Beechworth Primary School

Be ...

Respectful, **S**afe, **P**ersistent, **C**aring ... **A**lways!

Friday 13th February
2026 Term 1, Week 3

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 to Our Week 3 Newsletter.

It was a busy and rewarding week at Beechworth Primary School. Alongside our own learning programs and activities, we were also pleased to support Wooragee Primary School by hosting their students during three designated 'Extreme' Weather days. It was wonderful to work together and support our wider school community.

On Monday, we held our Leadership Assembly, where we celebrated our student leaders and recognised the important roles they played within our school community. Tuesday evening, we warmly welcomed parents and carers to attend our Meet and Greet Night. It was a fantastic opportunity for families to meet their child's teacher and classroom Education Support staff member. At BPS, we value strong partnerships between school and home, as working together creates the best possible environment to support each child's learning journey. It certainly shaped up to be a fantastic week, and we appreciated seeing so many families involved in our school community.

New Senior Classroom – Thank you CJ & BJ Constructions

In late November and throughout December, our senior enrolment numbers continued to grow, and it became clear that we needed an additional classroom within the senior learning space. With the full support of School Council, plans were quickly put in place to create a new classroom in the BER.

Over the holidays, Brenton Surrey from CJ & BJ Constructions generously gave his time, expertise and energy to construct a new wall at the end of the BER, transforming the area into a fifth classroom. His professionalism, craftsmanship and willingness to support our school made the entire process seamless.

While there are still a few finishing touches to complete — including upgrades to heating and cooling, bag boxes and some additional cabinetry — our new class has been able to begin the year in a purpose-built space that already feels like home.

We owe a very special and heartfelt thank you to Brenton. His commitment to our school community and his readiness to step in and make this happen are truly appreciated. We are incredibly grateful for his support and the care he and his team has shown towards our students and staff.

Hot Day

Given recent experience of extreme weather conditions in Victoria and with climate change projected to significantly increase the frequency and severity of extreme heat and heatwaves, schools must put in place adequate measures to avoid, reduce and manage heat related risks and impacts.

Throughout summer months (and particularly on hot days) we actively encourage students to:

- Drink water frequently
- Wear a hat (and sunglasses if they choose to)
- Seek shade in the yard
- Provide options to play inside during breaks ie: clubs or library spaces
- Let an adult know if they feel unwell

We do acknowledge that we have many students who enjoy the outdoors activities and sport, however when the temperature is over 38° students are required to be indoors. Throughout the day we regularly monitor the daily temperature, and BoM heatwave warnings, forecasts and the heat index during the high-risk season. When the temperature reaches 38° an announcement is made that all students must be indoors.

Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions, or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' privacy policy and the Schools' privacy collection notice.

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy, describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education] safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education], please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' privacy policy: information for parents. This information is also available in eleven community languages.

School Council Meeting Wednesday the 18th of February

Our School Council representatives next meeting will be Wednesday, February 18. This will be the final meeting for those representatives who have served their current 2 year term on School Council. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the council members who have completed their service. We are truly grateful for your commitment and contributions to making our school such a wonderful place.

School Council Elections Announcement and Call for Nominations

The Beechworth Primary School, School Council election process has now commenced. Beechworth Primary School, School Council is calling for nominations for 4 parent member positions available on our school council.

Parents/carers are encouraged to nominate for a position.

Membership Category	Parent membership category
Number of Positions Available	4
Length of Term	March 2026 to March 2028
Nominations close:	4PM, Friday 21 February 2026

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school and communicated via the school newsletter.

Fact sheet 1: School Council elections - information for parents is available in hard copy form the school office for interested parents.

How can I nominate?

You can nominate through completing a nomination form (available from the school office) and returning the completed form to the school principal – Sue McDonald.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

Parent members are required to hold a valid Working with Children Clearance (WWWC) to nominate for a position on school council. The only exception to this requirement is parents who are also teachers and currently hold VIT registration. Note: only one Parent Member is able to be an employee of DET.

How do I get a Working with Children Clearance, and does it cost money?

You can apply for a Working with Children Check (WWCC) through the Services Victoria website. School council members are volunteers which means that applying for a WWCC is free. When applying for a WWCC, parents must:

- nominate the Department of Education as the organisation they are working for when applying for a Working with Children Check
- provide evidence of their Working with Children Clearance as soon as practicable after receiving it (or via the school council nomination form).

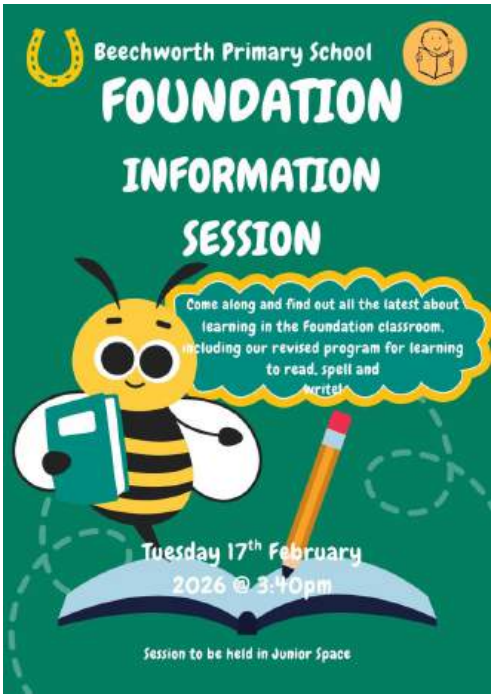
Kind regards,

Sue McDonald

Principal of Beechworth Primary School

Foundation Education Information Night – Tuesday 17 February

We are excited to invite all families of our Foundation students to our **Foundation Education Information Night** on **Tuesday 17th February**, commencing at **3.40pm**. This event is a great opportunity to learn more about the exciting teaching and learning experiences your child will have in their first year at Beechworth Primary School.



Julie and Airley will be sharing insights into what your child will be learning, along with practical tips on how you can support their educational journey at home. We'll also introduce our **phonics program**, which plays a key role in supporting reading, spelling, and writing skills.

Each family will receive a **Foundation Resource Pack** to help guide and support you through the year ahead.

We encourage all Foundation families to attend and look forward to seeing you there!

Thursday 19 February - District Swimming Carnival - Beechworth Pool

We have 22 students representing the school in the District Swimming Carnival. Parents of students who have made it to this level should have received a permission note. Students will be walking down to the pool with Ms Kable, Mrs King , Samantha and Ryley will also be at the pool supporting the event.

Anaphylaxis

We are seeking your help to support the students in our school who are at risk of anaphylaxis.

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. The most common triggers within our school community are food and plant allergies. The only effective way to prevent an allergic reaction is to avoid exposure to the allergen.

Our school supports students at risk of anaphylaxis in the following ways:

- All staff are trained in anaphylaxis first aid.
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands before and after eating.
- Students are taught not to share food with others.
- Students are taught the importance of seeking help immediately if a peer with an allergy appears unwell.

Food allergies are increasingly common among school-aged children. A child can be allergic to any food, and it is not possible to completely eliminate all potential allergens from a school environment. For this reason, we do not recommend banning specific foods, as bans can be difficult to enforce and may create a false sense of security.

As part of our ongoing education around food allergy and anaphylaxis management, families of students with allergies continue to support their children in developing age-appropriate self-management skills. We appreciate your cooperation in supporting the school's risk minimisation strategies so that we can provide a safe and inclusive environment that meets the needs of all students.

Our Anaphylaxis Policy is reviewed and updated annually each February. The revised Anaphylaxis Policy is available on the school website.

PAFA

SAVE THE DATE

The jungle is calling…

The **BPS Op Shop Ball & Trivia Night** is BACK after last year's sell-out success — and this year we're going **Back to the Jungle**

Think:
- Animal prints
- Safari vibes
- Jumanji-style adventurers
- Op shop creativity encouraged (the wilder, the better!)

- Trivia.
- Dancing.
- Legendary quizmasters.
- An epic DJ.

Dust off your khaki, unleash your inner jungle explorer and get ready for a night of laughs, chaos and community fun.

20th March 2026, 7:30pm
Tickets on sale soon

Trust us… you won't want to miss this one.

Kind Regards,
Sue McDonald -Principal
Ngaire King – Acting Principal (Monday)

Email:
Susan.mcdonald2@education.vic.gov.au
Ngaire.king@education.vic.gov.au

School Photo Day

March Friday the 13th

Week	Date, Time	Event/ Activity
Term 1		
Week 4	Tues 17 Feb Wed 18 Feb Wed 18 Feb Thurs 19 Feb	Foundation Learning Information Session (3.40-5.00pm) No school for Foundation students – individual testing only School Council (5.30-7.30pm) District Swimming Carnival
Week 5	Wed 25 Feb	No school for Foundation students – individual testing only
Week 6	Wed 4 Mar	No school for Foundation students – individual testing only
Week 7	Mon 9 Mar Wed 11 Mar Wed 11 – Fri 13 Mar Fri 13 Mar	Labour Day Public Holiday Foundation students commence Wednesday attendance NAPLAN for year 3 and 5 students School Photo Day
Week 8	Wed 18 Mar Fri 20 Mar	School Council – AGM Harmony Day BPS Op Shop Ball & Trivia Night 7:30pm onwards
Week 9	Wed – Fri	Year 5 and 6 Ballarat Camp
Week 10	Wed 1 Apr Thurs 2 Apr	BPS Athletics Carnival Easter Hat Parade & Last day for Term 1 (2.30pm finish)

Beechworth Primary School Office Hours are:

Monday – Friday 8.30 – 4.00

Samantha: Mon – Fri,

Kirsty: Tues– Thurs.

TheirCare (Before & After School care at BPS)

Beechworth PS Service and Bookings: Ph: 0447 717 055

CSEF (Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund) Application Form

The **Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF)** is provided by the Victorian Government to help eligible families cover the costs of school camps, sports and excursions.

To be eligible to receive CSEF you must be receiving Centrelink benefits. This is in the form of a Health Care Card, Pension Card or Gold Card.

If you believe you are eligible please contact the school office to obtain a form and return it to the office with a copy of your Centrelink Card.

If you have a new student to add to your current claim please complete a new CSEF form also.

Please return this completed form to the school.

If you require assistance or have questions about CSEF, please contact the school office.

SAVE THE DATE!

BPS OP SHOP BALL
&
TRIVIA NIGHT

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH

7:30PM

BEECHWORTH MEMORIAL HALL

After the incredible success of the first BPS Op Shop Ball in 2024, the Beechworth Parents and Friends Association (PAFA) are thrilled to announce we're hosting a second Op Shop Ball & Trivia Night!
Our legendary **quizmasters Dane and Cuff are back**, and we'll be hitting the dance floor with an **epic DJ set from DJane Doe**.

This Year's Theme: Op shop: Back to the Jungle
Think animal prints, safari vibes, or even your best Jumanji hunter-inspired look!

What's in Store?

- Trivia (and a chance to beat the BPS staff!)
- Prizes for Best Dressed
- Silent Auction
- DJ set from DJane Doe

Event Details

- BYO drinks and table snacks
- Trivia teams of 8–10 people welcome
- Arrive with your team organised, or join a table on the night — we're very relaxed and will make sure everyone has a spot!

Friday March 20th @ 7:30pm
Tix $25 pp, on sale soon — stay tuned!

Want to Get Involved?
If you're able to:

- Help out on the night
- Donate a prize for our Silent Auction
- Join PAFA

Please scan our WhatsApp QR code and get in touch — we'd love to hear from you!

BPS PAFA 2025
WhatsApp group