

Dear BPS families,

Welcome back!

The change in weather has lined up perfectly with the beginning of term and has us reaching for jackets and jumpers on these chilly mornings. Our students have, once again, settled into the new term well and have worked hard with the teachers to create a calm and orderly learning environment.

Staffing Update

This term we welcome **Alessia Baiguera** to our school as our new Co.As.It Italian Language Assistant. Our school is very generously provided with a language assistant from Italy each year and we certainly have the perfect environment to immerse them into Australia, while still providing familiarities of back home. Thank you to the Scammell family who have very generously offered to host Alessia while she awaits permanent accommodation.

We are still part of the way through our recruitment process in sourcing a replacement teacher in our 3/4 area. As you can imagine it does take us some time to recruit Italian teachers to BPS and we are always committed to only hiring outstanding educators to join our school. While this process takes place we are fortunate to have Chiara increase her hours and next week, we will welcome Angel to the area as a casual teacher.

We will let you know as soon as we have hired someone to the position.

We are also very excited to announce that **Mila Arnavas** was born on 11th April at 1.15am. Sanae and Daniel are over the moon and we are eagerly awaiting a visit to the school.



Strategic Plan

In our last newsletter we shared information about our draft SSP (**School Strategic Plan**). This document is on our website and was open for comment over the holiday break. Thank you to those families who took the time to give us feedback. The feedback indicated questions around the **technical language** used in the document. This language can be confusing to people outside the education industry, however, is crucial in us ensuring the Strategic Plan is a high level document that informs our future direction. While we can't alter this vocabulary too much, what we can do is provide support in translating key terms from the document and representing this information in different ways that our whole school community (including our kids) can access and understand.

Winter Solstice

Marg and I met with Jane, Simone and Angela this morning and the plans for the Winter Solstice Festival are well underway. This year's event is looking to be even bigger and better than last year. This event 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 23rd June** in your calendar and save the date!

Attendance and Absences:

You've heard a lot from me this year about attendance and absences and this is going to continue. We are pleased to report that unexplained absences have declined already in just one term. To help us continue this work, we will shortly be sending you a list of any outstanding absences. It would assist us greatly if you could clarify these dates and provide the school with reasons for the absences. This also helps us ensure our roll marking is consistent and accurate across the school.

Important Dates:

Monday 23 rd April – Friday 4 th May	Years 5/6 Swimming
Tuesday 24 th April	Body Safety Information Session – 7-8pm (Hall)
Wednesday 25 th April	ANZAC Day – Public Holiday
Friday 27 th April	5/6 Assembly
Monday 30 th April	Student Body Safety Sessions begin
Thursday 3 rd May	Open Day for prospective 2019 families
Thursday 17 th May & Friday 18 th May	Dental Van
Friday 25 th May	Dance Incursion – Session 1
Wednesday 30 th May	Visit from The Hon. James Merlino & new Italian Consul General Pierluigi Trombetta
Friday 2 nd May	5/6 Inter School Sport Gala Day
Monday 11 th June	Queen's Birthday – Public Holiday
Saturday 23 rd June	BSPS Winter Solstice Festival

Finally for this week, a couple of quick, general reminders that I ask be adhered to. These few requests are important for the safety and wellbeing of our whole 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).
- 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 for a great first week back,

Trevor