



BNPS NEWS

Issue No 4 - 24th February

Term 1 2022

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

As mentioned in the last newsletter, from this week we will move to a fortnightly newsletter. In the alternate weeks, we will still publish the calendar of dates and student awards to celebrate student achievements publicly. Any other notifications we need to make will be done through COMPASS.

Uniform

I would just like to put out another reminder around some uniform requirements as per our Uniform Policy in the Student Code of Conduct; specifically pertaining to the wearing of jewellery and hair being tied up. It is part of our OH&S requirements that any bracelets or wristbands not to be worn at school. This includes friendship bands. Whilst we are happy for students to be making friendship bands for each other, they will be asked to wear them only to and from school and place them in their bags while at school. Similarly, long earrings and/or necklaces are an OH&S risk, and we ask that students do not wear necklaces (unless a medical alert) and earrings are limited to studs and sleepers. Also, staff have been following up this week with students regarding long hair (shoulder length or longer) and ensuring students have this tied up. Again, this is a consistent policy in schools to prevent the contraction of head lice. I ask that you please adhere to these requirements and work with your children to explain the reasoning behind this.

Student Illness

In the past week or so there has been quite a bit of illness creeping in amongst the students. Most of which has not been COVID-related, but clearly some nasty viruses around. We do ask that all parents err on the side of caution regardless of RAT testing and COVID concerns, and if children are unwell, please make arrangements for them to stay at home until they are well/symptom-free. We certainly don't want children missing any more school than they need to, but we also can't risk spreading viruses to students and staff when this can be avoided. I do ask for your co-operation with this.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS – 2022

I would like to put a callout to any interested parents who might wish to join school council. I have included some information below for you to consider. We meet twice per term on the third Monday of the month at 7PM. If this is something you are interested in, please read or, or feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Self-nomination forms are attached to this and need to be submitted back to the school by **Friday 4th March**.

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 broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Who is on the school council?

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

A mandated elected parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.

A mandated elected school employee member category – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. 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 experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL Cont...

A small number of school councils have **nominee members**.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

A mandated elected student member category, two positions.

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.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge 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.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

act with honesty and integrity – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty

act in good faith in the best interests of the school – work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds

act fairly and impartially – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest

use information appropriately – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available

exercise due care, diligence and skill – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school

use the position appropriately – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage

act in a financially responsible manner – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions

comply with relevant legislation and policies – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law

demonstrate leadership and stewardship – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or

the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same electorate that you are eligible for (e.g., a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate)

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL Cont...

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

Consider standing for election to school council.

Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.

Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.

Contact the principal if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process.

Notice of election and call for nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the school council of (*school name below*)

Ballarat North Primary School

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and are also attached to this newsletter

Event	Date
a) Notice of election and call for nominations	Thursday 24th February 2022
b) Closing date for nominations	Friday 4 th March 2022
c) Date by which the list of candidates and nominators will be posted	Thursday 10 th March 2022
d) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed	Friday 11 th March 2022
e) Close of ballot	Friday 18 th March 2022
f) Vote count	Friday 18 th March, 2022

FIRST SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING: Monday 21st March – 7PM

Following the closing of nominations, a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school.

The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership category	
Parent member	
Number of positions:	3

Regards,

David Garner,
Principal

CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Feb 21st	Feb 22nd	Feb 23rd	Feb 24th	Feb 25th
	Prep Reading Virtual Information Session	Preps not at school Gr 3-6 Lawn Bowls		
Feb 28th	Mar 1st	Mar 2nd	Mar 3rd	Mar 4th
Gr3-6 Athletics Carnival	Gr6 Sovereign Hill	Preps not at school Gr6 Sovereign Hill		
Mar 7th	Mar 8th	Mar 9th	Mar 10th	Mar 11th
		Preps not at school Gr6 Sovereign Hill		
Mar 14th	Mar 15th	Mar 16th	Mar 17th	Mar 18th
LABOUR DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY				

2022 Term Dates

Term 1 28th Jan - 8th Apr **Term 2** 26th Apr - 24th Jun **Term 3** 11th Jul - 16th Sep **Term 4** 3rd Oct - 20th Dec

FROM FIRST AID



If your child requires any medication (other than Ventolin) during school hours, this must be stored in the First Aid room or staff fridge. The medication will be given by Lynda Stuttard or another staff member as per written consent by the parent/guardian or doctor. Please ensure your child's name, dose, time to be given and route (ie topical, oral etc) are clearly marked on the form supplied at the office. If medication from a script, we need to view packaging to ensure we are giving it to the correct child.

(A template is available at the office)

Children requiring Ventolin need to bring their own puffer to school each day. This can be kept in the classroom for easy access. It is now a requirement of the Asthma Foundation that students using a nebulizer should have their own and not be using a shared one.

We have a supply of disposable nebulizers at school, which will be used if required at a cost to parents of \$7.00.

Senior School Athletics

When: Monday 28th of February

Where: Llanberris - Ballarat Regional Athletics Centre

Who: Grade 3 – 6 students

Our senior school athletics are coming up quickly. Students will catch the bus to Llanberris from school on Monday the 28th of February.

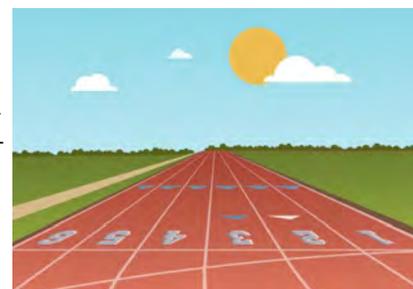
We are currently looking for volunteers to help with events and chauffeuring age groups between different events.

Due to the regulations in place at the moment any volunteers will need to have a Working With Children Check and be **triple** vaccinated.

If you would like to volunteer please contact me through Compass or let your child's teacher know that you are interested.

In order for this event to go ahead we will need to limit the amount of people moving in and out of the area meaning unfortunately spectators are not encouraged.

Kind regards,
Mr. Shaun Allen.



happy families®

Lighten The Load

with Dr Justin Coulson



In today's Lighten the Load, my favourite parenting story. Ever.

It comes from a [TED talk by Jim Ferrell \(15:04\)](#). If you can't watch it, here it is in brief:

A family in the 1950's, after saving for years, buys a new car. Dad is a forestry worker so they live in the national park, with the home on one side of the road and a canyon on the opposite side.

Their teen son is a good kid, responsible and willing to work. He has a date one night and asks dad if he can borrow the new car rather than driving the old "truck" (ute?) the family owns as their other car. Dad agrees and hands him the keys.

The boy is excited and runs to the car. He's driven about a minute down the road when he realises there's no fuel. He returns home, races inside the house, and asks dad for some money so he can fill the tank. Dad is in the bedroom reading the paper. He obliges with some money and the boy dashes back out to the car. Only... the car isn't there.

The boy dashes down the drive, crosses the road, and looks into the canyon to where smoke is rising from the completely wrecked, brand new car.

How do you tell your dad what just happened?

He walks, forlorn, back into the house, enters the bedroom, and stammers to his dad that the car is gone. His dad continues to read and after a minute he quietly says,

"Well I guess you'll need to take the truck on your date to-night instead."

The boy quietly leaves the room, picks up the key, and drives down the road until tears force him to pull the car over. He reflects on the lessons he's learned:

Remember to use the handbrake from now on!

My dad loves me more than he loves the car.

On the worst day of my life my dad didn't make things worse. He made them better.

Dr Justin

NORTH STARS

Principal's Award

Evita

For having lovely manners and always greeting staff with a bright smile. Congratulations on your positive attitude. Well done Evita.



Principal's Award

Cam

For his leadership around the school and helping out whenever asked.

Art



Prep M

For demonstrating our school value 'Community' when cleaning up the art room.

1/2B

For excellent concentration and creativity. Your portraits look fabulous.

5/6B

For excellent focus and persistence in our continuous line drawing lesson. I was so impressed with your work. Well done.

PE



Prep W

For their great running skills. Prep W have made sure to keep their head facing straight and use their pumping arms during our sessions. Great job!

3/4T

For demonstrating great teamwork during our target games session this week. All groups worked together to achieve their goals and set new high scores. Well done!

Japanese



5/6G

For challenging themselves when doing maths in Japanese.

Performing Arts



1/2R

For the persistence they showed learning Mi, Soh, La. Great Singing!

NORTH STARS



Prep L

Charlie

For the way he was able to act on feedback in his writing and only use capital letters in the correct places.



Prep M

Harrison

For staying determined and working hard on something new.



Prep W

Mackenzie

For staying focused and trying your best when naming and describing 2D shapes. Fantastic job!

1/2B

Ryan

For being a kind and caring classmate and taking care to produce amazing work



1/2C

Ollie

For always looking out for others and helping students in our room with their learning, fantastic to see Ollie.



1/2E

Declan

For his amazing show and tell this week.



1/2L

Neve

For always trying hard to achieve her best.



1/2M

Frankie

For showing an exceptional level of care to others in our class.



1/2R

Archer

For his excellent work on his reflection on our super citizen guest speakers today

3/4C

Izzy

For a fantastic start to the year! Well done for setting an excellent example for others and putting in your best effort.



3/4G

Sophie

For being a caring member of 3/4G and looking after our classroom community.



3/4H

Liam

For being a kind and considerate student who goes out of his way to help others.



3/4S

Jasmine

For being a selfless class member who always looks out for her peers.



3/4T

Zach

For always completing his work to a high standard.



5/6B

Jasmine

For always listening carefully to others, and speaks in a polite and considerate manner at all times.

5/6F

Riley

For being considerate and supportive when welcoming a new student into our class.



5/6G

Chelsea

For being such a curious learner. I have been really impressed with the thoughtful questions you have posed this week.



5/6S

Brody

For the positive way he has approached challenges, taken on board feedback and worked hard across all subjects in the classroom.

