



Wednesday August 18th 2021

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www.blackhills.vic.edu.au

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8.30-4.15pm

Friday: 8.30—4.00pm

School Hours: 8:50am—3:30pm



We are very excited about our new school website. We are hoping that it will be live very soon.

Last week School Council got a sneak peek at it. The team of Vanessa, Mandy and myself been working on this throughout the year. You can see a screen shot of what it will look like below when it is launched. Keep your eyes out for the date, as it is very close to completion.



Focus Groups

I will be offering an opportunity for parents to be involved in focus groups around parent community engagement. This is one module in the parent opinion survey. It included questions on:

- Parent participation and involvement
- School communication
- Teacher communication

These focus groups will be looking at what we can do to improve in these 3 areas and will be conducted online via Webex. Please email the school at Black.hill.ps@education.vic.gov.au with your preferred day and time from the selection below with Focus group

in the subject line. We will then send you out a WebEx link and some question prompts. Groups will be capped at 6, however if we have more interest, we will offer alternative times and dates.

Dates and Times:

Morning	9:15am	Monday 23 rd August
		Tuesday 31 st August
Afternoon	4:00 pm	Wednesday 25 th August
		Wednesday 1 st September
Evening	6:30 pm	Monday 23 rd August
		Tuesday 31 st August

NAPLAN Online School readiness Test

Next week a selection of our year 3/4 and 5/6 students will be undergoing a practice NAPLAN test online. In 2018, the National Assessment program – Literacy and Numeracy NAPLAN commenced transition from paper based to an online assessment. Our school is making the transition to NAPLAN Online by performing the school readiness test on Monday 23rd August. A sample of our students will complete the practice tests via a secure locked down browser (LDB) on an iPad.

NAPLAN Online delivers benefits including:

- A new test design and a wider range of item types.
- A tailored test design that adapts to correct and incorrect student responses providing more precise understanding of student achievement.

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Dates for the family diary...

Wednesday	8th September	School Council Meeting 7:00pm
Tues-Wed	14-15th September	School Concert Performances

Urgent!! If you have a child starting in Prep next year, please enrol them ASAP.

Permission forms due back—3/4 Camp—Campaspe Downs

Team News

Prep/1/2 Team

It was super exciting last week - we had a visit from special teddy bear doctors! We learnt how to look after our bears when they are sick or hurt. We also learnt lots about how to keep them healthy! Our bears had a great day, they got their broken limbs bandaged, their teeth brushed, done some exercise, had a general health checks and much more! We were so happy with our day that we wrote to the doctors to thank them for teaching us all about how to keep our bears safe and healthy!



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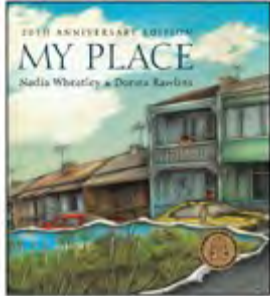
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Team News

3/4 Team

This week during Reading the 3/4 students have continued to learn about Australian history through the text 'My Place'. In Maths, we have been exploring fractions using hands on activities, games, digital technology and focussed lessons. Concert rehearsal during Performing Arts and in the classrooms are well underway. The students can't wait to share their performances with the other classes and their families.



Reminders

Unfortunately, due to the extended lockdown in Melbourne, the Ceres excursion has been cancelled. If you have already paid, the full amount will be credited to your account, and can be used for future excursions or camps. If you would prefer a refund, please contact the office.

This week three notes will be sent home about camp. Could you please read over the code of conduct carefully with your child before signing it and returning it to school with the green note.

Finally, thanks to the families who have already sent in the underclothes for the concert. A reminder that these clothes need to be named and placed in a bag.

5/6 Team

Science Week in 5/6

This year the theme for National Science Week is 'Food: Different by Design'. This week the Year 5/6s have looked at sustainability and thought about food – from the farm or factory, enjoying some design work.

When asking students what they thought of Science, some of the responses we heard were:

- Science has a lot of mysteries that you get to learn about. **Violet**
- Science is fun and I have enjoyed drawing the farms and factories today when learning about sustainability. **India**
- There are lots of weird things that you can eat in food science. **Eden**
- There are so many possibilities when learning Science. **Aella**
- I like doing the experiments because you don't know what's going to happen..... and anything can happen! **Harriet**
- I like Science because you can find out the way things work. **Charlotte**
- There are so many different types of Sciences you can learn about. **Will**



POSTPONED

Due to our current restrictions the mental health sessions that were scheduled for next week have been postponed.

Our Wednesday Maths Extension groups have also been postponed until further notice.

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- Enhancement of provisions for students with disabilities with broader access and participation to the tests.
- A longer window in which to schedule the tests.
- Reduced time between testing and reporting once the online transition is complete.

Concert

Concert preparations are continuing despite lockdown interruptions. I have seen lots of classes rehearsing their items and it is looking amazing. The underclothes document which details what items each child will require for the concert is going out to families this week. Teachers will have a tub ready in their classrooms for when the items start coming in. They are all **due by Monday 30th August**. Remember to place the clothes in one bag and ensure it is clearly labelled.

The concert team have spent a fair bit of time over the last few weeks planning for contingencies, so rest assured we have a plan for whatever happens!

Invitation to participate in the 2021 Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey

Each school family has been invited by email to participate in the 2021 Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Opinion Survey (previously known as the Parent Opinion Survey). **NOTE: Only one parent/caregiver/guardian from your family is invited to complete the survey.** The survey is open until **Sunday 22 August 2021**.

COVID update

We are thinking of our colleagues and the students in Melbourne as they go into a further period of lockdown. While we still have restrictions in place, we have so many more freedoms. The remaining restrictions include:

- Staggered finish times (**but not staggered starts for children**), began Thursday 29th July.
- Restrictions on access to the school site for anyone other than immediate school staff, DET employees or staff delivering programs for student learning and of course our students,
- No assemblies, however we will still have the Blueprint

We encourage you to utilise the drop off zones in Chisholm Street and Sherrard Street to assist with the quick drop off. Staff will be on duty in the mornings at the gates from 8:35am to welcome students and assist. School starts at 8:50am.

Pick up from school at the end of the day will happen in 3 waves according to the surname of your child:

Surnames commencing **A-G – leave at 3:20pm**

Surnames commencing **H-R – leave at 3:25pm**

Surnames commencing **S-Z – leave at 3:30pm**

Children will leave the school ground and go straight to

the adult who is collecting them.

(Families with children with differing surnames should choose the wave according to the parent surname.)

If your child is anxious or you predict this may be of concern, please contact your child's teacher to organise an appropriate strategy for us to support them. Staff will be at the school exits.

Parents may not collect their children from the classroom. They should collect their children outside THE SAME gate that they were dropped off at. We request that parents waiting for children at the gates practise safe social distancing and wear masks.

Parents who need to drop off children **before 8:40am** should book them into **Camp Australia** Before School Care www.campaustralia.com.au.

Students who arrive late should go to the office as per usual. However, if your child is anxious and it is after the bell, call the office and we will come out to assist. Any updates will be advertised on both our Compass and Facebook pages.

Practise good hygiene

All staff, students and visitors to schools should undertake regular hand hygiene, particularly on arrival to school, before and after eating, after blowing their nose, coughing, sneezing or using the toilet. Staff should direct or supervise young students where required.

Sharing of food is not recommended. Where this occurs, individual portions should be encouraged alongside strict hand hygiene.

Use non-contact greetings (not shaking hands or hugging).

Birthdays

I would like to acknowledge all those students who have had birthdays over the past week. Your book marks will be given to you by your teacher.

Happy Birthday to:

Sonni	56D
Orlani	56A
Alia	34E
Coby	34E
Maddie	12D
Jet	12B
Edith	0PB
Eddie	0PB
Finn	0PA

**Kind regards,
Donna Bishop
Principal**



Want \$500 to help you with school costs?



Saver Plus is a financial education program for families and individuals on a tight budget to develop life-long savings habits.

To join Saver Plus, you must:

- ✔ Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card **AND** an eligible Centrelink payment*
- ✔ Be studying yourself **OR** have a child in school (can be starting school next year)
- ✔ Have regular income from work (either yourself or your partner)*
- ✔ Be 18+ years old

*Many types of income and Centrelink payments are eligible

Here are some of the school costs the \$500 can be used for:



laptops & tablets



uniforms & shoes



books & supplies



sports fees & gear





lessons & activities




camps & excursion

For more information, please contact your local Saver Plus coordinator:

 Sue Ogilvie

 sue@bgt.org.au

 0401 144 089

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Find out more at saverplus.org.au

Saver Plus is an initiative of the Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ and delivered in partnership with local community organisations. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services.



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