



Bendigo Special Developmental School

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

Newsletter # Friday 5th March 2021

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Principal: Kirshy McAinch
Assistant Principal: Kirsty Phillips
School Council President: Leah Thomas
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Term Dates 2021

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

Important Dates

Friday	5 th March	• School Council Nominations Close
Monday	8 th March	• Labour Day : Public Holiday (No School for Students)
Thursday	11 th March	• Parent to Parent 9 – 10.30 Kangaroo Flat Library Guest Speaker from Disability Royal Commission
Monday	15 th March	• School Council AGM; 7:00pm
Wednesday	24 th March	• Return Easter Raffle Books and \$
Monday	29 th March	• Assembly • Easter Raffle Drawn
Thursday	1 st April	• End of Term 1 : 2:00pm finish

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

SCHOOL REVIEW BEGINS

After being postponed on three occasions, we are finally about to complete the onsite components of our school review. The school review process occurs every four years in all government schools across Victoria. The purpose of the reviews is to provide assurance of ongoing compliance with the minimum requirements for school registration and to inform the development of a four year School Strategic Plan. The review process also requires a review and evaluation of the school's previous School Strategic Plan. Over the last four years, our strategic goals have been to

1. Improve student outcomes in Mathematics and English, including the provision for all students to have a designated communication system
2. Improve the partnership between home and school to improve outcomes for students.
3. Improve student access to the full range of school and community based programs, activities and experiences to build their independence and readiness for post school life.

In preparing our Pre-Review Self Evaluation (PRSE), we are required to gather a large amount of evidence to show how we have worked towards our goals, and what have been the enablers of, or any possible barriers to, success in achieving these goals. I am pleased to say that we have been able to show considerable progress in each of these three goals.

Another part of the PRSE is for us to rate ourselves against the Department of Education's Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO) Continua of Practice. (If anyone is interested in taking a closer look at this, please visit

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/management/improvement/Pages/continua.aspx>). In collecting evidence to assess ourselves against four key domains, and six focus areas, we sought feedback from all the staff, our parents and carers, our students and our wider community. Again, I am pleased to report that we have made some significant improvements against the continua, which has four levels of proficiency, Emerging, Evolving, Embedding and Excelling.

An important part of the School Review process is the role of challenge partners, who provide impartial and invaluable support throughout the review process. They are external professionals to the school who bring another perspective to discussions around the school's data and practices and give advice on strategies to directly assist the school to initiate improvement. We are very privileged to have Jenny Wallace, the Principal of Waratah Special Developmental School in Melbourne and Mandy Costello, Principal of Violet Street (Bendigo) Primary School as our challenge partners for this review. They both have a wealth of experience in educational leadership and special education, and will provide wonderful insight into the next steps of improvement for our school over the coming four years.

The full process of the School Review will take place over four days, with the first to take place next week on Wednesday 10th March with our Validation Day, followed by Fieldwork Days on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th March, with the final panel day being on Tuesday 23rd March. I look forward to sharing the outcomes of the School Review with you as we progress.





SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

A reminder that nominations for the upcoming School Council elections close TONIGHT! There will still be time for you to submit your application form via email to bendigo.sds@education.vic.gov.au. Please don't miss the chance to be an important contributor to the governing body of our school!

ALL ABILITIES HARMONY CRICKET CUP

A team of 12 senior students headed to Shepparton on Tuesday 23rd February to represent the school in the All Abilities Harmony Cricket Cup. Our team was one of six schools competing, playing two games each. Students from Kalianna, Verney Road School, Cobram Specialist School and Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School took to the field in hour long games. Our students showed their extreme sportsmanship skills, always encouraging others to do their best, celebrating the success of others,

Kirshy McAinch
Principal



demonstrating some fabulous cricketing skills and overall, being a credit to themselves and our school. We came away with one win and one loss, coming fourth overall, however, that was not important, as every student had a wonderful experience.

PASS AWARDS

Last Friday 26th February 2021, a 'make up' acknowledgment lunch was held for the 2020 Principal Association of Special Schools (PASS) Award Winners. It was a privileged to, again see two of our incredible staff being acknowledged for being Outstanding in their roles, having been judged the best in the state of Victorian special educators. Congratulations to Barb Johnstone, the Most Outstanding Leading Teacher and Tyler Dempster, the Most Outstanding Education Support Staff; thoroughly deserving winners I am sure you will all agree. Congratulations also to Stephen Barrett who was a finalist in the Most Outstanding Graduate Teacher category.



BIRTHDAYS

5 th March	Quinn	Room 11/12	7 th March	Ollie	Room 1/2
9 th March	Shannon	Room 21	14 th March	Kyle	Room 14
15 th March	Tanya	Room 1/2	16 th March	Nick	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

Easter Raffle

Please send in Easter Donations

Timeline:

- **24th March** – greatly appreciated if donations could be sent in by this date so that hampers can be put together by our volunteers
- **24th March** – Raffle tickets (sold or unsold) and money to be returned to school
- **29th 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

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

When: Thursday 11th March : Speaker from the Disability Royal Commission

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 **Goldfields Library Kangaroo Flat** programs@ncgrl.vic.gov.au across from school, enter down the right hand side of the library (not the main entrance). They have a meeting room, that is perfect for us. Morning Tea provided .

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 11th to speak to our families.**

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. Rusi is also keen to hear solutions to some of the difficulties we encounter.





School Wide Positive Behaviour Support

At school, the SWPBS team reviews behaviour data on a regular basis in order to develop plans for staff to implement that assist students to behave in a **safe and respectful** manner, and allow students to **be their best** on a daily basis. These data reviews occur every 3 weeks to ensure that patterns of behaviour can be observed, and that school staff are responsive enough to the needs of students. This allows the team to make informed decisions backed by data rather than simply guessing at which issues may be occurring within the school.

Actions to come from the data may include things such as:

- Teaching an expected behaviour to replace the inappropriate behaviour being displayed.
- Increased levels of acknowledgement for the expected (replacement) behaviour
- Training staff to respond in a consistent manner to inappropriate behaviour so that students are not confused by the responses.

If you have more questions about this process please do not hesitate to contact one of the SWPBS team members at school.

Hamish Morcom



The Therapy SPOT

Occupational therapists use a whole person perspective to work with individuals, groups and communities to achieve optimal health and wellbeing through participation in the occupations of life.

The term '**occupation**' is used to describe all the everyday things we do in our life roles, but also the things we do to be who we are, the things we do to create a meaningful life and to engage with wider society and culture (Occupational Therapy Australia, 2021).

Occupation can be used as an '**end**' in which the individual is developing core skills as part of intervention in order to be able to participate in key occupations (e.g. fulfilling the role of a student).

Occupation can also be used as a '**means**' and refers to individuals using occupation as a therapeutic change agent to develop more specific skills.

If this has piqued your interest and you'd like to learn more, please contact Hamish, the school's occupational therapist.

Otherwise, have a wonderful long weekend. We'll see everyone next Tuesday.

Thank you,

The Therapy Team



SWPBS



★ Act Safely



★ Show Respect



★ Be your Best





OSCH NEWS

What's been happening at OSHC

Come join the fun! We are currently taking enrollments for SDS Outside School Hours Care.
Email as at the address below to get the process started!

Our program at OSHC is always changing and evolving. The observation of your child and the identification of your child's needs (by our educators) assists in informing our program to best suit your child's requirements. So far this term we have had some amazing activities inspired by the children.

Some of these were:

- Balloon Rockets
- Building an OSHC Lego City
- Making Rainbow Tambourines



CONTACT US

Information and Program Bookings

0439 821 680

oshc@interchangelm.org.au

To speak with Staff onsite during Program

0423 799 257

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.

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School Council President

Hello

Hope you are all having a great first Term. Thankfully the last lockdown only took us away from our wonderful SDS community for a short time.

Speaking of community, have you ever thought about becoming more involved? Would you like to learn more about how our school works? Be a valued and heard voice?

Two ways you can do this are;

- Become a member of our School Council. We currently need parents to fill some vacant positions. Our Annual General Meeting is to be held on Monday 15th March at 7pm in the staffroom. We have approximately eight meetings per year. We combine face-to-face and online meetings, if this suits you to join in from home.
- A less formal way to be involved is to come along to our Parent-to-Parent gatherings. These are a fantastic opportunity to connect with others walking a similar path. Sometimes we have great speakers with all sorts of valuable knowledge and information to share; we are also 'just there' for each other.

We would love to see some new faces to join us 'oldies' at both Parent to Parent and School Council. Please feel free to just pop into the office if you need more information.

Leah Thomas



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.





Career Education

As part of our Career Education Program, **Laura Stilo, from At Work Australia**, is running an information session for parents and carers.

Where: **Goldfields Library Kangaroo Flat** programs@ncgrl.vic.gov.au

When: Friday 12th March 5, 2021

Time: 12.30pm – 1.30pm

This information session would suit those interested in seeking supported employment opportunities post school.

Kim Giles
Career Education



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.

riac
your rights, your voice

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 referrals@riac.org.au

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

RIAC is committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all. We are a not-for-profit organisation and we are not a government department. We are a community organisation and we are not a government department.



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