Principal's Report 1-3

This week in the Principal's Report the following topics are covered:

- * Baby news Sinead & Ethan
- * Labour Day explanation
- * NAPLAN
- * Mobile Phones /Smart Watches
- * School Bike Shed
- * CSEE
- * Child Safe Standards
- * Safety on the Internet

BREAKFAST CLUB

8:15am-8:45am

Children must arrive before <u>8:30am</u> in order to be served breakfast in time.

There are some Grab 'n Go items and fruit if students arrive after 8:30am

Please email Christine if your child has any food alleraies

christine.kennedy@education.vic.gov.au

Thank you

Reporting Student Absences



Please remember to let the school know about any student absences by logging into COMPASS and entering an attendance note Thank you

Diary Dates

<u>Swimming 7 day program</u> Years 3/4 starts Monday 20th Feb Years 1/2 starts Thurs 2nd Mar

LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY -Monday 13th March

Healesville Excursion - Class 2A/12H/12P Thurs 16th March

NAPLAN-Yrs 3 + 5 - Wed 15th - Fri 17th Mar

<u>Year 5/6 Merricks Camp</u> Wed 22nd Mar - Fri 24th Mar

Bentleigh Farmers' Market Saturday 25th March

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

- Wed. 29th March

Whole in school Activity - Backflips Against Bullving

- *Last Day Term 1 Thurs 6th April Early finish at 2:30pm
- * First Day Term 2 Monday 24th April

ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY -

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development



Bignell Road
East Bentleigh 3165
Phone: 9570 3525
Email: east.bentleigh.ps@education.vic.gov.au

9th Mar 2023

Term 1 / Week 6, Issue 3

SCHOOL VISION:

East Bentleigh Primary School provides a rich, inviting, child-focused environment ensuring that all students feel safe and stimulated. Our students are able to achieve their full academic, creative and social potential, equipped for the challenges of lifelong learning. Students develop into healthy and confident individuals, actively contributing to the world in which they live.

At East Bentleigh Primary School we are committed to child safety.

Principal's Report - Maria Shearn

Hello everyone,

I have some lovely news to share with our community..... Pippin Delaney-Berry has finally arrived earthside. He was born on 3rd March at 8.05pm after 4 hours of active labour and at 43 weeks of pregnancy. He weighed in at 3.9kg and in Sinead's words had 'a big old head' of 36 cm. I know you will all join me in wishing both Sinead and Ethan our heartiest congratulations and best wishes as they embark on the wonderous journey of parenthood. Sinead was happy for me to share Pippin's photo, as in her beautiful words... he's too cute not to share'.



Labour Day Public Holiday- An Explanation

On Monday 13th March 2023, it is a public holiday, to acknowledge Labour Day. Labour Day in Australia celebrates workers' roles in contributing to the nation's economy. It is an annual public holiday. It commemorates the granting of the eight-hour working day for Australians. The history of Labour Day spans over a century. It remembers those who struggled and succeeded to ensure decent and fair working conditions applied in Australia. During the mid to late 1800s the working day was long and arduous, where some employees would work up to twelve hours a day, six days a week. Many Australians saw the need for better working conditions and in the 1850s there was a strong push for this. On April 21, 1856, the stonemasons at the University of Melbourne marched to Parliament to push for an eight-hour working week. An agreement with employees for a forty-eight-hour week was eventually reached and Australians welcomed the eight-hour day

NAPLAN

Next week students in Grade 3 and 5 will be taking part in these annual tests, which have in previous years been held in May. The children will be beginning with Writing and Language Conventions on Wednesday 15th, Reading on Thursday 16th and Maths on Friday 17th March.

There are many diverse views both in the community and in educational circles around the efficacy of these tests. I encourage all parents to read the Happy Families article at the end of this newsletter which outlines some thoughts about the pros and cons around the whole NAPLAN issue. I was particularly interested in the last paragraph and would be happy to hear your thoughts too.

Continued next page.....



East Bentleigh Primary School acknowledges Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to Elders both past and present.

Principal's Report - Maria Shearn

Mobile Phones/Smart Watches

A reminder to all our families that as per DE policy, any children bringing mobile phones to school must hand them in to Ann at the office for safe keeping. These devices can then be collected by the children at the end of the day. The same applies to smart watches that have very similar applications to mobile phones.

Whilst we understand that a few children carry phones as a safety measure to and from school, they have no need of access to them during the day as teachers and support staff will look after all students during the school day. Like any rule there are a very small number of exceptions such as a child wearing a device for a medical reason. Anyone in this category must contact us to speak about it.

School Bike Shed

Please remember that bikes/scooters are only locked in the bike shed during school hours. We unlock it at the end of the day for children to take their bikes then leave it unlocked overnight. If for some reason your child does not or cannot take their bike/scooter home - it must be taken out of the bike shed and moved indoors into one of our school buildings - so it's secured overnight.

(CSEF) Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) provides payments for eligible students to attend activities like school camps or trips, swimming and school-organized sport programs, outdoor education programs and excursions and incursions. Payments for 2023 are \$125.00 for eligible primary school students and \$225.00 for eligible secondary school students. The payment is made directly to the school. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card such as:

- Veterans Affairs Gold Card
- Centrelink Health Card
- Pensioners Concession Card

Families can list more than one student in the one application form if they are attending the same school. A special consideration category exists for:

- families on a bridging visa, temporary protection visa, are in community detention or are asylum seeker families a letter from Australian Red Cross or similar welfare institution, visa grant notice or ImmiCards is required as evidence
- students in temporary out of home care arrangements, including statutory kinship care a letter of support from the institution facilitating the arrangement (for example Mackillop Family Services) or the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing is required as evidence. Copies of court orders are not required.

Applications for special consideration can be made through the standard application form and must be submitted by 23rd June 2023.

- from March onwards each year where the parent/carer's concession card is assessed as valid on the first day of Term One; and
- until June 23rd where the parent/carer's concession card is assessed as valid at the end of Term Two. Year Seven and Prep students in government schools who receive funds are also able to get support for school uniforms. For more information regarding this initiative, see State Schools' Relief. Applications can be entered from 30th January 2023. Parents/carers wishing to apply for CSEF payments for 2023 must submit their application form to the relevant school by 23rd June 2023.)

The Child Safe Standards

The aim of the child safe standards is to drive continuous improvement so that protecting children from abuse is embedded in everyday thinking and practice of leaders, staff and volunteers. The focus of the standards is on raising awareness and helping organisations to create and maintain child safe environments through education and training. The Child Safe Standards have been introduced in response to the recommendations of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Non-Government Organisations, which found that more must be done to prevent and respond to child abuse. The standards apply to all organisations that provide services for children, including early childhood services.

Creating a child safe organisation

In complying with the child safe standards, schools must include the following principles as part of each standard: promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal children - promoting the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds - promoting the safety of children with a disability. To create and maintain a child safe organisation, an early childhood service must have in place the following 7 standards:

- **Standard 1:** Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.
- Standard 2: Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
- **Standard 3:** Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
- Standard 4: Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
- Standard 5: Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
- **Standard 6:** People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
- **Standard 7:** Processes for complaints and concerns are child-focused.

Principal's Report - Maria Shearn

Standard 8: Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.

Standard 9: Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

Standard 10: Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.

Standard 11: Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

At EBPS we will be reviewing our policies, procedures and practices including our current child safe environment and staffing policies and procedures to ensure they meet the child safe standards.

The National Quality Framework already requires schools to meet many aspects of the child safe standards. The Department of Education has also developed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to assist. There is an extensive array of resources and information to support our knowledge in this area. Go to the PROTECT – page on the Department's website.

How do we keep our students safe when using the Internet?

The impact of the internet on education is not straightforward. There is little argument that the internet is a valuable tool for students, providing easy access to a wide range of materials for homework and research. It serves as a teacher to students from where you can ask anything and it will answer you, as well as it can be used to quickly gain information and knowledge on almost everything. The internet is important because it gives access to both students and educators to vast educational resources. It provides students of any age with the ability to collaborate with others and answer questions they cannot answer on their own.

As with any tool there are some inherent risks to students using the internet. I offer the following information with the intent of raising awareness of some strategies that can be used by us all to counter these risks. The Department has clear guidelines on Acceptable Use for staff, students, and parents, with a written agreement between students, parents, and the school to abide by the conditions in the agreement, which we ask all parents to sign.

We are doing everything possible to ensure our students are not exposed to inappropriate material online. Given the recent publicity about detection and cyber-predators, we all have a part to play in keeping our students safe.

At home, parents can take the following steps to ensure their children's online experiences are safe and pleasant:

- * Remind your child that people online may not be who they say they are.
- * Remind children that identifying information also includes school, year group, hair colour, suburb, sporting team and picture. Children need to be aware that any information they post on the Internet is public and difficult to remove.
- * It is helpful to keep the computer in a public area at home, so you can keep an eye on what's going on.
- * Reinforce safety messages and continue to remind children of the need to protect their privacy.
- * Encourage them to log out of a chat session if it becomes unpleasant or uncomfortable, and to speak with a parent or trusted adult when these issues arise.

Specifically, they should not give out personal information such as name, address, telephone number (including mobile phones) and should check profiles to ensure the information there doesn't identify them. Report inappropriate behaviour or material, e.g., call the police, contact your Internet, or chat room provider, or contact the Virtual Global Task Force (http://www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com/reprt abuse.html)

To report inappropriate behaviour or material you can call Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000



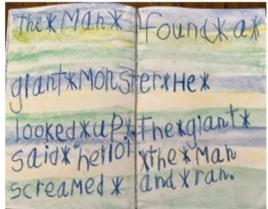
Literacy @ East Bentleigh PS

Literacy in 1M

In 1M we have been doing weekly Big Talks for writing. This is an oral approach to improving the children's writing as they build their confidence as story tellers while also working towards being independent writers. Each week the children are introduced to a new picture which acts as a writing stimulus. Through the use of open-ended questions, the children are supported to develop ideas inspired by the picture.



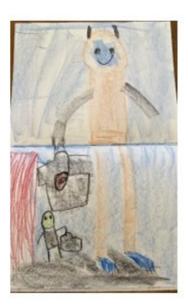
Our most recent picture was Long Legs. The children worked together to come up with a short story. They were all given the task of extending the original picture to show more of the monster and the setting.





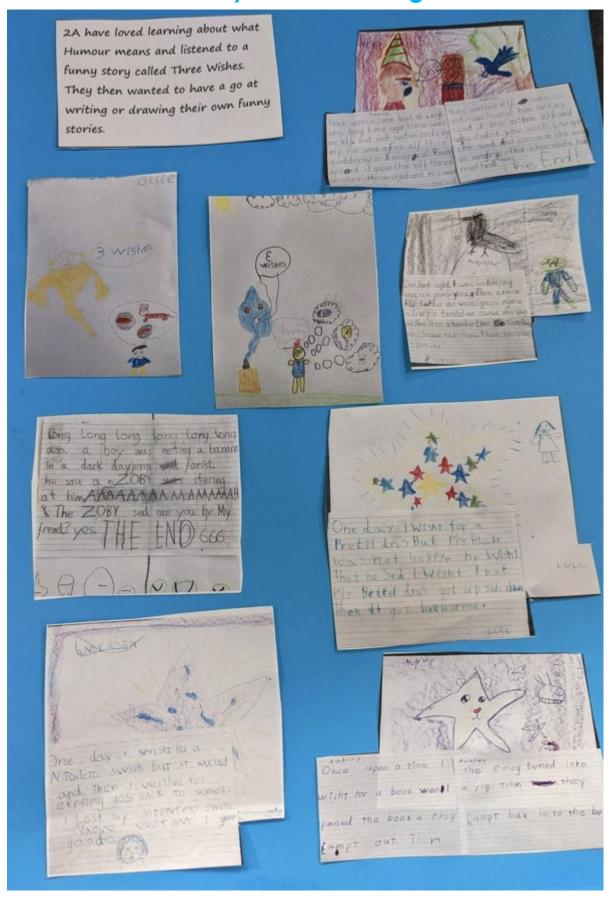






Melinda Cole- Classroom Teacher

Literacy @ East Bentleigh PS



Maths at EBPS



Math in Prep Steiner

In Steiner Prep we have been counting a variety of things by making one to one correspondences (pinecones, gemstones, wooden blocks, wooden bees) and we connected number names and quantities.









We linked the learning of Maths to our story The King who wanted to touch the moon: we built towers of blocks to illustrate the King's attempt to touch the moon. We counted the number of blocks in our towers and thought about which one was the shortest or the longest.



We also looked at positional language in the story the Three Billy-Goats Gruff, such as under, over, next to, in front, behind and we moved the puppets or did drawings to illustrate this.



We formed the first letter of our names with gemstones and counted how many gemstones were in the letter.





By Irina Bugheanu & Donna Leibowitz - Prep Steiner Teachers

Wellbeing at EBPS

The 3/4 Mainstream classes have been committed to a daily routine that takes place every morning in our classrooms. As students enter the classroom, we initiate a circle formation. This routine is designed to promote inclusivity and a sense of community among all students. By engaging in this routine, students are provided with an opportunity to regulate themselves, tune into the day's learning, and be inspired for the day ahead.

Over the past two weeks, we have focused our morning circles on the value of integrity. Through engaging discussions, tasks, and real-life experiences, students have learned about the importance of being truthful, honest, and responsible. These discussions and tasks have enabled students to reflect on their own actions (within school and the wider community) and how they can demonstrate integrity in their daily lives.

Georgia J. – 3/4P: "I enjoy shaking hands in the morning because it helps me remember all the new names. I also enjoy the [integrity] stories because they make me feel more calm."

Kora S. – 3/4P: "I like everyone sharing their news [from the weekend] because some of the news is really exciting."

Freddie G. -3/4P: "I like just settling down and learning names, telling stories and learning about what the class likes to do on the weekends."

All the teachers are proud of the progress our students have made in this area and are committed to continuing to provide opportunities for our students to further develop their character and values. By fostering a sense of community and promoting positive values, we know that our students will be well-prepared for success in their academic and personal lives.



By Aric Parsons - 34P Classroom Teacher

Parent Information - Whole School Activity - Thurs. 30th March

Wellbeing Event at EBPS



EBPS Wellbeing Program Presents...

'Backflips Against Bullying'

Engaging students with Parkour and Acrobatics from Prep to Year Six

'Backflips Against Bullying' is a program that features a high-energy ONE HOUR performance by Action Education's team of incredible acrobats.

"When students are engaged, they learn, so we engage them with Backflips, and we teach them about Bullying."

TOPICS COVERED

- Empowering The Bystander
- · Exit Strategies for the Victim
- Deliberate Social Exclusion
- The Consequences of Retaliation
- · Whole-School Action

WHEN: Thursday 30th March (separate, age appropriate performances for Juniors and

Seniors)

WHERE: In the PAC

COST: \$10:00



Learning Diversity @ East Bentleigh PS

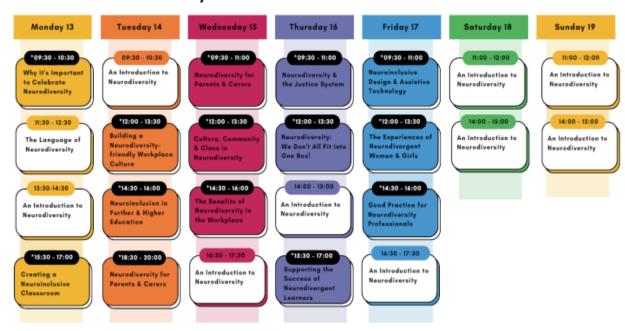
Next week is Neurodiversity Celebration Week!

Founded by Siena Castellon in 2018, this celebration is a worldwide initiative that challenges stereotypes and misconceptions about neurological differences. It aims to transform how neurodivergent individuals are perceived and supported by providing schools, universities, and organisations with the opportunity to recognise the many talents and advantages of being neurodivergent, while creating more inclusive and equitable cultures that celebrate differences and empower every individual.

Throughout the week, there are many opportunities to learn more about neurodiversity through introductory webinars, panel discussions and personal stories. The range of events aims to educate and inspire conversations about neurodiversity. All events are free and open to all. They are not recorded, to encourage participants to speak openly about their personal stories and experiences.

Below is the calendar of events and more information can be found at www.neurodiversityweek.com.

Neurodiversity Celebration Week 2023 Events



By Michelle Mather - Disability Inclusion

Garden News

*** Community Event ***

Nocturnal Bioblitz East Bentleigh Primary School Wednesday April 5th 5:30pm-9:30pm

Have you ever wondered what wildlife lives at our school? Let's find out with a night time bioblitz! All families and local community are welcome to attend our School Biodiversity blitz on Wednesday April 5th at 5:30pm (until 9:30pm).

Victorian Entomologists Peter Marriott and Anthony Kurek, Dassi Herszberg and your very own garden educator Pascale Jacq will be setting up light stations around our school to attract insects so we can see what lives at our school now we have created at beautiful Biodiversity Corridor. All observations will contribute to our iNaturalist project: https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/east-bentleigh-primary-biodiversity-corridor

Please bring: a torch or head torch, long sleeve shirts/pants (in case of mozzies), water and snacks (or a family picnic on the oval), and come and join us to learn about insects, spiders, and nocturnal animals. The night is funded by the Junior Landcare Biodiversity Corridor Community engagement Grant awarded to our school in 2021.

Manameeth ("good" season) has arrived on Boonwurrung country, with cool mornings and sunny blue skies throughout the day. You may have noticed the birds are changing their calls: **barrawarn** (Magpie) carolling together in large groups, the last years babies trying their best to learn their parents songs. **Bellinbellin** (Currawong) have arrived, so have many Corellas all gathering in large groups. It's corroboree time - Boonwurrung people hold a **ngargee** "corroboree" down at Balnarring each year in **Manameeth**. This year is on March 25th. If you go, I'll see you there!

It's a time of plenty- now is the time of harvest and we are busy collecting ripe tomatoes, basil, sage for cooking beautiful Italian dishes with Nikki in Kitchen. We've noticed our bananas have finally started flowering for the first time since planting them 5 years ago! Have you ever noticed bananas can easily divide into 3 parts lengthwise? This is a sign they are related to the Lily family of plants which have flowers and fruit divided into 3s. Once a banana stem flowers and fruits it will die back and sprout suckers from its base which will take 4 years before they in turn produce fruit.





Nature time can sometimes be so slow...waiting 5 years for a tree to produce fruit is equivalent to the lifetime of a prep student! What students and community have created years ago in our school garden is what we are reaping the benefits of today. The students who planted the first trees of the biodiversity bushland around our school are in high school now, they'd be so proud how we've finally "conquered the kikuyu" with years of weeding and mulching and now our forest is really taking care of itself.

View today of our forest at the far end of the oval behind the goal posts.





Same view in July 2019 after our first planting.

Nature teaches us that what we do today may have long lasting effects well into the future but we might not notice until we take time to reflect! Enjoy the goodness of **Manameeth** season!

By Pascale Jacq - Gardening Specialist





ISSUE 5 | TERM 1 | 2023

Naplan week is almost here

NAPLAN week is almost here, and many parents (and kids... and even teachers) are feeling a little extra stress and anxiety. NAPLAN has a lot of critics, plenty of supporters, and a whole lot of parents and students who simply go along with it because 'it's just what we do'.

This article is designed to offer some general - and gentle - advice on what's coming.

What NAPLAN is

NAPLAN stands for the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy; a nationwide standardised test that almost every student in Grades 3, 5, 7, and 9 are about to sit. Its purpose is to provide information about how education programs are working, areas for improvement, and which schools need support in the teaching and learning of literacy and numeracy. Some critics argue that it doesn't do this particularly well... but that's beyond the scope of this discussion.

What NAPLAN does well

When it works well, NAPLAN does three things:

- 1 NAPLAN results enable the identification of problems in the school system. And they point to places where education needs to improve.
 - For example, NAPLAN results have shown us education gaps for indigenous students, and for students in disadvantaged schools. We knew those gaps existed. But now we know the scope and range.
- 2 Literacy and numeracy results are made transparent at a national, state and territory, and school level. We now know that states and territories have different levels of achievement when they are compared on a like-for-like basis which NAPLAN allows.
- 3 NAPLAN shows us education trends over time.

What NAPLAN doesn't do well

NAPLAN doesn't give you a useful guide on how your child is doing academically. The test is done in March and we receive the results in the late part of the year. If you want to know how your child is doing, talk to their teacher. Great teachers can give you detailed information today about your child's progress.

NAPLAN doesn't give you any information about the quality of your child's character. It doesn't tell you anything about your child's ability to work in a team, to problem-solve, to show compassion, to be creative, engaged or resilient. It's not about your child's talents.

NAPLAN also gives us no information about the school your child attends in terms of approaches to discipline, school culture, school contribution to community, or the way it encourages students in areas not covered by NAPLAN

And in some cases it has been reported that NAPLAN, while providing data, doesn't ultimately lead to governments providing schools (or parents) with the resources needed when issues arise.

What you should do

Based on everything I've outlined above, you'll note that much of NAPLAN's focus is oriented towards education at a school, regional, state, and national level. While there is some individual focus, it's not really an individual assessment tool. It's more about how the school, the state, and the country are doing. Therefore, I suggest parents keep the following in mind:

- · Don't make NAPLAN a big deal. You barely even need to talk about it with your child
- Don't offer rewards to your child for doing well on NAPLAN. Research evidence shows this adds
 pressure, builds anxiety, and reduces children's creativity, motivation, and interest in real learning. (One
 mum I spoke to wondered if bribing her child with a puppy would be helpful. It's not.)
- . Don't buy practice tests for NAPLAN. Your child doesn't need to rehearse for NAPLAN
- · Don't worry about NAPLAN results. Leave that to the school

Instead, you might want to try the following:

- . Do show an interest in your child's education, regardless of whether NAPLAN is on or not
- Do encourage your child to read every single day. Read to them. Read with them. Have them read alone. And do this regardless of whether NAPLAN is on or not
- Do have your child participate in sports, music, art, drama, and other enrichment activities to the degree that you have the time and money for them – regardless of whether NAPLAN is on or not
- Do give your child plenty of unstructured (screen-free) time to simply be kids especially when NAPLAN is on

What your child should do

More than anything, your child will benefit from not being particularly interested in or bothered by NAPLAN. Life should be as close to normal as possible for your child.

It's true that some schools want to see NAPLAN results before they'll consider enrolling your child. It's true that some elements of NAPLAN feel like they matter a lot to us as parents because we want to see our children succeed. But please – PLEASE – remember:

Your child's NAPLAN score is not an indicator of your child's value, your child's potential, or your child's worthiness. It's just a number. And it's more meaningful to the school system than it is to you or your child.

When NAPLAN rolls around, treat it like a small, gentle wave at the beach. It rolls up the sand. It leaves a small, temporary mark. And then it disappears back into the ocean.





AUTHOR Dr Justin Coulson

Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters. He is the parenting expert and co-host of Channel Nine's Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia's #1 podcast for parents and family: The Happy Families Podcast. He has written 6 books about families and parenting. For further details visit https://happyfamilies.com.au.

Community Information



JOIN THE FUN!

Highett & Surrounds Term 1 All Girls Auskick

Oval 1 Highett Reserve, Highett Thursdays March 9th - April 6th 4:30 - 5:30pm

Sam Howell - sam.howell@afl.com.au Aslyn Witney - aslyn.witney@afl.com.au



play.afl/auskick





