

## Principal's Report | - 5

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

- \* EBPS School Vision
- \* COVID Positive Notification
- \* Staggered Drop off /Pick Up times
- \* Punctuality
- \* School Council Elections
- \* Parent Communication
- \* Information Evenings / Interviews
- \* Staff Car park / dropping children off
- \* Swimming Program
- \* Breakfast Club is back
- \* Anaphylaxis
- \* Sunsmart
- \* School Uniform
- \* Contact Information
- \* COVID - sick children
- \* Accidents & Accident Cover
- \* Privacy Information

### BREAKFAST CLUB IS BACK!

Starts on Monday 7th  
February  
8:15am-8:45am  
in the PAC.

### Reporting Student Absences

Please remember to let the school know by 9am if your child will be absent.

Please call or email the school office on Ph: 9570 3525 Email: [east.bentleigh.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:east.bentleigh.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

You must also provide a reason for the absence so that we can accurately record it.

**\*\*A signed note by you is also required - to be handed to the class teacher for each absence. Thank you**

### Diary Dates

Parent Information Evenings/  
Interviews - start Mon 14th Feb

Walking Bus - Wed 9th Feb 8:20am  
(weekly)

Yr 5/6 Sport - Summer Lightning  
Premiership Friday 11th Feb

Swimming Program Yr 3-4 (9 days)-  
Tues 15th Feb - Fri 25th Feb

School Photo Day - Wednesday  
30th March



# East Bentleigh Primary School

Bignell Road  
East Bentleigh 3165  
Phone: 9570 3525

Email: [east.bentleigh.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:east.bentleigh.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

3rd February 2022

Term 1 / Week 1, Issue 1

### 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,

#### EBPS School Vision

It is worth remembering our school vision at the beginning of each year - (It is printed at the top of each of our newsletters). It is this vision that drives our staff at EBPS each day in the work that we do with your child/ren. EBPS is blessed with a committed and hardworking teaching team, well supported by our caring support staff.

#### COVID Positive Notification

A person with COVID-19 was at our school on Monday and Tuesday this week. The families of the affected year level/class were advised of this yesterday. I am very grateful to the family for their proactive and timely response to the positive result.

If your child is not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, they can continue to attend school but please monitor for symptoms and ensure that they are kept home if feeling unwell.

Students who show symptoms of COVID-19 cannot attend school and should get tested. For information on symptoms visit: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/symptoms-and-risks> For more information on how to get tested visit: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/taking-test-covid-19>

#### Staggered Drop Off and Pick up times

In line with our COVID Safe plan we will once again be using a staggered process at the beginning and end of the day in order to minimise crowding and optimising appropriate physical distancing at these two very busy times of the day. The process will only work effectively if all parents do their best to adhere to the times set out. So far this year (and yes it is early days yet) this hasn't been the case, so I ask that you please make an effort to help out here. Please see times below - (perhaps print off that bit of the newsletter and stick in on your fridge as a reminder every morning.)

*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

**The school gates will be opened daily at 8.40am.**

**Prep - to arrive at 8.40am** (no earlier please) enter through northern front gate at the front of the school, with parents exiting through southern gate. Teachers will be there to meet children. Pick up will be at the front of the school again at 2.30pm for the next 4 weeks.

**Years 1 and 2 - Children arrive at 8.50am**, (no earlier please), enter through northern gate met by teachers at the front of the school, with parents exiting through southern gate. Pick up at 3.20pm from the front of the school.

**Years 3 to 6 - Arrive at school at 9.00am**, (no earlier please) walk directly to classrooms and dismissed at 3.30pm.

Additionally at the end of the day I ask that parents coming to collect children do so promptly then leave the site. Please do not congregate at entrances thus blocking others and not allowing for physical distancing. We ask that you wear a mask if you can and remind everyone that the DET rule is that only masked and vaccinated adults may enter the school site. I respectfully ask that parents arrange to have the all important social catch ups with friends off site. I thank you all in anticipation of your cooperation.

### **Punctuality**

How does being late for school impact on your child's learning? Good punctuality and consistent attendance is essential for all children if they are to achieve their full potential academically and develop employment and life skills. Children arriving late to class often miss important learning opportunities as well as messages and information. Students who arrive late to lessons are likely to miss the teacher's introduction when the aims of the lesson and learning objectives are explained and task instructions given. This hinders the child's understanding of the lesson and affects progress. In all cases, a child arriving late interrupts the lesson, disrupting teaching and learning for all. Children's class time at school is precious as I'm sure you will agree, so I urge you all to support our efforts to maintain punctuality at our school. Please understand if your child's teacher can only have a brief chat to you in the morning if they are out the front to meet their class, as their first focus is to bring the class together. At recess and lunch break times the music will play at the 5 minute mark in order to 'cue' the children to make their way promptly to line. At the end of the day, class teachers in the early years will escort their classes out to their designated area ready to be collected by parents. Check out the Parenting article further on in this newsletter to see a checklist on how you can help your child or children be on time. Your child's future depends on you helping them to develop healthy lifelong habits.

### **School Council Elections**

Yesterday every school family will have received a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations' letter regarding school council elections. We have 4 Parent member vacancies that we need to fill, consisting of 3 two-year memberships and 1 casual vacancy for a year. All nominations need to be lodged at the school office by 4:00pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Nomination forms are available from the office. School Councillors currently play an important role in decision making and management of our school. They donate many hours to the sub committees of School Council; Finance, Education and Policy, Facilities, Communication, Fundraising, Publicity, Farmers' Market and Grants. Councillors belong to at least one subcommittee; they also attend monthly council meetings.

### **Parent Communication**

For new parents to our school I will explain the difference between a bulletin and a newsletter. A fortnightly newsletter is produced every alternate Thursday. This newsletter outlines past and future happenings in the school to keep parents informed as fully as possible about what is happening at our school. On alternate weeks a briefer news bulletin is distributed. (Any time bound important news will come to you via email, so please ensure that we have a current address.)

All these communications will include a term calendar which is updated regularly. The Term 1 2022 calendar will be available from next week. To be waste-wise we make our newsletters/bulletins available electronically to our families, by sending a link via email to access them on our website each week. This method has the advantage of ensuring newsletters don't get lost on the way home. A small number of paper copies of the newsletter will be available from the office. Please let us know if you wish to receive a 'hard copy'.

**Continued next page.....**

## Principal's Report - Maria Shearn

Reading our weekly communication will help to keep you informed and it will answer many of your questions. We are frequently phoned and asked questions that would not need to have been asked if the school's communications had been read. It is a parental responsibility as a partner in your child's education that you make yourself aware of what is going on by reading the newsletters. In our newsletters I frequently write about important things for parents to remember and / or make some requests for help. Much time and effort goes into the production of this communication tool so I urge you all to take full advantage of it. Should you have the need to contact me directly on any matter and you can't make it into school my email address is: Maria.Shearn@education.vic.gov.au

### Information Evenings/Interviews

This year once again due to COVID restrictions these nights will be conducted via Webex during Week 3 of the term starting February 14<sup>th</sup>. A notice will be coming home soon, to advise you of further details. Please make this a priority, as teachers will outline more fully their plans and expectations for the year.

### Staff Car Park/ Dropping Children Off

The second reminder is about dropping children off and / or picking children up out the front of the school. There are times and areas where you may park, and there are times and areas where you may not. If you need to stop even for only ten minutes, it is a good idea to park in one of the local side streets. People who do just stop and then move off again quickly, do need to have the places to do so. Please do not use up these spaces if you must leave your car for more than a couple of minutes. For one thing you could be booked, for another it is not fair to those people who are in a hurry.

If you use the Kiss and Go area to drop off your child remember that you may not leave your car at any time. Also please remember that the staff car park is for staff only - it is not a dropping off or picking up area. The only exception to this is the use of the two 'disabled' car spaces which are required for our families with children with additional mobility needs. These are in daily use this year so please do not park in them at any time.

### Swimming Program

Our Grade 3 and 4 students will participate in a 9 day intensive swimming program beginning on Tuesday February 15<sup>th</sup>. A separate note with details has gone out to parents.

### Breakfast Club is coming to EBPS!

EBPS has once again partnered with DET and Foodbank to provide a breakfast service for our students. Breakfast Club will begin on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> of February. It will be available daily starting at 8:15am and will be housed in the kitchenette area of the new PAC. Please look out for more details from Jane and Christine later in the newsletter.

### Anaphylaxis

At our school we have a number of students who suffer from severe life-threatening nut allergies. We ask that all parents refrain from sending any nuts or products with nuts to school. Please look out in our next newsletter for more detailed information about anaphylaxis.

### Sunsmart

Please help your child to be sunsmart by making sure she/he has a hat at school. Children who do not wear their hats will be directed to remain on the hall deck for the entire break time.

### School Uniform

A reminder that all children are expected to attend school in correct school uniform on all days unless advised for a special event. A copy of our uniform policy is available on our website. Whilst the uniform shop is not open at the moment - parents can still order and pay for uniform via communicating with the office. Your purchases will then be placed in your child's bag. Please don't hesitate to speak to either Libby or Ann in the office on 9570 3525 should you have any questions.

### Contact Information

Parents please let us know if any information about home phone numbers, work phone numbers or emergency contact numbers have changed. It can be very frustrating to try to contact parents or the person / people listed as the emergency contact/s when children are ill at school only to find the numbers we are ringing are no longer correct. Also please let us know if your home address changes.

*Continued next page.....*

## Principal's Report - Maria Shearn

### COVID - Sick Children

Children who have allergies and take medication should have an ASCIA Action Plan for Allergic Reactions completed in consultation with a medical practitioner and on file at school, along with medication should it be required.

Please remember - Teachers and our First Aid staff are NOT doctors. We are following our COVID-19 Safety Management Plan if we call you in regard to children who become ill at school or exhibit any cold like symptoms. One of the most important things we can all do to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community is to stay at home when we are unwell, even when we have the mildest of symptoms. I thank the many parents who are managing their children this way.

### Accidents and Accident Cover

Children will always have accidents. As much as we try to prevent them, they are an unfortunate fact of life. It goes without saying that as parents you will be most concerned about your child/ren's wellbeing and recovery. Whilst most medical costs are refundable by Medicare, it can come as a nasty shock when some bills arrive, that some expenses are not covered by Medicare or private medical insurance. For example, did you know that if an ambulance is called for your child, that you the parent must meet the considerable expense? Ambulance insurance is paid by many families as part of risk management for their families. Children's Accident Insurance is also an attractive option for their families. With some of these schemes children are covered 24 hours per day anywhere in the world, not just while they are at school. The Department of Education does not hold accident insurance for school students. DET has provided the following information to share with our families: Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance. Whilst DET cannot advise you on whether to purchase a student accident policy or which policy to purchase, it is recommended that you seek assistance in this matter with your insurance broker or find a suitable personal accident insurer in the Yellow Pages or online.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL PRIVACY INFORMATION for parents and carers

During the ordinary course of your child's attendance at our school, school staff will collect your child's personal and health information when necessary to educate your child, or to support your child's social and emotional wellbeing or health in the school context. Such information will also be collected when required to fulfil a legal obligation, including duty of care, anti-discrimination law and occupational health and safety law. If that information is not collected, the school may be unable to provide optimal education or support to your child, or fulfil those legal obligations. For example, health information may be collected through the school nurse, primary welfare officer or wellbeing staff member.

If your child is referred to a specific health service at school, such as a Student Support Services officer, the required consent will be obtained. Our school also collects information provided by parents and carers through the School Entrance Health Questionnaire (SEHQ) and the Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS) Transition Form. Our school may use online tools, such as apps and other software, to effectively collect and manage information about your child for teaching and learning purposes, parent communication and engagement; student administration; and school management purposes. When our school uses these online tools, we take steps to ensure that your child's information is secure. If you have any concerns about the use of these online tools, please contact us.

School staff will only share your child's personal or health information with other staff who need to know to enable the school to educate or support your child, or fulfil a legal obligation. When our students transfer to another Victorian government school, personal and health information about that student will be transferred to that next school. Transferring this information is in the best interests of our students and assists that next school to provide optimal education and support to students.

In some limited circumstances, information may be disclosed outside of the school (and outside of the Department of Education and Training). The school will seek your consent for such disclosures unless the disclosure is allowed or mandated by law.

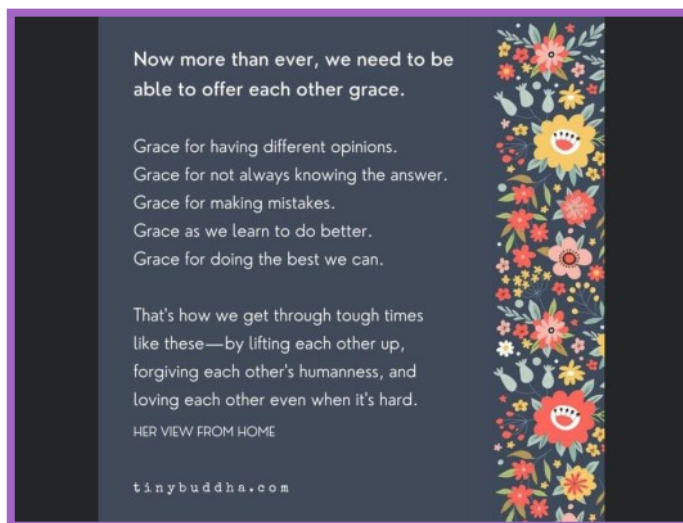
Our school values the privacy of every person. When collecting and managing personal and health information, all school staff must comply with Victorian privacy law. For more information about privacy including about how to access personal and health information held by the school about you or your child, see our school's privacy policy: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>

Throughout this notice, 'staff' includes principals, teachers, Student Support Service officers, youth workers, social workers, nurses and any other allied health practitioners and all other staff at our school. This includes employees, agents, and service providers (contractors) of the Department, whether paid or unpaid.



## Principal's Report - Maria Shearn

*\*\*Thought\*\**



Until next time - Maria Shearn Principal 😊

## Walking Bus 2022

We will commence our Walking Bus next Wednesday 9th February. We have been doing this activity for over 10 years, excepts if it is very wet and during COVID lockdowns. Sue Jackson and some staff members walk to the carpark adjacent to the Brady Road Tennis Courts. Parents drop the children off safely and they meet the teachers on the path near the oval to walk to school together. We are usually there by 8:20am and commence walking to school (though Centenary Park and up Bignell Road) at 8:30am. All children in all year levels are welcome to join us. It is a lovely way to start the day. Parents and toddlers are most welcome to join us.



## BREAKFAST CLUB IS BACK!

**Starts: Monday 7th February (every day after that!)**

**Time: 8:15am to 8:45am**

**Where: PAC - new Performing Arts Centre**



- ◆ Please arrive before 8:30am to allow for eating time so children and staff can get to class on time.
- ◆ The purpose of breakfast club is to provide a breakfast service for all children at EBPS. It is not for child minding - so if you need childcare in the mornings, please use Camp Australia which is available from 7:00am in the BER Building.
- ◆ NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED for breakfast club, just sign in on the day.
- ◆ If your child has special dietary needs, please contact Jane Ross on [jane.ross@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:jane.ross@education.vic.gov.au)
- ◆ Fruit, toast, cereals on offer.
- ◆ Our food is donated by FOOD BANK so we do not have a wide range of dietary products or substitutes available to us. I.e. Soy milk, gluten free bread is not provided to the school.
- ◆ For safety reasons - please do not let your children walk through the staff carpark unattended upon arrival to breakfast club, as there are many staff cars arriving then. As the front gates are not unlocked until 8:40am, we suggest you use the pathway adjacent to the Taraleigh Kinder building to enter the school site, near the PAC.
- ◆ COVID Safety - please drop your child to the PAC but do not enter the building. *Thank you Jane & Christine*

# Literacy @ East Bentleigh PS

## Reading with your child

Listening to your child read, or reading to them is a wonderful time to bond and share the love for reading. Books open the doorway to many magical and exciting places and lead to countless adventures. Shared reading creates many fond memories for you and your child to look back on. 9 tips when listening to your child read at home:

### 1. Choose a quiet time

Set aside a quiet time with no distractions. Ten to fifteen minutes is usually long enough.

### 2. Make reading enjoyable

Make reading an enjoyable experience. Sit with your child. Try not to pressurise if he or she is reluctant. If your child loses interest then do something else.

### 3. Maintain the flow

If your child mispronounces a word do not interrupt immediately. Instead allow opportunity for self-correction. It is better to tell a child some unknown words to maintain the flow rather than insisting on trying to build them all up from the sounds of the letters. If your child does try to 'sound out' words, encourage the use of letter sounds (phonemes) rather than 'alphabet names'.

### 4. Be positive

If your child says something nearly right to start with that is fine. Don't say 'No. That's wrong,' but 'Let's read it together' and point to the words as you say them. Boost your child's confidence with constant praise for even the smallest achievement.

### 5. Success is the key

Remember 'Nothing succeeds like success'. Until your child has built up his or her confidence, it is better to keep to easier books. Struggling with a book with many unknown words is pointless. Flow is lost, text cannot be understood and children can easily become reluctant readers.

### 6. Visit the Library

Encourage your child to use the public library regularly.

### 7. Regular practice

Try to read with your child on most school days. 'Little and often' is best.

### 8. Talk about the books

There is more to being a good reader than just being able to read the words accurately. Just as important is being able to understand what has been read. Always talk to your child about the book; about the pictures, the characters, how they think the story will end, their favourite part. You will then be able to see how well they have understood and you will help them to develop good comprehension skills.

### 9. Variety is important

Remember children need to experience a variety of reading materials eg. picture books, hard backs, comics, magazines, poems, and information books.

Daily reading at home not only helps your child's reading, but also increases their vocabulary, assists their writing skills, increases the knowledge of the world around them and opens the door to an endless world of imagination.





## Maths at EBPS



### OPEN ENDED MATHS PROBLEMS

Open ended maths questions, also known as open ended maths problems, help learners grow into true mathematicians who use diverse problem-solving strategies to explore mathematical situations where there isn't necessarily one "right" answer. It equips them with the critical thinking skills they need to solve real world problems in the twenty-first century.

There are many benefits to using open ended maths

- \* Provides valuable and specific information to the teacher about student understanding and application of learning
- \* Allows the teacher to assess accuracy in computation and abilities to think of and flexibly apply more than one strategy
- \* Permits the teacher to see flexibility in student thinking
- \* Gives students the opportunity to practice and fine tune their problem solving, reasoning, critical thinking, and communication skills
- \* Creates opportunities for real-world application of math
- \* Empowers students to extend their learning and reflect on their thinking
- \* Fosters creativity, collaboration, and engagement in students
- \* Facilitates a differentiated learning experience where all students can access the task

Have a go at solving one of these open-ended problems with your family.

***There are 56 raisons in a box. How many different ways can you arrange these to make them easier to count?***

***At the pet store, there are six more cats than dogs. How many cats and dogs could there be?***

***There are 88 wheels in a carpark. The vehicles parked there are all cars and motorbikes. How many cars and motorbikes could there be?***



# Wellbeing @ EBPS

## Relationships Matter



This week as children return to school and begin their new learning year, teachers have been working hard to support them in reconnecting with their friends and others. I am hearing about lots of 'getting to know you' activities, activities that allow the whole class to experience positive emotions together and in some classes mindfulness tasks that enable children to develop their awareness of the wonder of the present moment. In my own class, I am watching children experience the joy and sometimes even the uncertainty of these re-connections, as well as the development of new connections. Our role, as their important others, is to help them navigate their way through the ups and downs of relationships with others, their feelings about these connections and to be mindful of our own feelings that can influence our response.

What follows is an article from the 'Action for Happiness' website about the importance of positive relationships and connections in all our lives. Young children learn much about their world and how it works by watching and copying their important others. If we can give them a positive role model for developing and sustaining good, healthy connections with others, we are giving them a great foundation for their own relationships, now and into the future.

<https://www.actionforhappiness.org/>

Our connections with other people are at the heart of happiness - theirs and ours. Whether these connections are with our partners, families, friends, work colleagues, neighbours, or people in our broader communities, they all contribute to our happiness. Chris Peterson, one of the founders of positive psychology puts it simply as: "Other people matter".

Scholars and scientists agree about the central importance of relationships for our wellbeing and our happiness. Many studies have shown that both the quality and quantity of social connections have an impact on our health and longevity as well as psychological wellbeing.

Not having close personal ties poses the same level of health risk as smoking or obesity. Having a network of social connections or high levels of social support appears to increase our immunity to infection, lower our risk of heart disease and reduce mental decline as we get older.

Close, secure and supportive relationships are the most important for well-being, whether these are with our husband, wife, partner, relatives or friends. Research shows that it's the quality of our relationships that matters most. This is influenced by:

- Experiencing positive emotions together - e.g. enjoyment, fun
- Being able to talk openly and feel understood
- Giving and receiving of support
- Shared activities and experiences.

Just as relationships are a two-way thing, it seems the connection between happiness and relationships is too. Not only do relationships help to make us happier, but also happy people tend to have more and better quality relationships.

So working on our relationships is good for happiness and working on our happiness is good for our Relationships. That's a win all round!

**Lee Jellis - Wellbeing Coordinator**





# INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose - Australia's No 1 parenting educator

## Getting kids to school ON TIME!

**Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.**

***"Come on Jack! Get a move on. School starts in ten minutes and you're not even dressed yet!"***

If this scenario sounds familiar then you are not alone. Anecdotal evidence suggests that getting children to school or pre school on time can be one of the most difficult tasks for parents.

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late. Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do precious minutes are lost. A child who is fifteen minutes late to school each day misses one week of school every year.

How can you get your dawdling kids out the door without yelling yourself hoarse? Here are a few techniques and ideas for you to try to get your punctually-challenged children to school on time:

✓ **Establish a morning routine.**

Make sure your children know what is expected of them in the morning, and also what you will do. Resist nagging but be willing to take them to school even if they haven't fully prepared for the day.



✓ **Identify and remove distractions such as television.**

If the children are regular watchers before school change the routine and keep the TV off. It should only be turned on when children are completely ready for school.

✓ **Teach some of the basics of time management.**

The average adult underestimates by about 25 per cent the time it takes to do various jobs. Make sure you have realistic time estimates and stop packing so much into the time you allocate. Encourage older children to estimate how long it takes to do activities such as getting ready in the morning. Then they can measure the time taken to do these tasks and compare their estimates with real time.

✓ **Arrive at school ten minutes early.**

Plan to arrive at school early rather than be there on time. This idea works well for perpetual latecomers, whether young or old.

✓ **Model a good routine.**

Its pointless expecting children to be organised in the morning if you are in a muddle yourself. Set a good example by being as methodical as possible and avoid sleeping in unless your children are so organised that they get you breakfast in bed. And pigs might fly as well!

Published by Michael Grose

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### Enhance mental & emotional resilience

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- What mindfulness & meditation is.
- How to develop daily mindfulness & meditation practice.
- How mindfulness & meditation reduces stress and anxiety.
- How mindfulness & meditation assist in overcoming old unbeneficial habits.
- How to work with intense feelings and emotions.
- How to develop a wise relationship with the constant chattering mind.
- How mindfulness meditation practice enhances a better flow, balance, contentment and joy in your life.

Iris is a mindfulness therapist, an accredited mindfulness and meditation teacher, a social worker, a Steiner educator, and a Cancer thriver.

Starts Tuesday 15 February 2022 8:00 PM - 9:00 PM (weekly)

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