Breakfast  
 Footy Colours Day

#### Sunday 7th September

Father's Day

#### Thursday 11 September

R U OK Day

#### Friday 19 September

End of Term 3 - 2pm Finish

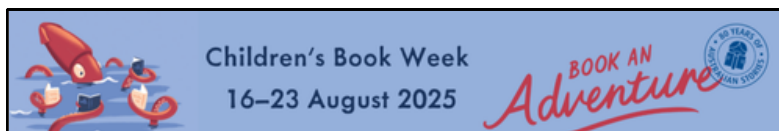
#### OUR SCHOOL VALUES:

DRIVING LEARNING  
 GROWTH

UNITING TO ACHIEVE  
 EXCELLENCE

ENSURING EQUITY OF  
 OPPORTUNITY

VALUING DIVERSITY WITH  
 KINDNESS AND RESPECT





# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

## ILLNESS AT SCHOOL



Over the past few weeks, we've seen a noticeable increase in illness within our school community. Like many others across the community, we are currently experiencing a wave of colds, flu, and other seasonal bugs. While these illnesses may appear mild in many children, it's important to remember that some of our students are particularly vulnerable and can be significantly affected by even low-level viruses. For the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff, we kindly ask that if your child is unwell, no matter how mild their symptoms may seem, they remain at home until they are fully recovered. This small act of care helps to protect those in our school who may have compromised immune systems or underlying health conditions and ensures that we can maintain a safe and supportive learning environment for everyone. We thank you for your understanding and continued support in keeping our school community healthy and safe.

## SAVE THE DATE - THE WHOLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION AT ULUMBARRA THEATRE - TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

We are excited to announce the date for our upcoming biannual Whole School Production, which will be performed for one night only on Tuesday 25 November at the stunning Ulumbarra Theatre in Bendigo! Our school productions are always a much-anticipated highlight of the year, and this year promises to be no exception. In the lead-up to the big night, students will be working across their specialist classes to learn songs and dance routines, build amazing props and costumes, and bring the show to life with creativity and energy.

It's a wonderful celebration of the many talents and abilities of our students, and we want the theatre filled with proud families, friends, and community members cheering them on. So please save the date, start spreading the word, and get ready to join us for a magical night of performance and celebration.



### OUR SCHOOL VALUES:

DRIVING LEARNING  
GROWTH

UNITING TO ACHIEVE  
EXCELLENCE

ENSURING EQUITY OF  
OPPORTUNITY

VALUING DIVERSITY WITH  
KINDNESS AND RESPECT



# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

We are thrilled to share that our brand-new building called Mali Bu Djanip (Mallee and Myall country), is getting very close to completion! Over the past few weeks, significant progress has been made, and we're now seeing the final touches come together – carpets are being laid, fittings are being installed, and the spaces are starting to look truly amazing.

Next Tuesday, the architects will be conducting a final 'defect walk' to check everything is in order before we move toward handover. While we don't yet have firm dates for when classrooms will be moving into the new space, we'll be sure to keep families informed as plans develop.

We're also in the early stages of planning a special official opening ceremony to celebrate this exciting milestone. We hope to see as many of our school community there as possible – it will be a fantastic opportunity to come together and mark this next chapter in our school's journey. Stay tuned for more details soon!



### OUR SCHOOL VALUES:

DRIVING LEARNING  
GROWTH

UNITING TO ACHIEVE  
EXCELLENCE

ENSURING EQUITY OF  
OPPORTUNITY

VALUING DIVERSITY WITH  
KINDNESS AND RESPECT





# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

## WORK EXPERIENCE

We are incredibly proud to share that eight of our senior students have recently started their work experience placements at Kangaroo Flat IGA, Golden City Support Services, and the Kangaroo Flat Library. These placements are a wonderful opportunity for our students to take the occupational skills they have been learning at school and put them into practice in real-world settings.

We are so grateful to these local businesses and organisations for their generosity, flexibility, and support. Each of them has gone above and beyond to provide our students with welcoming, inclusive environments where they can grow their confidence, build independence, and develop important workplace skills that will support their future pathways.

We encourage our school community, if you have the opportunity, to show support at Kangaroo Flat IGA, visiting the local library, or learning more about the work of Golden City Support Services. And if you're in the area, keep an eye out for our students – they're working hard, learning lots, and representing themselves and our school so well, making us all proud!

Kind regards,

Kirshy McAinch  
Principal



### OUR SCHOOL VALUES:

DRIVING LEARNING  
GROWTH

UNITING TO ACHIEVE  
EXCELLENCE

ENSURING EQUITY OF  
OPPORTUNITY

VALUING DIVERSITY WITH  
KINDNESS AND RESPECT



# BUSES

BUS	DRIVER/CHAPERONE	TELEPHONE
HEATHCOTE	GARY & JODIE	0435 900 890
HUNTLY	HELEN & NICOLE	0428 261 802
FRYERSTOWN/CASTLEMAINE	DAVID & JULIE	0409 421 500
KYNETON	LENNY & JOANNE	0490 093 472
LOCKWOOD	ANGELA & KIM	0490 092 273
STRATHFIELDSAYE	STEVE & TRISH	0490 705 019
SERPENTINE	PETER & JANINE	0497 663 736
SPRING GULLY	CHRIS & HEATHER	0490 702 728
WEDDERBURN	BERNARD & MICHELLE	0466 367 656

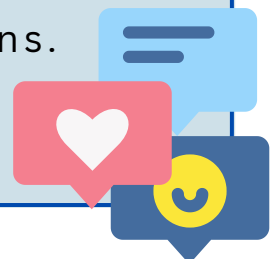
## IMPORTANT MESSAGES FROM FAMILIES

We would like to send a friendly reminder that any important messages are best to be communicated to school through:

- Sentral Parent Portal (mainly absence notifications)
- Email to school ([bendigo.sds@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:bendigo.sds@education.vic.gov.au))
- Voicemail Absence Line (03 5447 3267 – option 1)
- Speak to the office staff (03 5447 3267 - option 2)

We encourage families to communicate messages related to absences, changes in bus routine, drop off & pick up information etc. through the above-mentioned options.

Thank you!





# Happy Birthday!

1 August	Kat	Teacher	2 August	Edith	Office Manager
3 August	Keira	Room 23	4 August	Yasna	Room 5
5 August	Imogen	Room 8	5 August	Hayden	Room 19
5 August	Bree	NDIS Navigator	6 August	Mel	ESS
6 August	Teaghan	Teacher	7 August	Amelia	ESS
8 August	Josh	Room 15	8 August	Jack T	Room 12B
10 August	Kenward	Room 5	10 August	Amee	Teacher
11 August	Angie	Behaviour Specialist	11 August	Joseph	Room 7
11 August	Jacinta	Teacher	15 August	Sagan	Room 8
15 August	Bowen	Room 23			



# SSG

(STUDENT SUPPORT GROUP)

# MEETINGS

**WEDNESDAY 6TH AUGUST 2025**

SESSIONS WILL RUN FROM 11 AM TILL 6 PM

**\*\* NORMAL CLASSES WILL NOT RUN THIS DAY \*\***

**BOOK NOW**  
VIA OUR SENTRAL  
PARENT PORTAL

**NOTE:**  
ADDITIONAL TIMES WILL  
BE AVAILABLE FOR  
ROOM 12B, 19, 21, 22 & 23:

**NOT YET REGISTERED OR NEW TO  
OUR SCHOOL?**

PLEASE COME AND SEE US IN THE  
OFFICE WHERE WE CAN ASSIST YOU  
WITH YOUR SENTRAL PARENT PORTAL  
REGISTRATION



**SENTRAL**  
FOR PARENTS



GET IT ON  
**Google Play**



Download on the  
**App Store**

**Need Help?**  
Contact the  
Office or your  
Classroom  
Teacher

**Bendigo Special Developmental School - Phone: 03 5447 3267**





Bendigo SDS

# TRANSITIONING FAMILIES 2025 & 2026

Let's catch up and support one another as we move through the transition journey together! Focus of session:



Finalising desired plans



Getting quotes from service providers



Understanding Functional Capacity Assessments with  
Occupational Therapists



Tips & Tricks for preparing for NDIS reviews

*Meeting at Bendigo SDS:*

9:15AM | Morning Tea provided

THURSDAY 14TH AUGUST



MEL, BREE, MEG & DREW LOOK  
FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE



# Cyber Security with Victorian Police

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July, during our Emergency Services Week, our senior students observed a cyber safety session with Sergeant Ashcroft from the Victorian Police.

Students discussed red flags to look out for and how to stay safe online, in particular whilst using social media. We are looking forward to more sessions with Sergeant Ashcroft in the future!







**THINK  
UKNOW**  
.org.au

# **What every parent, carer or teacher should know about online safety**

**ThinkUKnow is Australia's only nationally delivered law enforcement-led online safety program.**



**Our resources and presentations provide current and actionable information about:**

- ▶ The challenges young people may face including: Online grooming, self-generated child abuse material and sexual extortion
- ▶ How to support young people to make decisions about their online interactions to ensure the safety of themselves and others
- ▶ Where young people can get help and support, and how to report online child sexual exploitation

**Our teacher resources are designed to be delivered by teachers in the classroom on specific topics related to online child sexual exploitation.**

**They are complementary and can be used as additional learning alongside the ThinkUKnow presentation for students.**

**Visit [thinkuknow.org.au](http://thinkuknow.org.au) to view our resources and request a ThinkUKnow presentation.**





**THINK  
U  
KNOW**  
.org.au

## Are you staying safe online?

Here are some tips from  
the ThinkUKnow program



### Question things

Not everyone online is who they say they are.

People can pretend to be anyone online so think critically and ask for help if you aren't sure.



### Avoid oversharing

Keep personal information like your name, age, location or school private.



### It is ok to say no!

You don't have to send anything you don't want to. Don't let anyone's persistence or threats change your response.



### Report and block

If someone is communicating in an inappropriate way or making you feel uncomfortable or unsafe online, report to [accce.gov.au/report](http://accce.gov.au/report).



Take screenshots of the chat and block the user.



### Find help

Know who to go to and where to get help and support – nothing is ever so bad that you can't tell someone.



PLEASE SEE THE OFFICE FOR CONSENT FORMS

**MARTIN VALE**  
**DENTISTRY**



# MOBILE DENTAL VAN

## OUR SERVICE

- Tooth Extractions
- Dental Checkup
- Teeth Cleaning
- Dental X-Rays
- Fillings

**BULK BILLED  
CHILD  
DENTAL  
BENEFIT  
SCHEME  
UP TO \$1132  
IF ELIGIBLE**

## CONTACT US



+03 5443 5006



info@martinvaledentistry.com.au



116 Queen Street Bendigo



**Visiting Bendigo SDS from  
Monday 11/08 until Friday 29/08**



# Tennis Time!

**FREE 8 Week Program for Children with Disability,  
Neurodivergence & Developmental Differences**

- Flexible program with no weekly commitment needed - turn up whenever you can!
- Run by experienced coaches in a safe, inclusive, and joyful environment
- Focused on connection and fun, not competition or performance
- Equipment provided, no experience required
- Comfortable off-court sitting area for participants, family & carers
- Fully accessible venue with access ramp
- Ongoing pathways & opportunities for play following completion of program

**Please Register Interest:**  
**[www.gianttennis.com.au](http://www.gianttennis.com.au)**



**Thursdays 3.30-4.30 PM**  
**8 Weeks - Starting 31st July**  
FREE Program, delivered by GIANT Tennis

**South Bendigo Tennis Club**  
**150 Neale St, Flora Hill**





# A Good Life

Information for families to support your young person and plan for life after school

**free**  
online  
webinars



## A Good Life – Information for families to support your young person and plan for life after school

If you're raising a young person with disability, you will be thinking about how to support and plan for their life after school.

Join ACD this August for A Good Life month. This series of webinars will help you to support and navigate your child's growing independence.

Each week, there will be a free online webinar. Our presenters are parents of children with disability, and they will cover four key topics:

**Webinar 1:** Supported Decision Making

**Webinar 2:** Wills and Estate Planning

**Webinar 3:** Microboards

**Webinar 4:** Post-school: parents talk about what's next

**Register for each event separately.**

Read more and register today

[bit.ly/AGLaug2025](https://bit.ly/AGLaug2025)



## Understanding the NDIS Webinar Series: Pathways to Post School Life

Join us for an informative webinar on Pathways to post school life. This is part of 'Understanding the NDIS' series of information sessions.

This webinar will help students with a disability, their parents, carers and education professionals to learn about the supports available to help them prepare for work.

**Presentation:** When an NDIS participant reaches working age, there are a number of pathways and supports available to help young people build skills to prepare for their transition from school, and support them in achieving employment and other goals. Their choice depends on their aspirations, skills, abilities and interests.

This session is offered over multiple dates to allow flexibility for attendees. Each session will cover the same content. Please only register for the date you wish to attend.

Sessions will be delivered via video-conference using Microsoft Teams. Registrations will close one business day prior to the session. One business day prior to the session, login details (including the MS Teams link) will be sent via email from [events@ndis.gov.au](mailto:events@ndis.gov.au) to the email address you provide at registration (this email may filter to your junk mail). We encourage individual registrations for all events to ensure each registrant receives these details.

For any enquiries regarding this session, please contact [events@ndis.gov.au](mailto:events@ndis.gov.au) and include the session name in the subject line.

---

**Where:** Virtual information sessions delivered via Microsoft Teams

**Dates & Times:**

Tuesday, 12 August 2025 (1:00pm-2:00pm AEST)

Thursday, 21 August 2025 (10:00am-11:00am AEST)

Wednesday, 27 August 2025 (6:00pm-7:00pm AEST)

**RSVP:** Please register via [Humanitix registration Link](#)

---





REGISTERED  
NDIS  
PROVIDER

# Inclusion Services by the Y

For over three decades, Y Inclusion Services has been a cornerstone of disability support in Victoria, offering all-abilities programs that empower young people and support families. The Y is a trusted provider of underage **Respite Camps** and **Support Coordination** for the local community.

For more information visit  
[inclusion.ymca.org.au](http://inclusion.ymca.org.au)

**1300 699 622**

**FIND  
OUT  
MORE!**





**The Immune Deficiencies Foundation presents International Entertainment Australia's...**

**Circus Quirkus provides relaxed theatre performances for children and young adults...**

- with diverse abilities and backgrounds (wheelchair accessible and accessible seating at all shows).**
- who might require a more flexible and inclusive environment when going to the theatre (sensory friendly).**
- who are facing hardship.**
- without access or opportunity to live theatre.**

**Enjoy the "live performance" experience with a casual attitude to audience noise and movement in an accessible and inclusive environment, where you are welcomed and free to be yourself without restriction or judgement.**



**Scan the QR Code to visit the shows website and watch highlights from previous shows...**

**Featuring a brand new show host and performers, along with some old favourites. \*moving, flashing lights, upbeat and sometimes dramatic music. One hour show, no interval. Suitable for all ages.**

**ALL TICKETS ARE COMPLIMENTARY, including parent, sibling and carer tickets. Thanks to sponsorship from local businesses.**

**\*Bookings from schools, organisations, carers and families are all welcome.**

<b>RED ENERGY ARENA BENDIGO (STADIUM)</b>	
<b>SHOW DATE</b>	<b>SHOWTIME</b>
<b>TUESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2025</b>	<b>6.00 PM</b>

**To book tickets, please email your name and the number of tickets you require to...**

**[meredithnewman@showintent.com.au](mailto:meredithnewman@showintent.com.au)**

**or call / text **0404-367-782****

# BOOK AN ADVENTURE with

Woodland Collection  
Bookshop

SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>

AUGUST

---

Dress Ups  
Giveaways  
Treasure Hunts  
And More!

---

FREE FOR ALL

10AM TO 2PM

9 Mitchell Street,

Bendigo





# **CULTURAL CONNECTIONS**

# FINANCIAL WORKSHOP

**FREE FINANCIAL WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN AND GENDER DIVERSE  
PEOPLE.**

TOPICS COVERED:

- BUDGETING BASICS
- SMART SHOPPING TIPS
- BILLS
- SAVINGS GOALS
- SCAMS AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

PLUS: GAMES, GROUP CHATS, PRIZES, MORNING TEA – AND  
KIDS' ENTERTAINMENT (INCLUDING FACE PAINTING &  
PLAYGROUP)!

THIS SESSION IS DESIGNED TO HELP WITH PRACTICAL TIPS FOR  
THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS, AS WELL AS SUPPORT FOR THOSE  
WHO MAY BE NEW TO AUSTRALIA'S FINANCIAL SYSTEMS.

WHEN: SUNDAY 31 AUGUST

WHERE: ST KILLIANS CHURCH CAFE - 161 MCCRAE STREET,  
BENDIGO

TIME: 11:30AM - 1PM

**THIS IS A DROP-IN SESSION, NO BOOKING REQUIRED.**



**WELCOME  
BACK FOR  
TERM 3**

