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Monday, 30 April 2018

Dear BCCS Community,

The Term continues to be full of many opportunities for our School and students. Last week we had the opportunity to commemorate our Defense forces both past and present at our student led ANZAC assembly on Monday and on Wednesday, BCCS was part of both the wreath laying service and the community march in Bairnsdale. Year 6 students attended the GRIP student leadership workshop in Sale last Tuesday. The highly interactive workshop challenged students to think beyond the badge and to notice those they lead. We look forward to seeing our Year 6 students grow and take up the opportunities to contribute to our school and community throughout the remainder of the year.

At this point in time, I want to draw your attention to some of the areas of change which have begun to happen within our School, particularly within student learning. The timing of change is fraught with challenges, as the best time is before the change is needed and it is essential not to do change for change's sake. As the newbie in our community, I understand that I have come with different experiences, perspectives and contexts than many have previously experienced in their own or their child's schooling. One of the biggest challenges of change is the process of communication, ensuring that all stakeholders are consulted and provided a voice in understanding the changes. My apologies for not doing this as well as we should or could have with the current changes that BCCS is experiencing. To help me and our school community to develop an effective communication process, I want to begin a **Principal's fireside chat session**. These will occur every three weeks. The first will be this **Thursday, May 3, in the Library, 3 - 4 pm**. This is an opportunity for you to come, tour or see what some of the changes look like, ask questions and provide suggestions or express areas of concern.

It's about student learning

By now, hopefully all families have participated in parent/teacher conferences. My prayer is that you were able to see the evidence of your child's learning progress rather than a defined performance bars. That you were able to see learning strengths, areas in need of encouragement and data about learning which allows both parent and School to work together for supporting student growth in learning. This approach to learning is designed to value learning, recognise that learning is a complicated experience for everyone but more importantly, that learning is done most effectively through relationship. A graded report will be provided at the end of Terms 2 and 4 for each child, as we do understand that there is value in knowing where student learning is measured at to support their growth and readiness for the next level of learning. Outside of these reports, please do not hesitate to conference with teachers about your concerns.

From Admin,

Prep Assembly will be this Friday, 4 May. Next door at 2:10pm, all welcome to join us.

BBQ in the Mall is this Saturday, 5 May. The rosters will be sent directly to those who have volunteered their time and anyone who has offered to donate items will be contacted directly to confirm.

Cross Country will be next Tuesday, 8 May at Nicholson Primary School. Students will travel by bus from BCCS in the morning, returning to BCCS in time for normal afternoon bus runs. Permission slips are available in uEducateUs. Parents are very welcome to join us on the day, if you are taking your children directly, please meet at NPS by 9:15am.

Kinder Photos next week, K4 on Wednesday, 9 May and K3 on Friday, 11 May. Please ensure all order forms are returned by this Friday, 4 May.

Mothers Breakfast is on again, next Friday, 11 May. Please see the invitation attached and be sure to RSVP to the Office by Monday, 7 May. This event is open to all School and Kinder Mums, Grandmums & special women friends of students.

Canteen #2 is on Friday, 18 May - Order forms will be sent home on Monday, 14 May.

Scripture Encouragement

Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:1

Prayer Points

- Crutchfield & Clay/Mcphan families
- Good weather and community support for BBQ in the Mall
- Ideal weather for Kinder photos
- Cross Country next Tuesday

Praise Points

- Excellent participation of students at the GRIP leadership conference
- Grace and Lincoln representing BCCS on Anzac Day and other students participating in the march.

NAPLAN

May 15, 16 & 17 will see our Year 3 and 5 students participate in the NAPLAN test. Controversy continues to surround this mode of assessment for a variety of reasons and depending on your philosophy about what this standardised testing approach achieves will depend on how much you value this one-moment in time assessment process. Good learning is the target of our teaching and learning approach and NAPLAN does provide a measure of very specific learning skills, however it is not the definer of who a student is as a learner. A test like NAPLAN measures students according to head and hand knowledge or skill, however cannot measure the capacity of heart which should be the definer of who students are as a person and as a learner. Staff have begun preparing students within the learning programs of their classes. If you have any concerns for your child in regards to sitting NAPLAN please talk with their teacher. But for all parents, like every learning day, please, reinforce positively for students that these days are all about doing their best and speak their best into their confidence - 'I love reading your creative stories, it's only fair that you share those stories with others'; 'you are giving me some very interesting ideas/opinions/perspectives, can you give me the reason why you think this...'; 'I love your willingness to give challenges like Maths/ Spelling/ writing a go'. You will be much better at this than my ideas, it is not about focusing on NAPLAN; it is about encouraging and growing the capacity of your child's heart.

Learning Enrichment Hub

Supporting student learning is a priority for us here at BCCS and building a collaborative team of equipped supporters to meet individual needs has become an essential development. We have been extremely blessed to have Mr Rod Twining offer us his service to help develop and frame a learning enrichment hub. Located in the resource end of the library, we will have students coming in for specific support and also pushing equipped supporters into the classes to meet student learning needs. Educational support services will also be coordinated through this enrichment hub.

Liz Taylor has also offered to support our teacher and student development by coming in weekly to conduct whole class social and emotional activities. It is such a blessing that we have a community of people assisting the school, with their expertise, to achieve its educational goals. As we get the Hub more established, we will also be looking to increase our volunteer army and support services. We look forward to providing you with more news and information as the Hub grows.

Fortnight Snapshot

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sat/Sun |
|---------------|--------|--|---------------------|----------|--|--|
| Week 3 | 30/4 | 1/5 | 2/5 | 3/5 | 4/5 Assembly - Prep | 5-6/5 BBQ in the Mall (Saturday) |
| Week 4 | 7/5 | 8/5 Cross Country - At Nicholson Primary School | 9/5 K4 Photo Day | 10/5 | 11/5 Mothers Day Breakfast K3 Photo Day | 12-13/5 |

From Parents and Friends

Chocolate Drive

The very popular Cadbury Chocolate boxes will be organised for later in the Term. There will be a generous incentive program for each box sold.

Get creative with your friend's or family's workplaces or within your neighbourhood, with how you can sell the chocolates to our community.

Picture Products Fundraiser

Kinder kids will be given the opportunity to create special artworks which can be made into plates or cups this Term. This will be done as part of the kinder's program. If school children wish to participate templates will be available from the Office and order forms will be sent home shortly.

Dear school & kinder Mums & female special people, please join us for our **MOTHERS DAY BREAKFAST**

Friday, 11 May
From 7:45am at BCCS

Come and be appreciated and served.

Please RSVP to the School Office by 8 May

**Breakfast will not be provided for students, they need to come along with their Mums, however they need to have eaten BEFOREHAND as they will be serving.*

BAIRNSDALE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL INC.

Please join us for our Annual General Meeting 2018 Tuesday, 22 May, 7pm

It is open to all members of the school community with the AGM being only a short meeting, followed by supper and fellowship.

Please come along and bring a plate of supper to share.



Our School is proudly supported by the following businesses.

