



Friday 3rd February 2023
Term 1, Week 1

Beechworth Primary School is committed to the implementation of Child Safe Standards to promote the safety and wellbeing of all young people.

Principal's News

Welcome back to Beechworth Primary School for 2023. I hope you all enjoyed the break from school routines over the Christmas, New Year period and managed to enjoy some family time and R&R.

It has been a super busy start for us at BPS with teachers moving into the Junior Wing of the school and setting classrooms up in preparation for our students. On the back of this we have needed to empty the remaining classrooms in the building in preparation for the next stage of the refurbishments. I'm sure that you will agree that our new space looks amazing!

Our newsletter this week is a little on the long side, but there is a lot of important information that we need to share with our families, including a number of important upcoming events.

Welcome new staff

This year we are excited to welcome two new teachers to our staff at BPS. It has been great getting to know them and we look forward to working with them.

Tahnee Pritchard

Tahnee has been teaching locally at Springhurst and schools in Wodonga before joining us here at BPS.

Tahnee is a well-known member of the Beechworth community who attended BPS for her own Primary School Education. Tahnee is teaching our Year 3/4 Class.



Bethany Mackie (Mrs B)

Bethany has joined BPS as our new PE teacher. She brings with her an extensive experience as a PE teacher, having taught PE in many schools.



Welcome to Our New Students and Families

On Monday we welcomed our new Foundation students for 2023. Each day they have arrived at school with their beautiful smiles and an eagerness to engage in their learning. They are working very hard on learning the routines of the school classroom and environment.

We also welcome a number of new students and families across the school. It's lovely to see the way these students have fitted into their classes and are quickly developing new friendships.

Thank you for putting your trust in our school and choosing Beechworth Primary School for your child's education.

Specialist Timetable

Each class will share their individual Specialist timetable with their families. This year we have Art (Ms Kylie Love), STEM (Ms Jane Nicholas), P.E. (Mrs B – Bethany Mackie) and LOTE, F-2 classes Japanese with Mrs Mac, and Year 3-6 classes French with Mr Stephen Minglas. Each class runs for an hour.

STEM (Science, Technology, Environment and Maths)

This year we have introduced STEM to our specialist timetable. This is an exciting addition to our timetable and we are thrilled to have Ms Nic, who has a Bachelor of Forest Science and has worked in the Forest Industry and Land Management in Tasmania prior to becoming a teacher at BPS, teaching STEM across the school.

The STEM teaching and learning approach will combine guided inquiry, with hands-on investigations. Students will be encouraged to explore and test their own, and others', ideas and to use evidence to support their claims, expanding their understanding of the science, environment, technologies and the wider world.



This term in STEM the classes will be focussing on:

Foundation Class: Growing Well

Every living thing on Earth has basic needs that must be met in order to survive. Like all animals, we share many needs with plants, such as air, water and appropriate food. However, plants can live without us, but we cannot live without them.

The Growing Well unit is an ideal way to link science with literacy in the classroom. Through hands-on activities students explore how common flowering plants meet their needs for survival. By investigating plant growth in different conditions, they make claims about the basic needs of plants, and compare these to pets and research on other animals.

Grades 1 & 2: Dinosaurs and More

Dinosaurs lived millions of years ago alongside other fantastic prehistoric animals like giant insects, armoured fish and huge amphibians. By comparing the fossilised remains of dinosaurs to those of living animals, palaeontologists can make claims about how dinosaurs moved, what they ate and even how they behaved.

The Dinosaurs and More unit is an ideal way to link science with literacy in the classroom. Through hands-on activities students explore the external features of modern animals and compare them with the skeletons of dinosaurs and other prehistoric animals. Students learn about the protective features of dinosaurs and use those ideas to design, make and appraise a 'dino shield'.

Upper Grades: Friends or Foes?

Who would think that insects as small as the bee and ant would play such a pivotal role in the world's ecosystems and the survival of humankind? Bees are the major pollinators of our food crops. There are more than 1500 plant species in Australia that rely on ants for seed dispersal to continue their life cycle.

The Friends or Foes? unit is an ideal way to link science with literacy in the classroom. It provides opportunities for students to explore the special relationship between plants and animals, such as bees and ants. Through investigations students investigate about the life cycles of these species as well as the mutually beneficial relationships these species have with one another.

Stationery Packs

Thank you to our families who have purchased and collected their stationery pack and have sent it along to school with your child/ren. We understand that some items are on back order.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 7 Feb - Leadership School Assembly

Our whole school assemblies are usually held each Monday morning at 9.05 am in the BER building (the new building). However, this coming week we will be holding our Leadership Assembly on Tuesday 7th February. This will be our official Student School Leaders badge presentation assembly. This will also be the first assembly for our Foundation students.

7 March - Foundation Education Information Night

Our Foundation Education Information Night will be held Tuesday 7th March, commencing at 6.00pm. Families of our Foundation students are invited (encouraged) to come along and hear about the teaching and learning in your child's first year of schooling at Beechworth Primary School. Nadine will talk about how you can support your child's learning. All families receive a Foundation Resource Pack.

10 March – BPS Athletics Carnival

Previously we have run the Athletics Carnival late in Term 3, often postponed to Term 4 due to wet weather. Therefore, we are trying something new this year by holding our BPS Athletics Carnival in Term 1. Details will come out closer to the event.

17 March – School Photos

Information to follow closer to the date.

No Hat, No Play.

In line with both SunSmart and the School policy we remind you that Term 1 means - NO Hat, NO play. As of next week, students in the outdoors, at PE and break times will be required to sit in a shaded area if they do not have a BPS full-brimmed hat to protect them from the sun.

School Attendance

Your child's regular attendance at school is crucial to their success as learners. Being on time and at school each day allows students to fully engage in their learning. Please view school as a priority and aim for your child to attend every day except in cases of illness or emergency.

School rolls are marked twice daily by each classroom teacher, at 9.00am and then again following lunch. **If your child will be absent**, please notify the school of the absence as soon as possible by either: using the School's Compass App (please contact the office if you need help in organising your Compass App) or alternately by contacting the BPS Office on 5728 1066 and leaving a message on the absence line.

CSEF - Camps, Sports and Excursion Funds

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student is: \$125 for primary school students.

Applications for 2023 are now open and will close on 25 June 2023 (end of term 2).

A parent or legal guardian of a student must be an eligible beneficiary of one of these cards:

- Veterans Affairs Gold Card
- Centrelink Health Care Card
- Pensioner Concession Card

OR

- they must be a temporary foster parent

AND

- the parent or legal guardian must submit an application by the due date.

Parents who receive a carer allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with the above. Eligibility will be determined when the parent's concession card successfully validates with Centrelink on either the first day of term one or term two.

HOW TO APPLY: Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Kind Regards,
Sue McDonald
Principal

susan.mcdonald2@education.vic.gov.au

For the diary ...

Week	Date	Event / Activity
Week 2	Tuesday 7 th February	Student Leadership Badge Presentation Assembly
	Friday 10 th February	District Swimming Carnival
Week 3	Wednesday 15 February	School Council Meeting 5.30pm
Week 4		Currently no planned events
Week 5	Tuesday 28 th February	Family Fun Night
Week 6	Tuesday 7 th March	Foundation Education Information Night
	Friday 10 th March	BPS Athletics Carnival
Week 7	Monday 13 th March	Labour Day Holiday
	Wednesday 15 th – Friday 17 th March	NAPLAN for Year 3 & 5
	Friday 17 th March	School Photos
Week 8	Wednesday 22 nd – Friday 24 th March	Year 5 & 6 Canberra Camp
Week 9		Currently no planned events
Week 10	Thursday 6 th April	Last day for Term 1
		Easter Hat Parade

Beechworth Primary School Office Hours are: Monday – Friday 8.30 – 4.30

- Jeanette: Mon – Thurs 8.30-11.30, Fri 8.30-3.00
- Samantha: Mon – Fri 8.30–4.30

TheirCare (Before & After School Care at BPS)

- Service and Bookings: phone 0447 717 055
- Area Manager, Rick: phone 0459 555 671

Our mailing address is:

Beechworth Primary School
P.O. Box 203 Junction Road
Beechworth, Vic 3747

Please contact the office on: (03) 5728 1066
beechworth.ps@education.vic.gov.au



Capital Works Update

The building works, as you would likely be aware, is well behind schedule with stage one: Junior wing, toilet block, Multipurpose room and Junior side of the yard including the playground missing their completion date of end of December significantly. This is largely due to the unusual wet weather we experienced last year and a shortage of building materials. The builders are working hard to make up time to still complete the whole project on time in August.

Over the past two weeks we have been able to settle into our newly refurbished Junior Wing. The environment is bright and fresh with lots of exciting learning spaces. We still have a few little things to finish off, but we are in! And loving it.

As the week has progressed, we have received access to our Junior Basketball Half Court and our Senior Playground.



The builders presented a revised timeline at Wednesday's Site meeting. So...our new timeline is:

- Junior Playground due to commence this week. Then will take about 2-3 weeks.
- Toilet block about 8 weeks (end March).
- Rear of School Covered Walkway 4-6 weeks.
- Office space hand over to builders - Once a worksite office has been delivered to the school site, our School Office will be relocated out the front of the building. This will house Samantha and Jeanette.
- Multipurpose Room (BER) – Mid May.
- End of Stage 2 and project completion date end of August.



WANGARATTA

marathon & fun

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Chronicle

RUN



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For further information and to register go to
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