

Dear BPS families,

### Welcome back!

It feels a bit strange saying 'welcome back' in the second week of term, but the first week was a short one and I have been on leave, recovering from COVID. A big thank you to Marg and the team for stepping in to keep the school running smoothly in my absence.

As always, everyone returned to school recharged and energised for the new term ahead! We had a Curriculum Day on Tuesday and staff used this time to revisit Positive Psychology and Character Strengths with Psychologist, Maria Ruberto. Maria is a regular presenter to our new families, but it's been a few years since we've had her out to work with our staff. As always, Maria's sessions have an immediate positive impact and the work on Character Strengths will continue to support our Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) sessions for the kids at school. The students haven't missed a beat and jumped right into their learning from the first session back on Wednesday, ready to build on the momentum from last term.

### Staffing Update

We welcome some new and not-so-new faces to BPS this term. **Eamon McDonagh** will teach Physical Education for the remainder of the year; **Kate Page** joins our 1/2 team from Wednesdays to Fridays; **Laura Egan** joins our 5/6 Learning Area as a long-awaited replacement for Simonetta; and **Sanae Arnavas** returns from family leave, working in the office on Mondays.

### COVID Update

The new term has seen some slight changes to our COVID restrictions at school. The latest information can be found on Compass and relates to face masks, screening requirements, household contacts and vaccination requirement for visitors. Please ensure you check Compass for the most up to date information.

### 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 1 or 2 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.

### Yarra Council – Linear Park Consultation

Yarra Council are undertaking some community consultation and looking to rethink how the Linear Parklands are used. This parkland is the longest, continuous stretch of open parklands in the Yarra LGA and runs adjacent to the whole south-side of our school. We have utilised this space at various times and envisage using it as a shared play space in the future, should our enrolments grow significantly. Today a group of Year 5 and 6 students shared their ideas with the Chatterbox Projects who are currently working with the City of Yarra through the consultation process. When the master plan is completed at the end of the year, after community consultation, the same group of students will be invited back to look at the plans. It would be great for our community to have a voice in the way the Linear Parklands is shaped for future use and you can do so here:

<https://yousayyarra.com.au/linearparklands>

## Winter Solstice

Planning for **Saturnalia**, our Winter Solstice Festival is well underway and, after a hiatus in 2020 and 2021, 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 18 June** in your calendar and save the date!

Thank you for a smooth start to Term 2,

Trevor.

## BSPS Term 2 Calendar

Monday 25 April	ANZAC Day (Student Free Day)
Tuesday 26 April	Curriculum Day (Student Free Day)
Wednesday 4 May	3/4 ScienceWorks excursion
Friday 6 May	Festa della Mamma Mother's/Carers Day Celebration
Friday 6 May	5/6 Cyber safety incursion – Proactive Policing Unit
Monday 9 May	ASSEMBLY – 5/6 hosting
Tuesday 10 May	NAPLAN – Years 3 & 5 Writing
Thursday 12 May	NAPLAN – Years 3 & 5 Reading
Monday 16 May	NAPLAN – Years 3 & 5 Language Conventions
Tuesday 17 May	IDAHOBIT day
Wednesday 18 May	NAPLAN – Years 3 & 5 Mathematics
Thursday 19 May	District Cross Country
Monday 23 May	ASSEMBLY – 3/4 hosting
Thursday 26 May	National Sorry Day
Friday 27 May – Friday 3 June	Reconciliation Week
Wednesday 1 June	5/6 Quantum Excursion
Friday 3 June	Mabo Day
Monday 6 June	ASSEMBLY – 1/2 hosting
Monday 13 June	Queen's Birthday Public Holiday
Thursday 16 June	5/6 Quantum excursion
Friday 24 June	End of Term Assembly – Foundation hosting (2.00pm)
Friday 25 June	End of Term 2 – 2.30pm dismissal