Barwon Valley News
6th October, 2016

Diary Dates 2016

Term Four: 3rd October - 20th December
Finance Committee Meeting: 10th October
School Council Meeting: 18th October
BVS Anniversary Celebrations: 26th October
Geelong Cup Public Holiday: 19th October
Golf Day: 4th November
Student Free Day: 20th December

Barwon Valley School is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and has zero tolerance for child abuse.
(Child Safe Standards)

PRINCIPAL REPORT

WELCOME BACK
Welcome back to Term 4. What a wild and windy start to the week. The weather will continue to be unpredictable for a while yet so please ensure that students have both jumpers for cooler days and their sun hats to go outside.

This term is very busy for everyone. Students are busy completing work and activities, staff commence assessment and reporting procedures while we start to think about organisation for 2017 and our end of year celebrations.

Please take the time to read the newsletter each week as it will contain information about important dates and activities coming up. If you have any concerns or questions about student placements for next year please phone Anne Hume when she returns from leave next week.

GEELONG SHOW
If you are going to the Geelong Show this year make sure you look for the Barwon Valley School display in the Art Pavilion.

A selection of Art from students across the school will be entered.

Thanks to Lisa Wiffen our coordinator and to staff for supporting this community event.
TRAMPOLINES
Mark was hard at work over the holidays overseeing the construction of our new trampolines.

Students were very excited to see the one in the Junior Learning Community that was ready for use when they returned on Monday.

Construction is still underway in the Senior Learning Community but has been slowed by the weather.

The trampolines are going in at ground level for safe and easy access for the students so it has been quite a complicated process although we are very pleased with the result.

GEELONG CUP HOLIDAY
Please note there is no school on Wednesday October 19th as this is the Geelong Cup Public Holiday.

SCHOOL STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

Empowering students and building school communities.

Student drive, motivation and confidence in one’s self is essential to fulfil learning potential. Teachers have a significant influence over this in the school. Positive teacher - student relationships are known to have large effects on student engagement and learning.

Teachers can improve relationships with students by showing they understand and care about them individually and by trying to see student perspectives. Opportunities for student leadership in the school can also increase engagement and potentially improve student learning.
Supporting Student Confidence in Learning and Achievement
The school deliberately builds and maintains positive relationships with students, including showing their knowledge and interest in each student’s progress. They do this by:
- Implementing the Starting Right Program at the start of the year and reviewing it each term.
- Buddy Program – building relationships between older and younger students
- Morning Circle/ Group Meetings
- Use of SWPBS approach across the school
- Documenting any incidents that do occur either in the classroom or the playground, looking at reasons for that behaviour and ways to improve the learning or play environment for students.
- Using Restorative Practices when conflict occurs
- Developing alternatives to traditional play in the playgrounds
- The development of the SWT to support staff in supporting students and families
- Check in / check out with Sonya and Prin class.
- Involving Liz / Tara in classrooms across the school
- Encouraging the practice of mindfulness in classrooms, Trial of Wellbeing Programs
- PALS program – play skills for JLC
- Celebrating student progress eg Use of Good Ones, Star of the Week, Principal’s Morning Tea,
- Celebrating birthdays of classroom members
- Teaching about So SAFE! / consent/public & private, E-Smart
- ISM model increases staff knowledge about specific students

Promoting student drive, motivation, confidence for learning
Teachers have a deep understanding of each student’s learning needs and use this to help them develop challenging goals. Teachers use assessment data to help students see the progress they are making and to celebrate their achievements with their families. This is done by:
- Involving students in SSG process
- Goal strips in student voice
- Goal posters in student voice
- Goal e-books
- Goal resources and regular practice opportunities
- Use of ILP trackers
- Development of teaching beliefs and their display around the school
- ABLES – to assess where students are on Vic Curriculum and check that goals are set at appropriate level
- Use of learning intentions so that students are aware of what they are learning
- Use of Good Ones in recognition of students who follow the school rules
- Principal’s Morning Tea for students who follow the school rules
- Encouraging student reflection at the end of the day – What did you do well today?
- Star of the Week
- Following school rules, values and SWPBS approach across the school
- Support of ISM in selecting and implementing student goals
Promoting student leadership and voice

The school staff follow the current processes for recognising and responding to student voice such as consulting students about aspects of the school that could be improved. Examples of this are:

- Administration of the Student Attitude to School Survey to specific groups of students
- The school looking at other ways student voice can be heard and recognised
- Encouraging all staff to consider student voice
- Providing assisted forms of communication as required
- House Leaders / House teams – promoting sense of belonging and developing leadership skills
- Buddies, Bus Leaders, Student Ambassador, Student Leaders
- Students representing the school at events in the wider community e.g. Anzac Day, Leadership Conference
- Introduction of So SAFE! into JLC and embedding across the school
- Bravehearts program
- Introduction of the Bullystoppers Program. Encouraging students to stand up for other students (Bystander Education)
- Responsibilities and involvement of students at WSA – performing / assisting
- Encouraging responsibility e.g. within school work experience such as taking the roll
- Students asking for a break – self regulation
- Work experience in canteen – menu, delivery, food preparation etc.

Supporting Student Leadership in school decision making

The school provides a range of student leadership roles. Students are provided with training in communication and decision making skills. Some examples of this are:

- House Leaders – choice of activities, Student Leaders, Bus Leaders
- Encouraging students to express their opinions if they have any concerns e.g. to Prin class, LT’s, their teacher
- Feedback from students re e.g. taster sessions
- Contributing to playground review
- Contributing to transport review
- Working with Wellbeing Support Officer on leadership skills and decision making
- Asking students to practise making choices everyday in their classroom e.g. choice of leisure activity, music, story etc.
- Use of aided communication e.g. Proloquo2go, PECs folders
- Participation in SSG’s

Supporting student confidence in learning

The school is actively involved in networks and partnerships with community organizations that support the health, development and learning of students and their families. These interactions include:

- Work experience at Karingal Kommercial, Encompass, Narana, Grinter Gardens
- Support from CAMHS, SSSO, DHHS, NDIS, Healthy Together Geelong, Family Planning Vic
- Support and advice from Nirodah
- Involvement of students in BioLab Science programs
- Peer support from students at Belmont High and Covenant College
- Liz S (Geelong Library), Liz McGrath (Art), Tara Lynch (Yoga), David Robinson (Drumming)
- Agencies – Gateways, Bethany, Mackillop
- Funding through MIPS, Advance
- Volunteer involvement
- Peer interaction e.g. for students at Oberon South Primary School / Oberon Secondary College
- Students on placement eg ES staff/ Medical students/Deakin students
- Students doing work experience at BVS
- Incursions at Whole School Assembly
- SEDA students supporting programs
- Leisure Networks
- Geelong Performing Arts Centre (GPAC) – Music Count us in, Movement and Music Festival
WELLBEING

PSYCHOLOGIST
Barwon Valley welcomes our new Psychologist, Karen Fairhust, who will be working at the school on Mondays.

Karen has a background in Psychology and Education with experience in teaching and therapeutic practice across a wide range of ages and abilities.

Referrals are made through the Wellbeing Team.

Any queries contact Sonya on 5243 1813.

P.S.G. SURVEY RESULTS
Thankyou to everyone who participated in the survey. The results have been collated and this is what term 4 will look like:

Monthly meetings
  Day- rotated between Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
  Time-10.30am
  Location-B.V.S.
  First topic-Getting the most from your N.D.I.S plan

I am looking for parents to share their knowledge and stories in getting the best plan for the children. It will be an informal format with coffee and cake.
Exact dates will be confirmed in the first newsletter in Term 4

Please fill in the form below and send into the office.

Name……………………………………………………………………………………………………
would like to share my knowledge and experiences at the upcoming P.S.G. on the topic of N.D.I.S . and will be available to share some strategies and ideas.

Sonya Gregorio
Wellbeing Support
GARAGE SALE

Geelong Wheelchairs are having a garage sale on
Saturday 8th October from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm.
106 Bailey Street Grovedale

Drop in to check out the bargains.
Clearance of floor stock, ex hire equipment, ex demo equipment
and surplus stock.

EMAILING THE NEWSLETTER

Just a reminder to parents the newsletter will be emailed to parents within
the next few weeks.

Please ensure the office has your updated email address so you can
receive our weekly newsletter.

GOLF DAY RAFFLE TICKETS

Just a reminder to parents and carers to return raffle tickets to school
as soon as possible please.

GOLF DAY

Just a reminder our Golf day is on 4th November 2016.

If anyone would like to submit a team, sponsor a hole
or donate an item for the auction please contact the Admin office.
Barwon Valley School has achieved “eSmart Status”

On Tuesday the 27th of September, Barwon Valley School officially attained eSmart status.

What this means is that our school has successfully met each criteria in the 6 domains within the framework and we have provided evidence that highlights our practice and how this has improved student learning outcomes across the school community.

This is a huge achievement for our school and highlights all the hard work our school community has put into developing an eSafety program that caters for the individual needs of our students.

As a school we now move onto the embedding phase of this framework and we are continually educating ourselves in the world of safe online practices to provide the best information to students, parents and carers.

Thank-you to everyone who has been involved in this journey
J06 Swinging Into Term 4

We love to use the swing in our courtyard in the morning but first we have jobs to do!

Felix puts his diary in the box.

Ryley does his tabletop activity.

Nicholas waits quietly for his turn in the bathroom.

Cameron uses the My Turn card when it is his turn for the swing.

Max has his turn on the swing.
Stars of the Week

The following stars of the week will be given their award at whole School Assembly this Friday at 2:30pm.

Lachlan (JLC 1/1) - For a happy and calm start to Term 4.

Bradley ((J2) - For great use of his switch in the classroom.

Ella (JLC 1/2) - For interacting and playing well with her friends.

Joshua (S01) - For putting a great effort into his work.

George ( S13) - For communicating enthusiastically with his peers using Proloquo2Go.

Kate (S20) - For always being such a supportive friend at school.

Coco (S10) - For an enthusiastic start to Term 4.

Harley M - For a great effort practising his yoga skills inside and outside of school.