

Dear BSPS families,

### Welcome back!

We've had a somewhat broken week for our first week back this term. Even with only two school days, our students have settled into the new term well and have worked hard with the teachers to create a calm and orderly learning environment.

### Staffing Update

This term we welcome **Eileen Archer** to our school as our new STEM Teacher. Eileen is already familiar to BSPS and has worked in all our learning areas casually over the past couple of years. We are looking forward to having Eileen in the STEM position for the remainder of 2019.

### Italian Students

BSPS has been working on a project with Professor Matthew Absalom from Melbourne University, Italian Faculty. Last year we had 50, first year university students supporting our Italian bilingual program across all year levels for 5 weeks. This year, the word has gotten out and we have **66 first year students** coming to our school. These students specialise in various fields across literacy, numeracy and science and at any given time we will have 4 students working with a teacher to support our students in Italian. This is a wonderful opportunity for our own students to see that learning Italian can continue after BSPS in very meaningful ways and, in the case of our senior school, some students who are not too much older than them! This also offers our students opportunities to hear Italian spoken with various nuances and capabilities and in turn to express themselves with other people in the target language.

Some points to note:

- Students will not all be at our school at the same time and will be dispersed through the learning areas
- Students all have a Working with Children check
- Students will be at BSPS Week 2, (starting 30/04/19) until the end of Week 6 (30/05/19)

### Winter Solstice

Planning for our **Winter Solstice Festival** is well underway and this year's event is once again shaping up to be wonderful community event. The Solstice is our biggest fundraiser for the year, but most importantly it is our biggest community event and one where we have the privilege of bringing the local community into our school. Put **Saturday 22 June** in your calendar and save the date!

### Compass

Toward the end of last term we sent home information about logging in and creating your **Compass** accounts. We have had a very positive take up from parents who have logged in and started using the portal to record absences. If you haven't already, please take a few moments to read the information that was sent home and set up your account. Our end of semester reports will be produced on Compass this year and later this term you will be able to log in and see your child's report. If you have any questions about creating your Compass account please contact Mary at the office.

### Supporting Children with Distressing Events

Following the tragic events that took place in Sri Lanka over the weekend and Christchurch last term, I know the thoughts of the BPS community are with those affected. One of our school's great strengths is our inclusive and compassionate community and we are very proud of the diversity within our school.

The impact of this tragedy stretches far beyond Sri Lanka and New Zealand, and we understand that some of our students may be looking for guidance and support. Some may have watched the footage on the news and feel impacted by the images. Others may feel unsure of their safety and will need reassurance and support to feel safe.

It is common to think about safety and predictability of the world when tragedies like this occur. Reactions are influenced by many factors:

- Knowing someone impacted
- Identifying with the victims and survivors
- Seeing and hearing terrifying images and discussions.

The developmental age of the child influences what they understand and how they respond. Some may be unaware, others will be following all the discussions and media coverage, looking for understanding.

Here are some ways you can make children and young people feel safe:

- Give reassurance that the incident is over
- Keep to routines, they are reassuring
- Have time to listen and talk. Listen to concerns and worries and discuss strategies for feeling safe, dealing with worry and being able to take action. This helps in repairing safety and calm
- Give a calm response to concerns
- Keep your explanations appropriate for their age and development  
*Start at their starting point:* ask what the child understands about what has happened and what their key worry is. Each child will have a different understanding and will find different parts of what has happened frightening or worrying. Very young children need simple, factual information balanced with assurances of safety. Older children will be appraising their own, and others safety. They may need help with separating reality from fantasy, and to dispel rumours
- Reduce exposure to media coverage and conversations that are distressing and not age appropriate
- Monitor their emotional state. Changes in behaviour, appetite and sleep can be an indicator of anxiety or worry. Young children often express worry through bodily aches and pains

If you require further assistance in dealing with this, please reach out to us for additional support.

## **Open Day**

It's hard to believe that we are already thinking ahead to next year and next week we will welcome prospective families for 2020. Some of our senior students are taking the lead in running school tours for families and showcasing all the things that make BSPS a fantastic place to learn. We've already had very strong interest in enrolments for next year and I'm pleased to report such positive word of mouth in the community about our school.

Thanks for a great first week back,

Trevor Strolla

Acting Principal

## School Council Update

On behalf of the School Council, I would like to welcome everyone back to Term 2. We hope you (and especially the teachers) enjoyed a well-deserved break. This will be a busy term for the school and we would like to provide an update from School Council and highlight some of the activities underway.

### Office Bearing Positions

In the last week of term the School Council met to elect new office bearers for the year followed by a standard meeting. We would like to acknowledge outgoing members, Gabrielle Marchetti (President) and Jeremy Schreurs (Vice-President/Treasurer), for many years of hard work. We would also like to welcome new members to Council - Jean Pierre Masclef, Madeleine Aikenhead (Vice President) and Dan Ziffer (Treasurer).

For the first time, the Council has sought the services of an external representative to join School Council. John Hajek is Professor of Italian Studies at Melbourne University and Director of RUMACCC (Research Unit for Multilingualism and Cross-cultural Communication). He will convene a new Bilingual Sub-Committee with a focus on further developing this unique feature of our School. This role will also seek to promote our school in the wider community. We welcome John to the Council.

In our regular School Council meeting, we approved the 2018 Annual Report, the current balance sheet and operating statement. We approved the monthly Ciao Down fundraiser, so there will again be sausages and veggie burgers on offer this term. The Council also discussed a letter from the school community requesting better information on the link between fundraising events and how these contributions are being applied. We all agreed with this sentiment and see the benefit in sharing funding targets with the wider school community to build momentum around projects. Last year we funded a new basketball ring from the Colour run event and additional fundraising contributions have been saved to be spent in this current year. Over the coming term we will articulate targets, some of which are immediate and others requiring additional external funding, such as upgrades to the senior playground. If everyone knows the School's targets, we will have a better chance of addressing any funding gaps and projects will be delivered sooner.

### Principal Recruitment Process

The department has commenced a selection process to substantively fill the principal position. This process will run over April and May. In keeping with standard practice the role was advertised on the last day of term. The selection process will be overseen by a panel made up of members of School Council, staff, the Department and an external Principal. This is a confidential process, however we will periodically share updates where we are able to.

### Subcommittees

We'd also like to encourage any parents who are interested to join one of our subcommittees - new members are welcome throughout the year. In particular we are looking for parents with an interest in joining either the Policy or Finance sub-committees.

If you are keen to be involved in a sub-committee or have any other queries, please get in touch with School Council via [brunswick.south.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:brunswick.south.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au) or my email address directly via [henry.james.j@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:henry.james.j@edumail.vic.gov.au)

The next School Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 May. We look forward to an exciting Term 2.

Kind regards,

James Henry

School Council President

**Assembly Schedule:**

Week	Location	Day/Time	Year level	Host
1				
2 - 29 April	Outside	Monday 9.00am	Whole School	5/6
3				
4 - 13 May	Hall	Monday 9.00am	Junior School	1/2
5 - 20 May	Hall	Monday 9.00am	Senior Assembly	3/4
6				
7 - 3 June	Hall	Monday 9.00am	Junior Assembly	Foundation
8				
9				
10 - 28 June	Outside Hall	Friday 2.10pm	Whole School	1/2

**Important Dates:**

Monday 29 April – Thursday 2 May	Years 5/6 Swimming
Thursday 2 May	Open Day for prospective 2020 families
Monday 6 May – Thursday 9 May	Years 5/6 Swimming
Thursday 9 May	Regional Cross Country
Friday 10 May	Mother's Day Stall Coffee and Cake Lounge Afternoon
Tuesday 14 May	School Council Meeting
Tuesday 14 – Thursday 16 May	NAPLAN (Year 3 and Year 5)
Thursday 16 – Friday 17 May	Dental Van
Sunday 2 June	Festa della Repubblica – Hosted at BPS (12-4pm)
Monday 10 June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Tuesday 11 June	School Council Meeting
Wednesday 19 June	Foundation Zoo Excursion
Saturday 22 June	Winter Solstice Festival
Friday 28 June	Last Day of Term 2 – 2.30pm dismissal