



Brunswick South
PRIMARY SCHOOL
imparare insieme ♦ creare insieme ♦ vivere insieme

23 April 2020

Dear BPS families,

Welcome back!

As always everyone has returned to school recharged and energised for the new term ahead! We had a Curriculum Day on Monday and staff used this time to look at student learning data and plan teaching and learning for the beginning of term. The students haven't missed a beat and jumped right into their learning from the first session back on Tuesday ready to build on the momentum from last term.

Staffing Update

We welcome a new face to BPS this term. **Rosemary Kellett** is a teacher who works at Collingwood English Language School. With the extended closure of international borders, the Department of Education has provided teachers from the English Language Schools with the opportunity to work alongside teachers in mainstream schools. During her time with us this term, Rosemary will support our EAL (English as an Additional Language) Learners, their families and our staff with their progress.

Curriculum Days

School Council have approved the remainder of the Curriculum Days for the term. To help you plan around these days, this year the first day of Term 3 and 4 will be student free, as well as the Monday before the Melbourne Cup Public Holiday.

These dates are:

Monday 12 July
Monday 4 October
Monday 1 November

School Council Sub Committees

Our 2021 School Council met last term and appointed conveners to the sub committees. These committees have the delegated responsibility for certain areas of school function. They exist to support the school council with their work, acting as a team supporting the school to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students. They are usually capped at 6 members and, where required, additional working parties can be established to undertake a particular activity or event.

We are doing a call out for volunteers to join our **Buildings & Grounds** and **Community & Fundraising** Committees. If you have some time to contribute to this part of our school, we'd love to hear from you - please email brunswick.south.ps@education.vic.gov.au and attention your email to the relevant convener.

Italian Students

Over the last few years BPS has been working on a project with Professor Matthew Absalom from The University of Melbourne, Italian Faculty. This year, we have a group of first year Italian students undertaking a placement at BPS. These students specialise in various fields across literacy, numeracy and science and at any given time we will have 3 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 BPS 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.

Winter Solstice

Planning for our **Winter Solstice Festival** is about to get underway and, after a hiatus in 2020, this year's event is shaping up to be wonderful community event. The Solstice is usually 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 19 June** in your calendar and save the date!

Talking to your child about school

I remember being a pre-teen students at school and getting asked by my parents about how my school day was. My response was always the same, monosyllabic response – 'good'. I've been thinking this week about how crucial these conversations are and how the right questions can elicit a more thorough and thoughtful response from our learners. A child's school day can be an extremely dynamic experience – moving from class to class, outside play, physical activity, social opportunities and conflict. An open question can sometimes make it difficult for a child to process all the things that happen in a single day.

To help with this, I've tracked down some questions that can help you develop these conversations at the end of the school day. It is consistent with some of the language we use at school and could be used at any age, with slight tweaks.

- What did you learn today?
- How did you go with that?
- How successful were you?
- What did you do that you didn't understand?
- How could you improve?
- What are you most proud of?
- What did you appreciate about your day?

These aren't designed to be an interrogation, instead you might choose to start with a couple of questions a day and begin to build on this. Children will be easily take our lead – if we ask them what went wrong at school, they will immediately be drawn to the negative. Flipping the language can help prompt a more thoughtful response.

Thank you for a smooth start to Term 2,

Trevor.

BSPS Term 2 Calendar

Thursday 20 April – Friday 23 April Tuesday 27 April – Friday 30 April	Years 1/2 Swimming
Sunday 25 April	ANZAC Day (School as normal on Monday)
Friday 30 April	Student Fundraiser – Trash 'n' Treasure Stall
Monday 3 May	Whole School Assembly – 3/4 Hosting 9.00am
Wednesday 5 May	Regional Cross Country – 3-6
Friday 7 May	Mother's Day Stall
Tuesday 11 – Thursday 13 May	NAPLAN – Years 3 & 5
Monday 17 May	Junior School Assembly – Foundation Hosting 9.00am
Tuesday 18 May – Friday 21 May Tuesday 25 May – Friday 28 May	Years 3/4 Swimming
Monday 24 May	Senior School Assembly – 5/6 Hosting 9am
Wednesday 26 May	National Sorry Day
Friday 28 May – Thursday 3 June	Reconciliation Week
Monday 31 May	Reconciliation Week Assembly – 9.00am (Reconciliation Action Team hosting)
Monday 14 June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Friday 25 June	End of Term Assembly – 1/2 Hosting (2.00pm)
Friday 25 June	End of Term 2 – 2.30pm dismissal