

Dear BSPS families,

Welcome back! And a **special** welcome goes out to our new families and new staff members. What a brilliant start to the school year!

It was wonderful to see all students return yesterday and almost without exception, getting straight back into their routines. Right across the school we launched our **'Learning to Learn'** program which runs for the first two weeks of this term. This program sets clear and consistent expectations for the year and assists the students to transition into the New Year comfortably and confidently.

New faces:

In addition to our new families we also welcome a few new staff to our school. Geraint Stirling in 3/4, Cath Mannella in Foundation, Amelia Beardmore in 1/2 and Lauren Whitley who will be temporarily working as Education Support in 1/2 while we advertise and interview for the substantive position.

I will continue as Acting Principal at BPS into 2018 and as you know, I am very excited about the direction we are heading in developing our new Strategic Plan together.

School upgrades:

You'd be forgiven for thinking you've returned to a different school this year – we've had a considerable amount of work done at BPS over the break! Some of it long overdue – when you get a chance pop in and have a look at some of the projects we've undertaken:

- The old photocopy room has become our new conference room and team planning space
- The staff space, hallway outside the toilets and conference room have all been freshly painted
- The front entrance has been recarpeted
- New staff toilets and kitchen cupboards in the staff room
- Air conditioning installed in our staff space and upstairs in the 3/4 area
- Bike shed has been completed and almost all the temporary fencing has gone

You would have also noticed a bit of work completed in the school grounds. The garden bed between the sports field and the main building has been removed in readiness for a new synthetic grass play area which will be protected by waterproof shade sails. These works are the first stage of the West Wall Garden improvement works which were displayed to the school community early last year.

A working bee was also held on the 21 January to freshen up the school for the new year. You would have noticed that the overgrown weeds in the raised garden beds have been cleaned out and the area now replaced with bark and six new native trees. Also, the area where the temporary bike parking was located has also been cleaned out and replaced with bark and eleven new native trees.

We are preparing these areas for the second stage of the West Wall Garden improvement works which involve the creation of a new outdoor learning, seating, and play area. A big thank you goes out to the following parent and children volunteers who helped out on the day: Alan Brough; Stephen & Lewis Nowicki; David Scammell; Domenic, Isabel & Bastian Bartolo and Johanna Scott; Anthony, Thomas & Hannah Woodruff; Martyn Zdanius; Colin Masters; and William Marsicovetere. Thanks to Michael Marsicovetere for the work that went into coordinating such a big project.

We are planning on having a few more working bees throughout the year as there is still a lot more work to be done on the school grounds. Working bees provide a great opportunity to meet and socialise with other parents and best of all provides a sense of gratitude knowing that you have improved the school grounds for your children, teachers, and future students and teachers to enjoy.

Parent teacher communication:

We made some changes to our student free days at the beginning of this year and had two days at school focused on staff professional learning and setting up the learning areas. You will have two opportunities to meet with your child's teachers this term and we have restructured the focus of these meetings slightly.

1. Information Afternoon (4.00pm-5.00pm) & Welcome Picnic (5.00pm-6.30pm) will occur on **Thursday 22nd February**. This is a long standing tradition at BSPS where we start out in the learning areas with an overview of the year and then all our families, old and new, enjoy some food and a drink together while the kids are having a play in the school yard.
2. Student Led Conferences: These will occur on **Monday 19th March** and **Tuesday 20th March** and will replace the 'Introduce your child' sessions we previously had. The purpose of these sessions is for our students themselves to share with you their Learning Goals which have been developed in conjunction with their teachers.

In addition, as always, we encourage any families to come and see the teachers with any pressing concerns about your child as soon as possible.

Keep your eyes peeled for the newsletters from your child's learning area next week – this will have the timetables and lots of other information from our teachers.

Attendance and Absences:

In accordance with the review of the Attendance Guidelines for schools we will be implementing the absence SMS system to notify parents of unexplained absences. From today all parents of children who are marked as 'Unexplained' will receive an automatic SMS indicating their child is not at school. These changes will help us ensure we are meeting our duty of care to children during school hours. We will provide further information on this process in our next newsletter.

Important Dates:

Friday 9 th February	5/6 Assembly – 3.10-3.30pm
Tuesday 13 th February	School photos – Classroom photos
Wednesday 14 th February	School photos - Individual portraits
Thursday 15 th February	Sibling photos
Friday 16 th February	First newsletter
Thursday 22 nd February	Information Session and Welcome Picnic
Monday 19 th March	Student led conferences
Tuesday 20 th March	Student led conferences

Finally for this week, a couple of quick, general Safety Reminders that I ask be adhered to. These few requests are important for the safety and wellbeing of our school community.

- Students are supervised by staff from 8:45am until 3:45pm each day. To safeguard and maintain an appropriate Duty of Care for your children and to assist the Camp Australia OSHC program, students and families are asked to abide by our 'Access to School Grounds' Policy' (See A-Z on our website). *Please note that there is an ongoing invitation for parents to stay for a chat and a coffee or tea in the staff room every morning between 9 -10.00am – come along and see our brand new staff space.*
- If you are entering the school grounds during the school day, please report to the Office in the main building immediately upon arrival.
- Before entering the school grounds all students and parents should dismount from their bikes or scooters.
- Dogs in the school yard should be on a leash and controlled by an adult at all times and in accordance with our 'Dogs in School Policy' we ask that all dogs remain on the asphalt areas.

Thanks again for a great start to 2018 – it's going to be another fantastic year!