

Brandon Buzz

30th January 2020

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Term Dates 2020

Term 1 29 Jan * – 27 Mar
Term 2 14 Apr – 26 Jun
Term 3 13 Jul – 18 Sep
Term 4 5 Oct – 18 Dec

Dates to put in your diary 2020

Please check Compass calendar for all events, excursions, incursions, activities etc.

Toggle the **Family Calendar** to **ON** in the browser.

Due dates

29 Feb

Incursion/excursion fees on **Compass** – PLEASE CHECK REGULARLY

2020 School Contributions are now on **Compass in Course Confirmations**

Hello Everyone,

Welcome back to what is going to be a wonderful school year. Every year I say it is going to be the 'best year ever' and every year we continue to evolve and develop our practices based on current research. From what I can gather 2020 will be a sensational year.

There were certainly some dramas over the holidays with both the bushfires and corona virus and even today they still continue. Elaine Hanley has been keeping you updated with the Department directives regarding the Coronavirus and now they are now suggesting self-quarantine for those who have travelled in the Wuhan city or Hubei District of China. We have many considerate families who had already taken it upon themselves to self-quarantine and for this we are very grateful.

Please note all classrooms have been provided with hand sanitiser and soap (if they have a sink). At assembly we discussed appropriate handwashing and how to cough without spreading germs, the Department of Health posters reinforcing this have been distributed to classrooms and teachers have also reminded their students about best hygiene practices. Any child showing the slightest indication of being unwell will be sent home. We are doing our best but I acknowledge it is a worrying time for us all.

Special Welcomes

I firstly would like to welcome all new families and children to the school. Yesterday we met some delightful new students who have come to us from a variety of places whilst today our Foundations started. They were astounding. The way they settled into their classrooms was just a wonderful sight to behold. The children settled seamlessly into the activities of the classroom, were using their 'Brandon Park manners' and were generally fabulous. The foundation teachers all had great big smiles on their faces, as did the children and the majority of parents. (I do believe a few tears were shed prior to the morning starting here at school).

I am thrilled with how Day 1 unfolded yesterday. I visited all classrooms, bar Year 6, (they are on today's visiting list) and there was an overwhelming sense of calm and positivity in the school. Children were developing their class norms in collaboration with their teachers and classroom routines were being revisited and reinforced. It is important that we have embedded routines and practices so unruly behaviour does not detract from learning. I warmly welcome Jenni Campbell to teach one day each week in Foundation (to work with Kerrie McFadden) Jacqueline Drake to Year 2, Justin Aron to Year 3 and Todd Bates to Year 4. These new teachers are quality practitioners and it is a delight to have them here with us. I also welcome back Irene Tsikouris and Kathy

Argiriou to Year 4 who have both been on family leave and are now sharing a class. Ashley Dressler (formerly Bagatin) also returns two days a week to share Marian Stravrinidis' Year 1 class. Marian is one of our Learning Specialists and she assists teachers, F-2, by observing their practice, providing feedback, coaching and modelling. Bec Pal will do likewise in Years 4-6. Both will spend some time with the Year 3 team. It doesn't stop there! We also welcome Glenyss McDonald, a very experienced and capable teacher, who will work here two days each week with children in need of literacy support. Gabby Hutchison is our other literacy support teacher. These ladies have been around almost as long as me (not quite!) and it is important that our younger teachers are able to call upon them for their experience and wisdom if things are a bit tricky. We are so lucky to have such a team of passionate ongoing learners as our teaching team.

In the office our lovely new 'office lady' Lydia Naylor works each day until 1pm. Please pop by and say hello.

February 6th Free Dress Day

To assist Clifton Creek Primary School that was destroyed in the recent bush fires we have decided to hold a free dress/gold coin day to support this school. It was the only school in Victoria that was burnt down and we would like to help them. The students will hopefully find this initiative meaningful as they will

be supporting children just like them whose school and resources are now non-existent. If anyone wishes to donate more than a gold coin, we will have a Qkr! option available and you can donate as much as you like!

February 21st Student Free Day

When Janice Corbett, Kate Buck (Assistant Principals) and I were at the Reading League conference in upstate New York last year we met Lyn Stone, a presenter at the conference. Lyn actually lives on the Mornington Peninsula and her business is called Lifelong Literacy, where she operates as a linguist in private practice, author and education consultant. On this day Lyn will impress upon all teachers and aides the importance of the mechanics of writing, how handwriting links to the brain to embedding letter/sound knowledge and why quality and not quantity is important when children are learning to write some sort of a story or report. There will be other topics that are still to be decided upon.

Links with Universities

We have been asked to join the University of Melbourne, Melbourne Language and Literacy Community of Practice. This group meets on a Wednesday evening once a month and teachers, clinicians and like-minded professionals come together there to discuss the development of Language and Literacy skills for children and adolescents, using the latest scientific based research. We have previously belonged to a Community of Practice exploring writing with Albany Rise, Jells Park and Hughesdale Primary schools along with Wellington Secondary College. Now that we have taken a different pathway and teach Reading/Literacy according to the Science of Reading, membership to this new group will further enhance our practice and understandings. We are very excited to be a part of this group.

Monash University has also been in contact and they will be conducting a project here to ascertain just how the research we now use has changed our practice. It will be a case study conducted over a few months. It is very heartening to note our practice is being recognised in our universities and to a small extent in the United States through the Reading League.

Parents and carers there will be a bigger newsletter next week. In the meantime no matter how miniscule the matter that is of concern please contact your child's teacher. Nothing is too small to ask about. We just want you and your children to have the very best experience possible whilst here at Brandon Park. Janice Corbett our Welfare Assistant Principal can also assist with many matters, whilst Kate Buck our Curriculum Assistant Principal also handles the day to day matters of running a school. Both these ladies are more than happy to help you, as am I.

Stay cool and welcome back to you all,

Sheryl Chard

Sheryl Chard | Principal

Class List 2020

0A	Henrika Quinlan
0B	Stefan Frederic
0C	K McFadden/J Campbell
0D	Laura Vigilante
0E	Marina Vovos-Hernandez
1A	M Stavrinidis / A Dressler
1B	Clementine Hubbard
1C	Aidan McCormack
1D	Krystal Pearce
1E	Kaitlyn Vates
2A	Ashleigh Coombes
2B	Laura Anderson
2C	Jacqueline Drake
2D	Bridget McFadden
2E	Shenay Stokes
3A	Clare Kearns
3B	Justin Aron
3C	Todd Bates
3D	Alana Semerjian
4A	Nat Kiriati
4B	Lisa Hutter
4C	I Tsikouris / K Argiriou
4D	Clare Wilson
5A	Cath FitzGerald
5B	Jack Benedict
5C	Tess Hawkins
6A	Jenny Ramsey
6B	Peter Jarvis

Timetable 2020

8.50	Come inside and get organised for the day
9.00 – 11.30	First session with brain food
11.30 – 11.40	Eat lunch
11.40 – 12.20	First break outside (40 minutes)
12.20 – 2.00	Class time
2.00 – 2.40	Snack and second break outside
2.40 – 3.30	Last session inside