Volume 18 Issue 23
5 August, 2015

Dear Parents and Friends of BSW,

One more working bee under our hat! Regular jobs such as weeding, trimming shrubs, topping up mulch and cleaning drains were among a few of the tasks completed by a dedicated team of parents. The working bee usually involves some exciting new projects too, this time it was laying the footings for goal posts on our oval. At the moment, star posts draped with orange netting can be seen waiting in eager anticipation for the installation of the posts. It won't be long before this is transformed into a scene from the ‘G’!

Parents are an integral part of our school community. Coming together for a working bee enhances the aesthetics of our school as well as the educational program. Attending a working bee is a valuable way to make a contribution to BSW, but it is also one of the many means of communication between the school and home. Parents share knowledge and information, and use this opportunity to network. This may occur during a conversation while tugging on a stubborn weed, or ladling out some delicious homemade pumpkin soup brewed from harvested crops from our kitchen garden. Before the bowl is empty you have been recruited for the fete barbecue, or made aware of the opportunity to attend your child’s junior school assembly.

Our School Strategic Plan identifies communication between school and home as an area for improvement. I invite you to consider some of the many opportunities you

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**CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 7th Aug</td>
<td></td>
<td>School Holiday Program bookings OPEN (will be held at Brunswick South Primary)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 7th Aug</td>
<td>3.00pm</td>
<td>Junior School Assembly (Tom) - ALL WELCOME</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10th Aug</td>
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<td>Swimming starts (2 weeks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 24th Aug</td>
<td></td>
<td>Curriculum Day (no students)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 4th Sept</td>
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<td>Father’s Day Stall</td>
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**CURRICULUM DAY—MONDAY, 24TH AUGUST**

This is a pupil free day—no students please
have to learn more about our school and become involved in your child's education.

Welcome to our Master of Teaching students as they join BSW for their internship at our school. Rachel Alexander in Anya's class and Louise Taylor in Chantelle's class are Year 1 Candidates joining our school for the first time. Phaedra Collins in Emily's class, Ella Ryan in Mathew's class, and Melannie Waldron in Barb's class are 2nd Year Candidates back with us for the second time. Maurice and Sharon have returned from leave and Barb has taken leave this term to be replaced by a regular CRT Elizabeth Van Dyke.

Did you know that in Ashley's maths class they are working on the 4 operations and in Chrissy's class their "seed" for writing is colour? If you want to know more about some of the activities happening in the classrooms, you can visit the class Digital Learning Journals via 'Meet the Students' on the school website: [http://www.brunswicksw-ps.vic.edu.au/class-digital-learning-journals](http://www.brunswicksw-ps.vic.edu.au/class-digital-learning-journals)

Enjoy the week and keep active and warm as we enter the last month of winter.

Yours sincerely,

Judy Harrington
Acting Principal

**KIDSMATTER SURVEY**

We will use this survey data to map the work the school is already doing, as well as consider areas where we can focus energy in the future.

Please complete the online survey at: [www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/parentsurvey](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/parentsurvey)

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**DO YOU HAVE A CONCESSION CARD?**

**Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)**

If you hold a valid means-tested Centrelink concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student will be $125 for primary school students.

**How to apply**

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from [www.education.vic.gov.au/csef](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/csef)

**Closing Date**

You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school **by 18 September 2015**. Late applications cannot be accepted.


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**PARENT INFORMATION**

It is very important that you notify the school of any changes to your contact details. Please contact the office if there are changes.
ENGLISH NEWS

Want to test your knowledge?

This website has a great selection of quizzes on some popular children’s books including Harry Potter titles, Fantastic Mr. Fox and Charlotte’s Web. [http://www.softschools.com/quizzes/childrens_books/](http://www.softschools.com/quizzes/childrens_books/)

SCHOOL PHOTOS

There are two photos of the grade 5/6 students available for purchase from SchoolPix if anyone is interested. Please come & have a look at the office window where they are displayed.

Cost: $25.00. Order forms available at the office.

SchoolPix usually take a photo of the students in the SRC each year but it was missed this year. We’ve organised for them to come out in Term 3 (Wednesday, 9th September) at 9am to take the photo. It will then be available for purchase.

A TIP FROM THE WELLBEING GROUP

Avoid answering for your children or apologising for them if they don’t answer when spoken to. This draws attention to their behaviour. Give them the chance to speak for themselves, even if it’s only something brief.

LIBRARY NEWS

Just a reminder to all that the library is open before school from 8:45 - 9:00 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and after school from 3:30-3:45.

Parents are most welcome to browse and borrow with their children. If there are queries concerning the borrowing or returning of books I am available at these times.

Below is the information poster about activities in the library for the children during term three.

HAPPY READING

Chris

“ENGLISH NEWS”

What an uninteresting title for our newsletter!

The English Key Group are after a catchy but clever title in place of "English News" to inform the school community of Literacy events in our school and the local area. So come on you resourceful and witty children, have a go! Please put your ideas in the Suggestion Box in the library or pass them onto Chris.

CURRICULUM DAY

There will be a Curriculum Day on Monday, 24th August. **This is a pupil free day.** Childcare will be available only if there are enough participants. There is an enrolment form attached to this newsletter. Please complete and return by August 13 at the latest.

Cost is $51.00 for the day.
BSWPS Class Digital Learning Journals

Just a reminder to take some time to enjoy the many wonderful posts created in your child’s Class Digital Learning Journal. Links to the Class Learning Journals can be accessed on the school website under MEET THE STUDENTS. Alternatively click on the links below:

P12 Chantel

P12 Carly

P12 Chrissy

P12 Anya and Chris
http://bswp12anya.global2.vic.edu.au/

P12 Kay

3/4 Barb

3/4 Sharon

3/4 Ashley

3/4 Emily

Italiano

Art

Library

Initially comments will only be accepted from students, teachers and other classes. While comments from the wider school community are valued, they will not be published.
A big thank you many wonderful parent & student volunteers who helped at the working bee on Saturday. Your help is much appreciated.

**The Golden Garden Award**
Awarded to the class with the largest parent participation.

**1st Place (tied):** Maurice’s and Carly’s classes  
**2nd Place:** Sharon’s Class  
**3rd Place (tied):** Chrissy’s and Chantel’s classes

Martin Reeves  
Louise Jorritsma  
Dean Anderson  
Anoushka Lenffer  
Roy Solterbeck  
Bernadette Dooley  
Sonia Ingham  
Dan Hirst  
Adrian Richardson  
Tamsin Rhodes  
Sachiko Tanaka  
Anita Brown-Major

Adrian Brown  
Jamie Gough  
Romina Fragnito  
Sharon Gruenert  
Adam Brunskill  
Kim Anderson  
Philip Carr  
Melissa Seto  
Karen Seligman  
Andrea Thomson  
Vincent Cairns  
Monique Doney

Felicity Kingsford  
Lara Stockdale  
Jennifer Gaton  
Dianne Martin  
Kate Douglas  
Duncan Adams  
Mel Yuan  
Damien Murtagh  
Henry Strathdee  
Salome Broch  
Heath Ingham
**Being A Resource Smart School**

Along with Brunswick South West Primary School, more than 1000 Victorian schools are taking part in the ResourceSmart AuSSI Program.

ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic is Victoria’s approach to the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative (AuSSI).

In 2003 Vic and NSW trialed the AuSSI initiative. These trials were co-funded by federal and state governments. The success of the trials led to AuSSI being launched in 2005, aiming to offer practical support to schools, and their communities, to live and work more sustainably.

In 2011 the Victorian Government committed $8.305 million over four years to build on the ResourceSmart AuSSI Vic framework.


Brunswick South West is joining other Victorian schools in implementing the **Rubbish Free Lunch Challenge** as part of the Waste Module of the ResourceSmart AuSSI Program.

**Rubbish Free Lunches May Include:**

- sandwiches and other main dishes, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and treats in a reusable lunch container
- cloth napkins
- reusable forks and spoons
- reusable drink containers
- reusable lunchboxes
- reusable lunch bags

**Tips and Ideas:**

- Put cut up fruits and vegetables into a reusable container. Your child can take a few bites and save the rest for later.

- When lunch leftovers are brought home, they can be eaten as an after school snack.

- Children can help plan, prepare and pack their own lunches.

- Less waste is generated when food is purchased in bulk, or in larger packages.

Find more tips and ideas via this website, which is referenced as a resource by *Queensland Sustainable Schools*.

[www.wastefreelunches.org](http://www.wastefreelunches.org)

Louise Jorritsma (parent) and Cathy Jessop (teacher) on behalf of the Core Sustainability Planning Team

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**HELP SAVE PAPER!**

We urge those receiving hard copy newsletters to switch to our digital version available on our website:


**Newsletters Printed:** Currently 75

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**Graph:**

- **X-axis:** 29 Apr - 5 Aug
- **Y-axis:** 0 - 100
- **Data points:**
  - 29 Apr: 100
  - 13 May: 90
  - 27 May: 80
  - 10 Jun: 70
  - 24 Jun: 60
  - 8 Jul: 50
  - 22 Jul: 40
  - 5 Aug: 30
The Moreland School Holiday program information and enrolment forms will be available for the September/October School Holiday Program from Friday 7 August, 5pm, bookings will close on Friday 21 August 2015.

Forms are available from:
Local Primary Schools in the municipality;
Council’s website and;
Citizens Services Centres – Monday to Friday between 8.30 am to 5.00 pm.
  Coburg Offices, 90 Bell Street, Coburg
  Brunswick Offices, 233 Sydney Road, and
  Glenroy, 796N Pascoe Vale Road, Glenroy

Please note that the School Holiday Program will NOT be running from Brunswick South West during the next school holidays, due to works being carried out in the school grounds. The SHP will run from Brunswick South Primary School – 56 Brunswick Rd.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability

‘Collection Notice’

All schools in Australia, including Independent and Catholic schools, will participate in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability this year. The Data Collection is an annual count of the number of students with disability receiving educational adjustments to support their participation in education on the same basis as students without disability.

All education agencies are now required under the Australian Education Regulation 2013 to provide information on a student’s level of education, disability and level of adjustment to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.* Data will continue to be de-identified prior to its transfer to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training. No student’s identity will be provided to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training.

The collection of this information from states and territories will inform future policy and program planning in relation to students with disability.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Judy Harrington on 03 9387 6886 or the Victorian Department of Education and Training Data Collection Hotline on (03) 9651 3621. For questions after 7 August 2015, please call the Australian Government Department of Education and Training on 1300 566 046.

* For more information on Schedule 3—Amendments for the collection of data on students who are persons with a disability Australian Education Regulation 2013 see: http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2014L01723/Html/Text#_Toc404934419
**Brunswick South West Primary School Newsletter**

**JOIN A GREAT COMMUNITY CLUB**

**Junior Program (boys & girls teams):**
Under 10s, 12s, 14s & 16s Junior Co.
Milo In2Cricket for 3-5 yrs.
Starting Wed 14th October 4:30-5:30pm at Ryders Oval

**To Register:**
Register for Junior Program (5-8 yrs)
1. go to playcricket.com.au

For those, those, those & those
Email: mjerkins10@gmail.com
Mobile: 0408-488-699
Web: ypcrc.com.au

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**WINTER MAGIC MARKET**

Saturday 8 August 2.00 - 8.00pm

A community event showcasing the work of local artists, musicians and cooks, proudly brought to you by Brunswick North West Primary School... all welcome.

**Come in from the Cold**

- Art auction
- Indoor market offering boutique handmade goods
- Devonshire teas, curries, gourmet BBQ, soup, cheese platters, pancakes, great coffee – lots of vegetarian options
- Live acoustic music
- Home made cakes, jams and treats to take home
- Kids Zone (until 5.30) features a kids market, face painting, treasure hunt, paper planes and more...
- Wine and beer tastings, warm chai and gluwein.

Brunswick North West Primary School
Culloden Street, Brunswick West

Take the No. 55 tram down Mulville Road or ride a bike.
Limited car-parking is available in local streets.
Dear Parents,

Please read the notice below:

**FATHER’S DAY STALL**

For this year’s Father’s Day stall, we would like to have handmade and homemade gifts available for the students to purchase. Some ideas would be plants, chutneys and jams, bookmarks, coasters, knitted scarves and beanies.

If you can help making any of these, please bring your contribution to the office by the 1st of September.

Thanks,

Catherine

MDFD stall co-ordinator
REMINDER

KidsMatter Parent Survey

DUE ON FRIDAY

For further information, including information sheets especially written for parents and carers, visit www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary

To complete the survey online now please follow this link: www.kidsmatter.edu.au/primary/parentsurvey

Please tick which option you choose to complete the survey and return the slip below

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KidsMatter Parent Survey

Child’s Name ______________________________________ Class __________________________

I will/have complete/completed the survey electronically at home

I would like the school to provide me with a hard copy to complete and return to the office

I would like to attend a session in the school library where I will receive assistance and the use of a computer

Return to Office
Raising a critical generation

In a digitally literate world of ‘likes’ and social criticism Lakshmi Singh looks at how parents can foster critical spirit in a constructive, healthy and balanced way.

The age of entitlement
Parents have always wanted the best for kids, but taking the “you deserve the best, this/he/she is not good enough” mentality a bit too far can also be detrimental, says parenting and education expert Ronit Baras.

“The rules of education are very simple, judgmental parents will raise judgmental kids. Why? Because judgment is a coping mechanism to fight inadequacy. Judgmental people have weaknesses [and] judgment is their way of hiding. ‘If I find faults in others, I will be able to hide mine.’ If parents model this mentality, kids will adopt it.”

Similarly projecting a “my child is special and they need to know that” vision by over-supplying them with activities, commodities and even praise can lead to an unhealthy sense of entitlement, says Dr. Ash Nayate, clinical neuropsychologist.

“Narcissism (i.e. a feeling of entitlement) is a sign of unhealthy self-esteem. Narcissistic people don’t see themselves as equal to others, they see themselves as better than others – and the reason they hold this belief is to cover up their fear of ‘not being good enough,” she says.

Judging people helps alleviate that fear, she says. To help stop the cycle, she believes parents need to lead by example.

“Developing a healthy self-esteem is critical. If as a parent you have low confidence and low self-esteem, your kids are going to pick up on that as well. If you want your kids to be resilient and confident, then you need to work on the confidence and self-esteem within yourself.”

Readily accessible forums to dish out criticism
It is no secret that Millenials are more digitally literate than the rest of us. With most having access to their own mobile phone, laptop and social media accounts, the stage through which they can communicate with others is wide and always available.

“Social media encourages us to be more vocal about criticism. So instead of just judging people quietly, in our mind, we can do it aloud, behind the safety and anonymity of a computer screen,” says Dr. Nayate.

The privacy that social media affords also brings to the fore a trait that Baras calls a “brain fart”.

“In my program we consider it a “brain fart” when you do not consider others or the outcome of what you say and only want to say it, at all cost,” she says.

She believes the problem is intensified in a society that values external standards and imposes them on the education system through set metrics. “Teachers use marks, tests [and] they flash with standards and rules and this is far away from teaching critical thinking. So, no wonder kids are learning that everything in their life needs to be judged.”

From teacher review sites to specialist groups and threads on social media forums, kids today can critique anything about their school, programs or individual people, making up their mind whether something makes the cut or not.

A culture that accepts criticism

With the prominence and popularity of reality TV shows comes the hard truth that our culture is now one of judgement and criticism.

“People are evaluated on the basis of what they’re missing, how they’re not good enough or worthy enough, and what’s ‘wrong’ with them,” says Dr. Nayate.

To compound the situation, today’s society is more geared towards materialism and capitalism, she says.

With the aim of being ‘better’, ‘richer’ and ‘more successful’ comes the habit to indulge in self-criticism, another trigger for engaging in a dialog centred around “I am better than this guy because …” or “I am so hopeless at this compared to …”.

“Self-criticism is the first step towards judgement of others. We can only judge others if we’re somehow judgemental of ourselves,” says Dr. Nayate.

**Striking a balance**

So, how do we turn all this ‘judgement’ into something that is more considered, evaluated and more respectful of the people and practices involved in the process?

By understanding the difference between informed decision-making or critical thinking and straight judgement, says Baras.

“Critical thinking is when we present kids with options and teach them to evaluate and consider the advantages and disadvantages between options. Criticism/judgment is considering yourself above others and rating them based on your own individual standard.”

The good news is that critical thinking skills can be developed without being critical of others says Dr. Nayate.

“It’s about adopting an attitude of open-mindedness and healthy curiosity. Just like a three year old who always asks “why” - the child isn’t doing it out of judgement or maliciousness, it’s simply a raw desire to learn more about the world.”

While critical thinking skills depend on the maturity of the child, Dr. Nayate believes parents can nudge kids in the right direction by role modelling it.

1. **Verbalise** the thought-process involved in everyday decisions – for example choosing healthier food options (“When I eat fries, I feel a bit sick in the stomach, and the next day I get a headache from all the salt and grease. And then I feel sluggish and lazy, and I just want to sit around at home all day instead of going to the playground with you.”)

2. **Assist** with decisions and evaluations – implement this as a two-step process, she advises: first, acknowledge kids when they have demonstrated critical thinking. For example: “that was a good decision to do your homework before you went to your friend’s house. That way, you can really have fun and you don’t need to rush to get home”.

Secondly, help them assess whether the decision they made was because they accept an idea or because it came from a person they accept. As an example, many teenagers tend to accept information as credible when it comes from their peers or celebrities more so than their parents.

3. **Help** them put their higher values in perspective – while some children may value hard work or aim for certain levels of achievement, they would also value acceptance, connection with others, happiness, fun and adventure, she says. For example, a child who values health and fitness highly might override them in favour of other values like fitting in with their peers who smoke and thus take up that habit. Encourage them to see when decisions are made based on what we value, rather than on impulse or what feels good at that moment.

**Sources:**
- Tim Elmore’s blog on ‘Curing a critical spirit in students’ - http://growingleaders.com/blog/curing-critical-spirit-students/