Dear Parents,

SCHOOL VOTING DAY BBQ
Thank you to the parents who assisted with the barbeque at school on voting day last Saturday. Although it rained continuously throughout the day the barbeque was still a success with precious profits made contributing towards the school fundraising. Thank you to Wayne and Marg Sherriff, Trevor and Maria Humphreys, Corey Warne, Bu Turpie, Veronica Collins, Wendy White, Hayley Davis, Dean Stewart and Mark Snell. Great teamwork and another fabulous effort!

CODE OF CONDUCT
At Assembly on Monday my school message for the week was focussing on the way that we speak to each other. It is not Okay to be rude, to swear, to threaten or to be unkind to one another. This is a form of bullying. This is against our school rules – the speaking and treatment rules and the Student and Parent Code of Conduct. It is so easy to speak in a pleasant, kind, and courteous manner, showing positive body language which is to face the person and to look at them as you or they speak. As parents we need to be positive role models for our children as well as to other adults to encourage them to speak in a positive manner also.

READING
It is always a pleasure on Monday morning Assemblies to hand out a number of ‘Stars of the Week’ and also Reading Awards. Staff are continuing to focus on values for the stars of the week and to highlight good reading behaviours. Research shows that “The average higher achieving students read 3 times as much each week as their lower achieving classmates” (Allington, Richard 2006) This demonstrates the power of children developing regular reading routines very early on at home. Teachers can encourage sound home reading behaviours but as parents you are the ones that need to closely monitor and maintain it in the home. Set aside a regular reading time, make it enjoyable and finish with a serial (on going story) of a chapter book which is read by the parent. For life long reading to occur it has to be enjoyable as well as purposeful. Don’t forget to sign off on your child’s reading journal each night with comments if possible. This then becomes a great reading record for your child.

STATEWIDE TRANSITION DAY
Next Tuesday 7th Dec is the statewide transition day. The new preps will meet up with their next year’s grade 6 ‘buddies’ and remain for lunch. Our current grade 6 students will head off to their new secondary schools for the day. The rest of the school will all move up to their next year level for a transition experience - although these groupings will be random and will not reflect their 2011 groupings. How exciting!

On Thursday 16th Dec all children will spend 30 mins in their 2011 class and hopefully with their 2011 class teacher. All children will receive a class list for 2011 to take home with them that afternoon.

If you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact the school whether it is the classroom teacher, Corey Warne or myself. We encourage all children to speak up if they have concerns and hope that parents will do the same. Often a quick discussion can overcome any anxieties or concerns.

Di Craig
Acting Principal

STARS OF THE WEEK
The Star of the Week awards were presented on Monday 29th November.

P/1J - Ashlyn B
P/1M - Mason R
P/1Q - Holley B
1/2M - Ruby E
1/2O - Kiet C & Breeana M
1/2S - Keely P
3/4B - Darcy W
3/4G - Kayne B
3/4Q - Maddi S
4/5C - Tyler R
5/6B - Brianna E
5/6C - Macee F
5/6S - Ellie A

Art Award - Jake L
Reading Awards - Georgina F 1/2O
Connor M P/1J
Georgia W P/1J
Brooke G 4/5C
Rikki W 4/5C
Shakirra S 4/5C
Caleb E 4/5C
Archer S P/1Q
April S 1/2M

Dates to Remember…
Tues 7 Dec - Statewide Orientation Day
Wed 8 Dec - Parent Helpers morning tea 11-11:45am
Fri 10 Dec - Tabloid Sports Grades Prep-2
Tues 14 Dec - Grade 6 Graduation Dinner
- Grade 3-6 Gym
Fri 17 Dec - Last Day of Term 2.15pm

INVITATION
ALL PARENT HELPERS
An invitation to attend a morning tea thank you is extended to all parents/carers who have contributed their time helping at Speci. It is to be held on Wednesday 8th December 11:00 to 11:45am.

BREAKFAST
Breakfast Club is on this Thursday (2nd Dec.) starting at 8.15am
(no earlier please) and no later than 8.30am to allow time for serving and clean-up.
Next Thursday 9th will be the last Breakfast for 2010.

Parent Support Group- Prep 2011
Where- Staffroom
Time 9-10am
Date- 7th December (Orientation Day)
Who- Prep Parents-2011
The session will provide parents with the opportunity to meet other parents and have a general discussion around their students starting school in 2011.
Everyone is welcome to come along for a coffee and chat.

CLASS NEWS

Senior Department News
Graduation Dinner preparation is well under way and we look forward to a great evening. Please ensure payments are made before the 10th December.
Many students have been able to change over the Lenovo netbooks this week and seem to be excited at the look and feel of a new computer. Please be aware that this will be a new computer with a 2003 operating system. Microsoft are soon to discontinue support for Windows XP. All Thinkpad Mini netbooks will be required at school from December 9th until further notice so that re-imaging of these units can take place. Once re-imaging is completed, netbooks will be returned upon proof of final payment. The excursion to the BSE production on Tuesday was informative and entertaining and it was great to see the effort the secondary students had put into this over the year to reach such a professional standard.
Grade 5/6 News Team

Middle Department News
Children have started work on their projects. They were able to chose from light and shadows, colour or camouflage. We are encouraging children to make colorful, neat posters that contain a lot of information. Each project also needs to include details of an activity or experiment. In the last week of school children will present their posters to the class.
We are fortunate to have both Anne Smith our Literacy Coach and Wendy Jackson our Maths coach working with children to improve their skills in writing persuasive texts and solving problems in maths. We are pleased with how much our students are improving.

Extra tips for parents:

STAY INVOLVED with your child’s use of new technologies. Ask your child to show you how his or her phone works, or borrow it and play with it until you are familiar with it.

FIND OUT how access to ‘adult’ content and other services offered by your child’s mobile phone carrier can be managed. Such information is usually available on the carrier’s website.

TALK to your children about their experiences—the good and the bad. Let them know it’s OK to tell you if they come across something that worries them. [It doesn’t mean they’re going to get into trouble.]

TEACH your children that there are ways they can deal with disturbing material—they should not respond if they are sent something inappropriate, and they should immediately leave or hang up if they feel uncomfortable or worried by it.

www.cybersmartkids.com.au

www.CYBERSMART
Kids online

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www.cybersmartkids.com.au
We are encouraging children to continue reading at home. Thankyou to those parents who are supporting their children in this way.

Middle Dept. Team

Junior Department News
As the year is beginning to come to an end, children are becoming very tired. Please ensure they have plenty of rest at night and healthy food to assist them in getting through a busy school day.

There are some reports of Head Lice around the school at the moment, please check your child’s hair regularly and treat as needed.

Children in the Junior Department have been looking at how to wash their hands thoroughly and how to brush their teeth properly. It would be great to reinforce these skills with your child at home.

We have had a few absences lately. Could you please ensure you return an absence note with your child explaining the reason why. This is an Education requirement please.

Thank you to the parents who continue to assist in the classrooms and the ongoing support from home. We appreciate your help.

The Junior Team

GENERAL NEWS

WANTED
Your ‘junk’ for the Art Room in readiness for 2011. We would appreciate any of the following if you could save them and send them in - washed and clean.

- 1 lit. plastic milk/juice bottles
- Lids - any size, from anything
- Jigsaws - that have missing pieces
- “real” junk - nuts/bolts/springs ……
- Spray can lids
- Ice-cream containers
- Magazines

Anything that you don’t want the Art Room might love.

Thanks
Sally Brown

CANTEEN NEWS

Mon. 6th Dec Normal lunch menu. Last day of Canteen for 2010.

Chicken Sticks (breast) are on the menu instead of Chicken Royale due to unavailability. 6 sticks for $1.80

Canteen Lunch Roster:
Thursday 2nd Dec. - Tricia, Margaret & Hayley
Monday 6th Dec. - Tricia & Kerrie B  Last Day of Canteen

OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE

ASHC Phone No. 0447 788 636. Please ring Leah for bookings/cancellations. Accounts will go home on a fortnightly basis and need to be paid at the school office.

Some accounts are overdue and need to be paid ASAP.

Program:
- Thurs. 2nd Dec. - Tasting Platter / Garbage Bag fashion
- Fri. 3rd Dec. - Popcorn & Juice / Movie
- Mon. 6th Dec. - Sandwiches & Juice/ Free Play
- Tues 7th Dec. - Saladas / Xmas Craft
- Wed. 8th Dec. - Fruit & Veg. Platter & Cordial / Group Games outside

BSHC Phone No. 0438 062 561. Please ring Danika for bookings/cancellations.

TABLOID SPORTS EXCURSION

Grades Prep-2

Friday 10th December

Reminder that permission notes and money ($2) need to be returned to school asap.
AFTER SCHOOL CARE - Vegetable planting

My rainbow chard has grown over the pot. We have to move it to a bigger pot. By Zach

At After School Care we planted some veggies. Some of them have grown very big. Mine is now very tall and has some beans on it! Everybody had a great time and we all enjoyed planting veggies. People have now started their own veggie patch. We all enjoy After School Care veggie night. By Jordan

In After School Care we had a really fun activity to enjoy. We planted nasturtiums, beans, tomatoes and rainbow chard. I grew all of them except rainbow chard. I was also lucky to get a capsicum. Everybody loved planting veggies and fruits. It was a great After School Care night. By Cassy

I made a veggie garden. I made it on a Monday. I planted one rainbow chard and a tomato and a bean. After that I went home and bought sweet corn, capsicum and carrots and I planted them at home. By Ethan

SCHOLASTIC
HUGE CHILDREN'S BOOK SALE

Thousands of great titles to choose from! Priced from as low as $1.00. Great Christmas gifts.

Tuesday
7th December
8am to 5pm.
St Andrews Game Hall
Mollison Street, Bendigo

For more information phone 1800 024 840 or

KIDS CORNER STORIES FROM GRADE 1/2O

The Bendigo Zoo By Tiah M
Lara saw her friend at the Bendigo Zoo. She went to see a monkey. She lost her glasses. Her glasses were in the cage. The Zookeeper got the glasses out of the cage by using a big long stick. The Zookeeper got them. She said thank you.

By Lara C
“Wow, I’m so excited Mum. I can’t wait till we go to the beach,” she screamed across the room. She wrote about going to the beach and Amy asked if she could bring her pet Coco.

“What can I bring Coco to the beach please?” But Mum said, “Only if you look after it.” “I will go and let him out for a swim at the beach.” She ran out of the house. “But Amy, she’s contagious with water.” “I will let you go now Coco.” And Coco ran down into a deep park hole. Amy went up the hill and cried for months and years and finally she saw some foot prints and followed it down in the dark hole. She found Coco and brought Coco home for a hot chocolate and then they went to bed.

By Michael C
“Yahoo! This is great fun. I love playing scary monster games.” I am playing my monster game with Dad.” I shot them with my water pistol.

Kidnapper By Nakia W
Mum ran out to the car. I was watching the Simpsons on TV. When Mum came back I was gone. She rang Beau, Zach and Jade. They rang the police. Six days later, they found me. The kidnapper got sentenced to six years in jail. I was really happy that he went there. My dog was really happy. My mum was really happy to have her home because I missed her birthday.