Beechworth Primary School

Be ...

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

Friday 20th February
2026 Term 1, Week 4

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 4 Newsletter.

As always, there is plenty happening across our school, and we value the opportunity to keep our families informed and connected with the wonderful learning and activities taking place at BPS.

Thursday 19 February - District Swimming Carnival - Beechworth Pool

A huge congratulations to the 22 students who participated in the District Swimming Carnival on Thursday! We are incredibly proud of their efforts and sportsmanship. We are especially excited to announce that 21 of our students will be moving on to the Division level carnival, which will take place in Wodonga on Friday, 27 February.

Each year the District Swimming Carnival is organised and run by Beechworth Primary School for the local schools. We send out a massive thank you to Scott Forrest and Samantha for their organisation. Thank you also to Ngaire King, Piper Kable and Ryley Bouker for supporting our BPS Team.

Good luck to all our students competing at the Division level!

Lunch Orders

Kellz Kitch lunch orders will be commencing this coming Wednesday 25th February. Be sure that you get your orders in on time. Lunch orders can be made via the my school connect app or web browser. https://myschoolconnect.com.au/login . If you are new to the school you will need to create an account. If you need any assistance please contact the school office and Samantha will be able to help you out.

Student Support Group Meetings

This week has been a busy and productive time at BPS as we have held Student Support Group (SSG) meetings for a large number of our students. These meetings will continue into next week.

We place great value on our SSG meetings, as they provide an important opportunity for collaboration between teachers, education support staff, specialists and families. Working together, we discuss individual learning needs and develop strategies to ensure every student with additional needs is supported to achieve success in their learning and engagement at school.

We sincerely thank our families for their time, partnership and ongoing commitment to working alongside us to support their children.

Mobile Phone & Smart Watch Reminder

In line with the Department of Education Victoria requirements, Beechworth Primary School has a firm mobile phone and smartwatch policy. Phones must be switched off and handed in to their Classroom teacher upon arrival. They will be securely stored and returned at the end of the school day. Smartwatches should be placed onto "school mode" or have the phone, camera and other advanced features disabled during school—it should only display the time. No use during school hours, including recess and lunch.

Parents needing to contact their child during school hours should call the school office. Inappropriate use, including disruption to learning, cyberbullying, or unauthorised recording, will result in consequences as per our school policies. We encourage students not to bring devices to school unless necessary, as BPS is not responsible for loss or damage.

Racism is Not Tolerated at Beechworth Primary School

Beechworth Primary School is committed to providing a welcoming and inclusive environment where racism is not tolerated. Racism harms students' wellbeing, learning and sense of belonging. We celebrate the diverse cultures, backgrounds and faiths of our community and are committed to ensuring every student feels safe, respected and able to learn.

What We Are Doing

We follow the Department of Education's Preventing and Addressing Racism in Schools Policy and work closely with staff, students and families to build a culturally safe school.

We will:

- Teach and celebrate diversity and inclusion to build understanding and empathy
- Use inclusive practices that support all students to thrive
- Actively prevent and address racism
- Provide clear and safe ways to report concerns

If Your Child Experiences or Witnesses Racism

Please contact your child's classroom teacher or the school office so we can respond promptly and appropriately. If you are not comfortable reporting to the school, or are not satisfied with the response, you can contact:

- Department of Education – Report Racism Hotline report.racism@education.vic.gov.au 1800 722 476
- Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc. (VAEAI) vaeai@vaeai.org.au 03 9481 0800
- Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC) complaints@veohrc.vic.gov.au 1300 292 153

How We Will Respond

When a concern is raised, we will:

- Take it seriously and act promptly
- Provide appropriate support
- Investigate respectfully and fairly
- Keep families informed while maintaining privacy
- Review incidents to help prevent them from happening again
- Together, we can ensure Beechworth Primary School remains a safe, inclusive and respectful place for every child.

From our School Council

At our School Council meeting this week, we:

- Approved the purchase and installation of new heating and cooling for the 4/5 classroom to ensure a comfortable learning environment for students and staff.
- Approved the installation of an additional set of lockers in the BER building, along with further cupboard storage to support organisation and classroom needs.
- Approved our 2026 financial policies, ensuring strong governance and responsible financial management for the year ahead.
- Reviewed and endorsed the BPS Code of Conduct, which is now available to view on the school website.

We thank our School Councillors for their ongoing commitment and thoughtful decision-making in support of our school community.

Join Our School Council

Being part of our School Council is a wonderful way to become more involved in our school community and help shape the future direction of Beechworth Primary School.

School Councillors commit to two years of service, with eight meetings held each year (two per term). It's a rewarding opportunity to work alongside other parents and staff to support decision-making and contribute to the ongoing growth and success of our school.

We currently have four Councillor positions becoming vacant as terms conclude, and we warmly invite self-nominations from members of our school community.

If you are curious and would like to learn more — with no obligation — please contact the school office, speak with a current School Councillor, or reach out to Sue McDonald for a friendly chat.

We would love to welcome some new voices and perspectives to our School Council.

Specialist Awards

Congratulation to all the students who received an award from the Specialist Teachers this week.

Ms. Nic, Mrs. Love, Ms. Gladstone and Mr. Forrest were overjoyed with the participation levels from students this week.

It is so wonderful to see so many students enjoying our specialist subjects.

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

OP SHOP BALL
&
TRIVIA NIGHT
FRIDAY MARCH 20TH @ 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, table snacks, glassware and crockery
- (This event isn't catered, please have dinner at home or BYO picnic supplies)
- 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!

Tix $25 - SEE COMPASS UPDATES TO PURCHASE

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

Week	Date, Time	Event/ Activity
Term 1		
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