BOTANIC BUZZ NEWSLETTER

Growth - Respect - Responsibility - Safe

TERM 4
WEEK 4
2026

Settling into school life

Principal News



Mrs Fuller

Dear Families,

It has been another wonderful week at Botanic Ridge Primary School, with lots of opportunities to come together as a community and create special memories. Thank you for your continued support and for being part of our school community.

Class Placements for 2027: Requests for class placements for 2027 have now closed. Thank you to the families who took the time to submit a request. We appreciate your input as we begin planning for next year.

Grade 2 Sleepover: A huge thank you to the staff who gave up their evening to make the Grade 2 sleepover such a memorable experience for our students! It was a fantastic night, full of fun and excitement. Most students were asleep by 11.00 pm, although a few early risers were up and about at 4.30 am! I'm sure there were some very tired children (and adults) the following day. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a special experience.

Grandparents' Morning: Our Grandparents' Morning was a wonderful occasion, and it was lovely to see so many grandparents and special people visiting our school. These opportunities to share our classrooms and celebrate the important people in our children's lives are what make our school community so special. Thank you to everyone who joined us!

World Teachers' Day: Today, Friday, we celebrate World Teachers' Day! I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our wonderful teachers for the care, commitment and expertise they bring to their work every day. Teaching is about so much more than what happens in the classroom, and I am incredibly grateful for the dedication our teachers show in supporting every child to learn, grow and thrive. Please join me in celebrating and thanking our teachers for all that they do!

Melbourne Cup Day – Next Week: A reminder that there is no school on Tuesday next week due to the Melbourne Cup Day public holiday. School will operate as normal on Monday, so please ensure your child attends school as usual.

Prep Information Night – Thursday at 5.00 pm: Do you have a child starting Prep in 2027? Our Prep Information Night will be held next Thursday at 5.00 pm. We encourage all families with a child starting school next year to come along. It will be a great opportunity to learn more about starting school at Botanic Ridge Primary School and to ask any questions you may have. We look forward to welcoming our new families!

Subway Lunches – Friday 6 November: A reminder that Subway lunches will be available on Friday 6 November. Order forms should already have been completed, so please check that your child's order has been submitted.

Grade 5/6 Classes in 2027

In 2027, we will be introducing composite Grade 5/6 classes. This decision has been made as part of our planning for next year, taking into consideration our projected enrolments and the number of students moving into Grade 5. It will allow us to organise our classes in a way that best supports our students and their learning. The Grade 5 and Grade 6 curriculum has many shared learning areas, providing opportunities for students to learn collaboratively, work at their point of need and be challenged appropriately. Our focus will continue to be on ensuring every student is known, supported and challenged, regardless of their year level.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. I hope everyone enjoys the weekend, and I look forward to another great week of learning and connection at Botanic Ridge Primary School.

Emma

A better Compass app is on its way!

From early November, the Compass app will receive its biggest upgrade yet, shaped by feedback from parents and staff.

Do I need to do anything? No. The upgrade arrives as a normal app update, so there's nothing new to download. If your app doesn't update automatically, update it from the App Store or Google Play. You may be asked to sign in again with your usual Compass details.

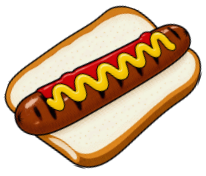
What's new? An improved absence form, easier conference bookings, widgets for your phone's home and lock screen, light and dark modes, and Apple Pay on iPhone for some payments. Students will also find timetable and feed widgets handy.

Where can I get help? Visit the parent guide at compass.education/guide

🔥 Sizzle & Support!

We're firing up the BBQ for some fantastic fundraising days and we need YOUR help to make them a success!





📅 Save the dates:

- Saturday 14th November (Little Birdie Market)
- Saturday 28th November (State Election Day)
- Saturday 12th December (Little Birdie Market)

🙌 Volunteers wanted! Whether you can lend a hand on the BBQ, serve hungry customers, help with setup or pack up, every little bit makes a big difference! Volunteers at sausage sizzles do not need to have a Working with Children check or have undertaken a school induction to help.

📩 Keen to help? Please contact the school office by phone or email!

🥤 Soft drink donations needed! If you can donate cans of soft drink (preferably coke or coke zero), we'd be incredibly grateful. Every donation helps us raise more funds! Please drop donations at the school office.

Every helping hand and every donation counts. Thank you for your support!

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Teaching and Learning Buzz



Mr Bloomfield

Checking for Understanding

How do teachers know if students are understanding what they are being taught?
At Botanic Ridge Primary School, checking for understanding is an important part of our everyday teaching practice.
Rather than waiting until the end of a lesson or unit to assess what students have learnt, our teachers regularly check students' understanding throughout lessons. This allows them to identify misconceptions, provide immediate feedback and adjust their teaching to ensure students are supported to succeed.

What does checking for understanding look like in our classrooms?
Teachers use a range of strategies to gather information about student learning. These include:

- **Mini whiteboards**: Students write or draw their answers and hold them up, allowing teachers to quickly see how everyone is progressing.
- **Cold calling**: Teachers ask questions and select students to respond, ensuring all students are encouraged to think and participate, rather than relying on those who put their hands up.
- **Turn and talk:** Students discuss their thinking with a partner, giving them opportunities to explain their understanding and learn from one another.
- **Independent practice:** Teachers observe students as they complete tasks, checking whether they can apply what has been taught.

Importantly, checking for understanding is not simply about getting the right answer. Teachers are also interested in how students arrived at their answer, as this helps identify whether they have understood the concept or need further support.
When teachers identify that students are unsure, they might revisit an explanation, provide another example or guide students through additional practice. When students demonstrate a strong understanding, teachers can move forward with confidence.
By regularly checking for understanding, we ensure that teaching is responsive to students' needs, giving every child the best opportunity to learn and succeed.



SPORTS NEWS

We are so incredibly proud of two of our students Nixon P & Zanda D who represented our school at the State Track & Field Championships held earlier this week. Nixon won both his 800m & 1500m events and Zanda came third in his 80m hurdles event. What an amazing effort from both of these students to compete at such a high level and achieve these outstanding results.

Nixon will now compete at Nationals in December to represent Victoria & BRPS. We wish him the very best and we will all be cheering him on!



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Ms Spinucci

Wellbeing Buzz

Meet Luana Hamilton
– Psychologist from Cedar Allied Health



Ms Symons

We're pleased to welcome Luana Hamilton, a registered psychologist who will be working with our school community every Monday. Luana can help with a range of concerns, such as school refusal, emotional regulation, anxiety and much more.



Luana can also assist with assessments, including:

- Cognitive and educational assessments
- Neurodevelopmental and Autism screening
- ADHD assessments

Luana is also trained in Tuning in to Kids and Tuning in to Teens and offers parenting sessions to support families.

Funding options

Medicare: Rebates may be available for therapy sessions with a referral and Mental Health Treatment Plan from your GP
NDIS: Self-managed and plan-managed participants are welcome
Private clients: Families can also self-refer and attend privately
Contact her at luana@cedaralliedheallth.com or 1300 233 211

As we refine the process for seeing Luana at our school on Mondays we ask that you please get in touch with the Wellbeing Team via the office or school email. We will then talk through relevant processes and triage as necessary.

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Botanic Brilliance Awards

Congratulations to all of our award winners:

1B - Jensen, Kenzie, Amara
1C - Izhaiyini, Liam
2A - Haven
2B - Jordan, Manjaap
2C- Tate E
2D - Ziggi, Nikita
3A - Levi, Mahlee
3C - Archie
3/4A - Lazar
4A - Jed, Hunter H
4B - Rhylan, Sabeeh, Sonny
4C - Orlando
5A - Emily
5B - Azaylia, Jasmine
5/6A- Arvi, Max C
6A - Lenny J, Zara
MUSIC - Isla 3/4A
ART - Evie J 1B

Principal Award:
Madden - 1C



Upcoming Dates & Reminders

- Melbourne Cup Day - November 3rd
- Prep Information Session 5-6pm - November 5th
- Subway Lunch - November 6th
- Foundation Moonlit Excursion - November 9th
- Yr 4-6 Puberty & Body Safety Workshops - November 12th
- Little Birdie Market - November 14th

CASEY BASKETBALL'S

GIRLS RULE

INTRODUCTORY PROGRAM



FREE PROGRAM

FOR FEMALES THAT DON'T PLAY DOMESTIC

3 FUN FILLED SESSIONS

STARTS NOVEMBER 9TH

PENGRAM RSVP | WILLIAM HOVELL COLLEGE

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SESSION TIMES VISIT

WWW.CASEYBASKETBALL.COM.AU

DADS' LITTLE BUILDERS

KIDS UP TO 7 YEARS

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE

DHARRANG BALIT COMMUNITY CENTRE,
51 SOVEREIGN AVENUE, CLYDE NORTH

FOR DADS, GRANDFATHERS, FATHER FIGURES & THEIR CHILDREN

Saw, screw and build cardboard creations with your children!



Supported by City of Casey VICTORIA State Government

Halloween BBQ

CRANBOURNE DADS-GROUP

FRIDAY
30
OCTOBER
6.30 PM - 8.00PM



SCAN QR CODE TO FIND OUT MORE

For all **dads, grandfathers, father figures and their children!**

Bring your kids along for a fun night and a FREE sausage sizzle (including Halal and vegetarian options). Meet other men and their children, chat about being a dad and have fun with your kids.

Make sure to dress up in your scariest Halloween costume.

This community-led group is supported by: VICTORIA State Government · City of Casey · Dads Matter

The World Needs A FATHER

DADS TALK



STRONGER MEN. STRONGER FAMILIES. STRONGER FUTURE.

WEDNESDAY
28 OCTOBER
7.30PM TO 9.00PM

BALLA BALLA COMMUNITY CENTRE
7-9 Selandra Rise
Clyde North

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT DELAIN ON
twnaf.aus@gmail.com

REGISTER AT
https://www.trybooking.com/DQPFN

PUBLIC

POP UP PLAYGROUP

Discover Learn Play

City of Casey

The City of Casey free ‘Pop-up Playgroup’ Term 4 2026

Come along and enjoy playgroup activities outdoors with your child, music, art, reading, blocks, imaginary, sensory and active play.

You can also pick up information about Community Playgroups, Maternal and Child Health, Kindergarten and other community services.

Eddie Barron Reserve

21A Bemersyde Dr, Berwick

https://maps.app.goo.gl/UQZmyKYUsF9GRqQy7

Wednesday 7 October	9:30 am – 11:00 am.
Wednesday 14 October	9:30 am – 11:00 am.
Wednesday 28 October	9:30 am – 11:00 am.



Zanda Park

216 Alexander Boulevard, Clyde North

https://maps.app.goo.gl/WiW5p2mTHrFiUEGC9

Wednesday 4 November	9:30 am – 11:00 am.
Wednesday 11 November	9:30 am – 11:00 am.
Wednesday 25 November	9:30 am – 11:00 am.



Please note Pop-up Playgroup is an outdoor event.

Please bring water, snacks, and spare clothes.

No bookings are required.

Contact the City of Casey:

Web: casey.vic.gov.au
Email: caseycc@casey.vic.gov.au
Phone: 03 9705 5200
Post: PO Box 1000, Narre Warren VIC 3805
NRS: 133 677 (for the deaf, hearing or speech impaired)

Customer Service Centres:

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

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Junction Village Recreation Reserve Playground

33 Craig Road, Junction Village

https://maps.app.goo.gl/kqzWNBToTyZusy8E9

Thursday 8 October	9:30am – 11:00am.
Thursday 15 October	9:30am – 11:00am.
Thursday 29 October	9:30am – 11:00am.
Thursday 5 November	9:30am – 11:00am.



Wildbloom Playground

Corner of Mellow Place & Ochre Street, Clyde North

https://maps.app.goo.gl/1XmWppyBdChiyQzYA

Thursday 12 November	9:30am – 11:00am.
Thursday 19 November	9:30am – 11:00am.
Thursday 26 November	9:30am – 11:00am.



Please note Pop-up Playgroup is an outdoor event.

Please bring water, snacks, and spare clothes.

No bookings are required.

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TIS: 131450 (Translating and Interpreting Service) المترجم الفوري 翻译 مترجم شفاهي ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਆ භාෂා පරිවර්තක

CASEY.VIC.GOV.AU