

**BEEAC PRIMARY
SCHOOL
LANG STREET
BEEAC 3251
PRINCIPAL:
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Beeac Primary School



Beac Primary School is a child safe school 27 April 2020

We continue to live in interesting times.

The pictures below bears testament to the fact that we are delivering online teaching. How much longer will it go on for? "Schools in Victoria will likely remain closed for the remainder of term two." according to Daniel Andrews. Scott Morrison's top priorities is, "to get kids back to school, to get people back to work." Whilst greater minds than mine ponder the wisdom of when things will return to normal, I will devote a bit of time teasing out how parents can get the best out of online learning.



In my humble opinion, student learning is not about marking work, setting up courses or even instructing students. At the heart of student learning is the student, and learning occurs when finally a child permanently grasps a new idea for the first time. It is something they do, it is not something that is done to them. Teachers play an important part in that learning. They sing songs, repeat tasks, encourage risk taking, and so on. Importantly they know their kids very well. If parents want to help with marking, reinforcing ideas or making sure that things get done on time, we would be delighted for your assistance. But I don't believe that parents should feel burdened, obligated or feel guilty about their level of involvement. Whilst teachers do their job, we hope you will stand back and enjoy the ride. Of course if you are worried that your child is struggling, as always, do contact us. We can help once we know what your concern is.



Are we spending less time learning than we used to with teaching? Our school spends an hour each day teaching Maths. So at school, in an hour long class of 19 students, Paul or Kara would theoretically be able to help each child for about three minutes (3 x 19 = 57 minutes). Online the class sizes are much smaller. So I believe that for the core subjects of English and Maths, no major damage is occurring at this stage.



Kara Wishart

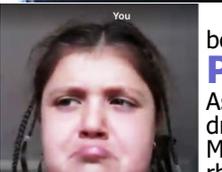
Kara's workload for each group follows the format of correcting work from the previous day, next English work and finally Maths work. In a typical English lesson students have been undertaking a variety of activities depending on the ability group that they are in. Examples of these activities include: Reading Eggs, a Big Write, Dear Diary, writing tricky words in a new sentence, and dictionary work. I was involved in one group where students were asked to, "Go to every room in the house and find two machines, then draw and write the words."



If the format seems familiar to parents, that's because it is. The order in which things happen online mimics the same order that happens in a normal school day. Similarly Maths time follows what normally happens at school. Students have their Maths



books to assist them progress through the syllabus.



Paul Maddern

As the weeks progress, our teachers are able to gauge where each of their children are up to. Like Kara, Paul follows the same timetable of English work then Maths. This week Paul will be using Epic in reading and highlighting the role of rhetorical questions and persuasive techniques. With writing, students will be creating persuasive texts on a number of topics including "Students should be allowed to bring phones to school." I look forward to seeing where our students stand on the issue. In Maths, students will complete their subtraction post-assessments in the online program, Essential Assessment. This will give Paul an insight into what each student has learnt from the Subtraction unit last week, and identify any misconceptions that need covering again.



Karen Cherry

Karen is assisting children to further strengthen their reading skills. Phonic based programs, such as the one that Karen uses, gives students direct clues about how to build up the way that each word sounds when it is pronounced out loud.



In this picture Karen is teaching the pattern /oa/ as in moan. As readers can see, before launching in to the tricky bits, Karen is asking students to show her what moaning looks like!



Merryl Hill

This week her students have been working on the new Sounds-Write Program where the children, based on their individual stage of reading and writing development, construct words using sound cards.



We are fortunate enough to have acquired a program which allows cards to be manipulated on a shared screen resulting in the children being able to see the words being constructed as the sounds are being presented. We have also completed group reading and some handwriting activities.

April 28: Council meeting, 7.00pm start on SKYPE.
May 12-14: NAPLAN Years 3 to 5. **CANCELLED**
May 15: Transition packs: Yrs 6 to 7, due back by today
May 15: Colac Division Cross Country. **CANCELLED**
May 17-23: enrolment week **CANCELLATION PENDING**
June 6: **CANCELLATION PENDING** Lightning prems
June 25: Colac Area Health dental screening **CANCELLATION PENDING**
September 8: Preps Grades P-2 COPACC visit to Edward the Emu.
September 9- 11: bike ed with a visit to Colac on the 11/9
October 15: bike ed challenge
October 26: Winchelsea NHW schools day
October 12: swimming term 4 1.15 to 2.15pm. 12/10, 19/10, 26/10, 2/11, 9/11
October 13: MSP photography, whole school photos (new date)
November 12: Red Rock gallery poetry competition.
June 23 to 25 2021: Rose Gap Grades 5 & 6 + three other schools
March 30 to 1 April 1 2022: Sovereign Hill Grades 5 & 6 + three other schools.

Student of the week
Lily Milne for an outstanding work ethic and setting a fantastic example in her group for online learning 17/4
Kayla Phillips: for an all round great effort during class with our new remote learning set up. 24/4

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At school.

At school we are following the identical programs that are being taught off site by our teachers. Seen here is one of our students using an iPad to participate in an on line lesson with three other students. The other students are each at their own homes. Indeed Kara Wishart, their teacher, is also at home leading students through their learning, and following a day's timetable that starts at 9.00am and finishes for her by 4.00pm once follow ups have been completed.

As always, our teacher's work time continues as they prepare for their next day's lessons.



Ecolinc work continues.

Summah Thompson and Maddi Plier have been spreading bark chips over the area that our students planted last year. After a recent parent working bee to weed the area, we are now finishing off the task by spreading the chips. They will protect the plants and prevent weeds from returning to the area.



Year 6 transition.

Six enrolment forms have been posted to our Grade 6 students. I realise it is an additional task for parents to complete, but I would be grateful if everyone could return them as soon as possible. I am required to inform Trinity and Colac Secondary College of what is happening in 2021

ANZAC in Beac

A sad time made even more sad by the impact of the corona virus on this year's observations. This shot shows that Beac PS has placed a commemorative wreath at the foot of the cenotaph. It also shows how lonely this year's commemoration feels.

Free dongles

Some families have indicated that they require a dongle. The Department has placed orders for 21,000 internet dongles. The first 11,000 of these will be available for distribution in the week commencing 27 April. However, due to international supply issues, availability of the second 10,000 will not commence before week 5 of term. I will contact everyone, as soon as they arrive.

Free packages: State Schools Relief Funding.

Does your family fit this criteria?

- reside in an NBN serviced area (please check this point with the suppliers named below)
- do not have an existing NBN service
- have school aged children living at the residence
- in receipt of a Job Seeker Allowance or Family Tax Benefit.

The offerings to students that address these criteria are as follows:

Internet USB, with 50GB of data per month (for 3 months). **Applications for USBs will only be accepted for students who have no access to home internet.** Limit of one USB per household - each USB provides connectivity for up to 5 devices

Study packages comprising of a desk and chair (suitable for primary students)

Please contact me early in the week if you believe you fit this criteria

Free packages: commercial providers.

Families may want to consider signing up for "free internet". As with all "free" offers I hope you carefully check the small print to make sure you understand the expectations beyond the free period.

Again, as above, families need to address certain criteria.

Two providers, so far, are making this offer. They are :

Superloop - <https://www.superloop.com/education/>. This service can only be accessed by the family.

Aussie Broadband - <https://www.aussiebroadband.com.au/>. This service requires a school to register

Our school will compensate families for costs that are required to be made as part of the deal. Receipts will be required. Again please contact me at school if any of this interests you.

Library this week Art next week.

Ms Mac will be on Skype this Wednesday and Thursday. If you are in Grades 3 to 6 please get online from 3.00pm to 3.30pm Wednesday the 29th April. If you are in P to 2 please get on to Skype 3.00pm to 3.30pm this Thursday.

More details about Art and Miss Jess, will be shared with you later..

Term Dates	Start	Finish
2020 Term 1	29/1	27/3
2020 Term 2	14/4	26/6
2020 Term 3	13/7	18/9
2020 Term 4	5/10	18/12
2021 Term 1	28/1	1/4
2021 Term 2	19/4	25/6
2021 Term 3	12/7	17/9
2021 Term 4	4/10	17/12
2022 Term 1	31/1	8/4

Successful close quarter living



The current physical distancing measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic will be with us for some time. This cocooned existence is a test of parental patience, children's willingness to cooperate and a family's ability to pull together.

So, if you're about to enter the family cocoon, or even if you've been living in close family quarters for some time, the following tips will help ensure your children not only survive each other, but emerge from the cocoon with a strong sense of camaraderie, a greater appreciation for their siblings and knowledge that they belong to a rock solid family who can pull together in a crisis.

Get kids on board

Start your period inside the family cocoon by getting everyone on board. Give kids a voice in how they'd like their social isolation time to flow. Listen to their fears and worries. Empathise with any concerns about missing regular activities and contact with friends but point to the positives of having more free time than normal. Consider providing kids with family organisation roles – the music girl, games guy, food planner and so on – and swapping these regularly to maintain interest. At Parenting Ideas, we believe that it's reasonable to expect kids to help at home and there are many resources at our website that help with this.

Establish structure

Many kids struggle with anxiety when routines break down, so ensure that you have a regular structure that brings predictability to each day. Parents and kids need their own routines starting with get up times, work times and in the event of at home learning, times for schoolwork. Break the day into different time zones that mirror their school days. A regular structure will make the days more workable, feel shorter and be more manageable. It's important to keep daily foundation behaviours in place such as waking up at the same time, dressing for school and preparing for class as they trigger your child's readiness for learning. Similarly, relaxing your routine on the weekend gives everyone a break from the structure of the school and working week. A regular family meeting provides an ideal way to give kids some input into their own routines and also a say in how family-life looks in the cocoon. If formal meetings are not for you, then ask for opinions and gain feedback in more conversational ways.

Set up activity zones

The Nordic countries with their long, dark winters lead the way in successful close quarter living. One of their major strategies for success is the establishment of living zones within homes and apartments. These zones differ from the usual sleeping, cooking and communal living areas that you may be used to. They incorporate areas for individual activities including learning, playing, chilling out and exercise. With consistency use children soon associate a specific activity with a particular zone making

concentration and focus a great deal easier. Avoid having multiple activities in one space as this may lead to conflict, while diluting the impact of this whole zoning strategy.

Get moving, grooving and having fun

Maintaining children's healthy exercise levels when organised sports and informal group play are prohibited is a major challenge for parents. Some organisation and creativity will help. Establish mini movement breaks during each day involving dancing, shooting hoops and exercise to movement. Remember that any activity that gets kid's arms and legs moving is beneficial to their physical and mental health. Amp up the fun factor by incorporating music, dancing to online videos and playing simple indoor games.

Instil good mental health habits

As the old saying goes 'prevention is better than a cure', which is pertinent if your child is prone to anxiety and depression. With routine preventative measures such as playing and talking face to face with friends on hold, consider introducing regular mindfulness and breathing into your daily routine. At Parenting Ideas we recommend the resources at smilingminds.com.au as they cater for mindfulness for all groups and at any level. Schedule times for kids to digitally connect with friends so that they don't experience the effects of isolation.

Know when to steer clear

It's hard for family members who are used to doing things on their own to suddenly be thrust together in each other's company for extended periods of time. Many family holidays end in sibling squabbles because family members aren't used to spending so much time together in the same space. Encourage kids to spend some time alone each day so they can relax, reflect and draw on their own emotional resources. Time alone is an under-rated contributor to a child's resilience and mental health.

And know when to come together

While time alone is important it's also essential for your family to come together to connect, to have fun and to enjoy each other's company. Work out your regular family rituals and make these non-negotiable. Evening meals, family discussions and at least one weekly movie or entertainment activity give children and parents the opportunity to come together on a regular basis.

This time spent with your family inside the cocoon at first may be difficult, as it requires changes of habit and behaviour from everyone. There are many positives to close quarter living brought about by COVID-19. Families now get a chance to connect with each in real time and bond with each other in deep, meaningful ways.

Parents also get the chance to establish the positive behavioural and mental health habits in their children that has so often been made difficult by the insanely busy lifestyle that we've all been living for some time now.

The roller coaster has stopped. It's now time adjust to a slower pace and have the types of conversations and pleasurable times with kids that have meaning, have impact and leave lasting memories.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.