

Benton Junior College



Our Mission:

*To motivate to learn; to teach to think; to encourage to imagine,
and to show the compassion to care globally*

13th May 2016

Newsletter

Grant

We have once again been given a \$1,000 grant from ExxonMobil as part of their Volunteer Involvement Program. I would like to thank Mr. Mark Attwood a parent from our school for nominating us for this grant. The grant will go towards our new playground.

Drop off areas and time

This is just a reminder to all parents that parking bays around the school have specific times that you are allowed to park there. We do have drop off and Kiss & Go areas. Periodically we have parking officers that do issue infringement notices to parents who leave their cars in these designated parking sections. So please adhere to the parking signs around our school.

Also I have been contacted by our Local Council to inform us that students are not using the footpaths on their way to and from school. In particular residents in Summerfield Drive have contacted the Council to say they are concerned that students are walking on the road instead of the footpath provided. Could parents please speak to their children about using the footpaths when walking to and from school.

NAPLAN

Congratulations to all our Year 3 and Year 5 students for a busy week at school completing their NAPLAN tests. I am sure that our students gave each test their best effort.

Reports

As you would be aware we made changes to our end of year reports in 2015. Early this year we asked parents for feedback about these changes. So our 2016 mid-year reports will continue to have the 'I can statements' along with the added inclusion of personalised comments for English, Mathematics and PYP. The reports will also be online through Compass. More information about the Compass program will be provided to parents and guardians shortly.

Fundraising for our new Playground

As previously mentioned all our fundraising this year will go towards some new playground equipment. Last week the students from Benton Voice met with a representative from a playground supplier. They had the opportunity to look at a wide variety of play equipment and vote on their favourite pieces. Their results were collected and the top selected pieces will be put into a playground design for our school. Over the next few weeks we hope to have other companies come out and talk to our students and create some possible plans. The final choices will then be taken to College Council by our College Captains for discussion. The students are very excited at having the opportunity to help select and design our new playground equipment.

Obviously fundraising is an extremely important aspect of this project as playground equipment is extremely expensive. Hopefully soon we might be able to put some designs into our newsletter for parents to see the playground possibilities and more importantly where our hard earned fundraising dollars go to.



Naming Uniforms

Now that the colder weather is coming, students are wearing our Benton Junior College jackets. We have already had students losing/misplacing jackets and some being taken home by mistake. Could I please request that all parents LABEL their child/ren jackets clearly. It would be great if you labelled them in several places such as the tag on the back and the inside of a sleeve. This would greatly assist us identifying and returning jackets. Also if the wrong jacket goes home please return it to school ASAP.

Cycling to School

It is wonderful that we have so many students being active and riding and scooting to school. I thought I might include some information about cycling to school to make sure that parents are aware of these facts. One of the most important things to remember is that young children do not have a fully developed **peripheral vision**. This means that they do not see things coming from the side of them. This of course can cause problems if they are riding on footpaths and a car is coming out of a driveway and they do not actually see it. Parents need to supervise their children when riding bikes. Below I have included some information to refresh our memories from **Vic Roads**.

Learning to ride

Learning to ride a bike is an important step in a child's development. In order to ride safely in traffic a bike rider needs to be able to manage all the following simultaneously:

- Control the bike on different road surfaces.
- Be able to deal with obstacles safely.
- Be aware of and predict the traffic movement around them.
- Understand the road rules that apply both to bike riders and drivers.
- Make safe, split-second decisions.

Children do not have the ability and experience to do all of these things simultaneously and consistently until age 12 or 13. Like young drivers, they need plenty of supervised practice before gaining their independence.

Tips to help your child ride safely

To get your child started follow these tips.

1. Right size

Parents should ensure that a child's first bike is the right size and be prepared to change the child to bigger bikes as they grow.

2. Supervise

When introducing a child to riding, parents should be prepared to spend a lot of time supervising while the child masters the skills of balancing, steering and braking. Choose a flat, open space away from traffic with a surface that is suitable for falling on. A helmet should be worn whenever the child rides.

3. Lots of practice

Once the basic skills are mastered, the child should be given as many opportunities as the family can manage to ride under supervision. Use shared paths and bike paths. If a child is under 12, an adult supervising them can legally ride on the footpath. Remember to give way to pedestrians on footpaths and shared paths.

4. Be aware of driveways

Parents should demonstrate to children that driveways and intersections must be approached with caution. Riding on to the road from a driveway is particularly risky for children as parked vehicles can block the presence of oncoming vehicles.

5. Don't ride at night

Children should not ride at night. Special equipment (lights, visibility vests), acute traffic awareness, understanding of driver behaviour and sophisticated skills are needed.

6. Assess skills

Parents need to observe their child's cycling behaviour when they are alone or with one or more friends to assess their readiness for more independent cycling.

Kerry Griffin, Principal

Music

Children in all year levels are enjoying music at Benton Junior College. The Year 2 children are especially excited to be making their own instruments out of recyclable household objects. While 227, 228, 229 and 230 have already begun, 225 and 226 are reminded to bring in their materials next week (Monday May 16). Everyone will make their instruments at school (not at home) over a two week period. It could be strummed, plucked, struck, blown or even played in a new way. It is entirely up to the children.

Families are once again reminded that the Mornington Community Music Camp will take place at the Briars from Wednesday July 13 until Friday July 15 2016. Paul Seaman and Ant Richards, Music teachers.



Taking Action in Year 5

Our central idea was '*We improve our relationships with others when we understand their perspectives and the rights and responsibilities of all.*' Our inquiry investigated how we value and accept the diversity of cultures and perspectives. Mrs Nolene Cooney was one of our guest speakers, who told us about the **Uthando** (*which means love in the Zulu language*) **Project**, it encourages people of all ages to take action by making dolls for the children of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa. If you would like to become involved please check out the site www.uthandoproject.org.

These children don't have any other toys, so receiving a doll would be very special indeed. The dolls are used to help children deal with grief and loss. There are 1.5 million children under the age of 6 and each one would love a doll of their own! Some of our boys and girls were lucky enough to be given a doll kit to make their own doll.

Zoe made this doll, who will soon be winging her way to a lucky child in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa.

What a super way to take action, Zoe! Great effort!



2016 Important dates Term 2

16 -20 May	Education Week
16 May	Prospective 2017 Prep Tour 5.30-6.30pm
16-20 May	Open Night for Benton Parents and Students 6.30-7.30pm
26-27 May	Year 4 Gondwana Walkabout Guide Tour
26 May	Year 1 Professor Bunsen
13 June	Queens Birthday Public Holiday

NB: These dates are accurate at the time of publishing but may change according to school needs. Changes to this list will be published in future newsletters.

2016 STAFF CURRICULUM DAYS

Monday 31 October

NOTE: Students do not attend on these dates.

Mothers Day Raffle winners

Congratulations to the Prep and Year 1 winners:
Malakai from 002, Gabby from 002, Noah from 108 and Harry from 109
Years 4, 5 and 6 winners are Isabelle M from 415, Abby B from 416
Ainsley from 539, Ella B from 541, Charlie T from 631 and Sophie S from 631

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS – *Parent involvement is so important ...*



We know that parents, families and carers are some of the most important influences on a child's education. Parent engagement is being positively involved and active in your child's learning. Your attitudes, values and behaviours can positively influence your child's education outcomes.

How you can help your child do well at school

It's important to stay informed, read school notices and newsletters and get involved in school activities, where possible. There are lots of things you can do at home which can help your child do better at school:

- Encourage positive attitudes and respect for the school and teachers.
- Talk regularly about school and the importance of all kinds of learning.
- Model the learning behaviours you would like to see in your child.

Other things you can do which have also been shown to have a positive impact are to:

- Read with your child and listen to your child read aloud, as often as possible.
- Ask what was fun and what was challenging at school.
- Help them to develop strong work habits.

One of the most effective ways parents and families can help children to do better at school is to make sure they come to school every day. School attendance has a major influence on educational outcomes. Students who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve better results at school.

When schools and families work together, children do better and stay in school longer.

Source: Students First – Australian Government – Department of education & Training

A perfect way to get involved in your child's learning is to come to our B&C Open Night!

DATE: Monday 16th May

TIME: 6.30 – 7.30pm

Come and experience a night full of fun, engaging activities centred on Science, Maths & Technology. Every classroom and learning space will be open to explore ... so come and get involved.

Here is a selection of some of the exciting things that will be happening:

Prep: Experiments with colour; Science with balloons; Maths games

Year 1: Explore your senses with science experiments; Maths games; Netbooks and iPads

Year 2: Make window stickers with PVA glue; Digital microscopes; Lego construction; paper plane models

Year 3: Balloon rockets; Making straw 'pan flutes'; Creating plasticine boats; iPads; Maths games

Year 4: Experimenting with 'forces' to test 'push and pull'; Building technology with different design briefs

Year 5: 3D global viewing (iPads); interactive quizzes (written by the children on Kahoot); Maths games

Year 6: Create a tornado in bottle; Measure an earthquake + QUIZ: Are you smarter than a 6th grader?

Nadia Walker
Assistant Principal

Education Week 2016

May 15-21

Technology. Create your future.

OPEN NIGHT! Monday 16th May 6.30pm to 7.30pm

After you have visited the classrooms come and have some fun in our Specialist's rooms.

Physical Education – gym

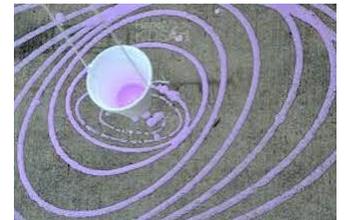
Art – Art room in Year 6 building and room 20 in Year 4 building

LOTE (Japanese) – Room 35

Music – foyer of gym

STEM in the Art room with Ms Hannan, room 20.

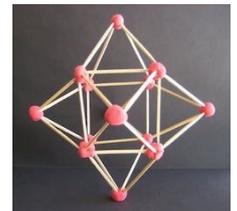
Science - We are going to experiment with pendulum painting as can be seen in the non-objective art of Jackson Pollock from the 1960s. We are looking at a mathematical theory that has applications in the field of Physics, more specifically the chaos theory where small differences in the environment can yield varied results. Frame will be set up for the students to create unique art by manipulating the way they apply the paint. Should be messy but fun!



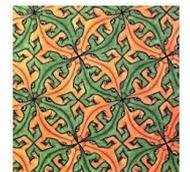
Technology - We will have iMotion on several iPads for students to experiment with stop motion animation using small objects and toys. On the interactive whiteboard I am going to have www.drawastickman.com where students can see their drawings 'come to life'.



Engineering - Matchstick Sculptures will be made using plasticine and matchsticks. The students can work with their family member/s to build an artistic sculpture that is self-supporting.



Mathematics - Students will be invited to explore the art of M.C.Esher and how he used mathematical concepts of geometry (specifically tessellation and symmetry) to create beautifully balanced art. The students can put together some puzzles and for a challenge have a go at creating their own tessellating tile.



VISUAL ART, Mrs Marshall in the Art room.....connecting Maths and Art.

A fun activity will be provided using match sticks and plasticine. The aim is to create three dimensional shapes and build them up to make towers. Students and parents can either make their own shapes or join them together to create a MEGA STRUCTURE!!

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Come and join **Mr Hogarth** in the gym for table tennis, basketball, hockey, soccer, cricket and other activities.

MUSIC

Mr Seaman will have iPads in the senior music room for children to create a Garage Band song.

JAPANESE

Visit the Japanese room on Open Night to make your own [Suminagashi](#) (墨流し) marbled paper greeting card. [Suminagashi](#) (墨流し) is the ancient Japanese technique of decorating paper with floating [inks](#). It is believed to be the oldest form of marbling, practised in Japan as early as the 12th century. Join ジョーンズ先生 (**Mrs Adele Jones**) and スミス先生 (**Mrs Thea Smith**) to explore the science of liquid density and surface tension, which makes the art of Suminagashi possible and create your own marbled masterpiece!



PYP in Year 6



Natural disasters affect our environment and its inhabitants

On Monday 9th May the Year 6s took an excursion to IMAX and the Melbourne Museum. Our central idea 'Natural disasters affect our environment and its inhabitants' was the main focus of the excursion during our IMAX viewing, however students also had the opportunity to learn about migration at the Melbourne Museum for our upcoming unit of Inquiry. The students were amazed by the size of the cinema at IMAX and the movie didn't disappoint, with students learning about tornadoes, earthquakes and volcanoes.

Students then explored the Museum, starting at an exhibition called 'Dynamic Earth' where they learnt more about Natural Disasters, including where they most likely occur and the after effects of them. They then moved onto the 'Melbourne Story' exhibition where they learnt about the cultural changes and the dynamic city that Melbourne has become today.



Natural Disaster Science

The year 6s had the chance to participate in four science rotations all based around Natural Disasters. The first rotation was creating a tornado in a bottle. Students learnt about the vortex and debris that is created during a tornado. The second rotation was about earthquakes and how an earthquake is the primary cause of other natural disasters. They looked at plate tectonics and discovering how the magnitude of an earthquake is measured. Students also experienced a volcanic reaction in a plastic bag: the build of gas caused the plastic bag to explode and allowing us to see how lava could escape in a natural volcano. Finally students discovered how dangerous Australian bushfires can be by simulating the effect eucalyptus oil has when it meets fire. Through further experimentation they also observed the effect oxygen and heat had on fire.

Masters of Research

Our unit of Inquiry this term has meant that our Year 6 students have had to become masters of research. Delving into the plethora of information on earthquakes, tsunamis, bushfires, volcanoes and cyclones they have been able to build a bank of information. Students have worked hard to find facts throughout many sources including text books, web searches and through note-taking during our science rotations. All of this information is now going to be compiled and students will write their own information texts as a part of their summative assessment.

SUMMER LIGHTNING PREM!

Even though it is called the Summer Lightning Premiership the weather was the extreme opposite with heavy rains the cricket and t-ball were both washed out. Even so the T-Ball team had great success and will play off shortly in a final to see if they progress to the next round. Lawn Bowls became a competitive carpet bowls tournament where students had loads of fun. The girls and boys basketball teams both dominated on the day and have progressed through to the district meet which will be held later this year. Well done to all of our Grade 6 students for showing many of our BJC profile and attitudes!

