

**BEEAC PRIMARY
SCHOOL**
LANG STREET
BEEAC 3251
PRINCIPAL:
ANDREW ROGERS
PH. 0352 346 463

February 4 to March 4.
Swimming over 5 Mondays.
Leave school at 12.40p, except for early start midday to Memorial Square, Colac for chips and dim sims. Parents welcome
February 19. Council meeting 7.00pm
February 22: PFA meeting 9.00. All welcome
February 22: closing date for Council nominations.
February 26. Kaleidoscope. Grades 3-6 COPACC all day excursion 9.30 to 2.30pm
March 11: Labour Day public holiday.
March 14 Polwarth Sports Day, Alvie. Back up Friday 15 March
March 15. Student led conferences Highton.
April 2: Colac Athletics Sports Day.
March 26 to April 26: Practice NAPLAN online tests
April 2. Dinosaur Time Machine. COPACC
April 4. GRIP leadership Conference. School leaders.
April 19: Good Friday.
April 22: Easter Monday.
April 25: Anzac Day
April 29: GRIP student leadership conference.
April 30: ECOLINK visit to Bacchus Marsh
May 10: Polwarth Cross Country at Deans Marsh.
May 14-24: NAPLAN online tests
May 18: provisional date for Federal election.
May 19-25: Education week and Enrolment week
May 22: Colac Primary schools Cross country
June 6: ECOLINK incursion.
June 10: Queen's Birthday
June 11. Earth Ed Grade 3-6 incursion
June 12 to 14. Urban Camp Melbourne, Grades 5&6.
August 5. Biolab 3-6, GMHBA stadium Geelong, Fairy Park P-2, Anakie.
Early August: second advertised enrolment week
September 9-13: bike Ed week with a Friday trip through Colac
September 25: AFL Grand Final
October 17: Bike Ed challenge Elliminyt
Nov 5: Melbourne Cup Day

Student of the week.
Kayde Howe: for having a terrific start to the year both socially and academically. 8/2
Gemma Beswicke: for providing input in class writing pieces and helping the younger students 15/2

Beeac Primary School



Beac Primary School is a child safe school

18th February 2019

Bits and pieces.

Polwarth Sports Day will be held on the 14th of March at Alvie, with a back up day on the 15th of March. I hope that new parents especially will read the detail below about what will happen on the day. Of course we welcome any questions you may have about the day.

Other key sports days for you to note, are the following: the Colac Division Athletics sports is planned for Tuesday April 2nd, and the Cross country in Colac is set for Wednesday May 22nd. This will mean that our Polwarth cross country run at Deans Marsh will occur earlier, on May the 10th.

This issue's parenting article by Michael Grose has a series of hotlinks which will take you to further information about each of the topics that he discusses. Unfortunately the publishing process has deleted these hotlinks, so the article will be sent to you via Skoolbag where the hotlinks will still work. The Wannon Electoral office contacted me last week as it prepares for next year's Federal Election. The date has not been confirmed, but the strong likelihood is that it will be the 18th of May. In addition parents may wish to pencil in other public holidays which are in the key dates section.

Free books, free food.

At the Rokewood Lagoon get together, more than one parent mentioned to me how much their child enjoyed reading and that they wished they could get access to more books. Kristin Mackinlay, our school librarian, has just finished a stock take of her book collection, and there are a number of books which parents can pick up for free from our school. These books make a good read, but are surplus to requirements. If you would like to take some home, they are the ones outside the library door with their identification numbers cancelled.

Similarly Maddy Plier has just finished a stock take of our breakfast food. We have some food such as cereal, and milk which is old stock, but still tastes pretty good. If you would like some, please help yourself. They are available in boxes outside the staffroom door.

Caring for our environment and this newsletter.

This newsletter will not only be sent to you via Skoolbag, but from now onwards will also arrive in your email. In addition it has been available electronically for a number of years on our school's website. That means that apart from a hard copy which is sent home once a fortnight there are now three separate ways that you can read our newsletter.

Inevitably every time we print hard copies of the newsletter, more trees have to be logged, and more damage is done to the environment. We welcome parent debate and commentary about how much longer we need to keep sending out the newsletter as hard copy.

What did you do at school today?

What should be a great conversation starter between parents and children about what's happening at school, doesn't always end up the way we would like things to go. To help make this question lead to a more fruitful conversation we intend uploading pictures on to Skoolbag with simple captions about what is happening at school each day. We hope that this will assist you in getting the conversation started. Typical pictures last week would have shown a shot of our students taking tests, a picture of a coach teaching hockey, and perhaps a shot of a Science lesson, where students were measuring the amount of sugar in different energy drinks. Certainly these topics would make for great conversation starters at home.

We are grateful for this students at work snapshot idea. It arose out of a conversation at a parent workshop during last year's whole school review.



Rokewood lagoon: our annual parent get together.

It was great to see so many people at Rokewood Lagoon last Friday. The weather was kind and there were some excellent opportunities to catch up with old friends and say hello to new faces. The day was a huge success and as one of Beeac Primary School's great traditions, we all hope to continue it in to the future.

Polwarth Sports Day.

Our students are busy practising during our Sporting Schools program for Polwarth Sports Day. Our school

expects families to make their own arrangements for children to get to and from Alvie on the day. The date has been set for Thursday March the 14th, and families may want to consider sharing transport arrangements to make sure everyone gets there for the day. We ask parents to ensure that their children are at Alvie by 9.15am for the start of the day. The day will finish by 3.30pm.

If we have inclement weather, the day will be called off on the previous day and confirmed via a radio announcement. 3CS will broadcast this message at about 7.55am on the day of the postponed event. The fall back date will then be Friday March the 15th. Students who are successful at this meet can expect to be invited to the Divisional Athletics Sports Day in Colac on April the 2nd.

We intend having some supplies of fly repellent and sun block for students, but do request that parents supply their own sun protection including a protective hat. Alvie will not be organising lunch orders this year, although I understand that there will be drinks and snacks available at the canteen. Therefore all children and adults will require adequate food for the day including a cut lunch and a drink.

Our Parents and Friends Association have bought sports shirts for every student to wear when they are participating at Alvie. These light blue shirts with the school's insignia will shortly be sent home for each child to wear on the day..

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**Beeac Milk Ba71 Main
St., Beeac.**

Fresh sandwiches, cakes,
muffins and slices.
Hot food: pies, pastries
and sausages rolls. Ham-
burgers and sausage
rolls and chicken schnit-
zel rolls.

For all enquiries and
bookings call 52346008
Open 7 days.

**Term dates
2019**

Term 1: (29th teachers start) 30
January to 5 April
Term 2: 23 April to 28 June
Term 3: 15 July to 20 September
Term 4: 7 October to 20 Decem-
ber



Eric Richardson

Pictured here are Don Robinson and Quanny Quantrell showing the shield that celebrates the rich life of local notable Eric Richardson. A lunch BBQ at the school on Sunday saw a large number of local people turn up to reminisce about the quiet support and good deeds that Eric was well-known for. The Ausie spirit of endurance, good humour and a quiet self-deprecating manner endeared him to many in our local community.

The celebration was a fitting way to remember Eric and, some would argue, a way of life, that did not measure his success in terms of status, power or money, but rather how connected the man was to the needs of his local community.

School leaders.

It's that time of year again. We can expect speeches, applause and the casting of votes by everyone in the school as we get to decide who will be our new leaders for 2019.

By the end of the process our school will have two school captains, a sports captain and an SRC (School Representative Council) leader. All four students will participate in a school's leadership Conference at Geelong on April the 29th.

Parents and Friends.

The Parents and Friends committee will be having a meeting on Friday 22nd February at 9am at the school. Our meetings are very casual and are usually held twice a term, children are welcome. The P&F raises funds throughout the year to subsidise the bus for the school swimming program and other programs/projects around the school.

Teacher professional development.

Arising out of our review last year was a recommendation that our teachers need to spend more formal meeting time together. We will shortly begin a move in this direction by visiting schools with best practice in this area. In addition, as part of the Victorian Government Schools Agreement, teachers receive one day per term when they are out of the classroom to focus on the improved delivery of high quality teaching and learning.

This means that your child's teacher will be spending time out of the classroom each term further developing their skills in areas that are aligned to our school priorities. Your child will directly benefit from these improvements in their daily learning.

On these days, an alternate teacher will be provided with the learning plan for the day and be well equipped to assist your child with their learning needs.

We are scheduling the professional practice days ahead of time so there is minimal impact to students and, where possible, there is consistency in teaching.

If you would like more information on our professional practice days and when they are planned, do please feel free to contact me at school.



Hockey at Beeac PS

Jenny Bush continues to prepare our school each week for the Polwarth Athletics Day on March the 14th. Meanwhile Claire Barnes from Newtown Hockey Club in Geelong has been hired to coach our students in a sport that is new to our school: hockey.

In term two, Jack Carey from the Ballarat Volleyball Association has agreed to coach our students for volleyball. We appreciate the skills which these pro-

fessional coaches are making available for our students.

Netball coaching.

Parents will be aware that for the last few years we have combined with St Brendan's and Alvie Primary school students to make up netball teams for Friday night competitions in Colac over winter. The divisions are Under 9's (have to be 8 years old), Under 11's and Under 13's. Boys and girls have both played in this competition. If you are interested or need more information can you please contact Caroline McEwan 0429 355 575 in the next week so we can pass on numbers. Local sport is a great way for our kids to mix and make friends with kids from other schools.

NAPLAN, National Maths and English tests.

Parents will be aware that each year all year three and five students are assessed in terms of their Maths and English ability. This year the tests will be online. The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) 2019 online tests will take place from Tuesday 14 May to Friday 24 May 2019 on the Online National Assessment Platform (the Platform). Students will practice online tests which will be available from the Platform between Monday 25 March and Friday 26 April 2019.

We expect all students to take part in the tests, but should you not wish your child to participate please let us know. The decision regarding student exemption or withdrawal from the NAPLAN tests rests with parents..

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Farmers Arms Beac

Mondays and Tuesday
nights– kids eat half
price with full paying
adult

Sunday \$17 Sunday
Roast, served with roast
vegetables, warm roll
and sauces to compli-
ment.

For all enquiries and
bookings call 5234 6341.

School Council nominations: part two

As I mentioned in our previous newsletter there are three vacancies coming up. Do please consider joining, and of course, do come and talk to us about any aspect of the Council which you are interested in. The Schedule 5A form in this newsletter is available for any parent member of our community wishing to nominate themselves to join our school council. School council's are responsible for:

- establishing the broad direction and vision of the school within the school's community
- participating in the development and monitoring of the school strategic plan
- approving the annual budget and monitoring expenditure
- developing, reviewing and updating school policies
- raising funds for school-related purposes
- maintaining the school's grounds and buildings
- entering into contracts (such as for cleaning or construction work)
- reporting annually to the school community and to the Department
- creating interest in the school in the wider community
- informing itself of and taking into account the views of the community..

Event	Date
Notice of Election	Newsletters 18/2
Closing date for nominations	Close of business Friday 22/2
Date by which list of candidates will be prepared and ballot papers sent out	Monday 25/2 if needed
Close of ballot	Close of business Friday 1/3 if needed
Vote Count	Monday 4/3 if needed
Declaration	Monday 4/3 if needed
Tentative date for first Council meeting to elect office bearers	Tuesday 19/3 (no later than 30 th March)



Enrolment weeks

Once again our local schools have agreed to align our enrolment dates with all the other schools in our area. That means that our official enrolment week will now be during Education Week from 19th to 25th of May, like all the schools in Colac have been doing for many years.

In the past we little schools have held our enrolment week later in the year in August. We expect that this tradition will linger with our local community for a few more years, so we will continue to advertise for enrolments at that time too!

Although it is too early to start doing anything about it yet, do please let us know of any potential prep enrolments for next year. We would be delighted to know.

Ean and Dorothy.

Our school owes a great debt for the kindness that Dorothy and Ean have shown when they decided to donate \$1000 to our school this year. It will be used to refurbish the school's basketball backboard which has deteriorated due to the weather over the last few years.

Bike Ed.

The dates have now been set for our two bike events for the year. The Bike Ed challenge, which takes place at Elliminyt's indoor tennis centre, will be run on the 17th of October.

The bike trailer and bikes have been booked for the following dates at the end of term three: the 9th to the 13th of October. As usual, we intend taking students who qualify in to Colac for a ride around the town centre, and this will happen on Friday the 13th of October..

insights



Top five strategies to improve your parenting this year

by Michael Grose

The start of the year is a great time for making changes and improvements to the way you raise kids. But it's difficult to know where to begin.

To assist with the change process we've carefully selected five practical strategies that will have a positive impact if acted upon. We've organised webinars in the first half of the year to assist you to implement each strategy.

1. Switch on your child's strengths

Most of us have been conditioned to focus on what kids can't do. There is a better way. The Positive Psychology movement led by US-based psychologist Dr. Martin Seligman showed that when we can unearth kids' strengths we are, in effect, unlocking their true potential for success and happiness. Three elements come together to make a strength and parents need to be mindful of all three: performance (being good at something); energy (feeling good doing it); and high use (choosing to do it).

Professor [Lea Waters](#), author of the wonderful new book *The Strength Switch* and current President of the [International Positive Psychology Association](#) will show you how to focus on kids' strengths in her webinar 'Switching on your child's strengths'.

2. Balance kids' extra-curriculum activities

Alongside social media and news events, being busy is now recognised as a major stressor for many children and young people. The choice of activities to keep kids busy after school hours is mind-boggling.

Having so many options is wonderful but it does place a new set of pressures on parents and kids. The cost of loading kids up with scheduled activities is that many don't get the chance for free play, or simply 'vegging out' on the couch.

Parenting Ideas expert [Dr. Jodi Richardson](#) will help you find the right balance of activity for your family in her webinar 'Balancing extra-curricular activities'.

3. Focus on friendships

Friendships are an important part of the road to adulthood for a child or young person. Friendships can also be

problematic. Not every child is naturally outgoing and makes friends easily. If your child has difficulty forming friendships and is worried by that, then there are many ways to approach this including: encouraging kids to spend one-on-one time with others, making extra-curricular activities fit their interests, and coaching kids to develop friendly behaviours.

The wonderful [Sharon Witt](#) will conduct a webinar 'Teach girls to build each other up', focusing on friendship skills especially for parents of girls.

4. Give kids tools to manage anxious moments

Currently we have a childhood anxiety problem. A big one! And it's mostly undetected as community understanding of anxiety is low. It's our experience at Parenting Ideas that many parents are anxious and they don't know it, and many children routinely experience anxiety, which goes unrecognised.

Parenting Ideas founder Michael Grose is conducting a webinar 'Managing your child's anxiety' to help parents on this challenging but important topic.

5. Develop rights of passage

Community changes have largely eradicated many traditional rights of passage, making it harder for a young person to know when they've become an adult.

Fortunately, many families are now creating their own to mark events such as the end of primary school, the move into the teenage years, and mark different stages of adolescence. These traditions are now becoming legitimate rights of passage for young people.

Internationally recognised expert on rites of passage Arne Rubenstein will outline practical ways you can recognise a young person's important life markers in his webinar 'Creating 21st century rites of passage'.

Will anything be different this year?

Change and improvement in anything worthwhile generally comes incrementally rather than in one giant leap. We've pointed you in the right parenting to take this year. With our webinars we've made it easy to take that vital first step. Have a great parenting year.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's the author of 10 books for parents including *Thriving!* and the best-selling *Why First Borns Rule the World* and *Last Borns Want to Change It*, and his latest release *Spoonfed Generation: How to raise independent children*.

The persons whose names appear under Nominator and Secunder, nominate:

Name (print full name)	
Residential address	

For election to the Parent member category of the School Council of

--

Nominator

Secunder

Name (print)	Name (print)
Address	Address

I am a* (please tick):

(a) parent of a student at the school

(b) parent of a student at the school and a DoE employee to whom note 2(a) below does not apply

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

I am a* (please tick):

(a) parent of a student at the school

(b) parent of a student at the school and a DoE employee to whom note 2(a) below does not apply

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature

Signature

*You may only nominate or second a candidate for election to the Parent member category if you are a member of one of the categories of person listed in (a) or (b) above. If you nominate or second a candidate and you are not a member of one of the categories of person listed in (a) or (b) above, then the nomination form will be invalid.

CANDIDATE TO COMPLETE

I accept the nomination and I am prepared to serve as a Parent member of the above named school council. I hereby declare that I am/ I am not a DoE employee that I have not nominated or seconded a candidate for election to the DoE employee member category that I have not accepted a nomination to stand for election in the DoE employee member category that I am not an undischarged bankrupt and that I am not currently serving a sentence for an indictable offence

Delete as appropriate

Signature of candidate

Date:

Notes:

1. To nominate or second a candidate for election to the Parent member category, or accept a nomination for election to the Parent member category, each of the nominator and secunder and candidate must be either -
 - (a) a parent of a student of the school; or
 - (b) a parent of a student at the school and a DoE employee, to whom paragraph 2(a) below does not apply.
2. If you are a parent of a student of the school and a DoE employee and -
 - (a) you have nominated or seconded a candidate standing for election in the DoE employee member category, or accepted a nomination to stand as a candidate for election to the DoE employee member category, then you may only nominate or second a candidate or accept a nomination to stand as a candidate for election to the DoE employee member category, and you may not nominate or second a candidate or accept a nomination to stand as a candidate for election to the Parent member category;
 - (b) you do not fall within paragraph (a), then you may nominate or second a candidate to stand for election, or accept a nomination to stand for election, to either the Parent member category (using this Schedule) or the DoE employee member category (using Schedule 5B), but not both categories.
3. "DoE employee" -
 - (a) means a person employed for eight hours or more per week in either an ongoing capacity or a fixed term of at least 90 days -
 - (i) under the *Teaching Service Act 1981*; or
 - (ii) by the DoE under the *Public Sector Management and Employment Act 1998*; or
 - (iii) by a school council of a State school; or
 - (iv) under section 5 or 5A of the *Education Act 1958*; or
 - (v) under more than one of the paragraphs (i) to (iv) above, and
 - (b) does not mean a person employed under a contract for service or the employees or the contracted personnel of such a person.

What is NAPLAN?

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. All students in these year levels are expected to participate in tests in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. All government and non-government education authorities have contributed to the development of NAPLAN materials.

Why do students do NAPLAN tests?

NAPLAN is the measure through which governments, education authorities, schools, teachers and parents can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The tests provide parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests. They also provide schools, states and territories with information about how education programs are working and what areas need to be improved.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process; they do not replace the extensive ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student's performance.

What will be tested and how?

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. NAPLAN content is aligned with the Australian Curriculum. For more information on this, please see the NAP website:

www.nap.edu.au

Questions are multiple-choice or require a short written response. The writing task requires students to write a text in response to a prompt.

To give you an idea of what the tests look like, sample questions and a sample writing task are available on the NAP website.

Who will run the tests?

NAPLAN tests are conducted at schools and administered by classroom teachers, school deputies or principals. Each state and territory is responsible for marking the tests in accordance with strict guidelines and processes.

How can I help my child prepare for the tests?

NAPLAN assesses literacy and numeracy skills that students have already been learning through the school curriculum. Teachers will ensure students are familiar with the test formats and will provide appropriate support and guidance.

Help your child prepare for NAPLAN by reassuring them that NAPLAN tests are just one part of their school program, and reminding them on the day to simply try their best. The use of services by coaching providers is not recommended.

If you have any questions about your child's preparation for NAPLAN, you should make a time to speak with their teacher.

What additional support can schools provide for students with special needs?

All students are encouraged to participate in NAPLAN tests. Students with disability may qualify for adjustments that reflect the support normally provided in the classroom. Students who have a temporary injury may also be reasonably accommodated.

A formal exemption may be granted for a student with significant intellectual disability and/or significant coexisting conditions, or for a student who has recently arrived in Australia and has a non-English speaking background.

Your school principal and your state testing authority can give you more information on special provisions or the process required to gain a formal exemption.

Wide Smiles 2019

Colac Area Health will be attending

BEEAC PRIMARY SCHOOL

On the following dates for dental screenings:

VISIT 1:

Thursday 20th June, 2019 9.30am