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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
EVERYONE!**

FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

DIARY DATES 2018

Thursday 25 January
Monday 29 January
Tuesday 30 January

Book Collection 9.30am—3pm (Uniforms 9am-12pm)
Book Collection 9.30am—3pm (Uniforms 9am-12pm)
All students commence Term 1 2018

Dear Parents/Carers and Friends of BPPS,

Firstly, I'd like to begin this newsletter item with a number of thank-yous. Our office staff have worked tirelessly throughout the year but especially during the last 4-6 weeks. I'd also like to acknowledge the work of our teaching staff. They are the most incredible group of hard working people. They are generous, knowledgeable and caring for all our students. They are also very caring of each other. Although this may not be the message that is always communicated about education today, our students have produced learning outcomes higher than any year before. This has been a significant milestone, especially with our speaking and listening data across our Foundation to Grade 4 students and in Statistics and Probability with our Grade 5/6 cohort. Although we thanked them last week at our Volunteers afternoon tea, it would be remiss of me not to once again recognise the work they have done to support our school and our students' learning. This has been in a range of areas from working in the classrooms, assisting in the canteen or taking a leading role on School Council. I'd like to recognise the work of our Finance committee and School Council ably lead by our president, John Anderson.

Last Thursday's **Carols Night** was a great success. Congratulations to all our performers who sang and/or played so well. Many thanks to the audience, who were most respectful and appreciative of the children's efforts. Many thanks also to Llaaneath Poor, Aleksis Payne and Cameron Batt for preparing the students so well and hosting the evening. Many thanks also to the band of parents which included Margy, Chloe and Darcy Nixon, Moni Schelbach, Magdalena Castro and both Di and Nicola Cleary. Also Sienna, (Julie Tainsh's daughter) helped with collating the meal deals in the week leading up to the night. We were fortunate with the weather so were able to run the evening outside.



On Wednesday night, at their **Graduation Ceremony**, we celebrated the successful completion of seven years of school by our 106 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 and this is returned to them the following year. Our thanks are extended to the significant number who this included. They were: especially Marzena Hegazi, Alison Leonidis, Pia Leitoff, Mailen Farag, Martha Moutafis, Melina Fung, Juliette Browne, Catherine Lancaster, Janet Au, Marylou Sartorel, Jane Fellingham, Julie Dussin, Maggie Chen, Samantha Hawke, Susan Su, Wendy Smith, Demi Tsinaris, Jay Lai, Mary Georgiou, Huai Liu, Annie Kelly, Marissa Falting, Nancy Ishkan, Sarah Shaw, Phil Black, Shashidhar Samireddy & Hannah Francis for coordinating.

The official part of the evening took place in the Stadium where parents, relatives and friends were entertained by songs, dances and a morphing video showing the students as they had moved from Prep to Grade 6. There were lots of laughs and tears. Formal speeches were also made. All the students were presented with a Certificate of Graduation and a BPPS key ring and a **USB** featuring their graduation movies. The students were especially pleased to see Eric Regester who assisted with the presentations and the presentation of the sports award that has been named after him. We also presented the following students with the significant achievement awards of the night.

Vandana Pereira Milana Cutugno - Citizenship Award
Dan Stavretis— Longmuir Visual Arts Award
Ava Booth – Schwartz Performing Arts Award
Jasper Kay-Kneebone – Sports Awards
Vrishin Gandhi, Nicole Meng and Tiffany Huang – Academic Excellence Awards
Amy Dingle – MacQuarrie Award for All Round Excellence

We congratulate these students on these incredible accomplishments and the entire Year 6 group on their contributions to our school.

A huge thank you to the Year 6 teachers Shannon Reeve, Jemmah Kelly, Carlos Milan for their organisation of the evening's program and especially Nick King for his detailed coordination. I'd like to also thank 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 Antoniadis, Argyrew, Burhop, Casey, O'Reilly, Collias, Soussa, Karamanos, Kay-Kneebone, Dingle, Lay, Manolopoulos, Martin, Nicoll, Seaton-Nichol, Russo, Gadsden, Shields, Spanos, Donegan, Vitinaros, Williams, Wray, Zafirakos, Ziskov, Xiao, Thai and Phung families. Many of these families have made exceptional contributions to BPPS over many years and have played significant roles, demonstrating a wonderful commitment to the school. We farewell and thank all of these people for being terrific members of the BPPS community.

Unfortunately not all of our staff members will be with us again next year. As mentioned in our last email Jason Mulder has a 12-month teaching position at Ringwood North PS. We'll also be saying farewell to Lyndsay Thwaites as she begins her family leave. Lyndsay's daughter Rose is really looking forward to a new brother.

Over the past weeks, we have received an amazing amount of support from previous students as well as staff member's families. This has included: Chris and Breanna Cozzio, Thomai Goutzioulis, Isabella De Amici, Jamee Simas, Alana Franceschini, Hugo Aske, Keegan

Burhop, Ebony Beckter, Petria Messner, Andrew Halamantaris, George Nitsiopoulos, Stephanie Spanos, Alara Yigitoglu, Eliana Ishkan, Harry Kanaris, Haig Chahinian, Julian Tang, Alex Li, Carl Lu, Sam Yuan and Jack Liu.

By now you would have received your copy of the **Year Book** – the production team have done a wonderful job. Special thanks to Maryanne Cozzio for her gentle reminders to staff to provide the information needed. The full-colour edition highlighted many of the year's main events while also capturing so much of day-to-day school life so effectively.

We'll see most of you back here on either Wednesday 25th or Monday the 29th 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 30th January, 2018.** Another positive outcome of the funds are the donations to the **Oval Project**. As a result we'll be starting Stage 1 of the Oval Project in January. The work will include rectifying the issue of drainage. Other work to be completed will be the resurfacing of the hall and stadium floors. As well, we have a team of five gardeners coming in on the 15 January to prepare our grounds for the 2018 school year. We're sure you'll notice a significant improvement. This will add to the work that Pip Cariss has been undertaking as part of the Keen Green Team's work.

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.**

Finally, what an honour it has been to lead the school as Acting Principal this term. I thank everyone for their support. Once again my thanks to all our **highly professional and dedicated staff**. BPPS is a unique school where there is true care for all.

We look forward to welcoming Susanne Lowe who becomes our substantive principal from the 1 January, 2018.

From the staff at BPPS, I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a relaxing and enjoyable holiday time with friends and family.

Thanks
Randal Symons
Acting Principal

School Council Update December

For the last meeting of the year, there was an interesting update from Mrs. Woodman on our progress toward our 2020 Strategic Plan. This is a 4 year plan that is prepared and submitted to the Department of Education each year. It covers a range of areas, including learning outcomes, academic results, student behaviour and the parent satisfaction. Council were very pleased to hear of the pleasing progress being made – particularly in relation to academic outcomes. Jane and Randal described how teachers have been supported through formal development opportunities and leader and peer support. There remains a focus on how the school can better engage parents so that they have a better understanding of the curriculum. There are still 2 years to go on the plan so it's fantastic that the teachers are so focused on not only meeting, but exceeding the targets set by the school.

There was a discussion again around student attendance. It is worth noting that there is clear evidence of a direct relationship between time spent at school and academic outcomes. I know it sounds simple, but our school has much higher than average absence rates, including for late arrivals, time off for appointments, and probably the most disruptive - time off for holidays. It's understandable that you will want the child to have extra time off to go on a long holiday occasionally, but please keep in mind that if this is a regular occurrence it may impact your child's progress.

There was a discussion about the canteen. Thank you to everyone who completed the recent survey. Students and parents unanimously agree the canteen is a valuable part of our school community. There were some great suggestions for new menu ideas – and Di looks forward to implementing these over the coming year (a reminder that canteen help is always welcome!)

Council would like to wish everyone a wonderful break over the summer holidays, and we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed in 2018.

Dorothy Frost (School Councillor)

2017 Canteen Survey

Thank you to all the students and families who completed the 2017 Canteen survey. We had 493 students and 158 families complete the survey.

As you may know, BPPS is one of very few schools in the local area that has retained an in-house canteen service that operates every day. We are very fortunate to have our wonderful canteen manager, Di Cleary, to run the canteen with the assistance of volunteer helpers. It is clear from the survey that the canteen provides an important and valuable service for our students and families.

One of the main reasons for the survey was to gain a sense of what we could do better in our canteen in 2018 and beyond. The results of the survey show a strong preference for fresher, healthier food options for both lunch order items and over-the-counter sales at recess and lunchtimes. Interestingly (and pleasingly), the students were as interested in seeing more healthy food options at the canteen as were their parents and carers! The feedback also indicates that our canteen menu should be scaled back.

As a result of the feedback we have received, we will be making some changes to the canteen menu in the new school year with a greater emphasis on fresher food options. We will be launching some new and exciting menu items that will be available for lunch orders and over-the-counter sales.

We also received some feedback about the My School Connect online ordering app. We will be working with the app developers to ensure that the online ordering systems meet the needs of our families and the canteen.

Finally, a big thank you to the parents who indicated that they would be willing to assist Di with implementing the new canteen menu in 2018. Di will be in touch with you shortly.

Melissa Macrae and Sandra Bell (School Councillors)