

15 July 2022

Dear BSPS families,

It was fantastic to be out in the yard Tuesday morning as we welcomed students and families back to school for a new term! We are just over half way through the school year and it has been great to see the progress students are making at school and the increased ownership they have taken in driving their own learning.

Curriculum Day

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 focused on our new School Strategic Plan and we unpacked some of this work with our staff. We also heard from our Respectful Relationships team who shared our journey as a Respectful Relationships Lead School and the progress we have made since joining the program in 2018.

COVID-19 Update (Face masks)

There have been some updates in the Department of Education's advice to schools for this term and these are posted on Compass.

The Victorian government's advice **strongly recommends** people over 8 years of age wear a face mask in indoor settings, except for close contacts, who must wear a mask indoors unless an exception applies. If you wish your child to wear a mask at school, or they themselves wish to wear a mask, we will ensure they are supported to do so.

Wearing a face mask can help protect you, your child/ren and those around you. Face masks stop droplets spreading when people talk, cough, sneeze and laugh, which lowers the chance of spreading or catching the virus. This information is especially important for those who are medically at risk.

Works and improvements around the school

The school holidays are always a good time to get some improvement or repair works undertaken around the school. These holidays we didn't undertake anything too grand, but completed a few minor works and repairs, including;

- repairing the fraying and lifting carpet in the hall
- installation of flood lights in the courtyard to improve visibility for night events
- repainting and rounding the bench seats in the courtyard to make them more visible
- changing of internal door handles to ensure that they can be opened at any time from inside
- replacing and repairing fans in learning areas.

We also installed some new seating near our junior playground courtesy of St. Michael's Grammar School, who were refurbishing some of their outdoor spaces. Thank you Martyn Zdanius for organising this donation to our school and coordinating the delivery to the school.

Extended family holidays

With the reopening of the borders, it is no surprise that families have chosen to take some time to travel after a few years of having to remain at home. While we don't advocate taking time off during the school term for extended holidays, we understand that for many in our community the opportunity to see family and friends interstate or overseas can be difficult to turn down.

During extended family holidays, the school does not provide a learning program, nor are we able to replicate the learning that your child would receive at school. Generally, we recommend that if you choose to take your child on an extended holiday you continue to maintain their home reading routines, perhaps making use of some books from your local library or eBook titles to take with you. Your child could also keep a record of their trip through a diary or scrapbook, this can include relics or artefacts from their travels, like boarding passes, tourist maps or tickets. Travel also provides an opportunity for students to be engaged in real life mathematical thinking; currency conversion, timetable and map reading, time zones, purchasing items and calculating change - to name just a few! With a small amount of thought, you can easily engage with your child about these real-life mathematical skills while on your travels.

The teaching teams can advise you of topics or concepts coming up that your child may miss and you may choose to do some work with your child aligning to these concepts.

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 who is in the yard outside of these times needs to be in TeamKids. **Please note: students who are at school outside of the supervised times will need to attend TeamKids. We are unable to supervise students at the office before or after school.**

We love that families are staying back after school to chat, connect and use our play spaces, but we ask that you please ensure you supervise your child during this time. If you notice any children who are not collected, please contact a staff member immediately.

Student Led Conferences

Save the date: **Tuesday 9 August** is booked in as our next round of Student Led Conferences. These sessions are a chance for your child to reflect on achievements from the first half of the year and share their learning with you. Each session is 15 minutes and to accommodate this, we have a modified school day.

9.00am-12.00pm – Classes as normal

12.00pm – Students dismissed. Staff lunch break.

1.00-7.00pm – Student Led Conferences

TeamKids will operate additional care for students on this day. The booking information will be distributed on Compass next week.

At this stage we anticipate the sessions will run on site at school, however, we are prepared to make changes in line with up to date COVID advice.

Thanks for a great first week back,

Trevor.

Term 3 Calendar

Monday 18 July – Thursday 28 July	3/4 Swimming (Mondays-Thursdays)
Friday 22 July	KABOOM Percussion Whole School Incursion
Monday 25 July	Assembly – 5/6 Hosting
Tuesday 2 August	School Council Meeting
Monday 8 August	Assembly – 3/4 Hosting
Tuesday 9 August	Student Led Conferences (Students dismissed at 12.00pm)
Friday 12 August	Science Week Activity Day
Tuesday 16 August	Foundation 100 Days of School Celebration
Monday 22 August	Assembly – 1/2 Hosting
Monday 22 – Friday 26 August	Book Week 'Dreaming with eyes open'
Monday 5 September	Assembly - Foundation Hosting
Tuesday 6 September	School Council Meeting
Wednesday 14 September	Italian Day
Friday 16 September	End of Term Assembly – 5/6 Hosting End of Term 3 – 2.30pm dismissal