



Bendigo Special Developmental School

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

Newsletter # 1. Friday 5th January 2020

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Kangaroo Flat, Victoria 3555
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www.bendigodsds.vic.edu.au
T: (03)5447 3267 F: 5447 7286
Principal: Kirshy McAinch
Assistant Principal: Kirsty Phillips
School Council President: Leah Thomas
f @bendigospécialdevelopmentalschool

Term Dates 2021

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

Important Dates

Thursday	11 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent to Parent Gathering Kangaroo Flat Library 9 – 10.30 am
Thursday	11 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural Day 12.40 – 2.15pm
Friday	12 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great Start Conference : NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Students attend their meeting with Parents/Carers Resource and Management Meeting Room 2pm
Monday	15 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Council Staffroom 7pm
Thursday	25 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Photos
Friday	26 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Photos
Thursday	4 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Immunisations
Monday	8 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labour Day : Public Holiday (No School for Students)
Thursday	1 st April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of Term 1 : 2pm

Our Values



✦ Driving *learning* growth

✦ Uniting to achieve *excellence*

✦ Valuing *diversity* with kindness and respect

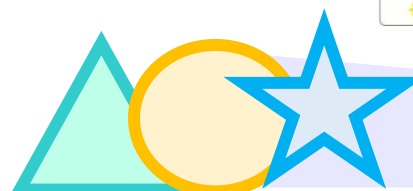
✦ Ensuring *equity* of opportunity



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



PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Welcome Back

It is wonderful to welcome back all of our students and families, with a special welcome to our new students and their families for the 2021 school year. The first thing you may have noticed with this newsletter is our new look format. We have changed the layout of our newsletter format to incorporate your feedback about wanting the important dates to be front and centre, and also to reflect our new school vision and values. You may recall that staff worked on developing these last year. Stay tuned for a celebration to officially launch the new vision values once we all get settled into the new school year.

We have an exciting year of learning and fun ahead, with several major school events on the 2021 school calendar. These include our up and coming Cultural Day, our four yearly School Review, the construction of our \$300,000 Inclusive Sports Hub precinct including a synthetic multi-sports court, a Debutante Ball for this year's graduates and it is the year of our whole school production!

Great Start Conferences

Next **Friday 12th February** 2020, will be our **Great Start Conference Day**. There will be no normal classroom programs on this day, and students only attend their interview time with their parents and carers. The Great Start Conferences (GSC) are an opportunity to talk about how your child is settling into the schooling year, possible learning, social and emotional goals for the Semester, how parents would prefer to communicate with the teaching team and anything else that you think may be of benefit to discuss. If you have external therapists working with your child, you are welcome to bring them to this meeting also. To book your GSC, log on to the following :

www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use the event code **5dtk2**. You will then be able to select an interview time with your child's teacher(s). This meeting can be face to face (with all adults wearing masks as per the latest restrictions) or via video conferencing if you would prefer. If you do need assistance with this process, please do not hesitate to contact the office or speak to your child's teacher directly.





COVID restrictions update

You will all be aware that as of midnight Wednesday, the requirement for all adults to wear masks indoors has been reinstated. If you are visiting the school, please ensure that you wear a mask. Additionally, parents and carers coming into the school grounds for pick up and drop off must not stay beyond 15 minutes without signing in at the office.

The reintroduction of restrictions are a timely reminder to us all that the COVID virus has not gone away and that we all need to remember to enact the key aspects of living in a COVID normal state. These include washing and sanitising our hands, maintaining physical distancing where possible and for students who are unwell to stay at home. If you have any questions about the current restrictions, please do not hesitate to contact Kirsty or myself for further information

Cultural Day

We are very excited to invite all of our families to attend a very significant day for our school on Thursday 11th February. We have just had confirmed that we will be presented with an approved Dja Dja

Wurrung name for the undercover area on the bike track by Dja Dja Wurrung Elder Aunt Marilyn Nicholls.. She will also perform a formal Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony. Talented

Didgeridoo player Jason Kerr will play during the Smoking Ceremony. Further celebrations will include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activities, including traditional face painting, food samples of traditional food prepared by the Murrong Mummas, traditional games and many more. The formal proceedings will commence at 1200 pm, so please allow time to sign in at the front office before heading to the bike track area.

Assemblies

We are looking forward to welcoming parents and carers back to our face to face assemblies from week 4 of this term. Over the COVID period, our Student Leadership Team have been hosting virtual assemblies within the school. They have learnt skills in video editing and production, including staging and lighting, presenting to a camera, interviewing staff and students and writing content for the different segments. The Student Leadership Team have a strong desire to continue this work, so we have decided to have face to face assemblies on a three week rotation. That will mean that each term we have assemblies in Weeks 1,4,7 and 10. We will send home reminders and hope to see you there to celebrate our students' achievement.

Kirshy McAinch
Principal





SCHOOL COUNCIL PRESIDENT REPORT

Hello

This year, I will be writing a report in the newsletter to provide information about what is happening on school council, and in the school from a parent's perspective. I would encourage any parent or carer who would like to share some feedback to, or get involved with the school council to contact me or come along. I am always happy to chat to families about anything that is of importance to you.

Leah Thomas
School Council President



BIRTHDAYS

3 rd January	Tyler	ESS Coordinator	6 th January	Kim	Room 7
10 th January	Elliot	Room 18	14 th January	Sophia	Room 11/12
18 th January	Jamie	Room 17	19 th January	Cohen	Room 19
21 st January	Tia	Room 15/16	21 st January	Barb	Leading Teacher
21 st January	Phoebe	Room 18	24 th January	Sharon	Room 1/2
27 th January	Piper	Room 8	1 st February	Lockie	Room 3/4
1 st February	Georgia	Room 15/16	3 rd February	Michelle	Room 1/2
5 th February	Hamish	Room 15/16	9 th February	Jedda	Room 6
10 th February	Ruby	Room 13	17 th February	Chris	Learn. Specialist
18 th February	Helen	Room 15/16	20 th February	Evie	Room 17





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

GREAT START CONFERENCES

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Great Start Conference interviews are being held on **Friday 12th February 2020** between the

hours of **11am and 6pm**. This year we are using an online platform to book our interviews.

Please follow the process below to book your interview time with your teacher. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the school on 5447 3267 for assistance.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au



OSCH NEWS



OSHC - SDS

Information and Program Bookings:
oshc@interchangelm.org.au
0439 821 680

To speak with Staff on-site during Program:
0429 799 257

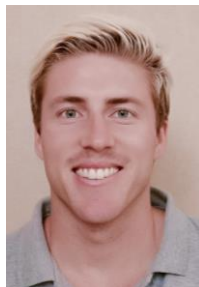
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Welfare and Family Support Team



We would like to introduce

Drew Barrett, our Mental Health Practitioner.

Drew is not a completely new face within our school, as he has worked at our school in the past within a different role.

We are very excited to have him as part of the team this year.

Hi all, I am very excited to be the new Mental Health Practitioner of Bendigo SDS for the 2021 school year, offering support to our wonderful students. This is a new role for special schools, with a strong focus being placed on student wellbeing this year after what was a very challenging year for us all in 2020.

My role will mainly be in the mental health and wellbeing support of our secondary students, providing direct counselling and support with positive coping strategies for a variety of challenges impacting on their mental health. I will also be assisting Meg Holmes in the coordination of external supports to our students and families.

I hope you have all had a great start to 2021, and look forward to meeting all students and families throughout the year.

Drew Barrett



PARENT TO PARENT GATHERING STARTING UP AGAIN.

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 is starting up again, and our first meeting is

When: Thursday the 11th of February. Yes that is next Thursday. And each following fortnight. 25th Feb, 11th March and 25th March

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

Where: the new **Kangaroo Flat Library**, across the road from the school. They have a new meeting room, which 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.

Come and meet Drew our new Mental Health Practitioner and Meg our "old" Family Support Worker.

Any queries please call the office or Meg on 5447 3267





SWPBS News



School-wide Positive Behaviour Support is a problem-solving framework used within our school for addressing both social behaviour and academic outcomes. The core practices for our staff include 'teaching of expected behaviours', 'acknowledgment of appropriate behaviours', 'correction of behaviour errors', and 'requests for external support'. In our first 3 weeks of school for 2021, staff will be providing an SWPBS overview to students.

If you have any questions about how SWPBS can be used at home or in the community, please ask someone from the SWPBS leadership team.



Hamish Morcom – SWPBS coordinator



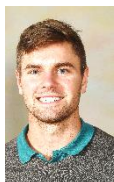
Therapists



Welcome to 2021!

The therapy team are very excited to continue to support students' development in areas including self-care skills, communication skills, play skills, movement and mobility.

Our current therapy team includes:



Hamish Morcom (full-time Occupational Therapist),



Megan Turton (Physiotherapist working Monday, Wednesday, Thursday)



Xiao Zhang (full time Speech Pathologist).

This year a new Speech Pathologist will join our growing team which is great news for both our students and the school community. The therapy team will be publishing a wide range of therapy strategies and information on how we work with students and teachers, in the newsletter every fortnight. We look forward to sharing ideas and our students' amazing achievements with you all!

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PLC NEWS



Kirshy
Principal



Kirsty
Assistant Principal
Bus Coordinator



Tania
Leading Teacher



Barb
Leading Teacher



Angie
Leading Teacher



Chris
Learning
Specialist



Tyler
ESS
Coordinat



Davina
Junior School
Coordinator



Mellonie
Senior School
Coordinator



Tomas
Student
Engagement
Coordinator

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.





GREAT START CONFERENCES




Great Start Conference interviews are being held on **Friday 12th February 2021** between the hours of **11am and 6pm**. Normal classroom programs will not be operating on this day.


Interviews can take place in person or via video conference or over the phone. Video conferences would be hosted through Webex, which is the Department of Education and Training's preferred platform. Information about how to access this program will be sent home once you make your booking. Your teacher will be in contact with you to identify your preferred method of communication.

To make a booking, go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au


Click on




Enter your details



Select the teacher(s) you wish to see



Select the appointment times that suit your family best



When you click FINISH your selected bookings will be emailed to you immediately. If you not receive your email, please check your junk-mail, or enter the event code again and check your email address spelling. Update your details if email address is incorrect.

DO NOT DELETE the email you receive. Keep it somewhere safe.
You may need to refer back to it at a later date.

REMEMBER TO ADD YOUR APPOINTMENTS TO YOUR CALENDAR.

MAKE A BOOKING

enter the code **5dtk2**

If you need to view, cancel, change or print your bookings:

- Click on the link in the confirmation email you received after you made your bookings
- OR return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and enter the code and the email address you used when making your bookings.

Please do not hesitate to contact your teacher or the school office – 5447 3267 – if you require assistance.





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.

Walking & Wellbeing Group

ARE YOU A CARER?

(Caring for a school aged child with a disability, learning disability, mental illness or chronic illness)

Would you like to take some time out to care for yourself?

Be part of a social support group with others experiencing similar situations?

If the answer is yes then join the Walking and Wellbeing Group

There will be two walks each week, you can choose which one to attend

Lake Weeroona

Tuesdays & Thursdays
during school terms.
Meet between 9-9.20am at the
Rowing Club end of the lake.

For more information call Tash
On: 1800 068 978 or email
nharrick@bendigohealth.org.au





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