Beechworth Primary School

Be ...

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

Friday 20th March 2026
Term 1, Week 8

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 8 Newsletter.

It's hard to believe how quickly the term is flying by. As we move into Week 8, there's a real sense of momentum building across everything we've been working on. This week is all about staying focused, keeping up the great effort, and supporting one another as we head toward the final stretch.

We've seen some fantastic progress recently, and it's been great to watch everyone growing in confidence and skill. Whether it's in class discussions, or day-to-day learning, our students hard work is really starting to show.

We have a very busy, but tricky week ahead of us with the AEU strike action Tuesday, and the Year 5 and 6 Ballarat Camp happening Wednesday until Friday.

Let's keep the energy up and finish strong.

STOP WORK ACTION – Tuesday 24th March 2026

The Australian Education Union has called on its members to take strike action on Tuesday 24 March 2026. The union is in negotiation with DET with a goal of pay parity to other states and a call for support with the HR crisis, to name a few. This is the first strike action to take place in 13 years. We apologise for the lake of clarity and are endeavouring to send you information as it becomes available.

Based upon the current information provided to me, most of our staff (both teachers and Education Support staff) will be taking part in the strike action. Our school will be open, however, given the current shortage of available casual relief teachers, our staff are not able to be replaced and the normal school day will not be able to run.

An update with further information will be sent out via compass on Monday.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

School Council AGM

On Wednesday night, we held our Annual General Meeting (AGM), where we welcomed our new school council members and ratified their positions for the year ahead. We're excited to announce the election of the School Council office bearers for 2026. This marks a new chapter for our school as we continue to work together toward an even brighter future.

BPS 2026 School Council Members:

- School Employee Members: Sue McDonald (Principal), Ngaire King, Jaylah Jones, Jane Nicholas
- Parent Members: Cassie Horne, Jo Grove, Connie Terry, Jane Archer, Sarah White, Justine Donaldson, and Erin McPherson

Our newly elected office bearers for 2026 are:

President – Cassie Horne
Vice President – Connie Terry
Treasurer – Ngaire King
Secretary – Jaylah Jones

A massive thank you to our retiring School Council members; Kellie Sutherland, Bernie McCann, Alex Nelson, and Emma Thomas. Your dedication and hard work have made a lasting impact on our community, and we are truly grateful for your contributions.

We look forward to the continued collaboration with our new council members and are excited for the year ahead!

Mobile Devices - Important Reminder!

All phones are to be handed into the classroom teacher for safe storage daily. Additionally, mobile phones or smart watches are not to be used within the school grounds (pre and post school bell times). Using phones within our school grounds compromises the safety of our students. If your child has a mobile phone and brings it to school, please reinforce the school's parameter of mobile phone use.

Smart watches are not recommended, but should a student have a smart watch the communication function should be turned off during school hours.

Athletics Day

Our annual Athletics Day will be Wednesday 1st of April, under Mr. Forrest's guidance, students have been practicing key athletics events, building their technique, confidence and teamwork along the way.

Easter Events

Easter Hat Parade: We will be hosting our Easter Hat parade on Thursday the 2nd April. Students and families are encouraged to make an Easter Hat at home for the parade. It's a time old tradition of Beechworth Primary school to have the parade which kicks off at 9:10 am. This year we will hold it on the Senior Basketball Courts at the front of the school. Families and friends are welcome to attend.

Raffle: Thank you to the families who have already donated to the Easter Hampers. Keep your donations coming in this week. All students have been distributed rafle tickets. Thank you to those who have already returned your rafle tickets.

Library Books – Reminder

We currently have a large number of overdue library books.

Please be reminded that books may be borrowed from the school library for two weeks. If students have not finished reading their book by this time, they are very welcome to renew it for a further loan period. This is easily done by letting Chez know that they wish to extend their book.

We appreciate your support in ensuring books are returned or renewed promptly so they can be enjoyed by all students.

Awards

Harlow has received THREE wristbands this week, what an incredible achievement!

Demonstrating respect, safety, and persistence, Harlow consistently lives out our school values both in the classroom and on the playground.

Harlow, you are a true SUPERSTAR!

Congratulations to Spencer and Astrid on consistently demonstrating our whole-school focus value of **CARING** - for themselves and for others.

You both show what it means to be caring in everything you do, wherever you go. Keep up the wonderful work!

Congratulation to Hannah on receiving our **FIRST BRONZE AWARD** for the Term!

Congratulations to all our BPS students who received Specialist Awards!

Thank you for consistently demonstrating respect across all areas of your learning. We are so proud of you, keep up the fantastic work!

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

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

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

LOCAL ADULTS CONFIRM THEY WILL "ABSOLUTELY DOMINATE" PRIMARY SCHOOL TRIVIA NIGHT DESPITE MIXED HISTORICAL RESULTS

BEECHWORTH, VIC — Confidence is reportedly high across the region this week, as fully grown adults prepare to compete at the upcoming BPS Op Shop Ball & Trivia Night on Friday March 20 at the Beechworth Memorial Hall.

Early reports suggest at least six separate teams believe they are "quietly the smartest table in the room," despite last year's incident involving a heated disagreement over the Southern Hemisphere's largest desert.

The event, themed Back to the Jungle, is expected to attract record numbers of leopard print, safari hats and "this-was-$4-and-I-regret-nothing" outfits.

Local sources confirm:

- Dane & Cuff will once again deliver trivia questions that feel "personally targeted"
- The silent auction will not be silent
- Someone will take Best Dressed far more seriously than anticipated
- The dance floor will fill immediately once DJane Doe plays a song everyone pretends they don't love

Organisers have reiterated that the event is, in fact, a vital fundraiser for BPS — meaning every $25 ticket directly supports the school, even if attendees leave questioning their general knowledge and/or outfit choices.

Community members are encouraged to:
Secure tickets immediately.
Assemble a team of 8–10 equally overconfident adults, or come solo and we'll find you a spot
Stop assuming "it won't sell out."

Experts warn that failure to attend may result in severe next-day FOMO and having to hear someone else say, "Oh you didn't go…you wouldn't get it." Tickets available now. Jungle chaos imminent.

GET YOU TICKETS HERE: https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/the-beechworth-primary-school-op-shop-ball-trivia-night

Week	Date, Time	Event/ Activity
Term 1		
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)
Term 2		
Week 1	Mon 20 Apr	School Starts for all students
Week 2	Fri 1 May	BPS Cross Country
Week 3	Fri 8 May	Mothers Day Breakfast

Regional Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday the 18th of March, 5 students from Grade 4 travelled to Wangaratta to represent Beechworth Primary School in the Upper Hume Region Swimming Carnival.

Eddie J competed in the 10 year old backstroke event and came 2nd.

Quinn, Eadie, Bonnie and Elizabeth competed in the 10 year old Freestyle relay and were placed 3rd.

To make it through to Regionals they have to compete in the school swimming carnival (timed), District swimming carnival (timed), and come 1st or 2nd in the Division swimming carnival.

Congratulations to all 5 students who completed and represented the school fantastically.

BPS at the Golden Horseshoes Parade!

Easter Saturday 2pm we would love any interested students to come join us walking in the parade. Wear school uniform and something gold! Our face painters will be madly face painting participants before the parade begins.

Please meet teachers at the marshalling area by 1:45 so that we are ready to go!

GOLDEN HORSESHOES
EASTER WEEKEND
FESTIVAL
BEECHWORTH

BPS 2ND HAND UNIFORMS

Donations accpeted

Have you got old uniforms that are still in great condition, no longer fit and are gathering dust . Why not donate them to the school office for the 2nd hand uniforms.

We currently have a large amount of size 4, 6 and 10 however we would really appreciate some larger sizes. (Gold Coin donation)

If you know any past students that have items to donate we would appreciate you passing on this message.

WE ACCEPT

- Polos
- Hats
- Shorts
- Pants
- Jumpers/ Vests
- Bags

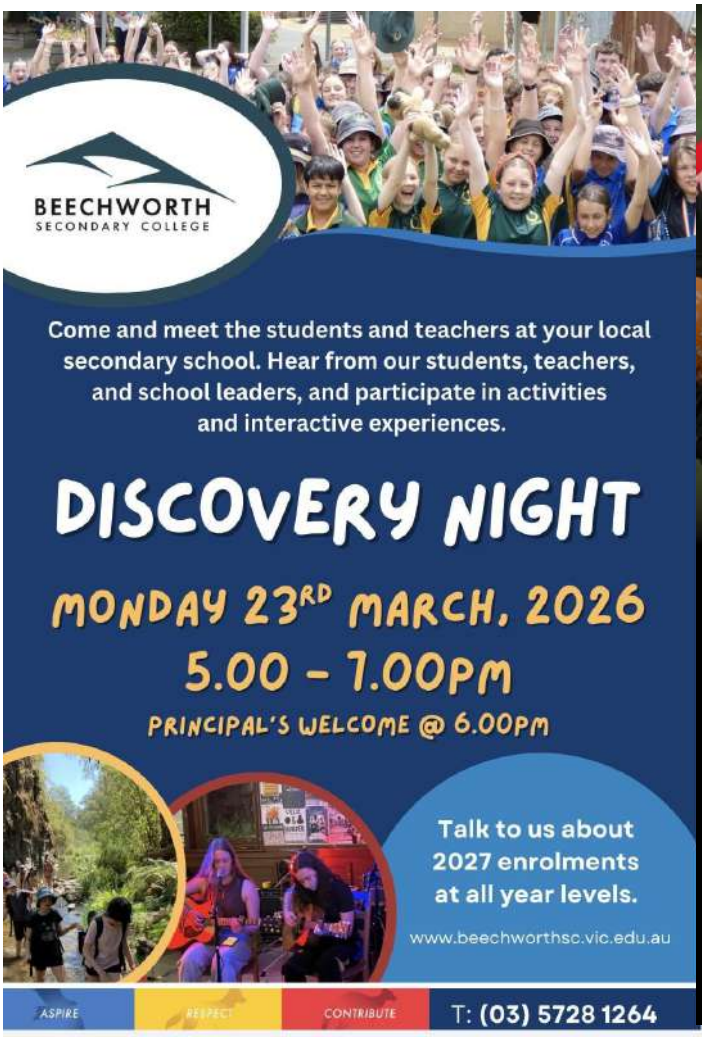
VicSES OPEN DAY AND VOLUNTEER INFO SESSION

On Sunday 2G March 12.30pm-3.00pm, Beechworth SES is inviting families to an Open Day at their unit at 1 Radcliffe Road, Beechworth (off Diffey Road).

First Aid, radio communications, casualty handling, knots, search and rescue, as well as face paint, colouring in, temporary tattoos.... there will be **activity stations for kids and adults** alike.

Take a selfie with our Search and Rescue Truck and take the chance to chat to our members about our equipment, what we do (and how), and about becoming a volunteer to help the community we love to live in.

Our Volunteer Info Session will start at 2.30pm, and before that, you can enjoy some delicious Mexican food from **Frankly Food Van**.

We would love to see you there!

Enquiries: beechworth@ses.vic.gov.au