



BOTANIC BUZZ NEWSLETTER

TERM 2
WEEK 4
2026



Growth - Respect - Responsibility - Safe

Settling into school life

Principal News

Hi Everyone,

Thank you to all of you who have asked about my trip through Africa! Many students let me know Mr Bloomfield had put my holiday snaps in the last newsletter. Thank you to Mr Bloomfield for acting as principal whilst I was away 😊



Mrs Fuller

ES Appreciation Day

Today we recognise and celebrate our incredible Education Support (ES) staff who make such a significant difference in the lives of our students every single day. From supporting learning in classrooms, to wellbeing, administration, inclusion, yard duty, first aid and everything in between, our ES team are an essential part of what makes our school such a positive and supportive place to learn. Their care, patience, flexibility and dedication never go unnoticed, and we are incredibly grateful for the work they do behind the scenes and alongside our students and staff each day. Please join us in thanking our wonderful ES staff for all they contribute to our school community.

NAPLAN Preliminary Results

We have recently received our preliminary NAPLAN data and are very pleased with the overall growth and achievement shown by our students across a number of learning areas. Our year 5 data is looking extremely strong, and I will share this with you when I am able. While we are still undertaking a detailed analysis of the data, the early results indicate positive progress and strong student growth, particularly in areas where targeted teaching and intervention have been implemented. We are proud of the effort our students put into the assessments and thank our teaching staff for their ongoing commitment to high-quality teaching and learning. Families will receive individual student reports later in the year once finalised by ACARA.

Stop Work / AEU Update

As many families would be aware, members of the Australian Education Union (AEU) recently participated in stop work action as part of ongoing negotiations with the Victorian Government. We appreciate the understanding and support shown by our community during this time. Our staff continue to advocate for improved conditions that support the recruitment and retention of quality teachers and education support staff, manageable workloads, and the continued delivery of high-quality education for students across Victoria. Thank you to families for your patience and cooperation during any disruptions that may have occurred. I will keep you informed if I hear of anything further.

End of Semester Reports

As the AEU continue negotiations with the Labour Government (see above) we are unsure what student reports will look like this term. I will be in touch when I know more. Thank you for your support and understanding.



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Fundraising

A huge thank you to all of the families who supported our Easter Raffle this year through donations, ticket purchases and volunteering their time. The raffle was a wonderful success and helped raise \$2746.67. We also made a profit of \$917 for the Subway lunch last term.

We also extend our appreciation to our Parents & Friends volunteers and staff who helped organise and run the event. Community events like these are only possible because of the generosity and involvement of our families. All of these funds will go towards classroom resources.

Join Our Sub-Committees

We are looking for parents, carers and community members who may be interested in joining one of our school sub-committees. These groups provide a valuable opportunity to contribute ideas, support school initiatives and help strengthen our school community.

Whether you have a little time or a lot, your involvement is always appreciated. Areas may include fundraising, community events, grounds and sustainability. Please reach out for more information emma.fuller@education.vic.gov.au. We would love to welcome more members of our community into these important conversations and initiatives.

Wellbeing Buzz

Preparing Your Child for Grade 4 Camp



Mrs Symons

As we get closer to Grade 4 Camp, it's a great time to help your child feel confident and ready for this exciting experience. Camp is a wonderful opportunity for students to build independence, strengthen friendships, and try new challenges in a supportive environment. Families can help by practising a few simple routines at home – things like packing their own bag, managing their belongings, and sleeping away from home if possible. Talking positively about camp, looking at the activities together, and reassuring your child that teachers will be there every step of the way can make a big difference. We're looking forward to a fantastic experience for all our Grade 4 students.



Orangutan Sponsorship

Wear Orange for Orangutans

On Tuesday the 12th of May, we had Wear Orange for Orangutans Day. We are very happy to say we raised \$400 to go towards sponsoring medical care, food and rehabilitation for orphaned orangutans in Indonesia.

Well done everyone!

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Teaching and Learning Buzz

Checking for Understanding



Mr Bloomfield

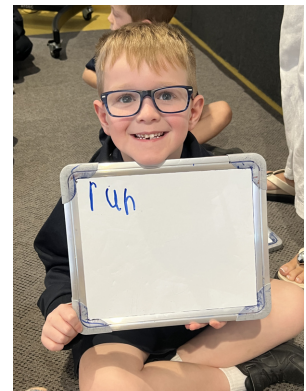
You may sometimes wonder how teachers know what students have understood during a lesson. One of the key ways we do this is through checking for understanding.

In an explicit teaching model, the teacher will first clearly demonstrate a skill or present new learning. Before students move on to independent work, the teacher checks how well this learning has been understood. This helps ensure students are ready to practise on their own and prevents misconceptions from becoming embedded.

Teachers use a range of simple and effective strategies to do this. These may include students using mini whiteboards to show their thinking, participating in think-pair-share discussions, or responding to carefully targeted questions. Teachers may ask for volunteers or select students to respond so that all learners remain engaged.

By listening to student responses and observing their work, teachers can quickly identify who has understood the concept and who may need additional support. This allows for immediate feedback, clarification and re-teaching where needed.

Checking for understanding is a powerful part of the learning process. It ensures that all students are supported, helps build confidence, and allows teachers to adjust their instruction to meet the needs of every learner.



Seek the Sound Game

What you will need: A book your child is reading.

Something to write on.

Ask them what sound they have been learning in phonics.

Example: /ae/ play, steak, nail, flame

What to do: Your child will need to read their book out loud. This will help them hear the sound they are looking for. This is important as some words will have the same spelling, but it will make a different sound. You can help them write the words they find with their target sound. Repeat with a different sound.

Make it fun: Find objects around the house that have that sound in them.
In the kitchen; plate, tray.

Remember: Focus on the sound not the letter names.



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Student Leader Buzz

Meet our I Sea, I Care Ambassadors for 2026!



Amelia L.

Amelia B.

Ava

Angela

Kai

Aryan

Scarlett

We interviewed our new I Sea, I Care ambassadors to learn a little bit more about them:

What are you most excited about this year at school?

Ava: I am most excited to see the school grow and to see people grow with their learning.

Amelia L: I am most excited about helping our school and help the garden.

Kai: To meet new people, learn new stuff and go on I sea I care excursions.

Aryan: Being an I see I care ambassador and learning about different types of species of plants.

Scarlett: I am most excited to do all the school activities and learning about different things like the Billy-Button.

Angela: Movie Night.

Amelia B: I'm most excited that it is a new year with new people and new teachers.

What does a positive school culture mean to you?

Ava: Make people feel included. Be safe, be kind, be respectful to one another.

Amelia L: A positive school culture means to me to be known by the teachers/principal and to make people feel welcome.

Kai: To be kind, grateful and respectful to others, and to be safe.

Aryan: Using kind words and being respectful to teachers.

Scarlett: A positive school culture means that everyone has growth and being respectful to others.

Angela: To be kind and respectful.

Amelia B: A positive school culture to me is everyone being friendly and no bullying.

What's your favourite thing about our school?

Ava: My favourite thing about the school is that all teachers are very nice and that our school is so amazing.

Amelia L: My favourite thing about the school is that everyone is nice and helpful.

Kai: My friends, subjects and play time.

Aryan: Playing with my friends at recess.

Scarlett: My favourite thing about school is there is lots of people that help the environment and the wonderful teachers.

Angela: The teachers are nice.

Amelia B: My favourite thing about our school is that there is a lot of support for the people who need it like me.

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What message would you like to share with the school community about what you have learned so far in I see, I care?

Ava: We have learned about these amazing flowers called Billy-button and learned a lot about sea life.

Amelia L: We have learnt about the Grey Billy-button which is a yellow flower.

Kai: We have learned about the ocean and the animals in the ocean and how they live.

Aryan: Taking care of the garden and learning about endangered plant species, how to use a microscope and leaning indigenous words.

Scarlett: I've learnt that there are lots of different types of endangered species of plants and also about the indigenous culture and welcome to the land at botanical gardens.

Angela: We have learnt about sea creatures and how to protect them.

Amelia B: A fun fact is that one of the scientists put a sea sponge in a blender and a day later when they came back it was together again.

Movie Night & Little Birdie Market

Outdoor Movie Night TONIGHT!

Bring a picnic and a blanket or chairs and come along to see "Zootopia 2" on the big inflatable screen on the school oval TONIGHT!

Please pre-purchase your tickets at <https://compasstix.com/e/6ib7t6xca3> or use the QR codes around the school. Tickets can be purchased up to 7pm Tonight.

Tickets \$10 per head for all adults and school children, under 5 years free.

Gates open at 5.15pm for a 6.00pm movie start.

BYO picnic dinner OR purchase from the sausage sizzle, with cold drinks and popcorn also for sale (EFT will be available). Froffin' It coffee and toastie van will also be onsite.

All children must be accompanied by an adult. As this is an out-of-hours event, parents and carers remain responsible for the supervision, behaviour and wellbeing of their own children throughout the evening.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Little Birdie Market

We're excited to host the Little Birdie Market here at Botanic Ridge PS next Saturday 23rd May. With over 60 stallholders, activities, coffee, food and live music, we are looking forward to a fantastic morning!

Our School Engagement Committee will be running a fundraising BBQ at the market, if you would like to help out, please contact Emma Hussey at on ej2hussey@gmail.com.



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Parking & Road Safety Reminder

We have recently received several complaints from local residents and council regarding unsafe parking and traffic behaviours around the school. In particular, concerns have been raised about vehicles parking across driveways and stopping in the middle of the road to drop off or collect students. **This is a serious safety risk for our students, families and wider community.**

We ask all families to please:

- **Avoid parking across or blocking residential driveways**
- **Do not stop in the middle of the road** to drop off or pick up children. Instead, please use clearly marked parking spaces, including the Booring Reserve car park, before allowing students to enter or exit the car
- **Avoid performing U-turns on Echidna Parade during drop-off and pick-up times**, as this contributes to congestion and increases the risk of accidents

It may only take a few extra seconds to park safely, but it can take just one second for a child to be seriously injured by a vehicle. We appreciate your care and vigilance in keeping all members of our community safe.



Drop-Off & Pick-Up Zone

Our drop-off and pick-up zone operates:

Morning: 8:00am-9:00am

Afternoon: 2:30pm-3:30pm

The zone is located toward the top end of **Echidna Parade**, near the bike shed gate and the Year 5/6 classrooms.

Please remember:

- Quick drop-off/pick-up only (maximum **2 minutes**)
- Drivers must **remain in their vehicle**
- Move as far forward as possible
- If your child is not ready, please exit the zone and return later
- Do not wait or park in this zone

The following video can be a great reference point:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zh0g_EM5qe0

Our drop-off and pick-up times are busy, but it is essential that all road rules are followed. Council officers may monitor the area, and fines may apply for unsafe or illegal parking.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe and respectful environment for our school community and neighbours.

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Library Buzz

National Simultaneous Storytime

For our whole school activity in week 6, we will be participating in **National Simultaneous Storytime!**

On Wednesday 27th May, children in schools and libraries throughout Australia will read the same story simultaneously! Every year a picture story book is chosen from an Australian author and illustrator in this joyful celebration of reading, literacy, and sharing stories in our community.

This year the book we will be reading is **Luna Roo the Kangaroo Baller** by Adam Jackson and Adrian Lloyd, and illustrated by Jake A. Minton. This energetic underdog story follows Luna Roo as she finds her inner strength on the soccer field. Captain Luna Roo leaves nothing on the pitch as she leads her team in a thrilling football face-off! Faced with a spider goalkeeper, snakes in attack and bubbling nerves, Luna must trust her skills and her teammates! Luna soars to victory in this story with a heartwarming message that courage and determination are a winning combination.

Students in class will be reading the story of Luna Roo and doing some themed activities. You could even participate at home by

watching the **live-streamed** reading of the story at **midday** (12pm) on Wednesday 27th May! Find more information and fun activities on the ALIA website here:

https://www.alia.org.au/Web/Web/Events/NSS/NSS_2026.aspx

Happy reading,
Miss Grace



Miss Grace



Botanic Brilliance Awards

Congratulations to all of our award winners:

0A Alexandra
0B Oscar, Emilia
0C Connor, Sophie
0D Opal, Declan
1A Darcy, Judson
1C Isla H., Lewis
2A Leyla
2B Alice, Evangelin
2C Ruby
2D Hadley
3B Aiden
3C Matilda
34A Ivy, Braedy
4A Willow
4C Olivia L., Zeke
5A Brody, Scarlett
5B Jarryd
5C Veronica
56A Millah, Paige
6A Scarlet W., Ava
STEM Mallika W.
Music Phoebe M.
Art Frankie M.
PE Tyler B., Ruby A.,
Thea L., Billie H., Hannah
T., Hannah B.

Upcoming Dates & Reminders



- Thursday 21st May - Y3/4 Hoopetime selected students
- Wednesday 27th May - Division cross country selected students
- Wednesday 27th May - Simultaneous storytime
- Wednesday 3rd June - Year 4 camp
- Monday 8th June - King's birthday
- Tuesday 9th June - Curriculum day



CODING + LITTLE CODERS



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For detailed program information and dates, please head to:

www.codecademy.com.au/botrid

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**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