

19 July 2019

Dear BSPS families,

It was great to be out in the yard Tuesday morning as we welcomed students and families back to school for a new term! It's hard to believe that we are now more than half way through what has been a busy and rewarding year. It's been even better to see the progress students are making at school and the increased ownership they have taken in driving their own learning.

I'm delighted to be back this term, even more delighted to be in the substantive Principal position at BSPS. After two and a half years it's been a long time coming - but worth the wait! I'm excited to continue our journey of school improvement with you all over the coming years.

### **Welcome**

A special welcome goes out to the new families joining us this term, some have come from local schools and some from further afield as international enrolments. We also welcome Vicky Nicolopoulos to BSPS this term as a Visiting Teacher. She will be working alongside the staff and students in the 3/4 and 5/6 learning areas over the next ten weeks. Welcome back to Marg, Alice and Chiara who all took leave at the end of last term.

### **Curriculum Day & Mathematics**

Our staff returned bright and early on Monday morning and engaged in Professional Learning for the first part of the day. Our session on Monday and our focus for this term is **Mathematics** and, as a team, we looked at the four proficiencies; *fluency, reasoning, problem solving* and *understanding*. These proficiencies are fundamental to learners and it is through these that we learn mathematics successfully. Proficiency in mathematics is not a one-dimensional trait and success does not happen in isolation. In approaching any one of a multitude of problems it is necessary to use most, if not all of the proficiencies in order to be successful.

Click [here](#) if you're keen to read more about the proficiencies.

All 3-6 students are invited to enter the Australian Mathematics Competition. The competition has an emphasis on problem solving, one of the four proficiencies, and the questions are designed to be fun for the students. Entry forms were sent home earlier this week and are required to be back at school by 23 July.

### **Construction and Roof Works**

The scaffolding and temporary fencing were cleared over the holidays and the works on the roof and inside the learning areas have been completed. I'm pleased to report the new gutters and downpipes held up well during the rain we had last week and our junior building might (finally) be leak free! Six weeks of inconvenience was certainly worth it and our 1/2 students have moved back into their refurbished learning areas.

### **Student Led Conferences**

Next Tuesday (23 July) we are holding our Student Led Conferences to further build **learner agency** in our students at BSPS. Teachers and students have been working collaboratively this week to set new learning goals and these will be shared with families next Tuesday.

Please remember that school hours on this day have been modified (**9.00am – 12.00pm**) to allow additional time for each conference. Students will be dismissed at 12.00pm and Team Kids will run care for families who require it until 6pm.

If you haven't booked your spot yet, there are still some times available and bookings can be made until the beginning of next week. To do this head to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and enter event code: **T U E 5 Y**.

Please note that you are always welcome to arrange a time to meet with your child's teachers outside of these times. Our staff are very accommodating in meeting these requests within the working week.

## Parent Opinion Survey

Our school is conducting a survey to find out what parents think of our school. The Parent Opinion Survey is an annual survey offered by the Department of Education and Training that is conducted amongst a sample of randomly selected parents. It is designed to assist schools in gaining an understanding of parents' perceptions of school climate, student behaviour and student engagement. Our school will use the survey results to help inform and direct future school planning and improvement strategies.

Approximately 30 per cent of parents will be invited to participate in this year's survey. All responses to the survey are anonymous. This year the Parent Opinion Survey will be conducted from **Monday 22 July to Sunday 11 August**.

## Access to School

Please remember that our school yard is supervised from 8.45am – 9.00am in the morning and then from 3.30pm – 3.45pm in the afternoon. Any child in the yard outside of these times needs to be in Out of School Hours Care (OSHC). Our 3.45pm bell is a reminder that all students in the yard who haven't been collected need to go to reception.

**Please note: students who are at school outside of the supervised times will be sent to OSHC at the expense of the family. We are unable to supervise students at the office before or after school.**

We have also taken on feedback from our school community about the pedestrian gate on Rathdowne Street and for the remainder of this term we will trial keeping this entrance locked. We are doing this in the consideration of safety as it is a difficult entrance to monitor. There are times where the gate has been left unlocked during the day or during recess and lunch times and it does not close automatically. Please continue to use the Brunswick Road and Park Street gates to enter and exit the school. Both these entrances have good visibility and are much easier to monitor. We will review this at the end of term and assess the arrangement on a more permanent basis.

## ISPT Grant

The school recently participated in an ISPT Community Grant program through Barkly Square. With a concerted effort from our school and the local community I am pleased to report we received first prize and have been awarded the \$5000 community grant. Thank you to all those who participated in the program and supported our school to finish in first place. There are lots of things we could spend this money on and I am thinking that the repair of the senior turf might be a great priority. It's something we've dropped down the priority list over the last couple of years as other things have popped up and we haven't had the funds to allocate to it.

## School Photos

Our school photographer distributed the school photos in the last week of term and has some additional printed stock of year level pictures. If you are interested in purchasing an additional group shot you can get one from the office for the reduced price of \$20.

## Important Dates

Friday 19 July	Ciao Down Friday
Monday 22 July	Whole School Assembly (Foundation hosting)
Tuesday 23 July	Modified school day – 9.00am-12.00pm Student Led Conferences – 12.30-7.00pm
Monday 29 July – Friday 2 August	Staff Wellbeing Week
Tuesday 30 July	School Council Meeting – 7.00-9.00pm
Monday 5 August	Junior School Assembly (Years 1/2 hosting)
Friday 9 August	Ciao Down Friday
Monday 12 August	Senior School Assembly (Years 3/4 hosting)
Saturday 17 August	Trivia Night
Friday 23 August	Student Fundraiser and Bake Sale
Monday 26 – Wednesday 28 August	Year 5/6 Camp
Monday 26 August	Junior School Assembly (Foundation hosting)
Friday 30 August	Italian Day
Monday 2 September	Senior School Assembly (Years 5/6 hosting)
Friday 6 September	School Production - Whole School Rehearsal
Tuesday 10 September	School Council Meeting – 7.00-9.00pm
Friday 20 September	Whole School Assembly – 2.10pm (Year 3/4 hosting)
Friday 20 September	Last day of Term 3 – 2.30pm finish

Thanks for a great first week back,

Trevor