



BOTANIC BUZZ NEWSLETTER

TERM 1
WEEK 10
2026

Growth - Respect - Responsibility - Safe

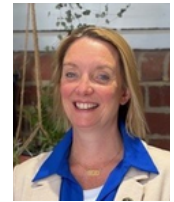


Settling Into School Life

Principal News

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe we have reached the end of term 1 already. I'd like to wish you all very happy holidays, and stay safe! I will be back on Wednesday 6th May as I am taking some Long Service Leave. Mr Bloomfield will be acting principal in my absence. See you all next term!



Mrs Fuller

Staffing Updates: I would like to congratulate our 2 new Education Support staff who will be working with us next term: Cathy Schoemaker and Olivia Corrigan. Megan Comben will not be returning in term 2. We are expecting her to return in term 3. I will be on leave until 6th May, and Scott Bloomfield will be acting principal in my absence.

Exciting Opportunity to Join our NEW Sub-committees: Please send me an email if you are interested in supporting our school with the **Engagement, Buildings and Grounds, or Grants** subcommittees. Sub-committees will meet prior to each school council meeting, and help organise events, prioritise school needs, and apply for grants etc. At each school council meeting, the convenor (a member of the school council) will report back to the school council. We hope that by offering positions on the sub-committees, we will further engage our community! Email me if you're interested: Emma.Fuller@education.vic.gov.au

Upcoming Events: We have been busy over the last few weeks organising the new market which will be held on our basketball courts twice next term. We have also engaged with an after school coding club! See more information in this newsletter.

Parent Payments: A massive thank you to the 133 payments that have been made towards our school contributions. Your payments support the purchase of all the classroom resources - stationery, writing books and whiteboards that the children use. If you haven't made a payment, please check Compass or have a chat at the office. Any amount helps, and we can offer payment plans if you need.

School Improvements: Thank you to all the parents who were able to help with the Working Bee last Friday afternoon. You may have noticed we have replenished the soft-fall mulch under the playgrounds. If anyone has a contact who can provide free bark for our garden beds, or soil to fill the rabbit holes, please can you let me know! Thanks

School Council Approval for Resources: School Council have approved us spending \$10,000 of fundraising monies to purchase some take home readers, bookshelves and decodable texts. We will let you know what we have purchased. Thank you for all your help with the fundraising across the school!

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Teaching and Learning Buzz

Building Strong Mathematicians: Understanding Place Value

A strong understanding of place value is one of the most important foundations in mathematics. Place value helps students understand that the value of a digit depends on its position in a number. For example, in 345, the 3 represents 300, the 4 represents 40 and the 5 represents 5.



Mr Bloomfield

This understanding is essential because it underpins many other areas of mathematics. When students have a solid grasp of place value, they are better able to add and subtract using efficient strategies, multiply and divide larger numbers, understand decimals and fractions, and solve problems with greater confidence.

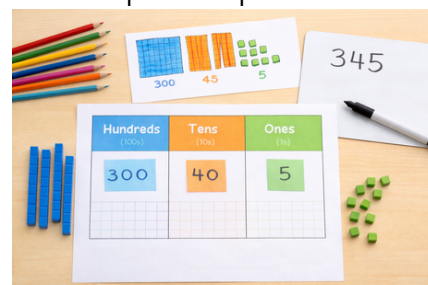
At our school, we teach place value using a concrete-pictorial-abstract (CPA) approach to build deep understanding.

- **Concrete:** Students use physical materials such as blocks, counters or place value charts to represent numbers.
- **Pictorial:** Students draw or represent numbers using images, diagrams or models.
- **Abstract:** Students then move to using numbers and symbols to solve problems.

This approach helps students see and understand what numbers represent, rather than just memorising procedures. By moving through these stages, students develop a deeper and more flexible understanding of number.

You can support your child at home by talking about numbers in everyday situations e.g. discussing prices, counting objects or breaking numbers into tens and ones.

Building strong place value knowledge sets students up for success across all areas of mathematics and helps them become confident, capable learners.



Game: Place Value

A fun and easy game to play at home to build your child's understanding of how numbers work!

What you need:

- Playing cards/uno
- Paper
- Something to write with. (Colours for fun)

How to play:

1. Draw a place value chart.
2. Flip 2 cards over.
3. Say the number.
4. Using the colours write the number.
5. Write the value of each number underneath.

Challenge:

Create a 3 or 4-digit number to make the smallest/largest number. Flip one card over at a time and carefully choose which place you will put it in the number.

Verse each other and see who wins.



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Working Bee



Code Camp

Building coding skills

We're excited to be able to introduce Code Camp to Botanic Ridge Primary School in Term 2!

"After-School Code Camp allows kids to hone their coding skills and keep practicing through weekly sessions over the term. Each week students will choose the features they want to build, and advance their problem-solving skills to build these features using code. They will take ownership over their projects and collaborate with their peers to make awesome apps!"

We are offering two after school sessions:

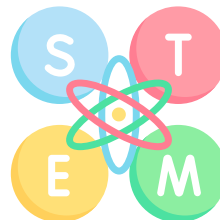
Years F-2 "Little Coders" 3.15-4.30pm on Tuesday afternoons, and

Years 3-6 "Coding" 3.15-4.30pm on Wednesday afternoons.

The sessions will be held in the STEM room. Students will go straight to the room after school (no need for a parent to attend), and can be either collected directly from the room, or taken to the after school care room, after the session.

The program will run for 8 weeks from April 28/29 until the end of Term 2.

Please use the link in the flyer on the next page for more information and booking directly with Code Camp!



CODING**LITTLE
CODERS**

**Double the fun after school! Now
with two exciting programs!**

For detailed program information and dates, please head to:

www.codecamp.com.au/botrid

FIRST TIME TO CODE CAMP?

SAVE \$15

Use coupon code **SCHOOL15** at checkout

PRODUCT REVIEW
COM.AU

with over 1000+ ★★★★★ reviews

Get in touch at **hello@codecamp.com.au**

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School Council

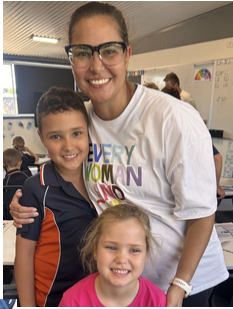
Who's who?

Why did you decide to get involved in School Council?



Bella

Melissa: I was keen to better understand how the school operates behind the scenes. I also wanted to develop a clearer understanding of the unique challenges faced by government schools - such as resource constraints, policy requirements, and diverse student needs - and how these factors influence why certain systems, priorities, and practices are in place.



Melissa

Emma: I decided to get involved in School Council to advocate for the teachers at BRPS by ensuring they have access to a range of resources within the classroom to maximise student engagement while at school.

Lucinda: To strengthen the connection between the kindergarten and the school, and to expand opportunities for community engagement and collaboration.



Sien

Sien: I got involved in the school council to support our school community. I'd love to be a friendly voice for families, listen to ideas, and help bring them forward. I'm keen to support our teachers, parents, and students, and help our school continue to grow and thrive.

Madison: I put my hand up for school council because I was already quite heavily involved through volunteering and enjoyed being a part of our school community. I was also very passionate about my children's education and wanted to help make more of a contribution.



Bella: I was initially invited to join the original School Council before the school opened, as my child attended the kindergarten, and I've valued being involved ever since. I'm passionate about being actively involved in my children's school and contributing to the wider community.

Which subcommittee are you part of?



Madison

Melissa: None at the moment - I have plenty to do as president! But the subcommittees know if they ever need me I will always be there to help them out and lend a hand!

Emma: I am part of the grants subcommittee. My job is to secure additional funding for our school. If you see a grant, you think we should apply for please reach out!

Lucinda: None at this point in time.



Emma

Sien: I've jumped on board our new School Engagement Committee to support our school community. With your help, I'd love to build a friendly, welcoming space for parents, carers, and everyone involved. By working together (and having a bit of fun along the way—especially with fundraising!), I think we can make a really positive difference at our school.

Madison: N/A.

Bella: N/A.

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School Council

Who's who?

What do you love most about our school?

Melissa: There's so much to love about our school, but what really stands out is the sense of community - within the school itself, in the connections we share with the kinder, and in how we're part of and connected to the wider local community as well.

Emma: I love the inclusive community feel at BRPS. I also value the excellent parent-teacher communication through platforms like Compass.

Lucinda: I value the way the kindergarten is supported to be an active part of the school community, with opportunities to participate in events and build meaningful connections.

Sien: I love our school because it feels like more than just a school—it's a community. There's such a welcoming and supportive vibe for both kids and families. The teachers are amazing and truly care about each child, always going the extra mile to help them learn and grow. It's the best feeling seeing my kids head off to school happy, confident, and excited for the day ahead.

Madison: There are a lot of great things about our school but one I particularly love is that our school is part of the Real Schools program. I believe this is a constructive and valuable tool for all involved.

Bella: What I love most about our school is its strong sense of community. Despite growing since the 90 founding students in 2020, it still feels like a small, connected school.

What would you like to see grow or improve at our school?

Melissa: I'd really love to see a bit more done with the outdoor spaces - things like more trees, better shade, and more seating for the kids to hang out and relax. Since the school is so close to the botanical gardens, it would be great to bring some of that feel into the school too, with more greenery and a stronger connection to the nature we've got just around the corner.

Emma: I strongly believe that it is crucial that teachers and students have access to resources that engage all students in learning experiences. Things like more picture story books in our school library, a range of interest based take home readers, maths manipulatives, art supplies etc. Like any parent, I also want my child to be happy at school. More equipment for outside play and lunchtime club; like balls, sandpit toys, craft supplies etc are of benefit to support students wellbeing, keeping them busy and social with peers.

Lucinda: I would love to see continued growth in the transition and partnership between kindergarten and school, including more shared experiences, communication, and opportunities for children and families to feel connected and supported as they move into school.

Sien: I'd love to see the efforts of everyone involved - especially all the committees - really shine through across the school in the future.

Madison: Given how quickly our school has grown over the last few years I would love to see our school continue to work on implementing new facilities for learning and play, expand our resources around inclusion and diversity and continue our focus on having a supportive culture.

Bella: I would love for all members of the school community to feel that same sense of belonging - that their ideas are valued and that they have a voice. Ultimately, I want everyone to feel proud of and connected to BRPS, just as I do.

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Student Leader Buzz

Meet our Raising Rarity Ambassadors for 2026!



Alyssa



Vincent



We interviewed our new Raising Rarity Ambassadors to learn a little bit more about them:

What are you most excited about this year at our school?

Alyssa: Learning new things and making new friends.

Vincent: Helping the plants and animals in need supporting the Botanic gardens.

What does a positive school culture mean to you?

Alyssa: That everyone is kind and honest.

Vincent: Having fun, not hurting one another and being supportive.

What's your favourite thing about our school?

Alyssa: All of the teachers and students are really nice.

Vincent: People were welcoming me into the school when I started and were really happy to see me.

What message would you like to share with the school community as we begin the year?

Alyssa: Always try your best and never give up.

Vincent: Be good friends and if you see rubbish, pick it up with something.

Botanic Brilliance Awards

Congratulations to all of our award winners:

0A Emmie, Bowen

0B Evie, Neel

0C James, Sryil

0D Kade, Brock

1A Lenny, Emerson

1B Marco

1C Anna, Toby

2A Amelia

2B James, Kealy

2C Mia

2D Miller

3A Bodhi, Haseena

3B Delilah, Leo

3C Marina, Ryatt

34A Karan, Ellie G.

4A Madelyn

4C Thomas

5A Zanda, Billie

5B Amelia, Daniel

5C Kai, Logann

56A Laikyn, Lucas

6A Niki, Eddie

STEM Emerson C., Noah D.

LOTE Izhaiyini Y., Hannah T.

Music Zoe R.

Upcoming Dates & Reminders



- Monday 20th April - First day of Term 2
- Friday 24th April - Foundation Team Building Incursion
- Tuesday 28th April - Raising Rarity Botanic Gardens Excursion
- Thursday 30th April - Year 4 Camp Information Session at 5pm.
- Friday 8th May - Mother's Day Afternoon
- Friday 15th May - Family Movie Night
- Tuesday 12th May - Wear orange for Orangutangs
- Wednesday 13th May - District Athletics

Bandicoot Bungalow Build Day

Help build homes for an endangered local species



Friday 17 April | 10:30 am – 12:30 pm
Brookland Greens Bushland Reserve

Join us for a fun, family-friendly community event where you'll help build bandicoot bungalows to support the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoot — a species known to live in and around Brookland Greens Bushland Reserve.



On the day, you will:

- Learn about Southern Brown Bandicoots and why Brookland Greens Bushland Reserve is important habitat.
- Help construct bandicoot bungalows that will be installed in the reserve.
- Hear how this project links to broader revegetation, monitoring and community action.
- Find out simple ways you can help bandicoots at home and in your neighbourhood.

No prior experience is required. All materials, tools and guidance will be provided. Suitable for children (with adult supervision).

What to bring:

- Enclosed footwear
- Sun protection and weather-appropriate clothing.
- A water bottle.

Register to attend

Scan the QR code to book your place. Meeting point and event details will be provided after registration. Places are limited.

This event is delivered by the City of Casey's Environment Team, thanks to funding from EPA Victoria's Restorative Justice Program.



Contact the City of Casey:

Web: casey.vic.gov.au
Email: casey@casey.vic.gov.au
Phone: 03 9705 5200
Post: PO Box 1000, Narre Warren VIC 3905
NRS: 133 677 (for the deaf, hearing or speech impaired)

Customer Service Centres:

Narre Warren: Bunjill Place, Patrick Northeast Drive, Narre Warren
Cranbourne: Cranbourne Park Shopping Centre, Cranbourne
ABN: 43 320 295 742



TIS: 131450 (Translating and Interpreting Service) خدمة الترجمة والتفسير

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COMING TO

BOTANIC RIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

LITTLE BIRDIE MARKET

Saturday May 23rd

10am – 2pm

Come along to the Little Birdie Market at Botanic Ridge Primary School and discover a curated market featuring local makers, delicious food, and fun for the whole family!

on the basketball courts at
Botanic Ridge Primary School



No dogs allowed

A FREE, FAMILY FRIENDLY COMMUNITY EVENT



TERM 2

APRIL / MAY

2026

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| 19 APRIL Week 1 | 20 First Day Term 2  | 21 | 22 ASSEMBLY 2:15pm | 23 | 24 Foundation Team Building Incursion  | 25 ANZAC Day  |
| 26 Week 2 | 27 | 28 Raising Rarity Discovery Day  | 29 | 30 Yr 4 Camp Info Session 5-5:30pm  | 1 MAY | 2 |
| 3 Week 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 ASSEMBLY 2:15pm | 7 | 8 Mother's Day Afternoon  | 9 |
| 10 Mother's Day Week 4 | 11 | 12 Orange Day  | 13 District Athletics  | 14 | 15 Movie Night  | 16 |
| 17 Week 5 | 18 Education Week School Council | 19 | 20 ASSEMBLY 2:15pm | 21 Yr 3/4 Hoop Time  | 22 | 23 |