



Newsletter

6th February 2017

Welcome Back

Welcome back to all our students and families. A special welcome to those new students and Preps that are joining us at Benton Junior College. We have had to hit the ground running this year. Teachers have been busy over the holidays not just preparing their rooms but attending professional development over the break. Most of our teachers attended a "Google Doc" day at school and many of our new staff spent a day learning about our International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program.

The plans for our inaugural BJC Fair on Saturday 18th March are well underway so please mark this day down in your diaries.

You will notice some new teachers this year and I hope that you take the opportunity to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome. Our staffing changes have occurred due to our enrolments increasing, we now have over 915 students. Also some of our staff have taken leave to look at other opportunities or they are on family leave.

We welcome the following staff to our Benton Junior College community; Sarah Ashburn in Year 2, Kylie Russell, Michael Howse and Tara Crick in Year 3, Kelly Lewis in Year 4, Jarrod Murphy and Monika Wrobel in Year 5 and Tess Giannaros in Year 5.

Uniform Reminder

Parents and guardians have been asking when the new uniforms become compulsory for BJC. Many of our students are already in the new polo shirts and jackets. College Council believes that by the end of 2017 most old uniforms will have already been replaced. So it is anticipated that all Benton Junior College students will be in the new style uniform at the start of 2018 school year. This has given our families over 2 years to swap over to the new uniform.

I would also like to remind parents that students should wear black shoes and navy socks which has always been part of our uniform policy.

College Council

This year we will have 4 parent positions available on College Council and 2 Community member positions, if Council requires them. Below I have included some information from DET about School Councils. Over the coming weeks I will provide more information about our College Council elections via Compass, newsletters and notices placed around the college.

What Is A School Council And What Does It Do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who Is On The School Council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.

A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.



Our Mission:

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



**Primary Years
Programme**

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Why Is Parent Membership So Important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How Can You Become Involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:

1. standing for election as a member of the school council
2. encouraging another person to stand for election

What Do You Need To Do To Stand For Election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

Dogs on School Grounds

Please be aware that dogs are not permitted on the school grounds. If you walk to school with your pet for drop off/pick up could we ask that you make arrangements to meet your child/ren just outside the school gates. We thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Badge Ceremony for our School Captains and Leaders 2017:

In our last newsletter for 2016 I was privileged to print the names of our young leaders for 2017. I have included them again so we can celebrate the calibre of students we have at BJC. I have organised the Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Shire, Councillor Bev Colomb to present the students with their badges at a special assembly on Friday, 10th March at 9.15am in the morning. This is a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge our young leaders.

College Captains:	Charli H, Harry R
College Vice Captains:	Georgia T, Teddy B
Red House Captains:	Sophie B, Jacob T
Blue House Captains:	Alex C, Wil P
Green House Captains:	Zoe H, Caleb H
Yellow House Captains:	Ruby R, Harris R
Purple House Captains:	Summer A, Corey B
Orange House Captains:	Charli Ha, Jai W
Performing Arts Leaders:	Sienna E, Alyssa H, Lily B, Holly H
ICT Leaders:	Riley P, Joshua J, Cohen O, Rebecca S
Environment Leaders:	Riley D, James P, Ethan S, Freya S
Visual Arts Leaders:	Sophie K, Mackenzie M, Shauna M, Riley B
Japanese Leaders:	Tom H, Ella S, Imogen C, Zac C

Kerry Griffin

Principal

DOLLARMITE BANKING



School Banking day is Thursday

Remember, Thursday is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit.

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a silver Dollarmite token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward item in recognition of their regular savings habits.

School Banking is also a great fundraiser for our school, raising 5% on every deposit made through the school (to a maximum of \$10 per individual deposit).

If your child has lost their book, they can bring their money to school in a sealed envelope with a note on the next School Banking day. We will issue them with a replacement.

**School Banking helpers needed
Thursday 9 - 11am**

**Please contact Lisa Michod on 0407 058 398
if you are able to help**

2017 Important Dates Term 1

Wednesday 8th February	Preps commence fulltime Subway lunches resume
Thursday 9th February	Dollarmite banking begins
Friday 10th March	Whole School Assembly 9:15am
Monday 13th February	Yr4/5/6 Assembly
Tuesday 14th February	Prep Information Session 9:05am
Wednesday 15th February	Yr2/3 Assembly Prep Information Session 6:00pm
Friday 17th February	Prep/1 Assembly
Monday 27th February—Friday 3rd March	Water Safety Week
Tuesday 28th February & Wednesday 1st March	Yr1-6 Meet & Greet Interviews
Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th March	School Photos
Saturday 18th March	BCJ Fair
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.	

**In 2017 we will continue to
Compass School Manager as our
main communication tool.
We will no longer use the Tiqbiz
App.**

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

This Fund commenced in 2015 and provides \$125 for Primary School Students to attend camp, sports and excursions. Prep Students (in 2017) who are eligible for CSEF are also eligible for a uniform support. CSEF Applications are now open, please obtain a CSEF application form from the office or download from www.education.vic.gov.au.csef. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student. This application must be filled out on a yearly basis.

To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a primary school, be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be the holder of a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder OR be a temporary foster parent.

Could you please submit this application to the school office ASAP or before **FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24th, 2017.**



STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The start of the 2017 school year saw our BJC teachers participating in three professional development days. These days are important for teachers as it enables them to clarify, refine and most importantly learn skills and knowledge that they can bring to their teaching and learning.

Understanding the Language of the Primary Years Program (PYP), Mon 23rd and Wed 25th January

These days were aimed at our new staff and introducing them to the Primary Years Program. The PYP has 5 elements: transdisciplinary themes, skills, attitudes, concepts and action. The Learner Profile develops attributes to promote international mindedness in our teachers and students.

GOOGLE DRIVE, Wednesday 25th January

This PD, which was in the holiday period for teachers, was on Google Drive and its uses. Even though many staff are familiar with Google docs they were not utilising Google Drive to take full advantage of its application for planning and use in the classroom. This was a full day and was very interactive.

Understanding Autism and Asperger's Syndrome, Monday 30th January

Dr Richard Eisenmajer, who is a clinical psychologist, presented a very entertaining and informative half day about autism and Asperger's syndrome. He spoke about the characteristics, implications in the classroom and strategies to assist teachers in understanding and working with children on the autistic spectrum.

Teaching and Learning at BJC, Monday 30th January

This session staff looked at who we are at BJC. This session was a fantastic opportunity for all staff, new and old, to discuss our teaching and learning practice to ensure consistency and continuity across the school. It was led by Jodie Brasher (PYP Leading Teacher) and Lyn Foster (AP).

We are:

A Victorian State primary school

A Professional Learning Community – PLC

An International Baccalaureate World School – IB school using the framework of the Primary Years Program (PYP)

Staff discussed that these are not separate but intertwined in our pedagogical approach to teaching and learning. We then looked at the IB Mission statement and identified important words. We also looked at our own mission statement and unpacked what does this mean as a teacher at BJC.

English Workshop, Tuesday 31st January

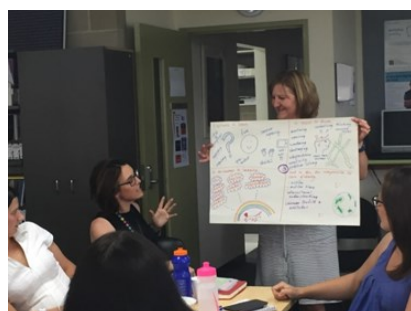
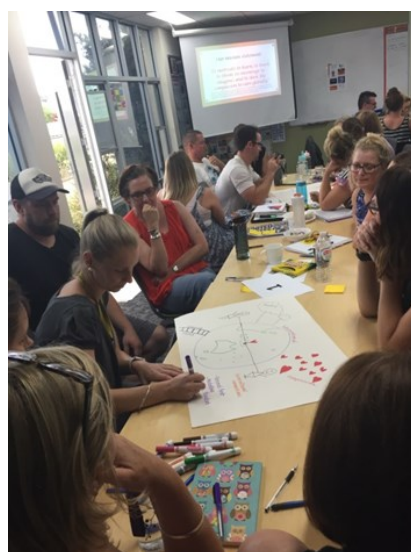
This half day workshop, led by Lorraine Hart (English Leading Teacher), focussed on the Big 6 of literacy.

The Big 6 being:

1. Early and ongoing **oral language** experiences
2. Phonological awareness
3. Phonemic awareness – letter/sound knowledge (phonics)
4. Fluency
5. Vocabulary
6. Comprehension

Mathematics Workshop, Tuesday 31st January

Staff participated in two concurrent workshops. One led by Doug Williams on problem solving and inquiring in statistics and probability, the other led by Nadia Walker (maths Leading Teacher) and Lisa Cumming (PLC Support) on our Mathematics instructional model and challenging tasks.



Student Welfare Co-ordinator – Kirsten Smith

Hello and welcome back to all our families. I'd like to take some time to introduce myself and explain a little about my role within the school. My name is Kirsten Smith, for some of you I will be a familiar face and for others I will be completely new. I have been at Benton Junior College for the past ten years, working in the classroom as a teacher across most year levels, most recently being Year Six. This year I am taking on a new role working with the children and their families across the school as the Student Welfare Co-ordinator. I have already had the opportunity of meeting with some of you and your children and I am sure I will meet many more of you as the year progresses.

It is important here at Benton that we provide a safe and supportive learning environment and I look forward to working in collaboration with students and parents, school staff including principals, teachers, aides, student support services officers and with broader community agencies to ensure individual learning needs are being met across the school.

I will be working on promoting a whole school approach to health and wellbeing within the school community at Benton, and will continue to keep the community up to date through the school newsletter. I will also be including information about parenting programs, support services and other wellbeing issues in the fortnightly newsletter – please keep a look out for these.

Kirsten Smith

Autism Spectrum Disorder; presentation to staff

Prior to students attending school this year, all our staff attended a presentation by Dr Richard Eisenmajer, a psychologist with extensive experience and knowledge in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Richard specialises in the assessment of Autism and Asperger's Syndrome and the provision of counselling and practical behavioural interventions for clients of all ages, their families and their teachers.

There are many different presentations of ASD along a spectrum ranging from mild to significant. Richard spoke about the day to day challenges faced by people with ASD. He described a range of situations his many clients had encountered to illustrate the difficulties they have in their social, communication and imaginative skills. Richard described how individuals with ASD had significant difficulties in processing everyday language, conversations and social situations. For many of us this processing of information is near automatic, however individuals with ASD have to labour and manually translate and integrate verbal messages, facial and body expression and the intentions of the communication. The anxiety caused by these challenges cause various anxieties for someone with ASD.

Richard describes the successful lives of his clients who have developed ways to manage their anxieties and fulfil their daily living and occupational tasks. He illustrated a range of ways school could meet the needs of ASD children including a focus on the child's strengths, modifying the workload, and providing a "chill-out" opportunity if needed to help regulate feelings. A coordinated approach between home and school was most effective.

Richard recommended AMAZE – (formerly Autism Victoria) 9657 1600, as a good resource for school staff and parents; www.amaze.org.au





5 Weeks till the FAIR!

There will be **AMUSEMENT RIDES** at the Benton Junior College Community Fair and it's going to be

FUN FUN FUN



Saturday 18th March 2017
10am-4pm

JUMPING CASTLE

CHA CHA

CHAIR-O-PLANE

CUP & SAUCER

ZORB BALLS

INFLATABLE CHALLENGE

INFLATABLE SLIDE

DODGEM CARS

Unlimited rides

wristbands AVAILABLE NOW

\$30

per wristband

<http://www.trybooking.com/242589>

Single ride tickets also available on the day, from \$5 per ride per person

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Each year level will be in charge of a stall at the Fair to help raise money for our school. We need help in many different ways. This week we will be looking for class coordinators who will help us with the smooth running of the day.

Most of all we need donations to help with different stalls. Below are the stall that each year level will be running;

Prep & Year 1—Cake Stall, Fairy Floss and Lolly Guess

Year 2—Plant Stall and Raffle tickets

Year 3—2nd hand toys and books, Bric a Brac

Year 4 - Mystery Bags, Funky Hair & Tattoos

Year 6— Showbags, Soft Drink Hoopla and Zooper Doopers

Haunted House will be run by Benton Voice

Donations required this week are 1.25l soft drink bottles, mystery bags items, 2nd hand toys and books and Bric a Brac.



18th March 2017

Anaphylaxis Awareness

*There is no cure for allergies; therefore, **avoidance** of the food or allergen is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction*

What is Anaphylaxis?

Severe allergy is on the increase in Australia. One in ten Australian children aged up to 12 months now have a food allergy. Allergic reaction can be mild to moderate or severe **Anaphylaxis**. *Anaphylaxis*, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.

(Source- Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia)

How is Anaphylaxis Treated?

The best form of treatment is **avoidance**. Prevention strategies are used to help minimising the risk of an anaphylactic reaction from occurring. At Benton Junior College, we support the following-

We **strongly discourage** parents from sending any nut products to school (including peanut butter, all tree nut butters, almond butter, Nutella, actual nuts, muesli bars with visible nuts). This is for everyday snacks, lunches, excursions, class parties, when celebrating birthdays and before and after school.

Children **should not** share or trade food with their peers.

Wash your hands after eating (good hygiene practice for all of us!)

Be aware of triggers that may cause an anaphylaxis reaction and avoid these from occurring.

*A severe allergic reaction can be rapid in onset and commonly occurs **within 20 minutes** to two hours after eating the food or being in contact with the allergen

Raising awareness of Anaphylaxis at BJC

At Benton Junior College, you will notice these signs displayed around the school. The **amber sign** reminds families that the school is a **nut restricted zone** and the **red sign** is for a specific classroom where there is a child with known anaphylaxis.



ATTENTION!

There is a child with anaphylaxis in this classroom.

FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING NUTS AND TREENUTS **SHOULD NOT BE BROUGHT INTO THIS CLASSROOM**



THIS IS A NUT RESTRICTED ZONE!

PLEASE DO NOT BRING FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING NUTS TO SCHOOL!