



BOTANIC BUZZ NEWSLETTER

TERM 4
WEEK 7
2025

Growth - Respect - Responsibility - Safe



Connecting with Our BRPS Families

Acting Principal News

Last Thursday, we welcomed our new families to BRPS at the Foundation Information Night. The 2025 Foundation teachers, along with the Principal Team and Business Manager, provided important information about all the essential things new families need to know when their children first begin school. It was so lovely to see so many families excited to start their journey at our beautiful school.

During the evening, we covered key 2026 dates, office procedures, highlights of the Foundation curriculum, and ways parents can support their child's transition into Foundation. Our Foundation Orientation started on Tuesday, November 18th and it was a great success. It was wonderful to see so many happy faces and to watch our new Foundation students settle in so quickly.

Students entering Years 1-6 in 2026 will have their orientation (Up Day) on Tuesday, December 9th. On this day, students will spend the morning session with their new teacher and class for 2026. Students will find out their class placement on that day.

Thank you to Miss Grace and our School Captains for leading our Botanic Ridge Primary School Remembrance Day ceremony. They explained the significance of Remembrance Day and helped ensure we paid our respects to all Australians who have served our nation, and to those who have fought and died in conflicts since World War I.

As a school, we listened to The Last Post and observed one minute of silence. Thank you to all our students for their beautiful manners and for showing such respect during this important commemoration.



Ms Comben



Reminders

Upcoming Dates:

- Grandparent/Special Friend day - 26th November 12:30
- Year 1 Dinner and Games - 27th November
- I Sea I Care excursion for selected students - 2nd December
- Volunteer Morning Tea - 3rd December
- Subway lunch - 5th December. Completed order forms together with CASH ONLY must be returned to school in a zip lock bag by Friday 28th November.
- Curriculum Day - 10th December - No students at school
- Zooper Dooper sales on Friday (\$1 per icy-pole - max 2 per student). All money raised goes towards the Year 6 graduation. Donations are welcomed at the office.
- Term 4 is a sun-smart term, so please remember your hat.
- The Container Deposit Scheme is as Easy as 1, 2, 3! Collect your eligible drink containers. **Did you know?** You can donate to our school! Our donation partner ID: C2000013189 Or search us on the donation list at the deposit machine.



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Teaching and Learning Buzz

Using Gestures to Boost Engagement and Participation in the Classroom

At Botanic Ridge Primary School, we are always exploring evidence-based strategies that support student learning and build confident, active participants in the classroom. One powerful tool used by our teachers across the school is the use of purposeful hand signals we refer to as our gestures.

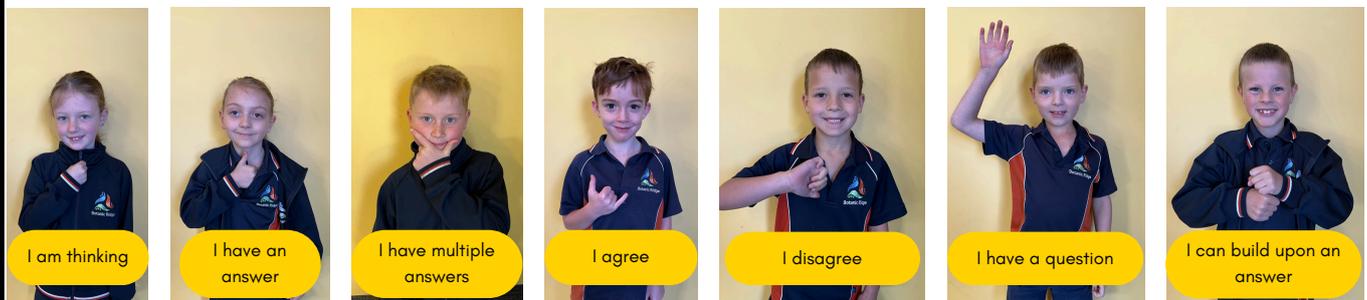


Mr Bloomfield

These gestures are quick, silent actions students use to communicate with the teacher and their peers during discussions. They help students share their thinking without interrupting the speaker and allow teachers to track who is ready to contribute. This means that you will not often see students putting their hand up, instead we have the expectation that all students participate in the learning and discussion through using the gestures.

Teachers also benefit by being able to quickly scan the room and invite students with a range of contributions, from answers to extensions and new perspectives, rather than only those confident to contribute. Teacher also collect valuable data about students who may not be feeling confident or who may require additional support during the lesson.

Our students are explicitly taught the following gestures:



Year 4 Immigration Museum Excursion



On Monday 10th November, our Year 4 students ventured into the city for an enriching visit to the Immigration Museum, building on the learning they have been exploring in class. During a staff-led tour, students discovered powerful personal stories told through treasured objects. They learned about the Hmong community and the lasting impacts of the Vietnam War through a beautifully embroidered banner, and explored the experiences of Eva Schubert, a World War II refugee, through her intricately hand-carved wood panel. Students were also introduced to the cultural life of the Barapa Barapa and Wamba Wamba peoples by learning about Elder Phoebe Nicholson's possum skin cloak. Throughout the excursion, they reflected on how objects can connect us to our own family histories, making the visit both meaningful and memorable.

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Wellbeing Buzz

Social Media Minimum Age - Important Update

From **10 December 2025**, new rules will apply to social media use in Australia. The eSafety Commissioner has confirmed that certain platforms – including Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Reddit, Threads, X (formerly Twitter), YouTube and Kick – will be considered age-restricted social media platforms. This means children under the age of 16 will not be permitted to hold accounts on these services, and companies will be required to take reasonable steps to enforce this.



Mrs Symons

Other platforms such as Discord, Roblox, WhatsApp, Messenger, Steam, YouTube Kids, Google Classroom, GitHub and LEGO Play are **not currently** classified as age-restricted, but families should remember that no online service is completely risk-free.

As a school community, we encourage parents and students to stay informed and make safe choices online. The eSafety Guide is regularly updated with advice on social media, games, apps and websites, and is a valuable resource for families navigating the digital world.

Further Information and Support

To help young people, families and educators, eSafety has released a package of resources, and will run [live webinars](#) to provide information and answer questions. Webinars for parents and carers, and educators and youth-service professionals are scheduled throughout November and December 2025.

For more information visit: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/about-us/industry-regulation/social-media-age-restrictions/webinars>

Staff Buzz

Get to know our Amazing Staff!



Miss Grace

Position
Library/Office
Administration

Q: What's your favourite food or treat?

A: I love Mexican food! Tacos, burritos, churros – so good!

Q: What's your favourite thing about your role?

A: Getting to know and connect with students from all year levels, from F through 6! I love chatting to students about what they are reading or what they did on the weekend.

Q: If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

A: Definitely teleporting. If I could teleport to visit different libraries around the world that would be super cool!



Ms van Brakel

Position
Office Administration

Q: What's your favourite sport or team?

A: I love netball and my favourite team is the Melbourne Vixens.

Q: Do you have any pets? Tell us about them!

A: I have a dog named Roxy and a cat named Luna. Luna is the boss of our house!

Q: How long have you been working at BRPS?

A: I have been at BRPS in the office since 2021.

Q: If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

A: To heal sick people, that would make first aid amazing 😊

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Student Leader Buzz

Get to know our Music, STEM and Art Captains!

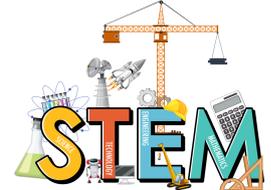


Why did you want to become STEM Captain?

Jack: I chose to become STEM captain as I love Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

What do you love most about STEM?

Jack: I like making Lego robots and playing with SPIROS.

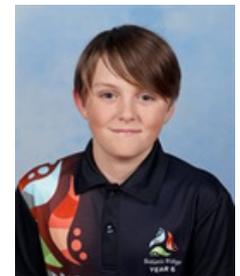


Why did you want to become Music Captain?

Finn: I like Music and Mr J. He is the nicest teacher.

What is your favourite thing about Music?

Finn: I like playing instruments, my favourite are the bongo drums because they are loud and fun to play. My second favourite instrument is the boom whackers because they are colourful and sound cool when you whack them on the ground.



Why did you want to become Art Captain?

Millah: I like to do art a lot and I am a creative person. I think Art helps younger kids to be more creative and be unique.

What part of Art makes you love it?

Millah: I love art and seeing how creative I can be and I like hanging out with Mrs Chespy.



Foundation Moonlit Sanctuary Excursion

The Foundation students had a wonderful time exploring Moonlit Sanctuary, learning about Australian animals up close. They especially loved feeding the friendly kangaroos and wallabies and learning new facts during the keeper talks.



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Classroom Buzz

I know you wanted to know what **3B** were doing at 10.00am on a Tuesday!
Take a look!

What is your favourite subject at BRPS?

Ethan: Math is my favourite.

Ela: Maths because it is easy to understand.

Willow: I like Art and Literacy.

Harvey: Math because I like doing equations.

Sabeeh: I love PE because I like sport.

Alexia: Music because we get to play with instruments.

Hannah: Maths is the best because you can learn lots.

Isla - Rose: Art because I love drawing.

What do you like most about class time?

Ruby: I like to learn new things.

Hunter: Morphology because we learn about lots.

Aria: Reading books and sitting with my friends.

Alexi: Learning about Capybaras.

Rainger: The best thing about class is MATH!

Flynn: Listening when the class is talking.

James: Literacy because I like a challenge.

What do you like about Ms Redpath?

Avi: I like how she teaches us.

Kaylea: She lets us stay in when she's not on duty.

Cooper: That she is kind.

Josh: She's talented.

Remi: She is friendly, kind and caring.

Layla: Ms Redpath helps me learn and is super nice.

Madelyn: She always thinks of fun things for class topics.

Jai: Ms Redpath is humorous.

Botanic Brilliance Awards!

0A Jacob & Wyatt

0B Ivy, Aubrey & Phoebe

0C Rui & Ruby

1A Eythan & Alexa

1B Xavier & Ella

1C Asher, Imogen & Quentin

1D Aleksandra, Elijah & Ace

2A Roman & Audrey

2B Gift, Aiden & Jobe

2D Aiden

3A Blessed, Charlotte & Mikayla

3B Ethan, Aria & Hunter

3C Raff & Meagan

4A Ivana & Maxwell

4C Ava, Cooper, Amelia, Madden, Harper & Sohan

45A Lucas, Ava & Sean

56A Ivie & Mia

56B Lenny & Ethan

LOTE Pippa

PE Willow B., Sohan & Ava P.

ART Elaina

MUSIC Levi S.



Ms Redpath

