



# weekly newsletter



BCCS & FOUNDATIONS ELC  
END OF YEAR

## FAMILY NIGHT TONIGHT

Riviera Christian Centre  
7.00pm SHARP

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Isaiah 9:6

May you remember the real meaning of Christmas as you celebrate  
with family and friends. Merry Christmas!

## Coming Up

### TOMORROW Friday 9th December Last Day Term!

- Free Dress Day - gold coin donation, please dress appropriately for...
- Last Day - FUN DAY! Jumping Castle, Zorb Balls and Bungy Run from 10am to 1pm
- School finishes at normal time - **3.10pm**
- End of Year Family BBQ **6pm**

**Wednesday 14th December**  
School finishes (teachers)

**Monday 23rd January 2017**  
School Office reopens

**Thursday 2nd February 2017**  
Term 1 starts (students)

## Contact Us

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## Vision Statement

Our School is a vibrant community partnering with parents to educate, nurture and equip their children to the Highest standard so they shine wherever they are, discovering their unique gifts and serving God significantly and passionately in a complex world.



*I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing of  
you among the peoples. For great is your love,  
reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to  
the skies. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;  
let your glory be over all the earth.*  
Psalm 57:9-11

We praise God for another successful year of learning and growth. We have certainly been blessed abundantly and we want to join with David, the author of Psalm 57 in praising and thanking Him. So many times this year we have seen God's love in action and His faithfulness as we have prayed. As we come to the end of the school year, I would like to thank everyone for their tremendous support, encouragement and assistance this year. We have really appreciated all you have done from those words of encouragement to helping in the classroom to listening to students reading...etc. We always acknowledge that without the support from our families, parents, friends we could not do the work or achieve what we have before us today. Thank you.

As this will be my last ever newsletter, I want to thank God first. He has enabled me, blessed me and sustained me as I have strived to serve Him in my work. All glory to God!

I would like to thank the community that is Bairnsdale Christian Community School for their trust and confidence in me, for giving me the opportunity to lead and to teach your children.

I want to thank you for those words and actions of support, kindness, encouragement and friendship and for your understanding and forgiveness when I didn't get it right. I have been deeply touched and blessed by them. It has been a privilege being a part of this community and serving you as principal. Jenny and I have many dear friends that we will treasure for ever. 19 years ago I could not have imagined what we have now, not just in the growth of the school but in the impact it is having in the Bairnsdale and district community. I am honoured to have been able to have a part and to partner with you in this great work God is doing.

I pray that God will continue to bless and guide the school into the future as he has done so faithfully in the past. There is much to look forward to as the School continues to grow.

We will be following it's development with great interest!

### Term dates for 2017

The term dates for the beginning of the 2017 School year are as follows:

School Office reopens: Monday January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Term 1 starts (Staff): Monday January 30<sup>th</sup>

Term 1 starts (Students): Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Term 1 ends: Friday March 31<sup>st</sup>

Dates for the rest of the year for 2017 will be confirmed with the new principal and sent out early in the new year with a more detailed calendar.

As we did at the beginning of this year we plan to spend the afternoons of the 30<sup>th</sup> January - 1<sup>st</sup> February conducting individual testing of students. More information will follow as to how you can book your children in for testing/interviewing.

## Prayer Initiative

- Pray for the **Stam** family this week.

## Prayer Points

- Praise God for another great year of blessing and growth.
- Thank God for the many answers to prayer we have had this year.
- Pray for Mr Steve McAllister as he prepares to take up the position of Principal for 2017.
- Pray for Richard and Jenny Boonstra as they pack up their house, move to Melbourne and start their new adventure.
- Pray for Emma Fuhrmeister as she plans her wedding and her move to Melbourne.
- Pray for Jason Lyell and Izaak Buttermann both coping with serious health issues.
- Pray for a safe and blessed Christmas holiday break.
- Pray for the Stam family.

Let us come to him  
with thanksgiving.  
Let us sing psalms of  
praise to him.  
Psalm 95:2



## Staff

I would like to acknowledge here the work of **Mrs Jenny Boonstra** as she will be finishing her work with the school this year. As a School we have deeply appreciated her dedication and passion for whatever she has done. She began in 1998, teaching my class so I could have some admin time and gradually increased her involvement becoming the Prep teacher and finally spearheading the work in teaching students with learning needs. Jenny has also contributed many hours in volunteering for various things in the school; coordinating School Fairs, serving on P&F etc. As a School community we thank Jenny for her work both paid and voluntary in our school. It is hugely appreciated and has had a lasting impact on the school and the many students she has taught. We wish her God's richest blessings for next year as she takes up a new role with Michelle Hutchison.

**Emma Fuhrmeister** is also going to be leaving us early in the new school year as she will be getting married and moving to Melbourne. Plans are underway to find a replacement for her. An appointment will be announced at the beginning of the school year for 2017.

On behalf of the School community I want to thank Emma for her tireless efforts and amazing design talents she has contributed to our School. She has truly been a huge blessing to us all. There will be an opportunity to farewell her and express our appreciation early next year so please keep an eye on the newsletter so you can join us to say thank you.

## Bairnsdale Community Christmas Parade

Thanks to all who took part last Saturday. By all accounts it was very well received. Thanks to **Craig Hutton** and **Alister Micallef** for driving the vehicle and organising the trailers and hay bales. Thank also to **Lynne Brehaut** and **Felicity Veale** for designing and coordinating the 'float'. It looked great and sent a clear message about what Christmas is really all about.

## Grade Six Dinner

Grade Six students and their parents and staff enjoyed a lovely evening together on Monday night. The traditional Grade Six story was composed and then Mr Bazley attempted to read it out. He got about three quarters of the way before he dissolved into laughter and had to hand it over to be completed! Students were presented with a scripture individually chosen for them by their teachers.

Thank you to the students, parents and teachers for this pleasant time together.

*Richard Boonstra*

## Last Day - Fun Day!

TOMORROW is the last day for school for the students,  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December!**

We will be having a special day at school. We have organised a Jumping Castle, Zorb Balls and Bungy Run to be set up at school from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Students will take turns to have a try at each of the activities. As it is the last day of term it will be free dress day, however, students should wear appropriate clothing for the above activities.

All students coming to school out of uniform are asked to bring a gold coin donation to be contributed towards the sponsorship of Wayaputt, a boy we are continuing to sponsor in Thailand.

**School will finish at the normal finishing time of 3.10pm.**

## End of Year BBQ

Our school tradition has always been to finish the year with a Relaxed fellowship barbecue here at the school on the day that the students finish, **Friday December 9<sup>th</sup>**. If you are planning to attend, meat and bread will be provided, please bring a salad or dessert to share. A note was attached to the newsletter last week for you to indicate whether your family will be coming so that we can get an idea of numbers for catering. We do understand this is a busy time of the year and so you may not be able to attend.



# FAREWELL

## MR & MRS BOONSTRA



## and Farewell to our Grade 6 Students

"The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

Wow!

We have just heard that the changes to the Equal Opportunity Act proposed by the Andrews Government have just been voted down in the Victorian Parliament. I had mentioned the proposed changes earlier this semester in a newsletter.

This is a great relief as the changes would have made life more difficult for Christian schools and any other faith-based organisations, affecting our ability to employ staff who are genuinely committed to our Christian philosophy and foundation. We thank God for this outcome.



### SUMMER HOLIDAY CAMPS Camp Coolamatong

For children in Years 4 - 12  
*Awesome outdoor adventures; sailing, water tubing, canoeing/kayaking, swimming, archery and climbing/abseiling. Make new friends and enjoy small group Bible activities.*

[www.suvic.org.au/holiday-camps](http://www.suvic.org.au/holiday-camps)

*Sibling discounts available*

Ph: 5156 6511 or 9482 5700

Email: [camps@suvic.org.au](mailto:camps@suvic.org.au)

### EAST GIPPSLAND GYMNASTICS

#### School Holiday Program

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup>, Thurs 12<sup>th</sup>, Tues 17<sup>th</sup>  
and Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> January**

10-12noon & 1-3pm

Fun 2hr class for 5-12yr old children.

\$25 per child, per class.

No Gymnastics experience necessary.

For information or to book please go to: <https://trybooking.com/248071>