NEWSLETTER No. 2 February 4th 2016

Important dates:

February

8th  MARC Van (Prep/1 borrowing)
9th  MARC Van (Gr 2-6 borrowing)
10th Prep Rest Day
10th Gym Gr 1-6
11th Classroom Information & Family BBQ Night
15th Parents, Friends and Volunteers Meeting 9.30am
17th Prep Rest Day
17th Gym Gr 1-6
18th Netbook Information Session
18th Finance Meeting 5pm
18th School Council Nominations open
22nd MARC Van (Prep/1 borrowing)
23rd MARC Van (Gr 2-6 borrowing)

March

23rd Parent Teacher Interviews
23rd School Council 6.30pm
24th Prep Rest Day
24th Gym Gr 1-6
25th Curriculum Day – no students

WELCOME

We are very excited to welcome our new Preps to school. After a busy week of work, they are settling well to the routines of school and are working well in the classroom.


We also welcome students new to our school – Emily (Gr.6), Piper (Gr. 4), Tianna, Darcy and Belle (all Gr. 1)
FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS
In February we say Happy Birthday to Zaithan (1st), Liam (6th), Cody (7th), Angus (10th), Sam L (12th), Emily B (21st), Thomas H (25th), Darby (28th) and Max (29th).

GYM PROGRAM
Yesterday our Grade 1-6 students took part in the first Gym session. It was great to hear positive reports back from Mr. C, Mr. Palmer and Emma about the efforts, concentration and determination shown by the students.

FAMILY BBQ & INFORMATION SESSIONS
Information sessions for each class will be held on Thursday 11th February from 5.45pm for all Prep-6 grades. This will be an opportunity for parents to get to know the teachers and how their classes will operate through the year. Further information will be in next week’s Newsletter.
Following the Information Sessions, we will be holding a Family BBQ from approximately 6.30pm at the school to welcome both new and existing school families. School will provide meat, bread and salads. We encourage everyone to come along.
Families attending are asked to complete the slip at the end of the Newsletter for catering purposes.

PARENT TEACHER & GOAL SETTING INTERVIEWS
We will also be holding Parent /Teacher Interviews on Tuesday 23rd of February. It will be a chance to discuss content covered at the Information Night as well as analyse the first few weeks of school for your child/children and to make clear plans covering academic and social aspects. At these meetings, each student’s Individual Learning Plans will be discussed and put into place for the remainder of Terms One and Two.

TIMETABLE
A copy of each class timetable is included in the Newsletter to provide parents with an overview of the week. It is indicative of a normal week at school, which often changes with programs such as Gym, excursions etc. There will be weeks when changes occur and subjects are covered at alternative times.

CALENDAR
A calendar of school events is included today for your reference. Many families find this helpful to have on the fridge or family ‘noticeboard’.

ASSEMBLY
Assemblies are held every Monday morning from 9.00am in the new building. Parents are welcome to stay for assemblies.
SCHOOL PHOTOS
Richard Gibbs Photography will gain be taking the school photos this year. School Photos will be taken on Tuesday March 1st. Families will be able to choose from a number of pack options which will be sent out in coming weeks.

LEADING TEACHER
As you will know, Corrina Hartland has been appointed to our school as a ‘Leading Teacher’. Part of Corrina’s role will be to work with the leadership group to develop whole school programs, policies and curriculum.
Our school will be beginning to implement the new Victorian Curriculum during this year so there is considerable new work to be established across the school.

PARENTS, VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS (PVF)
The first meeting of our Parents, Volunteers and Friends (PVF) Committee will be held in the Staffroom from 9.30 on Monday February 15th.
Our PVF Committee’s primary focus is to raise funds that are put back into the school to improve the facilities and resources for the students.
Last year, the PVF raised in excess of $14,000. Activities included Easter Raffle, Bulb fundraiser, Footy Tipping, Mother’s Day & Father’s Day Stalls, Quick Shear, School Ball, Progressive Dinner, Garage Sale Trail, Kidshotz photos, Community Drive In, Hot Dog Lunches, Living Seeds Fundraiser and Christmas Raffle.
Meetings are quite informal (toddlers welcome) and we look forward to seeing lots of new faces this year.

SCHOOL VALUES
The school motto is - ‘Excellence Through Endeavour’
Our school values are:-
- Respect
- Honesty
- Tolerance/Inclusion
- Fairness
- Responsibility
- Trust
- Co-operation
- Organisation

Monday assembly awards will now acknowledge great work in the classroom as well as students who are using the school values. Two awards per grade will be presented each Monday.
Work on these values is being covered in classrooms to allow the students an opportunity to fully understand the value, as well as building their skills and attitudes in each of the areas.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
From February 18th – March 4th, nominations will be open for parents wishing to be a part of School Council. We have six Parent Representatives positions in total, with three up for re-election each year. This year, three positions are available, with Garry Van Wynen, Claire Turner and Julie Liersch all completing their two year positions at the next School Council Meeting. Garry, Claire and Julie do have the option of re-nominating.
What does School Council do? For further information, an information page from DET is attached to the Newsletter, or you could speak with Garry, Claire, Julie or our other three Parent Reps, Sharon Hipwell, Lara Bathurst and Neil Aurisch. I am also happy to speak with anyone interested in nominating.
The three elected representatives will complete a two year role form March 2016 to March 2018.
Nomination forms will be available at the Office from February 18th.

FOOD/WATER
Students are strongly encouraged to bring a water bottle to school to have in the room while working.
Water coolers are available in both buildings for the students to refill their bottles.
A fridge is available near the fish tank for lunch/snack items such as yoghurts that need to refrigerated.
Lunch orders need to be placed in the box near this fridge before 9.00am please.
BREAKFAST CLUB
All students are welcome to come along and share breakfast with some of their school mates from 8.30-8.50am Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our Student Well Being Worker Ricky Cawley runs this most beneficial program. Thanks to those who’ve already volunteered – a great response.

Thanks also to our sponsors:
Tuesday 9th February – Marli Meerman & Hannelie Schutte
Thursday 11th February – Casey Reid & HELPERS NEEDED
Tuesday 16th February – Emma Carmody & Hannelie Schutte
Thursday 18th February – Melinda Pengelly & Tanya Czuczman
A roster is attached for those families who have volunteered.

Please complete the slip for Breakfast Club at the end of the newsletter if you are able to assist.

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY
Thanks to those who’ve already volunteered – a great response.
A roster is attached for those families who have volunteered.
Friday 5th February – Jocelyn Davies & Sarah Vanis
Friday 12th February – Kelly Gwin & Casey Reid
Please complete the slip for Fruit Duty help at the end of the newsletter if you are able to assist.

PREP WELCOME BAG
We ask that Prep students bring the yellow welcome bag they received from Department of Education & Training back to school to use as their MARC Van borrowing bag.

PREP EARLY YEARS LITERACY & NUMERACY TESTING
As part of gathering benchmark data, Preps are required to complete Early Years Literacy and Numeracy testing. Each test takes about 40 minutes, Ms. Saunders completes the Literacy component and Mr. J the Numeracy. These will be completed individually at school during the Wednesday rest days.
Can Prep parents please see Katrina at the Office to book a time/day in for their child.
During the testing, parents are welcome to remain at the school and have a cuppa in the staff room, or drop and collect afterwards.
Ms. Saunders and Mr. J can clarify any details about the testing if required.

RAGLAN ST
The corrugated condition of Raglan St has been flagged with City of Greater Bendigo. Works to smooth the road will be completed as soon as possible.

ART SMOCK
All students are asked to bring along a named art smock to protect their school uniform. An old oversize cotton shirt usually does the job.

NEWSLETTERS
These are the most important means of communication between school and home. Newsletters are sent home every Thursday. Please get into the habit of looking for them, reading them carefully and responding to the contents as soon as possible. Please call the school if you have any queries. The Newsletter is also available on our website at www.axedaleps.vic.edu.au
If you would like a copy emailed, please contact the school.

SCHOOL APP
The Newsletter and a range of other school items are available on the school app. Just go to the app store and search. Continued feedback from current users would be useful.

TERM DATES 2016
Term 1: Thursday 28th January – Thursday 24th March (Good Friday – March 25th)
Term 2: Monday 11th April – Friday 24th June
Term 3: Monday 11th July – Friday 16th September
Term 4: Monday 3rd October – Tuesday 20th December
STUDENT FREE - CURRICULUM DAYS 2016
Each year, schools can plan for four Student Free Days. School Council has approved the following dates as Curriculum Days for 2016.
Wednesday January 27th – Planning and Preparation
Thursday February 25th – Seven Steps to Writing Success Professional Development
Monday July 25th – Literacy PD – Bendigo Rural Schools Network
Monday November 28th – Report Writing Day

ASTHMA MANAGEMENT PLAN
At the beginning of each school year we require an updated Asthma Management Plan for those students who are diagnosed with asthma. Can these please be organised ASAP and the new plan dropped into the office so we can update our records? Parents are also asked to check the expiry date on any medication which is kept at school and supply the school with new Ventolin if required. Parents are reminded that we require each student to have their own spacer due to health regulations. Thanks for your assistance with this.

FAMILY PAYMENTS SHEET
At the end of last year all families were asked to complete a family payment sheet. This is a summary of all costs for the year for your family. If you require a copy please see Katrina in the office. You can pay this with cash, cheque, credit or eftpos. This year we have also introduced BPay (see Katrina for your family details).

PARENTS, VOLUNTEERS & FRIENDS
Our Parents, Volunteers and Friends Committee is our main fundraising group. I would like to encourage all new families to be a part of this committee if time permits. Meetings are held roughly once a month and are casual and friendly. This Committee also provides parents with an opportunity to discuss queries or issues with the Principal.
Our first Parents, Volunteers and Friends meeting date will be included in next week’s Newsletter.

STAY CONNECTED
A reminder and invite to new and existing families that many parents gather at the Axedale Tavern at 9.30am on a Thursday morning for a coffee, a chat and a chance to meet families new to the area. If you are keen to go but don’t anyone, contact the school and we’ll ‘buddy you up’. Our school endeavours to provide a range of opportunities for parents to be involved and to contribute to the school. Our Thursday morning ‘Stay Connected’ coffee time is chance to catch up informally, without your school age children, and develop friendships within the community.

SCHOOL HATS
A reminder that students are expected to wear their broad brimmed school hats during Term One. They are available for purchase at the Office for $11.

LUNCH ORDER BAGS AVAILABLE
Insulated bag - $10
Lunch wallet - $8

VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
To subsidise our Government funding, we request families make a voluntary contribution to the school. We have a suggested amount of $50 1st child, $30 2nd child and $20 3rd + child.
A Grounds Maintenance and Beautification amount of $20 per family has also been requested to continue the development of exciting and safe grounds/facilities for our students to play in.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE
A Conveyance Allowance is available for eligible students using private cars to attend school. To be eligible a student must live more than 4.8km by the shortest practicable route from the nearest school or bus stop. Please come into the office by the end of February to complete an application form if you are eligible.
EXCURSION LEVY
Our Excursion Levy will cover most excursions and incursions for the year. This will allow families a range of payment options to suit their circumstances.
Families are able to pay:
- by lump sum,
- by term instalments,
- item by item as they arise through the year.
The camps will be a separate payment, usually with deposit due mid Term 2 and balance before camp in Term 3.
The Excursion Levy total for each year level is listed below:
- Prep – $135
- Grade 1 – $170
- Grade 2 – $170
- Grade 3 – $190
- Grade 4 – $195
- Grade 5 – $200
- Grade 6 – $200

CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)
The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.
Primary school student rate is $125 per year.
The CSEF is paid directly to the school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursions costs for your child.
To be eligible for the fund, a parent or legal guardian must:
- on the first day of Term One, or first day of Term Two:
  a) be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  b) be a temporary foster parent, and:
  c) submit an application to the school by the due date – 29th February 2016.

STUDENT BANKING
Our school banking day is Tuesday. Interested students can apply online, at any Commonwealth Bank branch, over the phone, or via a paper-based application available from the office.

STUDENT ABSENCES
When your child is absent we require you to complete one of the tear-off slips attached and return it to school. More forms are available from your child’s teacher, the office or on our school website. It is an expectation of the Department of Education and Training that all absences are explained. Regular attendance is extremely important and it’s not okay to be away, unless your child is ill or has a valid reason. Studies have shown that there is significant negative impact on a child’s learning if they are absent for 15 days or more in a year.

PERSONAL PROPERTY
Personal property is often brought to school by students and visitors. This can include toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. The Department of Education and Training does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property. Students should be discouraged from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school. If bus travellers have things at school, they must be stored in the Day Safe in the Office. Please remind your children of this.

CAR SEAT
The Monti family have a baby car seat that is no longer required. It is available at school to look at if your family is interested. Please contact Lex, Katrina, Alan or Kellie.
WHY BE ACTIVE?
Food for thought!
**Being active can** improve a student’s memory,
Encourage teamwork, reduce obesity.
**Being active can** increase a student’s self-esteem,
Develop confidence, reduce absentees.
**Being active can** enhance a student’s concentration,
Lengthen attention, encourage participation.
**Being active can** help students break out of the mould,
Develop leadership, set big challenging goals.
**Being active can** assist a student solve problems,
Progress test results, advance their knowledge.

AXEDALE OUR TOWN OUR FUTURE
The next AOTOF Meeting is on next Wednesday at 6.45pm at the Axedale CFA. All community members are welcome.

MICHAEL GROSS PARENTING RESOURCES
This week’s attached article is “10 confidence-building strategies every parent and teacher should know.”

PRINCIPAL CONTACT
I am happy for parents to contact me as required. If contact needs to be made out of school hours, my mobile phone number is 0408 138 836 and my email is johnstone.alexander.i@edumail.vic.gov.au

Lex Johnstone
Principal

---

FRUIT DUTY ROSTER
I am able to assist with cutting up fruit on Friday mornings.

Name: __________________________________________

---

BREAKFAST CLUB ROSTER
I am able to assist with Breakfast Club on Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings.

Name: __________________________________________

---

FAMILY BBQ & INFORMATION NIGHT
We will/will not be attending the Family BBQ & Information night on Thursday 11th February.

Family Name: _____________________________________

Number attending: Children [ ] Adults [ ]

Dietary Requirements: __________________________________________
FORMS TO BE RETURNED OR ORGANISED AT SCHOOL

CAMPS, SPORTS, EXCURSION FUND
The Camps, Sports Excursion Fund (CSEF) is available for eligible families with a Health Care Card. Please come to the office to complete a form.
The payment is $125 and is paid directly to the school to be put towards the child’s excursion or camp costs. Applications need to be submitted to the school by Monday 25th February.

ASTHMA MANAGEMENT PLAN
At the beginning of each school year we require an updated Asthma Management Plan for those students who are diagnosed with asthma. Can these please be organised ASAP and the new plan dropped into the office so we can update our records? Parents are also asked to check the expiry date on any medication which is kept at school and supply the school with new Ventolin if required. Parents are reminded that we require each student to have their own spacer due to health regulations. Thanks for your assistance with this.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE
A Conveyance Allowance is available for eligible students using private cars to attend school. To be eligible a student must live more than 4.8km by the shortest practicable route from the nearest school or bus stop. Please come into the office by the end of February to complete an application form if you are eligible.

GRADE 6 POLO SHIRT ORDER FORM
These order forms are attached to the newsletter today and are due back to school by, Tuesday 9th February.

COMMUNITY

LADIES GOLF – AXEDALE GOLF CLUB
The next set of free ladies golf clinics will be on Friday, Feb 5th & 12th at 9.30 & Sunday, Feb 7th also at 9.30am.
Let me know if you are attending (if you haven’t done so already) & if you need clubs (left or right handed).
We’ll start on the practice fairway on 5/2 so either meet in the car park at 9.20 or down on the practice fairway ready for a 9.30 start.

Trish Shanahan
0418 434 299

The Girls’ Brigade Bendigo is part of an international movement which works with girls in culturally relevant and fun ways, supports families and serves in the community through local Christian churches. GB has been around since 1893; since 1924 in Australia & since 1974 in Bendigo!

The well planned program by trained and passionate leaders covers a wide range of activities and engages the physical, mental and spiritual growth of the girls. Starting with a simple format, the program develops into a wider field of work, leading onto the full range of subjects and projects including the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen’s Award (the highest GB international youth award). These present an exciting challenge when girls get to be teenagers. Girls are also encouraged to take part in Life Skills & Leadership Training within GB GB offers opportunities for travel both around Australia and the world.

When do we meet? Cost $100/yr
Monday nights (School terms)
Years prep - 5 5:30-7pm
Years 6 -12 7-8:45pm
Bendigo Baptist Church 757 McIvor Highway Junoortun

More info?
Jenny McWilliam
0429 397 357 or
bendigojb@gmail.com
www.gbvic.org

REGISTRATION DAY
WEDNESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY
5.30PM TO 6.30PM.
Football registrations (via Sporting Pulse) available online now for 2016.
BARRACK RESERVE OVAL
HIGH STREET, HEATHCOTE.
FURTHER INFO CONTACT JESS: 0408 588 405 OR KAY: 0412 476 177
2016 Registration Day
Sunday 7th February
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Strath Storm Club Rooms

2016 Fees:
Under 9, Under 10 $130
Under 12 $150
Under 14, Under 16 $170
Under 16 Youth Girls $150
Under 12, Junior Girls TBA

(If a family has 3 or more children playing then each child will receive $10 off per fee)
All new players please bring a copy of your birth certificate.
For enquiries please contact SSFC Registrar Angela Gamble
angela@bigpond.com
Phone: 0409304654

The friendly and professional psychologists at Bendigo Psychology can also help with:
- Depression
- Trauma
- Autism Spectrum Conditions
- Anger
- Challenging Behaviour
- Parenting
- Psychological Assessment

Contact us at:
admin@bendigopsychology.com.au
or on the web at:
www.bendigopsychology.com.au
Instilling confidence takes more than heaping praise on kids. Here are 10 practical confidence-building strategies for parents and teachers of children and young people.

1. **Model confident thinking**
   Kids soak up the language, thinking and behaviour of those closest to them in their environment. Parents and teachers play a part in modelling confident thinking and behaviour particularly when it comes to tackling new activities. In particular, let kids hear positive self-talk when you tackle something new. They should hear something like, “I’ll have a go at this. If I don’t do so well then I can try again tomorrow.” This is far more effective than “I’m no good at this. I’ll probably stuff it up.”

2. **Focus on effort & improvement**
   Current thinking shows that people who believe that they can increase their intelligence through effort and challenge actually get smarter and do better in school, work, and life over time. One way to develop a growth mindset is to focus your language on effort and improvement rather than on the results of what they do. By linking success with effort you are teaching them success comes from something other than purely their ability, talents or smarts.

3. **Praise strategy**
   While effort is key for achievement, it’s not the only thing. Kids need to try new strategies and seek input from others when they’re stuck. They need this repertoire of approaches – not just sheer effort – to learn and improve. It helps too to focus language on better and smarter ways on improving. Comments such as “That was a smart idea to tackle the hardest task while you were fresh!” (strategy) and “You recognised the first few steps were the most important but then after that you were right” are descriptive statements that have significant instructional value for kids.

4. **Develop self-help skills from an early age**
   A child’s self-esteem comes as a result of his or her successes and accomplishments. The most important competencies to build confidence are basic self-help skills. These form the building blocks upon which other competencies such as organisational skills and many social skills are formed.

5. **Give them real responsibility**
   From a young age start giving children responsibility for some aspects of their lives. By giving kids responsibility we are sending a powerful message that we think they are capable. Also they are learning the skills necessary to care for themselves.

6. **Practise unconditional acceptance**
   Your ability to accept children and young people’s best efforts in any area of endeavour, irrespective of the results, will go a long way toward determining their self-esteem and confidence.

---

Want more ideas to help you raise confident kids and resilient young people? Subscribe to Happy Kids newsletter, my FREE weekly email parenting guide at parentingideas.com.au. You’ll be so glad you did.
10 confidence-building strategies every parent and teacher should know...

If a child makes their bed to the very best of their ability, resist fixing it, even though it may fall short of your adult standards. Instead remind them next time of how to do it well.

7 Expand their horizons
Some kids are confident and capable at home but are fearful and nervous when it comes to new social situations and unfamiliar environments. Children today have less opportunity than those in the past to negotiate and explore unpredictable situations. Wherever possible, look for opportunities to expand children’s horizons to include unfamiliar places and unfamiliar locations including catching public transport and walking to friends’ places unattended when capable.

8 Recognise improvement
Focus your comments on children’s effort and improvement rather than on winning the game or getting top marks. Help kids set realistic goals in line with their capabilities and interests. Learning five new spelling words a week maybe more realistic than 20 words that school may require.

9 Put the training wheels on to support learning
Putting training wheels on a bike is a great way to teach a young child to ride. They keep them upright and mobile while they are getting the knack of balancing. We can use the same principle to support kids learning while they develop independence in many areas of life. For instance, we can accompany anxious kids to birthday parties and stay for a short time so they become comfortable before leaving.

10 Build teaching and training into your day
Teaching and training needs to be part of the everyday repertoire of a parent. This means we need to add a little extra time to many of our interactions so we can help children acquire many of the basic skills of living, whether it is a young child learning to do up his or her shoelaces or a teenager learning how to fill out his or her tax form for a part-time job. When adults are busy it is often easier to do things ourselves.

Ask children for help
Doing things together is a great way to build competency and build the confidence that mastery brings. A simple way to initiate joint activity is to ask your child or young person to give you a hand with something. Better still, get them to teach you or show you how to do something you are unfamiliar with. Being a teacher rather than the learner is a great confidence-builder particularly for those kids who struggle with activities that others find easy.

Most importantly, great parents and teachers have a knack of communicating confidence in kids. They find ways to let kids know that they believe in them – that they know their kids will perform and succeed, that they have faith that they can deal with life’s challenges and know that they can become more independent.