



BOTANIC BUZZ NEWSLETTER

TERM 4
WEEK 9
2025

Growth - Respect - Responsibility - Safe



Connecting with Our BRPS Families

Acting Principal News

The Year 1 Dinner and Games Night was a lot of fun for everyone. The students loved being at school after hours. They played games with the teachers, enjoyed pizza and ice cream, and finished the night with an exciting dance party in the library. Thank you to the Year 1 teachers for organising such a wonderful event. We are very lucky to have staff who give up their time after school to create memorable experiences for our students.

We also held a volunteers morning tea. As a staff, we thanked all the amazing community members who support the school in many ways such as Subway Day, Community Night, sausage sizzles, the school disco, excursions and camps. Without this support, many of these events could not run. Thank you for giving your time to help our students and the BRPS community.

Our Grandparents and Special Friends Afternoon was a huge success. Every classroom was filled with happy and smiling faces. It was lovely to welcome everyone into the school. The students were proud to show their grandparents and special friends around and enjoy some delicious food with them.

We also had a staff vs Year 6 basketball match! Both teams showed great sportsmanship and determination to win. It was a close match, with many staff members impressing everyone with their basketball skills. We have some incredibly talented basketball players in Year 6, but somehow the staff came away with a 20-6 win. We are already looking forward to the next match!



Ms Comben



Reminders

Upcoming Dates:

- Learning Summit - Monday 8th December 2:15pm.
- Students entering Years Prep-6 in 2026 have their Orientation (Up Day) on Tuesday, December 9th. On this day, students will spend the morning session with their new teacher and class for 2026. Students will find out their class placement on that day.
- Curriculum Day - Wednesday 10th December - No students at school.
- Year 6 Graduation - Thursday 11th December.
- Year 6 Activity Day - Tuesday 16th of December.
- Awards Assembly - 2pm Wednesday 17th December - In the gym.
- Christmas Concert - Thursday 18th December 9am - In the gym.
- Zooper Dooper sales on Friday (\$1 per icy-pole - max 2 per student). All money raised goes towards the Year 6 graduation. Donations are welcomed at the office.
- Last day of school - Friday 19th December 1:15pm finish.



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Teaching and Learning Buzz

Read2Learn: Building Knowledge to Strengthen Reading Comprehension

At Botanic Ridge Primary School, we use Read2Learn to help students become strong, confident readers. Read2Learn focuses on building background knowledge which is a key ingredient for understanding what we read.

Read2Learn uses high-quality non-fiction texts to teach students about a specific topic, such as natural disasters, history, or science. Through reading, discussion, vocabulary work, and simple note-taking, students build a deep understanding of the topic over several lessons.



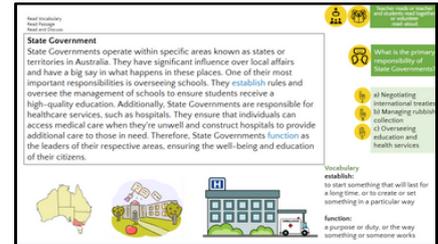
Mr Bloomfield

Research shows that the more students know about a topic, the easier it is for them to understand the text, make predictions, learn new vocabulary, and remember important information. When students have strong background knowledge, reading becomes more meaningful and they are able to connect new learning with what they already know.

A typical Read2Learn session includes clear learning goals and explicit vocabulary instruction to prepare students for the text. Teachers read aloud from a rich non-fiction text, guide students through choral reading, discussion and questioning, and support them to take simple notes or complete a short comprehension or writing task. Each lesson builds on the last, helping students grow their understanding over time.

How can you help at home?

You can support your child by asking about their current topic, reading non-fiction books together, or exploring documentaries or websites related to their learning.



Grandparents and Special Person Day

Last Wednesday we welcomed our grandparents and special people into our classrooms to join us for a range of fun activities (including Bingo) and to share lunch together. It was truly heart-warming to see our learning spaces filled with so much love, connection and joy. More photos can be found on our Facebook page.



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Looking forward to 2026

As the school year wraps up, we know many families are beginning to think ahead to next year—new grade, new classmates, maybe a new teacher. Change brings a mix of feelings for all of us: excitement, curiosity, and sometimes a few nerves too. Here are some ideas for simple, strengths-focused conversations you can share with your child over the summer break, to help everyone start the new year with confidence and positivity.



Mrs Symons

Reflect

Ask: "What went well for you this year? When did you feel proud, brave, or helpful?"
Share your own memories of times you tried something new or overcame a challenge.
Celebrate the small wins—sometimes just feeling more comfortable at school is a big step!

Acknowledge Big Feelings About Next Year

Let your child know it's normal to be unsure or even a little worried about change.
Try: "Is there anything you're wondering or worried about when it comes to your new class or teacher?"
Remind them that you believe they can handle what comes—and that kids and adults alike feel this way with change.

Plan Together for a Fresh Start

Collaboratively come up with one or two things your child wants to try differently next year.
Examples: "I want to say hi to someone I don't usually talk to," or "I'll try putting up my hand more in class."
Set up a simple "I will..." statement: "I will try to..." (make a new friend, ask for help if I need it, etc.)

Staff Buzz

Get to know our Amazing Staff!



Ms Newsome

Position
Acting Learning
Specialist

Q: Do you have any pets? Tell us about them!

A: I have a dog and a cat. My dog's name is Axel, he is an American Staffy and he is a big Baby!! My cat's name is Maze and she runs the house, her nickname is Queen Maze.

Q: If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

A: To understand and speak all languages in the world.

Q: What do you hope your students remember most about you?

A: That I cared about them as people first and then as learners 😊 Oh and maybe that they thought I was fun! (Fingers crossed)

Ms Nat

Position
Office Administration



Q: Do you have a hidden talent or special skill?

A: I know how to play both guitar and clarinet, and I love to paint with watercolours!

Q: If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?

A: I would really love to go to Greece and see their beautiful buildings and beaches. The Maldives too, just anywhere and everywhere tropical!

Q: What do you love most about working at our school?

A: I talk to someone new almost everyday, and it's always interesting.

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Student Leader Buzz

I Sea I Care Ambassadors

The "I sea, I care" Ambassador Program is an award-winning environmental education program for Year 5 and 6 students in Victoria, Australia, developed by the Dolphin Research Institute. The program selects student ambassadors to learn about marine life and its challenges, then use their new knowledge and leadership skills to teach their peers and school community through workshops and assemblies. The goal is to create environmental stewards and raise awareness that "what lives around our coast is too precious to lose".

The I Sea I Care Ambassadors have the opportunity to take a boat trip from Sorrento out onto Port Phillip Bay. This excursion allows students to enter the water and swim with seals and dolphins!



What have you enjoyed about being an I Sea I Care ambassador?

Emirose: Spending time with my friends and meeting new people.

Laikyn: Going on the excursions and spending extra time with my friends.

Lenny: I have enjoyed going and helping nature.

Vinnie: It was a blast when we went on the Dolphin Excursion.

What was your favourite thing you have learnt?

Emirose: Learning how to sift the sand to clean the rubbish.

Laikyn: Learning about whales.

Lenny: My Favourite thing I have learnt is about animals.



Is there anything you would like to share with the community about our I Sea I Care program?

Lenny: It is a great program because you get to explore and learn about animals and the environment.

Milly: The program is really fun and you get to explore on different excursions.

Zoe: It's such a cool time going on the excursions and exploring the ocean.

Vinnie: It's really fun and if you feel like you love animals and nature you should become an ambassador.



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Classroom Buzz

I know you wanted to know what 5/6A were doing at 12pm on a Tuesday!

What is your proudest moment this year?

Niki: Achieving personal goals this year.

Tyler: Getting house captain

Brock: Going for school captain for 2026

Mia: Getting School Captain and keeping good friendships

Kade: Becoming Miss VDE's favourite student

Ivie T: Being accepted into my new school

Ivy N: I have two, making a lot of friends and becoming school captain.

Addi: My proudest moment of this year is getting a student voice role.

What was your biggest challenge this year?

Levi: I have found fractions challenging.

Christopher: Maths has been harder this year.

Dechlan: I found Maths challenging this year.

Khalida: Being so far away from the bathroom!

Jaxon B: Talking in front of a crowd.

Milly: Getting into the freezing cold water at the I Sea I Care excursion.

Addi: Being in 5/6 and having harder work.

What are your favourite things about Ms VDE?

Bhavya: My favourite thing is she simplifies hard work.

Jaxon S: She makes work fun.

Ava P: She is so funny and how we get to do choose between which lesson we feel like doing.

Beauden: She is so funny and helps me when I'm stuck.

Zac: She is really understanding and funny.

Landen: Miss VDE isn't strict and is fun.

Scarlett: Miss VDE is nice, pretty and beautiful.

Zoe: Miss VDE is funny and kind.

Botanic Brilliance Awards!

0A Yian, Ava

0B Denzel, Ashar

0C Zayn

1A Jordan, Oakley

1B Frankie, Parker

2C Lucy, Scarlett, Leo

2D Levi

3B Harvey, Remi, James

3C Billie, Ahan

4A Navayah, Lila, Max

4B Millie, Willow, Annabelle

4C Scarlett, Olivia,

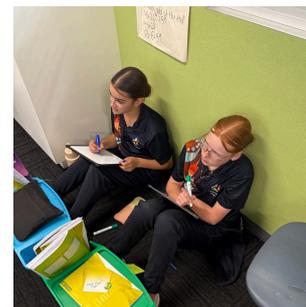
45A Vincent, Harry, Alba

56B Finn

LOTE Beauden, Riley F.

ART Scarlett Scott

STEM Millie L.



Ms van den Elst

