



BOTANIC BUZZ NEWSLETTER

TERM 2
WEEK 8
2026



Growth - Respect - Responsibility - Safe

Settling into school life

Principal News



Mrs Fuller

Dear Community,

As we move through the final weeks of term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the importance of connection, understanding and respect within our school community.

Last week, schools across Australia recognised National Reconciliation Week, a time to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and to consider how each of us can contribute to reconciliation in meaningful ways. At Botanic Ridge Primary School, we remain committed to fostering a culture of inclusion, respect and belonging, where every member of our community feels valued and heard. These values underpin everything we do and continue to guide our work with students, staff and families.

It has been another busy and rewarding fortnight at BRPS, with students embracing new learning opportunities, staff engaging in professional growth, and families supporting our many school initiatives. Thank you for your ongoing partnership and commitment to our wonderful school community.

Year 4 Camp - Phillip Island

Our Year 4 students recently returned from an incredible camp experience at Phillip Island. Throughout the camp, students demonstrated resilience, independence and teamwork as they participated in a range of exciting activities and challenges. Their behaviour was excellent! Experiences such as camp provide valuable opportunities for students to build confidence, strengthen friendships and develop important life skills outside the classroom. Thank you to our dedicated staff who gave their time to ensure the camp was such a success.

Care Squad Making a Difference

A huge thank you to our newly formed Care Squad for their efforts in helping to address the rabbit holes around our school grounds.

The Care Squad worked alongside staff and students to help fill a number of holes, making our grounds safer for everyone. It was wonderful to see so many students contribute by bringing containers from home and lending a helping hand.

Please bring a container on Tuesday to help the Care Squad collect rocks from around the school.

Semester 2 Focus: Safety and Respect

As we prepare for Semester 2, our whole-school focus will be on strengthening our understanding and demonstration of Safety and Respect.

At assembly this week, I shared the story of Keith and the simple but powerful impact of saying

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"thank you". Small acts of gratitude, kindness and respect can have a significant influence on the culture of our school and the wellbeing of those around us.

Throughout Semester 2, students will engage in learning and discussions that reinforce our expectations around respectful relationships, positive interactions and safe behaviours. We look forward to working together to continue building a school culture where everyone feels valued and respected. Students in year 2 and above are reminded that they will be sent home if they physically hurt anyone intentionally.

Curriculum Day – Professional Learning and "No Surprises"

Our staff participated in a Curriculum Day on Tuesday, focused on professional learning and strengthening our shared approach to supporting student success.

A key concept we will be exploring is our "No Surprises" approach. This means ensuring that expectations for learning, behaviour and wellbeing are clear, consistent and understood by students, staff and families. When expectations are explicit and predictable, students are better positioned to succeed and feel confident in their learning environment.

We look forward to continuing this work as we build consistency across the school and provide the best possible outcomes for all students.

Engagement Sub-Committee

The Engagement Sub-Committee is already beginning to plan for 2027, and we would love to hear from our community.

A survey will be distributed later next term seeking feedback on future school events, activities and opportunities for community engagement. Your input will help shape the events and experiences that bring our school community together.

We are also seeking volunteers to assist with the BBQ at the upcoming Little Birdie Market on Saturday 20 June. If you are able to lend a hand, even for a short period of time, we would greatly appreciate your support. Please refer to the compass post which was sent on Thursday.

Little Birdie Market – Saturday 20th June

If you were unable to attend the market last month, I would strongly recommend coming for a visit on the 20th June. The market is held on the basketball court. Mr Bloomfield and I will be helping parents with the sausage sizzle throughout the day, so pop along and say hello. We will be raising money to purchase equipment for our classes; this time we are fundraising for laminators and camera projectors so teachers can share examples of work on the screens. Thank you to those of you who donated at the last market so we could purchase dictionaries and calculators.

Crazy Hair Day Friday 19th June:

Next Friday, we have our Crazy Hair Day. Please style your hair in a crazy way and bring a dollar coin to go towards new art smocks for the art room! Thank you!

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Teaching and Learning Buzz

Daily Review: Strengthening Learning Every Day



Mr Bloomfield

At Botanic Ridge Primary School, we want our students to not only learn new knowledge and skills but also remember and apply them over time. Research tells us that learning can be forgotten if it is not regularly revisited. This is often referred to as the '*forgetting curve*'.

To help students retain and build upon their learning, all classes participate in Daily Review. Daily Review is a short, focused activity that allows students to recall and practise previously taught content. This content may be from the previous day, week, month, term or even a previous year of schooling.

In both literacy and numeracy, Daily Review typically takes just 5-15 minutes and is designed to be engaging, interactive and low-stakes. Students might respond to questions on mini whiteboards, recall key vocabulary and definitions, solve problems, or explain their thinking.

Daily Review provides important benefits for both students and teachers. Students strengthen their memory, improve their confidence, and make stronger connections between new and existing learning. Teachers are able to provide immediate feedback, address misconceptions before they become embedded, and identify concepts that may need further teaching or revision.

By spending a small amount of time revisiting prior learning each day, we help ensure that important knowledge and skills remain accessible, allowing students to build strong foundations for future success.

Around the World

Choose a country and spend ten minutes (or more) finding out:

- Its capital city
- A famous landmark
- A traditional food
- One interesting fact

Share what you discovered with your family by creating a poster, including drawings and written information and prepare a speech to present your information.

Extra research: Plan a trip to this country, including the cost of flights and accommodation, and create an itinerary for what you would do each day while you are there.

Create a travel guide for this country.





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Wellbeing Buzz

Routine

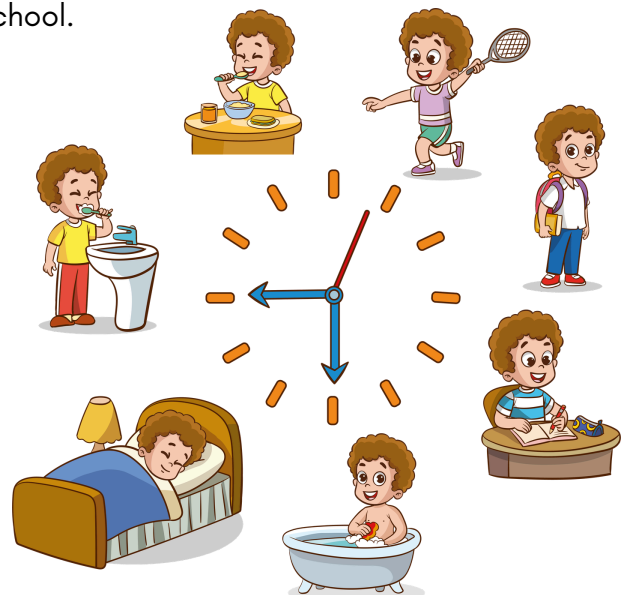


Mrs Symons

At Botanic Ridge, we know that children thrive when they have predictable routines and regular school attendance. A consistent pattern of coming to school each day helps students feel safe, settled, and ready to learn, and it builds strong habits that support their wellbeing long-term. Establishing a morning routine at home—waking up at the same time, packing bags the night before, and having a calm start—helps children transition smoothly into the school day.

Regular attendance is also important for learning. If a child has more than 10 days absent in a term, this is higher than the average and can begin to impact their progress, confidence, and connection with peers. When absences do occur, it is extremely helpful for families to update Compass so the school understands the reason. If your child is away due to illness, uploading a doctor's certificate supports us to keep accurate records and ensures the absence is correctly coded.

We want to reassure families that attendance is a shared responsibility—we work together to support every child. If you are finding mornings tricky, or if there are barriers making it hard for your child to attend regularly, please reach out. We are here to problem-solve together and ensure your child feels confident and supported at school.



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Homework Policy

Homework at Botanic Ridge Primary School

At Botanic Ridge Primary School, we believe homework should support and reinforce classroom learning in a meaningful and manageable way. Homework tasks set by teachers are designed to be purposeful, curriculum-aligned and appropriate to students' age and skill level. We also aim to help students develop independence and, where appropriate, provide opportunities for families to partner in their child's learning.

Our Homework Policy has recently been updated and the full policy is available to view on the school website.

Homework expectations vary across year levels:

Foundation – Year 1

Students are encouraged to read daily to, with and by a parent/carer or older sibling, as well as practise their words each night.

Year 2

Students continue daily reading and word practice, while also beginning to practise important addition and subtraction number facts, such as doubles and tens facts.

Years 3 – 6

Students are expected to continue daily reading and regularly practise addition/subtraction and multiplication/division number facts to build fluency and confidence.

No homework tasks are assigned over weekends or during school holidays, as we value the importance of rest, family time and extracurricular activities.

We also recognise that many everyday experiences at home provide valuable learning opportunities. Activities such as cooking, playing board games, discussing books, movies or current events, writing journals, practising sports skills, or helping with shopping and money tasks all help students develop important literacy, numeracy and life skills in authentic ways.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child develop positive learning habits at home.



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Fundraising

Hello Botanic Ridge Primary School,

Some of the other student voice leaders and I are starting a fundraiser called Popcorn Fridays! We are asking for any donations like plastic cups and corn kernels. If you or somebody you know works at a supermarket, any donations are deeply appreciated.

We are fundraising for our year 6 graduation and charities. We will hopefully get this started next turn!

Thank you,
Addisyn Moran



NAIDOC Week Celebration



On Wednesday the 24th of June we will be celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture during our NAIDOC Day. Children can wear, yellow, black & red or indigenous themed clothing on the day. They are also welcome to wear our house t shirts that are inspired by four local aboriginal families who were instrumental in forming the Dandenong and District Aboriginal Co-operative. Please donate a gold coin towards the Aboriginal literacy foundation.

<https://www.aboriginalliteracyfoundation.org/>

During this day we are pleased to welcome The Nikki Visaj Movement who will be running a whole school indigenous dance event. They aim to bring together dance, cultural activities and conversations to take your students on a journey of understanding countries past, while connecting it with the spirit world through the medium of dance.

The students will undertake an hour workshop in their year levels, we will then invite our families to the Gym from 2:15pm to watch the whole school perform at Assembly. This performance will be in place of our usual Learning Summit for the term.

We look forward to a day of celebrating the indigenous culture and bringing everyone together!

Crazy Hair Day



Our crazy hair day is next Friday 12th June!

Bring along a gold coin donation for your hair design. This year we are using the day to raise money to buy new art smocks for the art room.

You can make your hair art themed if you wish, but anything fun will be great!



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Year 3 Author Visit



Our Year 3 students were excited to welcome author Jodie Fitzsimons to BRPS! 📖🌟

Students enjoyed hearing about Jodie's journey as an author, learning about the writing process and being inspired to create their own stories. Thank you, Jodie, for sharing your passion for reading and writing with our students!

Families interested in exploring more of Jodie's work can visit:

📖 Jodie's website: <https://jodiefitzsimons.com/mrs-fitz>

📺 Mrs Fitz Books YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@mrsfitzbooks/videos>

📖 Books by Jodie Fitzsimons: [https://www.amazon.com.au/s?](https://www.amazon.com.au/s?i=books-single-index&rh=p_27%3AJodie%2BFitzsimons&s=relevancerank&text=Jodie+Fitzsimons&ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1)

[i=books-single-index&rh=p_27%3AJodie%2BFitzsimons&s=relevancerank&text=Jodie+Fitzsimons&ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1](https://www.amazon.com.au/s?i=books-single-index&rh=p_27%3AJodie%2BFitzsimons&s=relevancerank&text=Jodie+Fitzsimons&ref=dp_byline_sr_book_1)

Botanic Brilliance Awards

Congratulations to all of our award winners:

0A Evie W., Traise
0B Charli
0C Nathaniel, Ruby
1A Denzel, Evie
1B Lena, Layne, Sophie
1C Harvey
2A Lincon
2B Enzo, Louis
2C Mia Clausen, Isla J.
2D Eli
3A Mya, Brooklyn
3B Tyler, Ace
3C Harper
5A Elijah, Georgia
5B Anaya
5C Angela, Navayah
56A Kahlan
6A Whole class award
STEM Tyler L.
Music
LOTE Kaden F., Ivy W.
Art Jordan S.

Upcoming Dates & Reminders

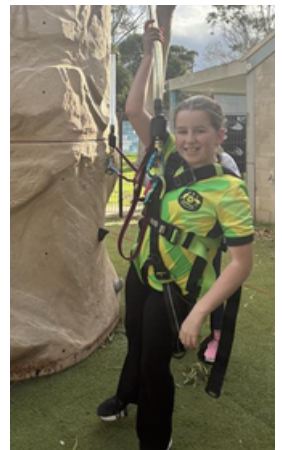
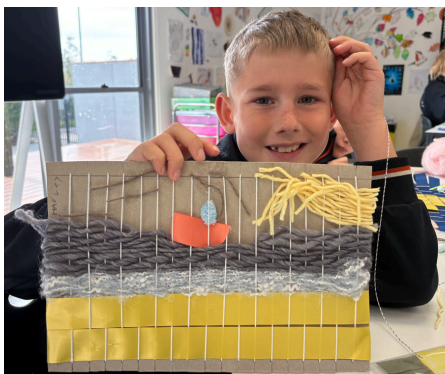


- Friday 19th June - Subway lunch & Crazy hair day
- Monday 22nd June - School Council 5-7pm
- Wednesday 24th June - NAIDOC Performance 2:30pm
- Friday 26th - Last day of term 2:30pm finish

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Bringing fun after-school classes to your school



Little Coders • Coding • Curious Minds • Robotics
Animation • Design • Minecraft Engineers

What's on this term?

Code Camp After-School Coding, Years 3 - 6, Wednesdays 3:15PM - 4:30PM

Little Coders After-School, Years 0 - 2, Tuesdays 3:15PM - 4:30PM

Book now at:

www.codecamp.com.au/botrid

Get in touch at hello@codecamp.com.au

Rated **4.7** on **PRODUCT REVIEW** with over 1,110  reviews



NAIDOC WEEK

THE NEXT GENERATION: STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY

Please join us as we celebrate
NAIDOC Week and recognise the history,
culture and achievements of Aboriginal
and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



DATE:
24th of June



ARRIVAL:
2:15 arrival for 2:30 start



PERFORMANCE:
Performance by all students



PARENTS WELCOME:
Parents welcome to attend

*Let's celebrate. Let's learn.
Let's walk together.*

BELONGING IN CASEY

ONE COMMUNITY. MANY STORIES. ALL BELONG.

A student initiative that celebrates who we are, respects our differences and builds a stronger, kinder Casey.



We are inviting **EVERY** student in Casey to take part in the Belonging in Casey Competition.

This special project helps young people explore:

- Belonging
- Respect
- Inclusion
- Kindness
- Pride in Community

When young people feel they belong, they are happier, more confident and do better in life. Let's build a strong, healthier & kinder community for everyone.

Respect, responsibility and resilience.

Dr Jamel Kaur Singh

Casey Multi-Faith Network



Every Voice Matters. Every Person Belongs.

CATEGORY 1

PREP - YEAR 2

YOU COULD:

- Draw a picture or Do a Painting
- Write one sentence in explaining what belonging is.

EXAMPLE SENTENCES:

What is belonging?

"I include others when we play."

"Belonging means we are kind."

"Our school is friendly."

\$100 PRIZE

CATEGORY 2

YEAR 3 TO 6

How do we build belonging and respect in Casey?

\$150 PRIZE

YOU COULD

- Create a poster
- Write a short story (300-500 words)
- Write a reflection
- Create artwork with short explanation.

YOU MIGHT THINK ABOUT

- What makes you who you are
- Why it is important that everyone feels included
- How we respect people who are different from us
- What happens when someone feels left out
- How students can help make Casey a welcoming place.

Be creative. Your ideas matter.

CATEGORY 3

YEAR 7-9

With Diversity comes opportunity – but also responsibility.

LET'S THINK ABOUT:

- Respect
- Stereotypes
- Bias
- Inclusion
- Unity
- Leadership
- Diversity

YOU COULD:

- Write an essay (600-800 words)
- Spoken word piece (3-4 minutes)
- Short video (3-5 minutes)
- Podcast episode (3-5 mins)
- Creative campaign idea (visual + 300-500 word explanation)



THE MAIN QUESTION IS:

How can young people strengthen unity within diversity in Casey?

\$200 PRIZE

CATEGORY 4

YEARS 10-12

What role do young people play in building long-term unity within diversity in Casey?

\$250 PRIZE

YOU MIGHT EXPLORE:

- What does integration mean in modern Australia?
- How can young people challenge discrimination constructively?
- What are the risks of division in diverse communities?
- How can policy, schools and community work together?
- What practical strategies could we implement?

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO:

- Use evidence
- Offer practical, evidence-based solutions
- Share, challenge, and build on others' ideas
- Develop a clear, logical argument
- Write an analysis essay (800-1200 words)
- Policy proposal (600-800 words)
- Short documentary (4-6 mins)
- Community Action Plan
- Social cohesion campaign design (Visual + 500 words rationale)



Casey's future will be shaped by your generation.

ENTRIES ARE DUE 31ST JULY 2026

Entries can be handed in to your school office or uploaded directly to www.culturaleducation.com.au/belongingincasey or use the QR code



Top 10 finalists will be invited to an awards ceremony in September. Details will be provided.

FinPlus 0414 146 254

ISTM 0490 365 377

B & K PEST SOLUTIONS 0431 138 066

dynamite 0432 233 086

www.CulturalEducation.com.au/BelongingInCasey