

## Principal's Report | - 3

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

- \* Staffing News
- \* 2022 Staff Allocations
- \* Final School Day - early dismissal times



# East Bentleigh Primary School

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9th December 2021

Term 4 / Week 10, Issue 5

## BREAKFAST CLUB

**\*\* Last day - Friday 10th December**

**If your child has allergies—  
please email**

[jane.ross@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:jane.ross@education.vic.gov.au)  
**before they attend.**

## 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 hope that this communication finds you all fit, well and looking forward to a more normal way of life with Christmas looming on the horizon.

With only a week to go in this school year we have been furiously working behind the scenes to complete all the usual Term 4 tasks in preparation for the 2022 year, as well as many tasks which would normally happen much earlier. One task that is now settled is the staffing for 2022. Please see the list later in this newsletter.

This is a very important edition of our newsletter because it is the last full one for 2021 - (the most challenging year for our communities in recent memory). Next week's communication will be a special bulletin.

This means this is the last newsletter for our year six students. In some cases it is the last one for families who have been associated with the school for many years. To our year six parents we would like to say thank you for sharing your time, energy and most importantly, the development of your child with us.

It has been a pleasure for us and we'd like to extend to you and your young person (now graduating to Secondary School), every good wish for the future. We know that the pandemic induced lockdowns whilst difficult at the time have unlocked many important positive attributes in our children which will stand them in good stead for their futures.

Despite the pandemic our community has once again worked hard to maintain the profile of our school and raise funds through the successful operation of the Bentleigh Farmers' Market on the 4th Saturday of every month. Thank you to the fabulous regular team of parent/staff volunteers that assist every month, all coordinated by the indefatigable Heidi Nankervis.

Our gardener Pascale has worked tirelessly to maintain and beautify our grounds with new garden areas springing up to enhance the physical environment of our school. Thank you also to our volunteer parents who have looked after our menagerie of chickens and ducks throughout the lockdowns and beyond. You are all remarkable.

My thanks and appreciation to our School Council members, Andrew Goldfinch, Ofer Fridberg, Lisa Vance, Petra Betschart, Carmen Smith, Lee Jellis, Jill Griffin and Sue Jackson. Despite not being able to meet in person for much of the year, it has been a real pleasure working with like-minded people all focussed on making our school the best it can possibly be. I am grateful for your ongoing support and trust.

*Continued next page.....*

## Diary Dates

**Year 6 Graduation Night -  
Wednesday 15th December**

**Year 6 Excursion - Cable Park -  
Thursday 16th December**

**Last School Day 2021 -  
Friday 17th December**

**Early Dismissal Times:**

Prep students - 1.00pm  
Grade 1 and 2 students - 1.10pm  
Grade 3 and 4 students - 1.20pm  
Grade 5 and 6 students - 1.30pm



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

### Staffing News

We will be saying goodbye to a higher number than usual of staff members at the end of this year; not all due to the effects of COVID.

Firstly, we will be saying goodbye to **Lynne Grainger** who will be retiring after 29 years at our school, first as a parent then as an ES staff member. Lynne's two beautiful daughters Sandy and Rachel attended this school many years ago, when it was still called Moorabbin Heights PS. Lynne has been witness to the growth and the many changes throughout the years. Lynne has supported many of our students through her many years here and her calm and empathetic presence and cheeky sense of humour will be sorely missed. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Lynne all the best in her retirement.

**Luciana Harrison** will also be leaving us at the end of the year, as she and her partner have made the decision to move permanently back to Canberra to be closer to family. Many students have benefitted from Luciana's kind and calm teaching style over the 4 years she has spent at EBPS. We will miss Luciana's kind and empathic nature in the school.

Another sad loss for our school is **Laura Siu** who will leave us at the end of the year. Laura and her partner James have already fulfilled their dream of moving to the country by securing a house in Macedon - Laura has in fact been travelling to school and back to Macedon for the entirety of term 4. Laura has gained a Learning Specialist position at Wedge Park PS which is in the western suburbs. Our loss is their gain.

**Leah Morrissey** will also be leaving us in 2022, although I'm very happy to say that her absence will be for a year only. Leah and her partner are taking up an opportunity to travel to Queensland next year. We wish them well.

Each of the above-named people has in their own special way left the EBPS community in better shape than they found it. We are indebted for their passion for education and their hard work in supporting and guiding our students and wish them all every success in their futures.

Now for the flip side: we will be welcoming new staff members to EBPS in 2022.

**Aric Parsons**, who joined us earlier this year as a CRT, to look after 3/4R during Kate Raynor's absence will join us as a fully fledged EBPS staff member. Kate will remain on leave in 2022.

**Aaron Jones** who is currently a Learning Specialist at Toorak PS will join EBPS teaching in the Mainstream as a Learning Specialist.

**Jasmine Howlett** who is an alumni of EBPS herself, is joining us to teach a class in 2022. This very special closing of a loop feels very special to me in that it adds another dimension to the history of MHPS/EBPS. We already have a second generation of students attending our school with several of our current students being children of ex-students, but Jazzy is the first to come back as a teacher. Jasmine will begin her teaching career in the Steiner stream. Lastly but by no means least, we will also welcome **Nemo Cahill** to our teaching staff in 2022. Nemo will be a welcome addition to the Steiner teaching team.

As you can see the staffing space has been a very busy one during this term. We still have one classroom teacher to find in the Mainstream to complete the allocations for 2022. We will be interviewing for this position in the next few days.

### 2022 Staff Allocations

**Prep J** - Jasmine Howlett

**Prep S** - Sinead Delaney

**Prep M** - Stewart McCallum

**Class 1A** - Alison Hackett

**Grade 1K** - Amanda Kershaw

**Grade 2J** - Aaron Jones

**Class 2D** - Donna Leibowitz

**Class 2E** - Emma Gullan & Leanne Jacobs

**Class 3C** - Melinda Cole

**Class 3D** - Dagmar McNamara

**Grade 3/4J** - Jill Griffin

**Grade 3/4A** - TBA

**Class 4L** - Lee Jellis/Leanne Jacobs

**Class 5F** - Aislinn Farrow

**Class 5A** - Anna Pititto

**Grade 5/6A** - Aric Parsons

**Grade 5/6P** - Bill Portelli

**Class 6T** - Tanja Boxelaar

**Class 6C** - Nemo Cahill

**French** - Carmen Higgins

**Disability Inclusion Officer** - Michelle Mather

**Art/Performing Arts/Special Needs** - Janette Arvanitakis

**Tutoring Program** - Maddie Edkins

**Learning Intervention** - Mandy Millar

**PE** - John Seary

**Kitchen Specialist** - Nikki Gordon

**Garden Specialist** - Pascale Jacq

Please note that this is a *provisional plan*, because sometimes things happen that may necessitate some changes in the New Year. Students will be involved in a 'Step Up' program on the final Monday of the year, 13<sup>th</sup> December, spending the morning with their 2022 teacher, (where possible) and peers.

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## Principal's Report - Maria Shearn

### Final Day Dismissal Times

On our final day of each year we usually dismiss our students at 1:30pm, after a whole school assembly. This year our final day will be **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December**.

In keeping with COVID safe practices, the end of year will look different. This year we will dismiss our students using the 'staggered' methodology we have used for the entirety of Term 4. Please see below what the times will be.

**Prep students - 1.00pm**

**Grade 1 and 2 students - 1.10pm**

**Grade 3 and 4 students - 1.20pm**

**Grade 5 and 6 students - 1.30pm**

### Finally

I would like to say thank you once again to all our school community members for the support they have shown our staff during this second trying pandemic year.

Thank you also to the parents and families who have taken the time to send words of thanks to the staff, we really do appreciate it.

To our teachers and ES staff I say thank you for all you have done to support your classes and their families this year. The challenges to education have been at times seemingly insurmountable. For the better part of 2 years now, teachers have taken on challenges that no one in our lifetime has seen before. Few people had even used Zoom or Microsoft teams before last year. No one thought social distancing would be part of a classroom daily routine or that masks would be worn in a classroom. Or that, somehow, teachers had to change parts of their curriculum to online – and still ensure they show students they are valued and supported.

Every teacher at our school did what they always do: they put their students first. And somehow, unbelievably, they found a way.

For teachers, students have always come first. Even before themselves. At times it has come at a cost to teachers and anyone in a school who cares about students. I guess 'exhausted' is the 'new normal'. I hope that our teachers get to enjoy a restful and recuperating holiday break putting themselves and their families first.

I wish all our families a safe, happy and healthy holiday season with enough time to rest and recharge depleted batteries in preparation for a brighter 2022.

*\*\* Thought \*\**



**Until next time - Maria Shearn Principal**



### Final day Breakfast Club 2021

Last day for breakfast club is **tomorrow - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December**. NO BREAKFAST CLUB for the last week of school. Thanks to all the children who have attended this year. It has been a pleasure sharing breakfast time with you all. Enjoy your holidays. See you in 2022! *Jane and Christine*.

# Literacy @ East Bentleigh PS

## Summer Literacy Ideas

The summer holidays are a great time to practice literacy skills. Here are some ideas you and your family might like to try over the holidays.

### Take Time to Talk

This is an easy one: Have conversations with your child about their favourite movies and games or about current events. Talking with your child encourages critical thinking, builds vocabulary, and ignites curiosity.

### Read Books Together

Reading together provides a meaningful way for you to connect with your child every day. Take turns reading aloud to each other. And remember, you don't have to stick to books alone; you can read magazines, comics, graphic novels, catalogues or online articles.


### Visit the Library

Take a visit to your local library. Plan a regular, weekly, or monthly library ritual so your child can look forward to borrowing books and other library materials.

### Listen to Audiobooks


Encourage your children to listen to audiobooks while on car trips or at home. Listening to audiobooks and [podcasts](#) helps children develop a variety of [important cognitive and social skills](#).

## SUMMER WRITING CHALLENGE









# Summer WRITING CHALLENGE

Word Bank:	
Vacation	Popsicle
Scorching	Sun Burn
Waves	Ocean
Adventure	Sunshine
Sandals	Deep Blue
	Diving



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Make a bucket list of things you want to this summer.	Write about your last day at school before summer break.	Write an acrostic poem using the word 'summer'	Write a day in the life story about being a shark.	Write a haiku about sandcastles.	Write a journal entry about finding treasure.	Write a film review.
Write about your dream holiday.	Story Starter: My kingdom of sand where I spend my days...	Write about life in ice cream land	You find a strange creature on the beach – Describe it.	If you could fly anywhere where would you go?	Story Starter: I went to the pool one day and saw...	Write a short story about the sun.
Can you write a six word story about flamingos.	What would you do if you owned an island?	Write a news article about flooding in a nearby city.	Write a book review.	What would it be like to live underwater?	Write a short biography of your life in the past 2 years	What is your favourite summer activity?
Go for walk and write down everything you see.	Write a poem about summer holidays.	Write a travel guide about living in your area.	Write a journal entry about swimming with the sharks.	Write a letter to your best friend in another country.	Write a short description about your dream world.	Write instructions to making your favourite recipe.
Write a short story about coconuts, monkeys and hermit crabs.	Story starter: One day, I ate a watermelon seed and...	Write about the worst summer holiday ever!				



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## Maths at EBPS



### Maths at East Bentleigh PS 2022

To the East Bentleigh PS Community,

As you will have read earlier in this newsletter I am leaving East Bentleigh PS this year as I have recently moved home and sadly East Bentleigh is a little too far for me to commute from the Macedon Ranges!

I have had 6 wonderful years here at East Bentleigh and during that whole time I have contributed to the maths subject team. It has been an absolute pleasure and I am proud of the work that the maths subject team has done over the last few years.

Next year the fantastic Tanja, is stepping up to keep the maths torch going and she and I have been collaborating to ensure a good 2022 for maths learning at East Bentleigh PS.

Look out for opportunities to learn and participate in learning through maths talent quests, education weeks and her contributions here in the newsletter.

I wish everyone in the East Bentleigh PS community all the best! Laura Siu

PS Please see below for a festive puzzle!

#### Pick a pair

Choose from these numbers.



1. Pick a pair of numbers.  
Add them together.  
Write the numbers and the answer.

Pick a different pair of numbers.  
Write the numbers and the answer.

Keep doing it.  
How many different answers can you get?

2. Now take one number from the other.  
How many different answers can you get now?

#### Christmas tree

Rudolph put four stars on a tree.  
He coloured each star either red or yellow.



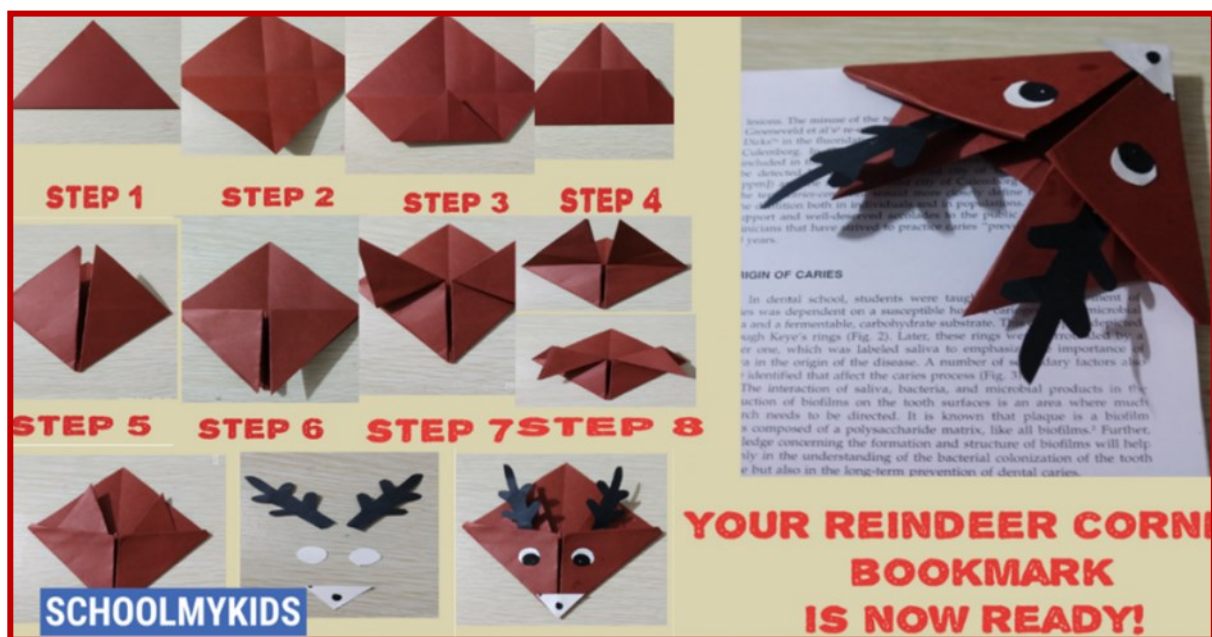
In how many different ways can Rudolph colour the four stars?

## Wellbeing @ EBPS

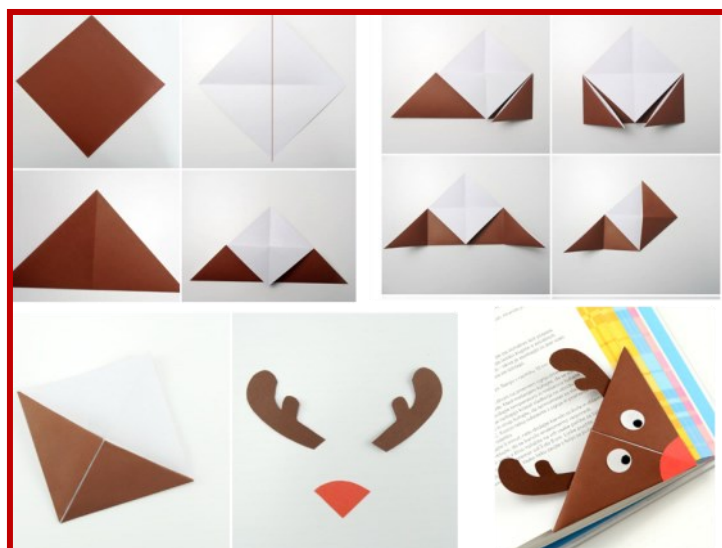
### Christmas Origami

These easy origami Reindeer Corner Bookmarks are a great origami project to enjoy this Christmas and a great way to encourage a love of reading too!

These paper Christmas bookmarks are easy to make and we think they'd be perfect as little gifts to give to friends and teachers too. Two different versions follow.



Here is the second version. Why not have a go at both.



Wishing all East Bentleigh Primary School families a very happy holiday season!!!  
May you stay safe and joyful and we look forward to seeing you back in 2022!!!!

## Parent Information

### District Athletics

Yesterday 49 students from Grade 3-6 represented the school at Duncan McKinnon Reserve to participate in the District Athletics Carnival. There were many wonderful individual performances as well as great teamwork on display throughout the day.

Credit also goes to our students who behaved exceptionally well and participated with great sportsmanship.

Thank you also to teachers Amanda Kershaw and Tanja Boxelaar who supported our children throughout the day.

#### Some Notable Performances

1st - Lauren G. - 12yr Girls Discus A  
1st - Mia S. - 12 yr Girls Triple Jump B  
1st - Julien V. - 10yr Boys - 100m C  
1st - Riley D. - 11yr Triple Jump A  
2nd - Lenny D. - 11yr Boys Triple Jump A  
2nd - Lenny D. - 11yr High Jump B  
2nd - Hannah C. - 10yr Long Jump A  
2nd - Kiichi U. - 11yr Boys - 100m B  
2nd - Abi H. - 11yr Girls High Jump B  
2nd - Ethan H. - 12yr Boys Shot Put B  
2nd - Ethan H. - 12yr Boys Discus B  
3rd - Jaxon P. - 10yr Discus A  
3rd - Taha M. - 11yr Discus B  
3rd - Camiilo V-N. - 12yr 100m A  
3rd - Xian T. - 12yr Girls Discus A



### Kanga Cricket Finals

Last Friday EBPS had two teams make it into the Summer Sport Finals. Unfortunately, they both had to play each other in the Kanga Cricket Grand final. The game was played in great spirit with plenty of wickets and sixes on the day.

The final score, EBPS Blue - 209 def EBPS White 141

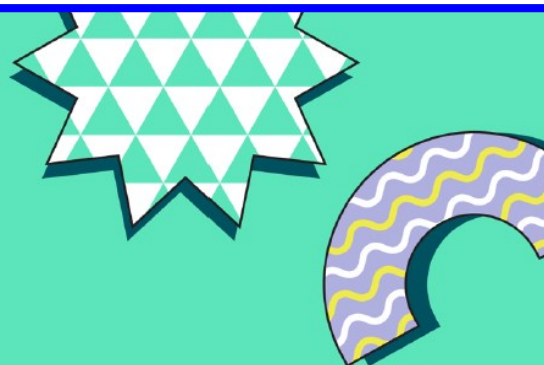


By John Seeary - PE Teacher





# Newsletter



## BOOKINGS NOW OPEN FOR MISSION IV

[www.campaustralia.com.au/rocketeers](http://www.campaustralia.com.au/rocketeers)



### A message from your Coordinator

A big hello and thanks to all the wonderful team of children, families and members of East Bentleigh Primary school community helping me settle well into my new role as the OSHC Coordinator during my first week at East Bentleigh Primary school. The last 2 weeks mainly focused on friendship and reuse/recycle themes. Children enjoyed creating various artworks and accessories like bracelets and friendship bands. They made colourful castles and forts with kinetic sand and had a tower challenge. Weather permitted us to enjoy afternoon tea outside in the warm sunshine and we decorated our small Christmas tree as a start to celebrating Christmas!

We would also like to share the exciting news that bookings are now open to book spots for 2022 Before/After school care sessions with Camp Australia at our school.

Simi Maduri (Coordinator)

### It's free to register

To attend our program, you must register your child. You can register an account with us at [pp.campaustralia.com.au](http://pp.campaustralia.com.au) or by downloading our Camp Australia smartphone app from the Apple App Store or on Google Play. Once registered, it's easy to make bookings and manage your account.



### Activities coming up

- Construction projects
- Christmas craft ideas
- Snowman and Santa activities and games

### What's on the menu

- Jam, honey and vegemite Sandwiches
- Fresh fruits and veggies
- Crackers with cheese

### Visit our blog

New articles are added each week for parents and cover various topics to help families.

[Visit our blog](#)



# INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose - No. 1 parenting educator



## Thank goodness for Christmas

***The real strength of Christmas lies in its use of rituals. Most families develop a strong sense of ritual at Christmas.***

Kids today need Christmas more than ever. Not for the gifts and presents - most children get their fair share throughout the year. They need Christmas for the escape, and for the mystery and magic that is associated with childhood.

There are few secrets left for kids these days. In this information-age they are bombarded with news and views of all sorts. Childhood was once a type of secret garden that was full of mysteries. The wider world was there to be discovered by children, rather than something that was thrust upon them. Kids are now more knowing, more street-wise and in many ways, more cynical than in the past.

Christmas for all its commercialism still has its mystery and magic. I liked the way my children would, dispensing with logic, keep the secrets of Christmas alive for as long as possible.

I remember how, my eldest as a young teen and his eleven year old sister, knew that the idea of Santa sliding down a chimney in a red suit was a tad nonsensical. Yet they didn't let on for the sake of their younger sister. Perhaps, once a year they still wanted to believe in the magic. Teenagers, like adults, are always on the lookout for activities that anchor them back to their childhoods.

The real strength of Christmas lies in its use of rituals. Most families develop a strong sense of ritual at Christmas. My own family's rituals that evolved over two decades, are now entrenched in my children's psyches as they move into adulthood. One, in particular, is so insistent that we keep certain Christmas traditions in place that she has become the family Christmas organiser. She's not leaving anything to chance!

Christmas for kids is all about anticipation. From a commercial sense, Christmas starts in November and slowly builds up toward the Big Day. Much of the anticipation is built around the receiving of presents.

As a parent you can build a sense of anticipation and broaden kids' focus away from the notion of receiving presents and gifts. Christmas gives you a chance to build a sense of generosity in your kids and also to develop their appreciation for family traditions and rituals. You don't have to wait until Christmas Eve for the rituals to kick in. You can start earlier by involving kids in the whole build-up to Christmas.

***Here are five simple ideas you can use right now to switch your kids on to Christmas:***

1. Put up your own advent calendar at the start of December. Even better, get kids to make their own.
2. Get kids to clear out their cupboards of toys, clothing and items they don't need. They can pass them on to someone who can use them.
3. Go with your children to choose a gift to donate to the local 'giving tree'.
4. Ask your kids to help you send your Christmas cards to your family and friends.
5. Adopt a Christmas tradition from another country. Do some research online or ask around for different traditions.

You can get more ideas to get your kids into the real Christmas spirit by going to [www.twitter.com/michaelgrose](http://www.twitter.com/michaelgrose). Become a 'follower' and every day I'll send you a tweet with a great Christmas idea for you and your kids.

**Have a great one!**

**Published by Michael Grose Presentations.**

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# SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

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