



BOROONDARA PARK PRESS

Tel 9857 5157
Fax 9857 6794

boroondara.park.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.bpark.vic.edu.au

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Hello everyone

41 industrious weeks have passed and **the 2016 school year is coming to a close**. So much has been undertaken and so much has been achieved. The little Foundation children we welcomed in February are now big children ready for Grade One. All through the school, children have worked hard and made terrific progress. All through the school, teachers and other staff members have worked hard to contribute significantly to facilitating the children's progress. Within the community many people have volunteered countless hours to help the various machinations of our school come together – the Fair being an outstanding example. Congratulations and thank you to everyone. We have experienced some challenges but overall it has been a wonderful year.

Last Thursday's **Carols Night** was a wonderful success. Congratulations to our performers who sang and/or played beautifully. Many thanks to the audience who were most respectful and appreciative of the children's efforts, and many thanks to Miss Poor, Miss Stephen and Mr Batt for preparing the children so well and hosting the evening. Many thanks also to the band of volunteers comprising Julie Dussin; Margy, Chloe and Darcy Nixon; Steph Louey; Narelle Kay-Kneebone; Di's daughter Nicola; and Di herself who sacrificed the chance to be part of the audience by working in the canteen all evening.

Last night, at the **Graduation Ceremony**, we celebrated the successful completion of seven years of school by our 99 Year 6 students. The social part of the evening kicked off in the central area and in front of the canteen where the students and parents mingled while enjoying light refreshments. As has become a tradition at BPPS, the Year 5 parents take responsibility for this part of the event; they then get to sit back and be treated next year! To say they did an outstanding job last night with their catering and service would be an understatement. Our sincere thanks are extended to coordinators **Lisa Casey, Steph Louey, Michelle Ong and Colleen Stavrakis**, and their many able assistants, for their substantial efforts in organising and conducting this convivial get together. Thanks also to Miss Francis for coordinating this part of the evening from the school end.

Official proceedings commenced in the Stadium where parents, relatives and friends were entertained by songs, dances and slide shows. Formal speeches were also made. All the students were presented with a Certificate of Graduation, a BPPS key ring and a USB stick featuring their graduation movies. We also presented the following children with the significant achievement awards of the night.

Haig Chahinian - Citizenship Award

Sucheta Pereira – Longmuir Visual Arts Award

Christopher Karathanassis – Schwartz Performing Arts Award

Scarlett Campbell – Sports Awards

Natalie Hudono, Christopher Huang, Carl Lu and Yiqing Shao – Academic Excellence Awards

Emily Leonidis – MacQuarrie Award for All Round Excellence

We congratulate these students on these noteworthy accomplishments and the entire Year 6 cohort on a fantastic year and their contributions to BPPS during their time here.

Having the **Graduation entirely at our school was overwhelmingly successful** with the Stadium able to cater for far greater numbers than we had previously been able to do off-site. It was also beautifully decorated and our new audio-visual set up was put to very effective use. A huge thank you to the grade 6 teachers Mrs Reeve, Mrs Fleming, Miss Russell and Mr King for their organisation of the evening's program and to all the other teachers who contributed either in the lead up to, or on the night.

As we lose these students to secondary schools, we also lose some families who have had **long-term associations** with the school by virtue of their youngest child graduating. They include the Abdekhodae, Akse, Chahinian, Cope, Dassanayake,

DIARY DATES

Friday 16 December	Final Assembly 2.30pm
Monday 19 December	Pupil Free Day—no students at school
Tuesday 20 December	CANTEEN CLOSED
Tuesday 20 December	Last day Term 4. 1.30pm dismissal
Wednesday 25 January	Book Collection 9.30am—3pm from the Art Room**
Monday 30 January	Book Collection 9.30am—3pm from the Art Room**
Tuesday 31 January	First day Term 1 2017 for all students
**Uniform Shop open 9am—12pm Wednesday 25 & Monday 30 January	

De Lacey-Turner, D'Jeng, Gale, Halamantaris, Lee (Gwyneth), Loffel, Mackenzie, Mantelos, McConnell, Orsini, Plant, Ryan, Skrinos, Spencer, Taylor, Van Benten, Wilson and Wing Shing families. Some of these families have made exceptional contributions to BPPS over many years and have played significant roles, demonstrating a wonderful commitment to the school. Debby Cope has coordinated our Second Hand Uniform Stall for several years, Jennie De Lacey-Turner has been a photographer for our Year Book and Sal Spencer a School Councillor. Rebecca Akse, Charlotte Beer (Loffel), and Linda Mackenzie have also been active contributors in a variety of ways. Our 'longest serving' family amongst this current group of graduating 'families' are the Nedelkovs. They have a history with BPPS spanning 15 years with the eldest Katherine, commencing here in 2001 and brother Joshua soon after. Fortunately, young Tommia's departure does not spell the end of the connection as mum Litsa is employed at the school. Whilst not among the graduating brigade, the departure of James Robinson to Trinity means we also lose former School Councillor Lorraine. We farewell and thank all of these people for being terrific members of the BPPS community.

Alas, not all of our staff members will be with us again next year. **Mrs Sue Grigg** has been teaching for over 30 years and she has decided that it is time to retire. We have been lucky enough to have had Sue at BPPS for over 20 years during which time she has taught in all areas of the school. The number of children on whom she has had an impact over that time is significant and we're sure many of them would have strong memories of their time under her tutelage. Sue has also been a wonderful colleague with whom to work and, in recent years, an outstanding mentor to some of our newer teachers. Whilst we are sorry to be losing a great teacher and a delightful work mate, we fully understand her decision and wish Sue a long and happy retirement.

Most of us are aware that **Ms Carlie Russell** is leaving to have a baby. Carlie has made a significant impact in her two years here, primarily with the education of our senior students but also as a terrific colleague, and we thank her for her wonderful contribution to the school and wish her well with the new adventure that awaits her. **Mrs Sarah Clifford** is leaving for the same reason, this time to have her second child. Again we say thanks and wish her well, as she embarks on another step in the motherhood journey. It has been fabulous having **Miss Bethany Stephen** complementing Miss Poor in the Performing Arts department. We are very sorry to lose her as she has been a great music teacher and a most pleasant colleague.

End of Semester 2 reports are available via the parent portal on Sentral today from 3:30 p.m. These reports are an opportunity to celebrate the success and the learning growth that your children have made. They provide a very comprehensive summary of progress in Semester Two. Please note that Year One to Five Integrated Studies reports will be an individual rubric also available via the portal today. If you are experiencing any issues accessing your child's report, please contact the school.

We trust you all enjoyed receiving your copies of the **Year Book** which should have arrived home this afternoon. The production team have excelled again! The full-colour edition effectively highlights many of the year's main events while also capturing so much of day to day school life.

It would be remiss not to mention the wonderful help we have received from past students over the last few weeks. While **Chris and Breanna Cozzio** have been excellent furniture movers, we have also received fabulous assistance from **Michelle Denipitiya, Steph Spanos, Christina Tsiolis, Sophia Marsh, Will Nicolaou, Flynn Chable, Chloe Nixon, Ursula Arifovic, Grace Ryan, Ben Orsini, Liam Cruise, Ebony Beckter, Amelia Williams, Piper Louey and Daniel Del Papa**. It is fantastic that these teenagers still wish to come back to their primary school to help.

My sincere thanks to all our **highly professional and dedicated staff** for another year in which their efforts have kept BPPS at the forefront of education and continued to maintain it as a great place to be. Their efforts and commitment to teaching and supporting the children in a variety of ways makes BPPS the wonderful place that it is.

Our **final assembly will be at 2.30 pm tomorrow**. The children will be eagerly awaiting the results of the House Competition and we'll have plenty of certificates and other presentations to make, including Chess Awards. This is our opportunity to present our Year 6 award winners to the whole school and formally bid farewell to our graduates. It is also an occasion of great excitement as we name our student leaders for 2017. The assembly will mark the formal conclusion of our school year. We have a **Pupil Free Day** scheduled for Monday (19/12) and we doubt that we'll see many children here on Tuesday as many of our families are taking advantage of extending the break.

We'll see most of you back here on either Wednesday 25th or Monday 30th January to collect your children's books. A huge thank you to those who have already paid their fees – we appreciate having the funds in advance and you will be advantaged by a streamlined collection process. **The new school year commences for all children on Tuesday 31st January, 2017.**

If you are around the school during the summer and you notice anything suspicious or out of the ordinary, please don't hesitate to contact DET **Emergency Management on 9589 6266**.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a wonderful holiday time with friends and family. Take care!

Eric Regester