FROM THE PRINCIPAL AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Families

Working Bee last Sunday

On Sunday a very small but hardworking group spent time tidying many areas of the playground and reorganising resources in the hall. Thank you to the following families for their attendance: Armstrong, Jenkins, Bao, Manger, Patterson, Hayes, Hutchinson, Savage, Heath and Hyland. Also thank you to Mr Dawes, Mrs Skewes, Mr Paleka and Mr Bailey.

Many jobs were completed including: cleared drains, sweeping of asphalt areas and paths, Foundation courtyard, Kitchen Garden and Foundation playground, some repotting and much more to ensure our school is well presented.

It’s time to find a new home for our chickens

Parents may know that from time to time we offer our chickens to families. Their enclosure is then rested and we purchase a new flock for the children to raise. Our chickens would make a fantastic family pets as they are well accustomed to being petted by the children. Phone the office or talk with Jenny Fildes 3F or Lindy McManus 4M, if you would like to have a chicken. They are all good layers too!

Second Preview of the refurbished classrooms: Monday 10th August 3-3.30pm

For those families unable to pop in last Monday we again offer the opportunity to have a look at the recently refurbished classrooms.

Diary Dates

There is always a lot happening at school so please keep your eye on diary dates each week to see what is coming up during the term. On the front page of our website we have a new calendar feature listing the events scheduled for the next 30 days.

Extra Curricula Activities at BPS.

We know our students have many talents and interests so we make available a broad range of extra curricula activities at lunchtimes and after school during the week. They include Bollywood Dancing, Hoopsmart, Kelly Sports, Instrumental music sessions with Musicorp and Pocomusic, Chess Kids, Lego Club and Tennis Clinics. Click here for more details: http://www.beaups.vic.edu.au/page/127/Extra-Curricular-Activities

Thank you for your fete donations

Items for the fete are arriving daily. Thank you for your generosity. Our Centenary Fete is not that far away. Thank you to the fete committee and parent volunteers for the efforts already well underway.

Artist in Schools program in Year 4: Matthew Butler

We are indeed privileged to have Matthew working with our Year 4 students. The students are individually creating art work focussed on our history in our centenary year. The art pieces, zaishu stools, are really starting to take shape. Thank you also to the Year 4 teachers, Jill Blackman, parents and friends of the school who have been supporting Matthew and the students. Parents may wish to Google Matthew to see his wealth of experience, exhibitions and commercial work.

Thank you for your fete donations

Items for the fete are arriving daily. Thank you for your generosity. Our Centenary Fete is not that far away. Thank you to the fete committee and parent volunteers for the efforts already well underway.

ARTIST IN SCHOOLS PROGRAM IN YEAR 4: MATTHEW BUTLER

We are indeed privileged to have Matthew working with our Year 4 students. The students are individually creating art work focussed on our history in our centenary year. The art pieces, zaishu stools, are really starting to take shape. Thank you also to the Year 4 teachers, Jill Blackman, parents and friends of the school who have been supporting Matthew and the students. Parents may wish to Google Matthew to see his wealth of experience, exhibitions and commercial work.

Thank you for your fete donations

Items for the fete are arriving daily. Thank you for your generosity. Our Centenary Fete is not that far away. Thank you to the fete committee and parent volunteers for the efforts already well underway.
Student Absence
Student absence of late seems to be attributed to seasonal coughs and colds. Parents are reminded to call the school, provide in writing or go to the absence page under the parent tab on our website to complete an online absence form for ALL student absences. We are required to monitor non-attendance and the reasons for the absence. Please keep the children home if they are unwell to help prevent fellow classmates and teachers also becoming unwell.

Sheryl M. Skewes  Neven Paleka
Principal  Assistant Principal

Our sustainability journey
In our efforts to become a rubbish free school we have now removed all bins from the yard except our compost bucket. While strongly encouraging all families to provide “Nude food” for their children, we understand that this is not always possible for 100% of their lunch. Our students are encouraged to eat and dispose of any packaging while inside, where they have access to 4 bins:

COMINGLED RECYCLING  SOFT PLASTIC  COMPOST  LANDFILL

On canteen days we have a new system in place for over the counter sales, with a tub available at the canteen for “wet” packaging such as icy pole packets and frozen yoghurt tubs and spoons, but any other wrappers go in their pocket, then into the appropriate bin inside.

Every class has two “Bin Busters”, monitors who are part of our school wide Waste Warriors team, and these students have participated in activities to educate themselves and their classmates about disposing of waste correctly.

Some of them also helped put together a slideshow to help everyone understand the new procedure. Please follow the link below to view their fabulous work.

enviro week
Cool Australia’s enviroweek is coming up from August 30 until September 5. As part of this week we will be having our Annual Nude Food Picnic on Thursday 3rd September on the oval at 12.15pm. We would love our families and special friends to join us with some healthy nude food. This day is also a free dress day for students with a gold coin donation, which will contribute to one of our Kitchen Garden projects, which are about to get underway.

Please save the date! History Puzzle Exhibition
Thursday 10th September – Sunday 13th September

Our Year 4 students have been working with our Artist in Residence Matthew Butler, to create a permanent visual record of Beaumaris Primary School’s past and present identity, in the form of decorated furniture pieces that draw upon sustainable and ethical practice. The History Puzzle exhibition will be held at the Beaumaris Art Group Gallery from Thursday 10th September until Sunday 13th September. More information to follow.
Dear Beaumaris School Community,

In relation to the recent launch of the KidsMatter initiative, the Action Team would like to say a huge thank you to all those families that completed the recent survey. The survey generated a fantastic response by 161 families and we now have some very valuable data to work with.

This information has been extremely important in further developing our school mental health initiative.

If you would like to access the survey results, please click on the link [http://www.beaups.vic.edu.au/page/131/KidsMatter](http://www.beaups.vic.edu.au/page/131/KidsMatter) which will take you to the KidsMatter page on our school website. The surveys can be found at the bottom of this page.

The KidsMatter Action Team is currently reviewing the survey data, so stay tuned for further updates and upcoming events as they launch this exciting new initiative.

The KidsMatter Action Team
Catherine Churchward, Jenny Fildes, Anna Redlich, Jo Pyke-Simmons, Anne Thompson

**KidsMatter Communication**

This week we are looking at communication between school and home.

---

**Communication between home and school**

**Building a positive school community**

Strong, regular communication between home and school is a high priority at Beaumaris Primary School. Why? Research tells us a strong home/school partnership develops a positive attitude towards school in our students and subsequently improves student learning outcomes.

Our school continually communicates with parents to build strong connections between home and school:

- Formal parent/teacher interviews twice yearly
- Year level “Statements of Intent” posted on our website each fortnight
- Teachers outside classrooms after school for 10 minutes each day
- News flashes of special events at school on our school Facebook page
- Messages for reminders direct to your mobile phone
- Open classrooms in Term One
- Open classrooms during Education Week
- Parent information sessions at the start of the year and year level presentations posted on our website
- Parent Information sessions to explain how parents can help their child at home, facilitated by Numeracy and Literacy Consultants, Sue Fine and Julie Shepherd
- Term Year Level Newsletters outlining the program
- Newsletter summaries of the work of our School Improvement Teams
- Weekly updates of classroom events in Level Low Downs in Stop Press
- Letter of introduction by the teacher to their new students each year
- Parent groups within the school eg School Council and Sub Committees Parent Club, Garden Club, Fete Committee, Working Bee Volunteers, classroom helpers, learning support helpers, BFAC, Canteen volunteers and Class Representatives.

---
Raising a critical generation

In a digitally literate world of ‘likes’ and social criticism Lakshmi Singh looks at how parents can foster critical spirit in a constructive, healthy and balanced way.

The age of entitlement
Parents have always wanted the best for kids, but taking the “you deserve the best, this/he/she is not good enough” mentality a bit too far can also be detrimental, says parenting and education expert Ronit Baras.

“The rules of education are very simple, judgmental parents will raise judgmental kids. Why? Because judgment is a coping mechanism to fight inadequacy. Judgmental people have weaknesses (and) judgment is their way of hiding. ‘If I find faults in others, I will be able to hide mine.’ If parents model this mentality, kids will adopt it.”

Similarly projecting a “my child is special and they need to know that” vision by over-supplying them with activities, commodities and even praise can lead to an unhealthy sense of entitlement, says Dr. Ash Nayate, clinical neuropsychologist.

“Narcissism (i.e. a feeling of entitlement) is a sign of unhealthy self-esteem. Narcissistic people don’t see themselves as equal to others, they see themselves as better than others – and the reason they hold this belief is to cover up their fear of ‘not being good enough,’” she says. Judging people helps alleviate that fear, she says. To help stop the cycle, she believes parents need to lead by example.

“Developing a healthy self-esteem is critical. If as a parent you have low confidence and low self-esteem, your kids are going to pick up on that as well. If you want your kids to be resilient and confident, then you need to work on the confidence and self-esteem within yourself.”

Readily accessible forums to dish out criticism
It is no secret that Millennials are more digitally literate than the rest of us. With most having access to their own mobile phone, laptop and social media accounts, the stage through which they can communicate with others is wide and always available.

“Social media encourages us to be more vocal about criticism. So instead of just judging people quietly, in our mind, we can do it aloud, behind the safety and anonymity of a computer screen,” says Dr. Nayate.
The privacy that social media affords also brings to the fore a trait that Baras calls a "brain fart".

"In my program we consider it a "brain fart" when you do not consider others or the outcome of what you say and only want to say it, at all cost," she says.

She believes the problem is intensified in a society that values external standards and imposes them on the education system through set metrics. "Teachers use marks, tests [and] they flush with standards and rules and this is far away from teaching critical thinking. So, no wonder kids are learning that everything in their life needs to be judged."

From teacher review sites to specialist groups and threads on social media forums, kids today can critique anything about their school, programs or individual people, making up their mind whether something makes the cut or not.

A culture that accepts criticism

With the prominence and popularity of reality TV shows comes the hard truth that our culture is now one of judgement and criticism.

"People are evaluated on the basis of what they're missing, how they're not good enough or worthy enough, and what's 'wrong' with them," says Dr. Nayate.

To compound the situation, today's society is more geared towards materialism and capitalism, she says.

With the aim of being 'better', 'richer' and 'more successful' comes the habit to indulge in self-criticism, another trigger for engaging in a dialog centred around "I am better than this guy because ..." or "I am so hopeless at this compared to ..."

"Self-criticism is the first step towards judgement of others. We can only judge others if we're somehow judgemental of ourselves," says Dr. Nayate.

Striking a balance

So, how do we turn all this 'judgement' into something that is more considered, evaluated and more respectful of the people and practices involved in the process?

By understanding the difference between informed decision-making or critical thinking and straightforward judgement, says Baras.

"Critical thinking is when we present kids with options and teach them to evaluate and consider the advantages and disadvantages between options. Criticism/judgment is considering yourself above others and rating them based on your own individual standard."

The good news is that critical thinking skills can be developed without being critical of others says Dr. Nayate.

"It's about adopting an attitude of open-mindedness and healthy curiosity. Just like a three year old who always asks why - the child isn't doing it out of judgement or maliciousness, it's simply a raw desire to learn more about the world."

While critical thinking skills depend on the maturity of the child, Dr. Nayate believes parents can nudge kids in the right direction by role modelling it:

1 Verbalise the thought-process involved in everyday decisions – for example choosing healthier food options ("When I eat fries, I feel a bit sick in the stomach, and the next day I get a headache from all the salt and grease. And then I feel sluggish and lazy, and I just want to sit around at home all day instead of going to the playground with you.")

2 Assist with decisions and evaluations – implement this as a two-step process, she advises: first, acknowledge kids when they have demonstrated critical thinking. For example: "that was a good decision to do your homework before you went to your friend's house. That way, you can really have fun and you don't need to rush to get home".

Secondly, help them assess whether the decision they made was because they accept an idea or because it came from a person they accept. As an example, many teenagers tend to accept information as credible when it comes from their peers or celebrities more so than their parents.

3 Help them put their higher values in perspective – while some children may value hard work or aim for certain levels of achievement, they would also value acceptance, connection with others, happiness, fun and adventure, she says. For example, a child who values health and fitness highly might override them in favour of other values like fitting in with their peers who smoke and thus take up that habit. Encourage them to see when decisions are made based on what we value, rather than on impulse or what feels good at that moment.

Sources:
- Tim Elmore's blog on 'Curing a critical spirit in students' - http://growingleaders.com/blog/curing-critical-spirit-students/
- Time magazine article 'Millenials: The Me Me Me Generation' - http://time.com/247/millenials-the-me-me-me-generation/

Lakshmi Singh

LEVEL LOW DOWN
Foundation

Last Friday our students had their first fire drill. All Prep students understand that in an emergency the whole school (including visitors) evacuate to the back of the oval. We are learning to move QQC - quickly, quietly and carefully around our learning centre and around corners outside. We have exciting new learning areas that include a petrol station and mechanics garage, five senses table and an animal area. We are desperately seeking an old vacuum hose to make a petrol pump, any bits to tinker with, old magnifying glasses and anything for the five senses table.

Year One

What a busy week we have had in Year One this week. We have continued learning about nouns, verbs, adjectives and contractions and moved along to persuasive writing. We discussed techniques we use in our everyday lives to persuade people and everyone agreed that we have used persuasion with our mums and dads in the shops and supermarkets. We spoke about different questions and whether we agreed or disagreed, but we needed a great reason to convince people. Some of our questions were- ‘Boys are better than girls’, ‘9 is better than 2’ and ‘The city is better than the beach’. We continued learning about time this week. We practised o’clock and half past and even discovered that we skip count by 5s around the clock.

If you have any materials that you think we could use in the collage, tinkering or science areas please send them along to school with your child. During Investigations these areas are very popular and we often need to restock our supplies. Tomorrow we are going to Scienceworks! Please see next week’s Stop Press to see our excursion photos.

Year Two

STOP.
Breath in.............. hold..................... breath out.

In grade 2 this term we have continued to practice our daily meditation using the ‘Smiling Mind’ program. We are showing students through ‘Smiling Mind’ that it is not only important to look after their body but also their minds. Using this program we are teaching students lifelong skills such as focus and coping strategies through meditation. Many students after conducting a Smiling Mind guided meditation have said that they feel calmer, ready to learn and relaxed. In this busy world it is really important that students have that 10 minutes per day that is “just for them”.

We encourage parents to continue these practices at home by logging onto the webpage http://smilingmind.com.au/ or downloading the ‘Smiling Mind’ app on their phone or tablet and enjoy some meditation at home with your children. You will need to create an account, which is free. Have fun exploring the excellent resources that the Smiling Mind website has to offer.

“Well done you have just put a smile on your mind”.
**Year Three**

Meanwhile in Year 3...
Our students have continued to be immersed in Science. They have been participating in hands-on experiments and receiving expert tuition from Bill Nye The Science Guy. We are learning about the difference between living and non-living things, how heat is transferred from one object to another, the difference between solids, liquids and gases, and the formation of night and day.
In Maths, our students continue to develop their multiplication skills and understandings in clinic groups. In Measurement and Geometry, 3AH and 3E have been learning how to measure mass, while 3P and 3F have been learning how to measure capacity.
In English, Year 3 have begun to discuss the features of effective procedure texts. In Grammar, we have been learning about verbs and adverbs and how they can be used to create explicit methods for procedures. We have also been going Word Mania mad!

**Year Four**

Last Thursday our Year 4 students showcased their History ERPs at the Year 4 History Expo. All the students proudly demonstrated their learning, linking their interest to our History learning intentions. The children will further demonstrate their History understandings at the end of this term when they present their amazing Zaishus, which are nearing completion, with artist Matthew Butler. The teachers are very proud of the efforts that the students put in to their research and the presentation of their ERPs. Well Done Year 4!

We are excited to be introducing our new Science subject focus and learning intentions. Environmental Scientist Dr Graeme Pearman will be joining our students to help develop scientific understandings and to answer questions on **Friday 14th August**. We wish to extend an invitation to any interested Year 4 parents to join us for Dr Pearman’s presentation, **between 2 and 3pm**, in the new Year 4 learning area. Please register your interest at the school office if you plan on attending.

**Year Five**

**EARTH IN SPACE**
The Year Fives had another fantastic ‘Hands On Science’ experience on Tuesday exploring Earth in space. They identified the planets of the solar system and compared how long they take to orbit the sun. Students made a model depicting the relative size and distance between Earth, other planets in the solar system and the sun and recognized the role of the sun as a provider of energy for Earth.

**FUN FACTS**
Astronauts can become about 5cm taller while they are in space. Their spines stretch because **gravity** does not press them down.
Most of the Sun’s **heat** is absorbed by the Earth’s atmosphere, then Earth radiates heat away from the surface which keeps the planet cooler.
**Light** travels through the universe in a straight line. You can only see the planets of our solar system because they reflect the light of the sun.
Year Six

Last week the Year 6 team and students got to join the Prep team and their buddies to celebrate 100 days at school. We all dressed in our Pyjamas and participated in a lot of activities. Our favourite part of the day was the amazing race and the fantastic party. Thank you to all the parents involved in hosting the beautiful spread of yummy food.

This week will be the end of the debates and our teams will be picked for the debating competitions. We are half way through our Science rotations and are continuing to train for Athletics.

Quotes
Millie “It was a great day and I loved spending time with my buddy celebrating her 100th day at school”
Brodie “It was 100 days of Prep and a 100th day of Fun”

You’re invited to our BOOK FAIR!

Date: Monday 7th Sept - Thursday 10th Place: SALC
Time: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm