

## Principal's Report

### SCHOOL COUNCIL

School Councils play a key role in all Victorian government schools. Participating as a School Council member is a rewarding and challenging experience. The School Council supports the Principal to provide the best possible educational outcomes for students. The Council is made up of elected parents and staff members with the majority being parents.

### Summary of School Council vacant positions for 2022

There are 2 parent positions and 2 DET positions available for the next tenure of School Council. Nomination and self-nomination forms can be obtained from the office, the positions are for a tenure of 2 years and nominations close on **Wednesday 2nd March at 4pm**.

If we receive more nominations than positions, we will need to conduct a ballot. For more information please don't hesitate to contact the office.

### BADGE CEREMONY FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

Just a reminder to all parents that we are conducting a Badge Ceremony for our new school leaders this Friday 25th February at 2:45pm. This assembly will be held outside.

The assembly will include our Year 6 leaders and newly elected members of the Baxter Focus Group (BFGs). In light of the last couple of years, we are extremely hopeful that our school leaders will be given a greater opportunity this year to develop their skills.

### ASSEMBLIES

This year we will be holding 3 school assemblies per term. Throughout the year, each class will be given the opportunity to host an assembly in conjunction with our Year 6 leaders.  
**Year 1/2BD will be the first class to host in 3 weeks time.**

### PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Thank you to all of our parents and carers who organised to meet with their children's teacher this week. Apologies for any inconvenience the date change caused for parents/carers in 56M. As mentioned in the Compass message, these will now be held online on Thursday 3rd March. All other grades will proceed tonight, as planned.

If you did not manage to make a booking please endeavor to organise another suitable time with the classroom teacher, in coming weeks.

**Nick Schneider**  
Principal

### BREAKFAST CLUB



Breakfast Club is currently being offered to students every Wednesday morning from 8:15—8:45am. Proudly bought to you by Foodbank Victoria & sponsored by Woolworths Baxter.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### TERM 1 2022

**Monday 31st January to 8th April**

**Wednesday 23rd February**—Online Parent Teacher Interviews 3:30pm—7pm (Thursday 3rd March for 56M)

**Thursday 24th March**—Literacy Learning & Parent Helper Information Session F—Year 2 from 7:30pm

**Friday 4th & 11th March**—Interschool Sport Year 5/6

**Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th March**—Mad About Science Incursion Year 3/4

## Parents & Volunteers (PAV)

The Parents and Volunteers group would like to invite all our Baxter PS parents and carers to join our Treat Day team.

The kids love our weekly snack and treat canteen! It's a busy but fun hour. We are currently running Treat Day every Tuesday from 1:15pm—2:15pm.

All canteen items are 50c or \$1 so the math is really easy too! Volunteers will require a working with children check (linked to the school), double vaccination and will need to wear a mask when inside school buildings.

If you are interested in helping out (or you'd like some more information please contact the office. If you are keen to volunteer your time, please also let us know.

We can't wait for you to join our friendly team!



## Working with Children Checks

In order for our school to be compliant with the WWCC Act and receive notifications on the status of Volunteer Working with Children Checks, your WWCC must be linked to Baxter Primary School.

### Parent action required:

Please go to [www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au) and check that your WWCC is current and is linked to Baxter Primary School. Please link your WWCC to our school so that you can be eligible to assist on excursions.

Some parents have been struggling to do this, due to our school address. Please ensure you use **120 Grant Road, Baxter 3911** — this is the school address recognised on the system. Your co-operation with this essential task is greatly appreciated.

# School Council Elections - Information for Parents

## WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

## WHO IS ON THE SCHOOL COUNCIL?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.
- A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- An optional Community member category – members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. Department employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

## WHY IS PARENT MEMBERSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

### REMEMBER

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

## DO I NEED SPECIAL EXPERIENCE TO BE ON SCHOOL COUNCIL?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. Councilors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

## HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term one each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

## WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO STAND FOR ELECTION?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term one each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

Department employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is 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 is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

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### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



## CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

### Parent/carer details

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/suburb \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number \_\_\_\_\_

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

-  -  -  **OR**

Foster parent under a temporary care order\* **OR**  Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)\*\*

\*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

\*\*Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card

Is this an application for special consideration (no CRN needed)? Yes  No

### Student details

Student's surname	Student's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DFFH will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the DFFH and /or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

## On a musical note...



I am happy to announce that there are currently places available for guitar lessons every Tuesday, during school hours.

Students who learn 10 songs are invited to go busking with me at Bittern market, with all donations going directly to the student!

Anyone who is interested in guitar lessons can pick up an "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST" form at the school office.

Looking forward to teaching you—

**Glen**  
0437 440 265 (please be sure to leave a message)



## Peninsula Uniform Shop

The uniform shop will be open at school from 3pm—3:30pm every second Thursday, in Room 2.

**Thursday 3rd March**  
**Thursday 17th March**  
**Thursday 31st March**

Orders can also still be placed online through Peninsula Uniforms.

**2nd Hand Uniform Shop**  
Open in Room 2 for parents to browse any time.  
Gold coin donation requested.

## Compass Events

A quick reminder that the following events require consent on Compass:

- Interschool Sports (Year 5/6)
- Mad About Science Incursion (Year 3/4)



Proud Partners of Baxter Primary School



OFFERING LONG (2x7.5HR) AND SHORT (3x5HR) SESSIONS

\*In our four-year old program

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Wonnai is a boutique preschool nestled in a bushland setting in 'Leafy Langwarrin' and features our newly updated expansive nature-based playground and refurbished playroom.

In our three and four-year old programs, children are nurtured, inspired and supported by passionate and experienced educators. We offer a play-based program that provides opportunities for each child to develop and learn at their own pace, across all the curriculum areas.

It's been really fantastic to see such excitement around the return to school and we want to keep it that way. A crucial part of that is getting as many students vaccinated as possible.

Alongside ventilation and other vital COVIDSafe steps such as regular rapid antigen testing, supporting as many students as possible to be vaccinated will help make our school as safe as possible.

Bookings for children aged 5 to 11 to receive the paediatric Pfizer vaccine are open and we encourage parents and carers to get your child vaccinated, if you haven't already done so.

The [Pfizer vaccine is safe and recommended for children](#). The vaccine will help protect your child from getting sick from COVID-19, help to reduce the spread of COVID-19, and help ensure kids can have more time at school and playing with their friends.

Vaccinations for children aged 5-11 years old are delivered at 2 appointments, 8 weeks apart. Children with specific medical vulnerabilities can access their second dose 3 weeks after their first dose.

If you'd like more information about this, you can read a recent statement from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI): <https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-update-following-weekly-covid-19-meeting-19-january-2022>

### **To book an appointment**

You can book at your local GP or pharmacy: <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking>

You can also book at a family-friendly vaccination centre by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.

You can also make vaccination centre bookings for your children online, though you will need to use an email address that has not been used in the system before:

<https://portal.cvms.vic.gov.au/>

### **Helping children to get their vaccination**

Vaccination centres understand that children may feel anxious about vaccination or have other support needs. A range of options are available to help children get vaccinated. Please discuss your child's needs with the vaccination centre when you book an appointment.

Appointments are also available at Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations.

Find out more about vaccination for kids: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-children-and-teenagers>

## Community Notices

**HALL FOR HIRE** The Baxter Primary School Hall is available for hire on weeknights and weekends by community groups and associations. The hall comes complete with a kitchen, PA system and toilets. Rental contracts may be discussed by calling the office on 5971 1391. Public liability insurance is required by hirers.

### Develop the confidence of a winning smile

Crooked teeth? Bad bite? Get professional advice from a specialist orthodontist today.  
**Free initial visit.** No referral needed.



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### BAXTER PHARMACY

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Sat 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

[www.baxterpharmacy.com.au](http://www.baxterpharmacy.com.au)

### ENROL YOUR CHILD TODAY

When attending Baxter Childcare Centre, your child will experience a high quality program with caring, qualified educators.

- **Open 6:30 am- 6:00pm**
- **Care for Children 6 weeks to School Age**
- **Nutritious Meals provided by our Service Cook**
- **Nappies Provided**
- **Kindergarten Program**

Children are our focus, we are committed to guiding and encouraging each child through their early years to have unique and meaningful experiences.

Please contact our Service Manager to make arrangements to have a look around and meet our team of friendly educators, or alternatively just drop by

#### **Baxter Childcare Centre**

111 Baxter Tooradin Road

Baxter VIC 3911 Ph. 03 5971 1651

For more information visit our website

[www.sparrowearlylearning.com.au](http://www.sparrowearlylearning.com.au)

### Baxter Kindergarten and Children's Centre



Community run and minded, our kinder welcomes your enrolment enquiries for our 2021 three and four year old programs

Contact us at:  
[info@baxterkindergarten.com.au](mailto:info@baxterkindergarten.com.au)  
or phone 5971 1868

play. explore. learn.

[www.baxterkindergarten.com.au](http://www.baxterkindergarten.com.au)

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For more information call into Shop 4, Pearcedale Village Shopping Centre Tooradin Road, Pearcedale or phone 5978 7566.

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**Community Bank** Branch **Bendigo Bank**

[www.bendigobank.com.au](http://www.bendigobank.com.au) Bendigo Bank Ltd, Fountain Court, Bendigo, VIC 3550  
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