BOTANIC BUZZ NEWSLETTER

Growth - Respect - Responsibility - Safe

TERM 4
WEEK 6
2026

Settling into school life

Principal News



Mrs Fuller

Dear Families,

It has been another busy few weeks at Botanic Ridge Primary School, with lots happening both in and beyond the classroom. As we move towards the end of the year, there is certainly plenty to look forward to!

The Little Birdie Market - This Saturday: Our Little Birdie Market is on this Saturday! We would love to see lots of families and members of our wider community come along to support this wonderful event.
These markets are a great opportunity to bring our community together, support local stallholders and raise funds for our school. A huge thank you to everyone who has helped with the organisation and preparation. We hope to see you there!

Melbourne Cup Art Competition - We are very excited that a group of our students who entered the Melbourne Cup art competition will be attending a special breakfast at the racecourse on Tuesday. What a wonderful opportunity for our young artists to have their work recognised and to be part of such a special event. We wish them all the very best and look forward to hearing about their experience!

School Toy Sale - Next Friday - Get ready for our School Toy Sale next Friday at lunch time and after school! This is always a lovely opportunity for families to pick up some bargains while supporting our school. More details will be shared through Compass, so keep an eye out.

2027 Prep Transition - Our Prep Transition program begins next week! We are looking forward to welcoming our 2027 Prep students into the school and helping them become familiar with their new surroundings, teachers and classmates.
Starting school is a big milestone for children and families, and our transition sessions are designed to build confidence, connection and excitement about beginning their school journey at Botanic Ridge Primary School. We can't wait to meet our newest BRPS learners!

Before and After School Care - Team Kids: We are pleased to announce that **Team Kids** will be our new Before and After School Care provider, commencing with the January 2027 holiday program. We are looking forward to welcoming Team Kids to our school community and working together to provide a positive, engaging and supportive experience for our children and families. Further information about enrolments, bookings and the holiday program will be shared with families as it becomes available.

Remembrance Day: We commemorated Remembrance Day on 11th November. Thank you to our school captains for leading the service on the speakers. Thank you to the student leaders for selling the poppies.

Year 6 Mural: A massive thank you to Deb McNaughton for the wonderful mural celebrating our first P-Year 6 students to have their full primary school years at BRPS. It has certainly brightened up the school!



As we approach the final weeks of the school year, there is still plenty of learning, celebrating and connecting to come. Thank you to our staff, students and families for the energy and commitment you continue to bring to our school community. I hope you all have a wonderful week!

Warm regards,

Emma Fuller

Parking & Road Safety Reminder



We would like to remind families of the importance of safe and considerate parking around our school, particularly during the busy morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up times.

New 'No Stopping' signs have recently been installed in some streets surrounding Echidna Parade. We ask all families to take note of these changes and ensure they follow the parking restrictions and signage in place.

Please remember to:

- Obey all parking signs, including the newly installed 'No Stopping' restrictions.
- Avoid parking across driveways or on the nature strips and lawns of our residential neighbours.
- Never stop in the middle of the road to drop off or collect children. Always use designated parking areas.
- Avoid performing U-turns on Echidna Parade during drop-off and pick-up times to help reduce congestion and improve safety.
- Consider using the Booring Reserve car park, which offers over 100 parking spaces and convenient access to the school via the basketball gate.

While finding a suitable parking space may take a few extra moments, **the safety of our students must always come first.** Unsafe parking and driving behaviours place children, families and other road users at risk. Please be aware that Council officers may monitor parking around the school, and fines may apply for failing to follow parking restrictions.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school community safe and being respectful of our neighbours.

Voluntary Parent Contributions 2027



We are preparing for the 2027 school year and ask our families to support the school with a voluntary financial contribution.

Please see the correspondence attached to the recent Compass post with important information regarding our request.

Victorian government schools provide free instruction, making a voluntary contribution is your choice. Nevertheless, any and all contributions are greatly appreciated and make a huge difference to the quality of programs, facilities and resources we can provide for your children here at Botanic Ridge Primary School.

Your financial contributions enable us to provide:

- Student stationery and classroom resources (we don't ask parents to purchase book packs)
- Literacy and maths resources
- Materials and equipment for specialist programs: Art, Music, STEM, Indonesian, and Physical Education
- and more!

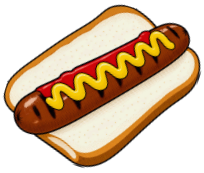
This year we have introduced two new savings funds, our Building Fund and Library Fund. Any contributions towards these funds are tax deductible and are set aside for the purpose of supporting our school infrastructure and library.
All contributions can be made via the payments centre on Compass, or via EFT or cash at the school office.

Thank you for your support!

🔥 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

Checking for Understanding



Mr Bloomfield

Understanding Fractions

Fractions are an important part of Mathematics, and this term, our students in Years 2-6 are exploring fractions, building their understanding of how numbers can represent parts of a whole or a collection.
When learning fractions, it is important that students develop a strong understanding of what fractions mean, rather than simply memorising rules and procedures. At Botanic Ridge Primary School, we use a Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract (CPA) approach, helping students build their understanding through hands-on materials, visual representations and, eventually, mathematical symbols.

For example, students might begin by folding paper into equal parts or using fraction strips to explore halves, quarters and eighths. They then move towards drawing and interpreting fraction models before working with symbols such as ½, ¼ and ¾.
As students progress through the year levels, they build on this foundational knowledge. Younger students focus on recognising, creating and describing equal parts, while older students explore equivalent fractions, compare and order fractions, and develop strategies for calculating with fractions.
In Years 5 and 6, students extend their learning by exploring the connections between fractions, decimals and percentages. They learn that these are different ways of representing the same value. For example, ½, 0.5 and 50% all represent the same amount. Understanding these connections helps students make sense of everyday situations involving money, discounts, measurements and data.
One of the most important concepts students learn is that fractions must represent equal parts. They also discover that fractions are numbers with a place on the number line, and that the more equal parts a whole is divided into, the smaller each individual part becomes.

How can families support fraction learning at home?
There are plenty of opportunities to explore fractions through everyday activities!

- **Cooking:** Ask your child to measure ½ cup of flour or discuss how two ¼ cups make ½ cup.
- **Sharing food:** Cut a sandwich, pizza or piece of fruit into equal parts. Discuss what fraction each person receives.
- **Folding paper**: Fold a piece of paper into halves, quarters or eighths. Explore how the parts relate to one another.
- **Finding fractions**: Look for fractions on measuring cups, rulers or packaging and discuss what they mean.
- **Shopping:** For older students, explore discounts and percentages. For example, "If something is 50% off, what fraction of the original price are we saving?"
- **Asking questions:** Try questions such as, "Which is larger, ½ or ¼? How do you know?" or "Can you show me two different ways to make one whole?"

The most valuable thing families can do is encourage children to explain their thinking. Asking questions such as "How do you know?" and "Can you show me another way?" helps children develop mathematical reasoning and a deeper understanding of fractions.
By connecting fractions to everyday experiences, we can help students see that Mathematics is not just something we learn in the classroom, but something we use in our daily lives!

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Botanic Brilliance Awards

Congratulations to all of our award winners:

0A - Noah D & Emmie S
0B - Hannah, Jaxson N,
0C - James M, Millie B
1A - Rupert & Xavier
1B - Evie J, Charlee & Zehak
1C - Phoebe M & Charlotte H
2A - Harper C, Hayley T
3B - Gift
3C - Emily
3/4A - Riley T, Isla F
4B - Raff &Levi S
4C - Josh P, Orlando
5B - Elaina & Lilah
5C - Lotti & Trey
5/6A - Lachlan & Khalida
6A - Rudra
STEM - Mackenzie 5/6A

Upcoming Dates & Reminders

- Little Birdie Market - November 14th
- Whole school photo - 11:45 am, November 17th
- Prep Transition - 9-10am November 17th & 24th
- Second-hand toy sale - November 20th
- Botanic Gardens ISIC - November 27th

SHARE A LITTLE JOY

Donate new or gently used toys to the SRC and Student Voice team and raise money for a new playground.

The Toy sale will happen **Friday 20th November** at **Lunchtime** out the front of the Gym. There will also be an oppotunity to come after school to buy a toy. Parents must be present.

Items will be from $1-$5 (CASH ONLY)



Donation Guidelines

- Clean and safe toys
- Books and learning games
- Art and craft supplies

Donations due by 17th November

Casey Men's Sessions: STROLL & ROLL





For men & fathers

A FREE EVENT for men of all abilities

When: **Saturday 21 November 2026**
9:30am - 11:30am

Where: **Berwick Springs Wetland Reserve (South) Playground**
45 The Esplanade,
Narre Warren South

Free sausage sizzle

Real conversations

Enjoy nature

All abilities welcome: access guide available

BOOK YOUR SEAT

Dads Matter
(it's a family thing)

Contact the City of Casey:
Web: www.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)

VICTORIA State Government

City of Casey

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

CASEY.VIC.GOV.AU


CIS
OUTREACH
We ALL need
A little HELP
Sometimes
You don't have to face it alone.
Feeling overwhelmed?
Cost of living pressures?
Unsure where to start?
Looking for local support?
Outreach connects City of Casey residents with local information, services and support – helping you find the right support, when you need it.
GOOD TO KNOW:
FREE
No referral required
Available for
City of Casey Residents
We're here to help
Vanessa: 0401 183 103
Clare: 0401 330 790
outreach@caseynorthciss.com.au