

TERM
FOUR



Brunswick South PRIMARY SCHOOL

imparare insieme ♦ creare insieme ♦ vivere insieme

CALENDAR DATES

DECEMBER

- FRI 1 - Grade 5/6 Swimming (last session)
- THUR 7 - Foundation Transition (last session)
- FRI 8 - Whole School Transition
- TUES 12 - Grade 6 Transition
- WED 13 - Grade 6 Graduation
- FRI 15 - Whole School Transition
- MON 18 - Reports to go home
- TUES 19 - Whole School Transition
- FRI 22 - Ciao Down Friday
- FRI 22 - Last day of Term 4 - 1:30pm finish

WHAT'S INSIDE

LE NOTIZIE DI TREVOR . GRADE 1/2
FOUNDATION. BSPS NOTICES.
COMMUNITY NOTICES

SCHOOL PHOTOS 2018

- 13 Feb - Groups & Prep Portraits
- 14 Feb - Portraits Gr 1 - 6 students
- 15 Feb - Sibling photos & any catch ups

our values – the moral fibre which guides our culture

- CONSTANT LEARNING
- MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY
- COMPASSION
- SENSE OF POSSIBILITY

SCHOOL COUNCIL

President Gabrielle Marchetti
Vice President Monique Dawson
Treasurer Jeremy Schreurs
Community Gabrielle Marchetti
Building and Grounds Geoff Cope

OSHC Monique Dawson
Policies Marg Weymouth
Community Partnerships Monique Dawson
Members Sara Rossen, Sarah Moon
DET Marg Weymouth, Trevor Strolla

1 december 2017, issue 18
NEWSLETTER

ASSEMBLIES

FRI 8 DECEMBER Years 3/4

FRI DECEMBER 22 Final Assembly
Grade 6 - 1:00pm

www.brunswicksouthps.vic.edu.au

The final three weeks are ahead of us and as we prepare to sign off another year, we are also eagerly awaiting what lies ahead. Our School Review concluded last week and this four day process was a great chance to go in depth and evaluate our teaching and learning practices, policies and procedures and really dig down into what makes our school tick!

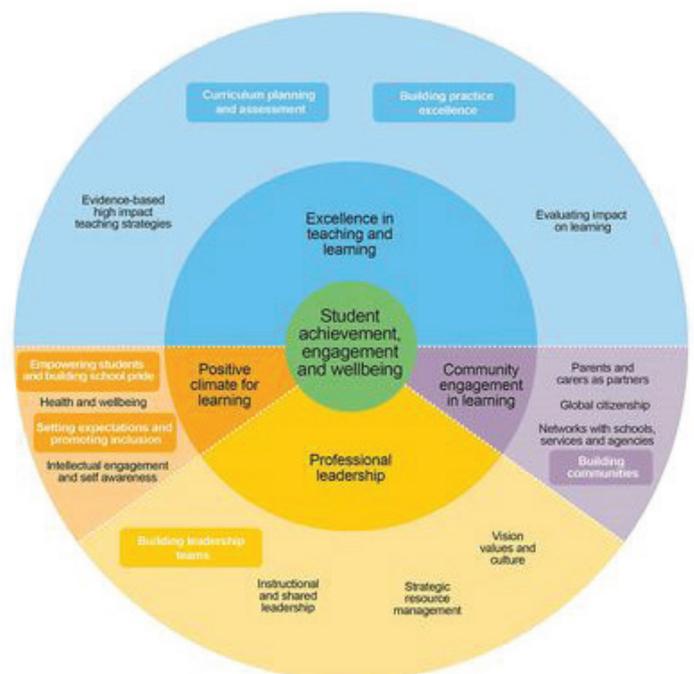
Our reviewers, **Anita Forsyth** and **Zenda Clark** from Monash University spent four days in the school observing teachers, speaking with staff, students and parents about the school's growth over the last three years of the previous strategic plan. They presented their findings to the Leadership Team last Friday and will then present to School Council and staff in Term 1 next year. From here a design team will be formed to develop a new strategic plan (early 2018) for the next four years. I'd like to send a huge grazie mile to our staff, students and families involved in the review and to Anita and Zenda for the support and feedback over the days.

FISO: What is it?

You only have to be in a school for five minutes to suddenly become overwhelmed by acronyms. It must be something about the profession but you've probably all heard some of the terms CRT, APT, PLC, SSG, ILP – it's almost like another language.

Our newest acronym is **FISO – (Framework for Improving Student Outcomes)**. FISO is a model that provides a common language for school improvement across the Victorian government school system and is structured around four state-wide priorities that are proven to have a strong impact on

the effectiveness of a school. At the centre of everything is student achievement, engagement and wellbeing. The biggest priority in the model is **Excellence in teaching and learning** and this is the single biggest determinant of student improvement in the school. Teachers not only have a direct impact on student achievement but also student engagement and motivation for learning. What they do in the classrooms and how they interact with students is vital. It's not news to us, but gives us an idea of how crucial it is to understand our **core business**. As an instructional leader I need to have my finger on the pulse across all these areas, with the biggest proportion of my time spent on teaching and learning.



Next year at BSPS we will be implementing some changes to our leadership structure in order to continue to build excellence in teaching and learning. To further build the capacity of all staff in our school, we will be working towards a more distributed model of leadership. This will be through the formation of **Professional Learning Communities** linked to our priority areas; **Literacy, Numeracy and Engagement & Wellbeing**. This structure will provide us with an opportunity add an additional layer of work within the school; the existing year level teams (horizontal) and the new curriculum based teams (vertical).

The final steps of the transition to Camp

Australia for our OSHC service are currently taking shape and we sent a letter to our families yesterday confirming the details of the coordinators and staff. **Maggie Bergin** will be heading up the program and has been part of our school and OSHC community for some time now. We are excited for Maggie and the opportunities this provides her. I know some of our community may still have mixed feelings about this transition and I recognise that change is sometimes uncomfortable as we move to new or unknown. I am now asking for your support in moving forward and would like to highlight the opportunities we have created for families to be involved in the OSHC sub-committee, who will continue to be responsible for monitoring the program.

Next week, I am meeting with the project manager who has been overseeing the construction at BSPS over the last 18 months. He will confirm the final details of our projects, including the **new fence** along the car park which is booked in for the 11th & 12th of December and the final piece of the puzzle – the construction of the **new bike shed!** It's certainly been a long time coming and I'm quietly hopeful that the new bike shed will be up and running for the start of the 2018 school year – fingers crossed!

Our **5/6 students** have finished their **swimming** program and our **Year 6** students are in full swing for preparation **for graduation. St John's Ambulance** are coming to do some first aid workshops for our **4, 5 & 6 students** next week and next Friday we will host our first whole school transition session for 2018. We are hoping to be able to send out our 2018 staffing information on this day as well!

As you are reading this you're probably going to be listening to the deluge of rain. Please take care over the weekend, especially if you're out and about!

Trevor

CONGRATULATIONS LEARNING LEGENDS!

TERM 4 - WEEK 7

- ◆ Foundation - Elise & Sava
- ◆ Grade 1/2 - Benji H, Leon, Hannah, Nhi, Joh, Kai & Seth
- ◆ Grade 3/4 - Alice R, James, Ruby & Campbell



BSPS NOTICES

- **Monday 29 January 2018** - staff are back
- **Tuesday 30 January** – Curriculum Day (student free)
- **Wednesday 31 January** - Grade 1-6 students first day of Term 1
- **Monday 5 February** - Foundation students first day of Term 1

BSPS SCHOOL COUNCIL REPORT

The School Council (SC) met on 31 October 2017. We were joined by 12 parents who asked to attend the SC meeting in order to discuss a letter sent to SC on 26 October 2017, which was co-signed by a group of parents. That letter outlined parent concerns over the outsourcing of the Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) program to Camp Australia.

The visitors spoke about their disappointment with the SC's decision-making process. They also pinpointed some specific apprehensions about the chosen provider, Camp Australia.

SC explained why the decision had to be made quickly and the process it undertook in coming to its unanimous decision (to outsource the operations of OSHC to Camp Australia). The decision was made after extensive and robust discussions within SC. Most of the parent members of the SC have children enrolled in the OSHC program and ultimately everybody wants the same result: the best possible OSHC service for our children at BSPS, and one which does not detract from the core functions and responsibilities of BSPS's teachers and leadership staff.

In relation to the negative press about Camp Australia that has caused some consternation among parents, SC assured the visitors that it sought information about Camp Australia from the Department of Education and Training. SC also trawled through a large amount of quality ratings published on ACECQA's website and made enquiries to other schools using this provider. Furthermore, SC asked Camp Australia to respond in writing to the concerns about the allegations against them. In the end, SC was satisfied that, on balance, and having thoroughly considered the options and the evidence, it was appropriate in the circumstances to outsource the OSHC operations to Camp Australia.

Following the SC meeting, we held two events at BSPS at which representatives from Camp Australia attended to answer questions from parents and carers:

- ◆ An extraordinary OSHC sub-committee meeting on 9 November at 6.15pm; and
- ◆ A general information and Q&A session on 14 November at 6 pm.

SC wishes to take this opportunity to clarify the following points for all parents and carers who may be considering enrolling children in the OSHC program:

- 1.** Our contract with Camp Australia is for 12 months. At the end of that period, there is an option to renew the contract for three years or to terminate it. Renewal will be dependent on a review and we invite all interested parties to be actively involved in that review.
- 2.** It has always been a top priority for SC that our highly valued OSHC staff be retained as much as possible. It was critical to our decision that Camp Australia made offers of employment to all existing staff which were on no less favourable terms than what the staff currently had. However, ultimately no one can be forced to accept a position with a different employer – every person has the right to choose what's best for them.
- 3.** The OSHC sub-committee will continue to run and will be responsible for monitoring the program. A report will be prepared in the middle of next year to assist the review process. Parents that have an interest in becoming involved with supporting and overseeing the program are encouraged to join the ongoing OSHC sub-committee.
- 4.** Camp Australia's operations at BSPS commence next Monday, 4 December 2018.
- 5.** There will be **no** increase to before-care and after-care fees (other than CPI)
- 6.** There will be a holiday program at BSPS from Monday, 15 January 2018 until Thursday, 25 January 2018.

In future we intend to publish a SC report following every SC meeting in order to keep everyone abreast of the issues being discussed. In the next newsletter, we will go through the key activities of each of the sub-committees.

We are always happy to have visitors attend SC meetings. If you would like to come and observe a meeting, please email us via the school.

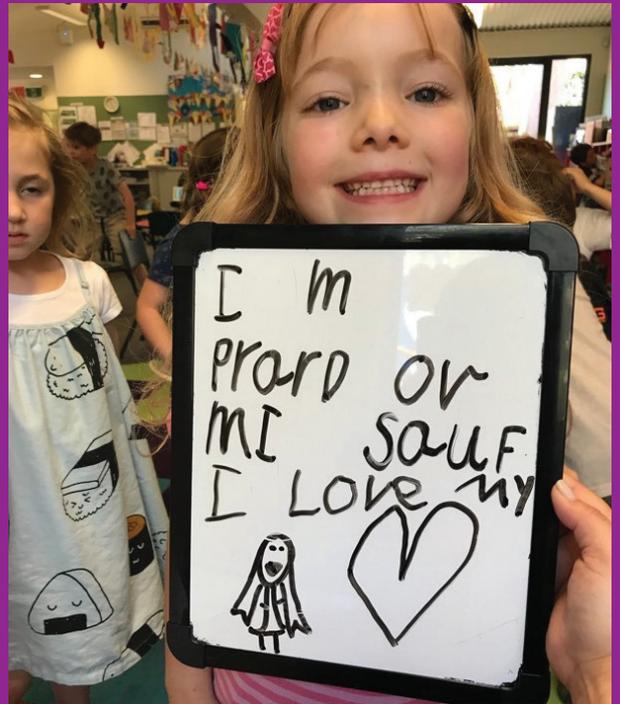
***Warm regards to all, Gabrielle Marchetti
on behalf of all the SC***

As the year comes to end, we have been spending some time reflecting on all the things we have accomplished over the year. Just some of the things we have learned to do are...

- ◆ remember where to line up each morning even when this changes regularly!
- ◆ find out which group we are in and help our friends find their groups too!
- ◆ find a partner to read with, even if we find this a bit scary!

- ◆ open our own lunchboxes!
- ◆ tie our own shoelaces (or find a friend to do it for us!)
- ◆ eat the right food at the right time of day
- ◆ use whole body listening without any reminders (most of the time...)
- ◆ work with the big kids and different teachers in Jigsaw
- ◆ host assembly with tonnes of confidence!
- ◆ celebrate everyone's learning, our teachers' learning included!

FOUNDATION



We have also spent some time setting some goals for next year. Here is what some of us would like to learn...

"I want to count up to 1208" -Bonnie

"I want to learn to put the letters on the lines" -Ema

"I want to learn more about sports" -Freya

"I want to paint some more pictures" -Henry

"I want to look at the pictures when I read to make sure the words make sense" -Michelle

GRAZIE!

As this is our last Foundation newsletter item for the year, we would like to say **THANK YOU** for trusting us with your children in their first year of school. It has been an amazing year and an absolute privilege to be a Foundation teacher this year.

On a final note, in the wise words of **Noah R** "sometimes you have to face the things you are afraid of!" Best of luck for 2018 Foundation students.

In **Geography** we have been discussing places that are special to us. We have talked about what makes these places special, including family connections, memories and stories.

YEARS 1&2

We were very fortunate to have two Wurundjeri educators (Uncle Bill and Rebecca) take us to one of their special places, Pound Bend! Uncle Bill told us stories about his ancestors and talked about the importance of respecting Wurundjeri Country, which is now our home also. Rebecca taught us some Woiwurrung language and taught us some traditional games, including kicking a possum skin ball!

We are going to explore how we can respect and look after our home, including the environment and each other.



COMMUNITY NOTICES



FUNDRAISING FOR YOUR SCHOOL



Try us out
at a Trial Week!

B2S Fitness is a unique fitness program that enables parents to fundraise for their school while spending active time with their kids, getting to know their community and getting fit.

Sessions are run at the school, by qualified Personal Trainers, at times tailored to meet the needs of busy parents and 10% of fees go straight back to the school fundraising account, adding average of over \$2000 a year to the bottom line!

WW.B2SF.COM.AU



How can I get involved?

- Like us on facebook and instagram
- Tell us what times you like to exercise!
- Tell us what type of exercise you enjoy!
- Book into a session and trial us out
- Encourage your friends to join you at a session (its easier with a mate!)
- Post about us in your facebook school and local community groups