Dear Parents and Friends of BSW,

**Professional Learning** powers our school’s improvement and rigorous curriculum.

Research into neuroscience and teaching and learning more generally make it essential for teachers to be active learners.

Twice a week the teaching staff has formal professional learning meetings. After school on Tuesdays, teachers meet in Senior (Years 3 to 6) and Junior (Foundation* to Year 2) Groups. Recently the Senior Team has been exploring ‘thinking’ and ways to evaluate, assess and moderate the results. On Wednesdays we have a combined meeting. Last week, we continued to develop our understanding and skills related to our mental health and wellbeing program, KidsMatter Primary. Today, using the eSmart Schools Framework, we will be looking at cyber safety at BSW.

English was the focus of our Curriculum Day earlier this month. During one session we looked at matching each student’s reading ability to appropriate books. Of course, the book must firstly be interesting to the reader. This can be especially challenging if the reader’s ability is quite different from his/her age, eg, an 8 year old who can read anything or a 11 year old who struggles. Beyond that, the book needs to be at the right level of challenge. If the book is too easy, the reader does not have the opportunity to develop the skills at the next stage of learning; on the other hand, if the book is too hard, the reader’s struggle gets in the way of learning.

*The current terminology for Prep. I can remember when the first year of school was called Beginners!
This Friday’s **Curriculum Day** will be entirely devoted to Maths, particularly the Big Ideas in Number. We’ll all examine these for F, Years 1/2, Years 3/4, and Years 5/6. An early Big Idea is having a deep understanding of what each number to 10 means, ie, when a student reads, writes or hears ‘six’ s/he can imagine what that collection might look like and how it relates to other numbers.

The **Family Picnic**, with the school band and activities organized by our Camp Australia, will be from 5 pm to 7:30 pm Friday week, 27th November. Do come along and welcome new 2016 families to our community, as well as enjoying the company of those already at BSW.

**Transition Program** Next Wednesday, 25th November, will be our first transition day. All students will participate. About 70 Foundation students will spend from 9:15 am until 10:45 am in a Junior School class. Our current Preps & 1s will be their buddies. Year 2 students will practise being Year 3s in the RB Building; Year 4s will be Year 5s. The remaining transition days will be on Thursday, 3rd and Tuesday, 8th December. Year 6s will go to their state secondary colleges on the final day.

**Planning for 2016** I need your help! An especially difficult, and critical, task is ascertaining exactly how many students, at each year level, will be at BSW in February. (The numbers at each year level directly influence the school’s staffing budget.) If your child will be going to a new school, please tell the teacher or the office, as soon as possible.

**Thank you** Our school is rich in social capital and your children benefit from this. Every week, in some way, parents, extended family and friends of BSW, volunteer their services. This week the **Phantom Mowers** have been busy keeping the rampantly-growing grass under control; in Cathy/Jacqui’s F-2 class, **Janice Youl**, grandma of Mac, and **Glen Thomson**, Amelia’s dad, organized science experiments, Dancing sultanas and Rockets, for the Inquiry Unit, Simple Systems and Chain Reactions.

Yours sincerely,
Louise Chocholis
Principal

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**Weekly Collective Nouns:**
- A host of sparrows
- A dray of squirrels
- A constellation of starfish

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**DON’T FORGET CURRICULUM DAY**

**FRIDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER**

No students please

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**A LITTLE SOMETHING ABOUT LITERACY**

Play, played and playing are all part of the same word family. Can you think of any other word families?

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**BIKE SHED**

The bike shed has about 10 bikes stored in it that haven’t been used for some time.

If you have left a bike there in the past & forgotten about it, can you please remove it as soon as possible.

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**KIDS MATTER LAUNCH**

On Monday, the Engagement and Wellbeing team launched KidsMatter to the school community. This is an accredited whole school approach to children’s wellbeing. It provides tools and support to help schools, parents, carers and the wider community nurture happy, balanced kids. Facts sheets will be included in the newsletter each week to provide parents and carers with important information about KidsMatter.
**PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS**

Peter Hocking is our Brunswick District Co-ordinator. He has sent out the following information for all schools in the Brunswick district. This is in regard to children who are turning 9 through to 13 years of age in 2016. It is mainly for children who are swimming at or near squad standard.

The INM swimming entry form has just been posted to the website. Physical Education teachers are not to receive entries or the completed nomination forms. The entries should be emailed directly to Peter. The list can be accessed from the BDPSSA website.

www.bdpssa.com

On another note if you are ever after the dates for any sporting events, they are able to be viewed on the School Sport Victoria website.

**NETBOOK INDUCTION SESSIONS**

Just a reminder that there will be compulsory Netbook Induction Sessions on

**WEDNESDAY 2nd Dec 2015**

8.45 am

or

7.00 pm

At the Induction Session we will distribute the netbooks to the students.

Please ensure you bring your:

- signed Rental Agreement
- signed Acceptable Use Agreement

These are to be handed in on the day.

Grade 2 children must attend with a parent.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM**

The Moreland School Holiday program information and enrolment forms will be available for the January 2016 School Holiday Program from Friday 6 November 2015, 5pm, bookings will close on Friday 20 November 2015.

Forms are available from:
- Local Primary Schools in the municipality; (afters)
- 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

If you have difficulty accessing the information and enrolment forms or general queries, please contact Council on Ph: 9240 1111.
Kindergarten Enrolments

Denzil Don Kindergarten currently has limited vacancies available in the 4 year old kindergarten program for 2016.

For further information please contact Mary Georgelos, Enrolments Co-ordinator, on telephone 9380 8420 or Email: Denzil.don.free.kindergarten.vic.gov.au

11th November 2015

Temple Park
Community Christmas Party

All park users welcome

Sunday 29th November 2015
4–7pm

Bring a plate, throw some snags on the barbie, or come as you are. Bring the neighbours, the kids and the dog (on a leash). To find us, look for the rubber chicken . . .

https://www.facebook.com/BrunswickPlaygrounds
brunswickplaygrounds@gmail.com
Brunswick South West Primary School

SCHOOL PICNIC

Come and join the school community for a family picnic on the oval on:

Friday, 27th November
5:00—7.30pm
BYO everything!

Come along & listen to our fabulous parent band
Organised games & sporting activities for students by Camp Australia

South Daly Street, Brunswick West—Ph 9387 6886
Email: Brunswick.sw.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au
Why connect at school?

Peter held his daughter Rachel’s hand tightly. It was a first for him to be taking Rachel to school. His heart was pounding as they made their way to the classroom. There was the teacher, Ms Lim. She smiled at them, “Welcome Rachel, hello Peter.” Another child waved at Rachel. She seemed happy to have a friend to play with. So why was Peter still nervous?

“We’re having a morning tea for parents next week. Will you come?” Ms Lim asked. “I’ll try,” Peter said. “It all seems different from when I went to school,” he thought as he headed out the door. “They seem to want parents to be involved. I wonder what else has changed?”

Schools can be scary places, and not just for children

Parents and carers also need to feel welcome and at ease to get the most out of being involved with their children’s school.

When parents and carers are involved and connected with school, children are better learners and have better mental health and wellbeing. This is an important emphasis in schools nowadays that may be very different from what parents or carers remember, or what they may have experienced in another country.

Connecting at school

Being connected at school is not about having mobile phones and computers. It’s about knowing you can get support, that you will be listened to, and that you can work together with school staff to help your child learn and develop. Working together to care for children is the best way for schools and parents and carers to support children’s mental health and wellbeing.

• When schools and parents and carers work together, children find it easier to understand what is expected from them and are better able to manage. They have fewer behaviour problems and do better at school.

• When parents and carers are connected to school it helps them get support when they need it. Support may come from talking with teachers or other school staff, or from making connections with other parents and carers. Schools help families to connect through having lots of different activities that parents and carers can get involved in.

• Being connected to the school helps keep parents and carers informed. Parents and carers who are informed about what their children are learning at school and about opportunities to get involved are able to support them better at home.
School is a place for adults to make new friends too!

Having opportunities to get to know other parents and carers, to find out how to support children’s learning, or to get involved in class activities can help parents and carers feel connected to the school.

Working together is the best way to support children’s mental health and wellbeing.

How parents and carers can get connected to the school

• Make contact with your child’s teacher and keep in touch. Ask for help if you don’t understand something.
• Check for notices that are sent home and keep informed about school activities through the school newsletter.
• Attend information sessions and social activities at the school whenever you can.
• Make contact with other parents and carers at your school: perhaps meet up informally with parents or carers of other children in your child’s class, find out about parent social groups that meet at or near the school, or join a parent committee.
• Take an interest in the school council and consider joining it if you have the time and skills.

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au