

Boronia West Primary School Newsletter—2023



“Growing through learning”

From the Principal

What a busy two weeks it has been since our last newsletter.

Thank you

Lots of thank yous to start this week. Thank you to all families who supported our Scholastic Book Fair. The money raised will be used to purchase new books for all students to read in classrooms or at home. We are aiming to increase our Just Right Book library to ensure all students have books to read at their instructional level so they are reading to learn.

Thank you to all our special guests who attended our Grandparents and Special Person's Day. There was a lovely vibe within the school of connectedness. Sitting and having lunch together was a great way to connect with families and meet the people in our student's lives who are important to them. Students were so proud to share their classrooms, explain their learning and complete an activity with their guests.

Grade 2/3 Excursion

This week our Grade 2/3 students were immersed in an activity to learn important life skills.

They collectively chose a recipe, - Choc Chip Cookies - then walked to Boronia Woolworths where they purchased the required ingredients and then back at school they baked their Choc Chic Cookies—which were delicious.!

A big thank you to Mrs Andrews and Simone for supporting the class as their classroom teacher was unwell and it was important the excursion went ahead.

Curriculum Day

A reminder that Tuesday 13th June will be a student free day. Teachers will be onsite using the day to plan for Term 3. I hope all families enjoy the extra extra long weekend as this is the day after the King's Birthday public holiday.

National Walk to School Day

I am thrilled to inform you that our walk to school event was a tremendous success. The weather was on our side, and it was a delight to witness the enthusiasm and participation from both students and parents. I thank all our families who actively embraced this initiative, promoting a healthier lifestyle and contributing to a greener environment.

EDITION 15

Acting Principal

Penelope Harris



IMPORTANT DATES

TERM DATES

Term 2: Apr 24—Jun 23

King's Birthday public holiday— Monday 12th June

Curriculum Day—Tuesday 13th June—no students at school

Last day of Term 2—Friday 23rd June

Term 3: Jul 10—Sep 15

Term 4: Oct 2—Dec 20

COVID Safety Supports

COVID is still making the rounds. Please take care of yourselves and your families.

If your child tests positive, it is **recommended** that they stay at home for 5 days. Students at school that have flu like symptoms will be sent to the sickbay and parents will be asked to pick them up.

Feel free to pop into the front office and pick up some masks and we have a limited supply of RAT kits available as well.

Be mindful of the 1.5 distancing when in groups or busy areas. Let's remember to wash our hands and to use sanitiser regularly.

Colds and Illnesses

With the change in the weather we are noticing more students are coming to school unwell. If your child is coughing, has a runny nose or a temperature please keep them at home. Students often feel worse during the day and being at school when you feel unwell if no fun.

In addition if your child experiences any gastro symptoms, vomiting or diarrhoea, there needs to be 24 hours without an incident before they can return to school.

Staff also have the same rules and are not to be at school if they have flu like symptoms. We do want to keep everyone as safe as possible so that the least amount of people have to stay away from school through the current flu season.

I hope our whole school community can help with this. If you have any questions or you're unsure, please don't hesitate to call the school.

Paediatrician

Did you know that our school is fortunate to have the services of a paediatrician once a month? If you would like more information please speak to Mrs Harris.

Uniforms

I have noticed that some of children are coming to school in the mornings without wearing a jumper. They definitely make me feel cold as I go nowhere without my coat and scarf. It is definitely getting chilly. Please support your children to dress for the season.



State School Relief

We can help families who are experiencing financial hardship to purchase school uniform. Please see Leonie or Penelope for assistance.

Community Pantry

Please remember our community pantry is available to any families who need some support. In our community we know many families are doing it tough and our community pantry is here to help. It is located in the Breakfast Club room.



Have a wonderful, and hopefully warm weekend everyone!

Penelope Harris



Grandparents/Special Person's Day





Grandparents/Special Person's Day





Grade 2/3 Walk to Woolworths





Grade 2/3 Walk to Woolworths





Maths in Junior School





From Eddie our Chaplain

Build up frequent father points

I will never forget the feeling I had when my first wife and I separated regarding our children. Wow, I am going to need to learn to become a dad. Although, 2006 feels so long ago, I hope that dads can learn to become dads in less difficult circumstances. The days where dads like me only had a relationship with their children through their wife are hopefully gone. Most blokes I know now really value their relationship and the time they have with their children.

I love spending time alone with my children. I regularly have daddy daughter or daddy son dates to a local café or take both of my younger children to the park, or the local swimming pool. Having quality alone time with their children is a great way for dads to have their confidence built.

Children will often associate their dads with activity. With my younger children I will often build Lego, play Monopoly, bounce on the tramp, play down ball, bake goodies, or build a Hutt. With my eighteen-year-old son I will have a game of PlayStation, watch a movie, go to the boxing gym to do weights and boxing drills. But many of men associate time with their children with fishing, walking, using tools and many other ways that build up frequent father points.

It is hard to develop a relationship with your children when you invest no time into them. It is best to start building frequent father points in your children's childhood. That way in the sometimes-turbulent times of adolescence you have a connection point. Most parents take parenting seriously, but one of the fundamentals of raising children well is spending time in your children's space which is often overlooked.

So how are your (or your partner's) frequent father points going? If they need some topping up, you can start by doing something together, they enjoy.

Sole mothers can also take these notes on board and have a NO RULES weekend with your kids, where you have a change of routine and activity that can give kids a chance to see you in a different way. (Michael Grose, Build up frequent father points).

I hope everyone has a fantastic weekend.

From Eddie



Star Student Awards

PREP

Hudson—for being a learner, coming into class cheerfully and ready to learn.

GRADE

1

Rylee—for keeping her work space tidy and showing respect for her own and the property of

GRADE

2/3

Keagan—for helping your classmates to be their best learning selves.

GRADE

4/5/6

Tyson—for showing the school value of being a learner by telling the time



School Wide Positive Behaviour



Students earned 5 leaves this week which is 500 acknowledgements of positive behaviour.

Congratulations everyone!



Parent Payments

PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

ONE PAGE OVERVIEW



FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the requirements of the Curriculum. This includes the Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.



PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:

Curriculum Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for non-curriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

- Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).



FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



SCHOOL PROCESSES

- Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.



EVERY DAY COUNTS

ATTENDANCE FACT SHEET FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

- School is better when you're here

DO I HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL?

Yes, in Victoria everyone aged from 6 to 17 has to go to school.

Missing one day a fortnight is the same as missing 4 whole weeks of school a year.

From Foundation to Year 12 that adds up to 1.5 years of school!

School is better when you attend. Your friends and your teachers notice that you are away and wonder if you are OK.

WHY IS IMPORTANT THAT I GO TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY?

Right now, being at school is the most important thing you need to do for your future. School helps you build good habits for later on in life. You might think school is just about Maths and English but you're also learning about how to work with other people and how to solve problems.

Being at school every day also means you are becoming more independent as a learner and interacting with your friends and teachers. If you are at school you can get help from your teachers and friends and won't have to try to learn things in your own time.

Being an adult probably seems far away but we know that young people who attend school more frequently have better outcomes after school too. This means they earn more money, have better job opportunities and are generally healthier. So being at school really does make a difference!

DO MY PARENTS NEED TO LET THE SCHOOL KNOW IF I'M GOING TO BE AWAY?

Yes. Your parents need to notify the school of your absence as soon as they can within three days of your absence. If they know you are going to be away, they should try to tell the school before the day or days you are away.

If you're away from school too much and don't have a reasonable excuse like a serious illness, your parents might get a letter from the principal asking about why you're away.

ARE THERE ANY GOOD REASONS TO BE AWAY FROM SCHOOL?

No. Unless you are so sick you can't get out of bed or there is an event like a funeral, you should be at school. Every day you are away is a day of classes and social connection you miss out on. Taking a day off for your birthday or go shopping isn't a good reason to miss school.

Even medical and health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays. This includes family holidays. Your parents are encouraged not to plan holidays during the term but to organise these during the school holidays.



EVERY DAY COUNTS

If you do have to be away for some reason, your parents need to contact the school and let them know what's going on. Depending on the situation, the school might provide schoolwork for you to complete.

■ IF I'M NOT AT SCHOOL WHAT DO I MISS OUT ON?

You miss out on all the big stuff – class discussions and all the interaction that happens in a classroom, the chance to get help from teachers and the opportunity to practice skills and gain knowledge.

Being away means you might miss out on a lot of learning or that you need to catch up in your time.

If all of that isn't enough to convince you to be at school every day, being away also means you also miss out on playing with your friends. Being away from school a lot can be lonely. It has a big impact on relationships and social connections.

Believe it or not, everyone wants you at school and it really is better when you attend.

■ WHAT IF I'M HAVING PROBLEMS GETTING TO SCHOOL?

Getting to school on time every day can be about having a good routine.

If you find yourself running late or missing school because you're disorganised, try:

- → Asking your parents for help getting ready
- → Having a set time to go to bed
- → Leaving all technology out of your bedroom
- → Packing your school bag the night before with everything you need
- → Having a set time for breakfast
- → Planning to meet up with a friend so you can travel to school together.

Sometimes, though it can just be hard to go to school.

You might feel overwhelmed by the work or things might be tough with your friends. Maybe you don't feel safe at school or you really dislike a teacher or things at home aren't great. Perhaps you're feeling down or anxious and don't even really know why.

Whatever the situation is, staying away from school isn't the answer. Many people want to help you. Try talking to:

- → Your parents or another adult family member
- → A trusted teacher
- → Wellbeing Coordinator or the school counsellor
- → Another trusted adult like your coach

¶



■ USEFUL WEBSITES/CONTACTS¶

Kids Matter – www.kidsmatter.edu.au¶

Youth Beyond Blue –
www.youthbeyondblue.com.au¶

Headspace – www.headspace.org.au –
or e-headspace –
www.eheadspace.org.au – for online
counselling & support ¶

Reach Out – www.reachout.com¶

Kids helpline – 1800 55 1800 24 hours
a day, 7 days a week or [web
counselling](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)¶