

## Principal's Report

### Attendance Update

Given our well documented 'attendance push' for 2023, I thought it would be appropriate to share some preliminary data with the school community, around this.

Our average attendance as of Term 1 Week 6 is **94.5%**, this is an improvement for the same time last term where our average was **91.4%**.

**12WD** and **340** are leading the way across the school with an average of **96.8%**.

It has been fantastic to see an overall improvement.

Please remember that **every day at school counts!**

### NAPLAN

Next week from Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March, Year 3 and Year 5 students will be completing their NAPLAN testing. Our students have been preparing for the testing since the beginning of the year and these tests will be predominantly conducted online.

### 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.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding NAPLAN please contact your child's classroom teacher.

### Foundation Enrolments for 2024

As we are in the process of planning our Foundation Transition Program, we are now taking enrolments for 2024. Any parents with students who have younger siblings at our school are encouraged to collect enrolment forms from our office area.

If parents are aware of family or friends considering Baxter PS for 2024 could they please encourage them to give the school a ring to arrange a personal tour.

### Three New Flagpoles

Last week, we had 3 flagpoles installed at our school as a **sign of respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.**

There are three official flags in Australia. The 3 flags of Australia include the Australian National Flag, the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag.

The Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag were appointed flags of Australia in 1995, while a version of the Australian National Flag has been in use since 1901.

### Nick Schneider Principal

## IMPORTANT DATES TERM 1

Friday 27th January to Thursday 6th April

**Monday 13th March**—Labour Day Public Holiday

**Wednesday 15th March**—NAPLAN commences

**Friday 17th March**—School Photos

**Friday 17th March**—Assembly 12WD Hosting  
2.45—3.15pm

**Friday 24th March**—Harmony Day & Easter Egg Donation

**Tuesday 28th March** —Year 3-6 Beach Day

**Friday 31st March** —Year 5-6 Lightning Premiership

**Thursday 6th April**—Assembly 34F hosting (time TBC) & Easter Bonnet Parade / Raffle. Final day of Term 1.  
*Early finish—2.30pm*

## Harmony Day 24th March



Harmony Week is a celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

**In celebration of this special week, we ask the students to wear orange/a splash of orange with their school uniform on Friday 24th March.**

**Combined with the festivities on Friday 24th March, we ask all families to donate an Easter egg/treat.** These will be combined and used to create some fabulous prizes for our Easter Raffle on the last day of Term 1.

## School Uniform

Please ensure all children have their hats in their school bag or locker.

This is a requirement for Terms 1 & 4. All uniforms should be labelled with student's names—we have had number of students already misplacing items.





On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February our school was lucky to receive a visit from our Federal member for Flinders, Zoe McKenzie. The timing of Zoe's visit was perfect for the year 5/6's who are currently working through a Democracy unit of study.

## HOUSE POINTS

**Congratulations to Green House**

**8849 points**



## Peninsula Uniform Shop

Peninsula Uniforms will next be at school on **Thursday 6th April.**

Orders can also be placed online through Peninsula Uniforms or purchased directly from their shop in Carrum Downs.

**2nd Hand Uniform Shop**  
Open in Room 2 for parents to browse any time.  
\$5 donation requested.

## Attendance

**EVERY DAY COUNTS...**



Attending school, every school day, enables students to participate in the school's educational program as well as develop their social skills. Regular attendance enables the school to:

- plan an organised educational program that is delivered in a consistent way and has continuity
- facilitate shared student learning experiences that support the educational program, monitor student progress and adjust the educational program to meet student needs

It is a requirement that all late arrivals and early leavers be signed in/out through the front office. Absence notifications can be added directly by a parent through Compass or by contacting the office absence line on 5971 1391.

Please be advised that student attendance is monitored daily and absence queries will be followed up with parents, as required. Students will continue to be recognised for outstanding attendance, every term.

**IT'S NOT OK TO BE AWAY**

**Lunchiez**

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

Lunchiez lunch orders are available to order every Friday. Please be sure to place your orders online prior to 9pm Thursday night.



INSIGHTS

happy families COMMUNITY

[ISSUE 9 | TERM 1 | 2018]

## Naplan week is almost here

NAPLAN week is almost here, and many parents (and kids... and even teachers) are feeling a little extra stress and anxiety. NAPLAN has a lot of critics, plenty of supporters, and a whole lot of parents and students who simply go along with it because "it's just what we do".

This article is designed to offer some general – and gentle – advice on what's coming.

### What NAPLAN is

NAPLAN stands for the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, a nationwide standardised test that almost every student in Grades 3, 5, 7, and 9 are about to sit. Its purpose is to provide information about how education programs are working, areas for improvement, and which schools need support in the teaching and learning of literacy and numeracy. Some critics argue that it doesn't do this particularly well... but that's beyond the scope of this discussion.

### What NAPLAN does well

When it works well, NAPLAN does three things:

1. NAPLAN results enable the identification of problems in the school system. And they point to places where education needs to improve.  
For example, NAPLAN results have shown us education gaps for indigenous students, and for students in disadvantaged schools. We knew those gaps existed. But now we know the scope and range.
2. Literacy and numeracy results are made transparent at a national, state and territory, and school level. We now know that states and territories have different levels of achievement when they are compared on a like-for-like basis which NAPLAN allows.
3. NAPLAN shows us education trends over time.

### What NAPLAN doesn't do well

NAPLAN doesn't give you a useful guide on how your child is doing academically. The test is done in March and we receive the results in the late part of the year. If you want to know how your child is doing, talk to their teacher. Great teachers can give you detailed information today about your child's progress.

NAPLAN doesn't give you any information about the quality of your child's character. It doesn't tell you anything about your child's ability to work in a team, to problem-solve, to show compassion, to be creative, engaged or resilient. It's not about your child's talents.

NAPLAN also gives us no information about the school your child attends in terms of approaches to discipline, school culture, school contribution to community, or the way it encourages students in areas not covered by NAPLAN.

And in some cases it has been reported that NAPLAN, while providing data, doesn't ultimately lead to governments providing schools (or parents) with the resources needed when issues arise.

### What you should do

Based on everything I've outlined above, you'll note that much of NAPLAN's focus is oriented towards education at a school, regional, state, and national level. While there is some individual focus, it's not really an individual assessment tool. It's more about how the school, the state, and the country are doing. Therefore, I suggest parents keep the following in mind:

- Don't make NAPLAN a big deal. You barely even need to talk about it with your child.
- Don't offer rewards to your child for doing well on NAPLAN. Research evidence shows this adds pressure, builds anxiety, and reduces children's creativity, motivation, and interest in real learning. (One mum I spoke to wondered if bribing her child with a puppy would be helpful. It's not.)
- Don't buy practice tests for NAPLAN. Your child doesn't need to rehearse for NAPLAN.
- Don't worry about NAPLAN results. Leave that to the school.

Instead, you might want to try the following:

- Do show an interest in your child's education, regardless of whether NAPLAN is on or not.
- Do encourage your child to read every single day. Read to them. Read with them. Have them read alone. And do this regardless of whether NAPLAN is on or not.
- Do have your child participate in sports, music, art, drama, and other enrichment activities to the degree that you have the time and money for them – regardless of whether NAPLAN is on or not.
- Do give your child plenty of unstructured (screen-free) time to simply be kids – especially when NAPLAN is on.

### What your child should do

More than anything, your child will benefit from not being particularly interested in or bothered by NAPLAN. Life should be as close to normal as possible for your child.

It's true that some schools want to see NAPLAN results before they'll consider enrolling your child. It's true that some elements of NAPLAN feel like they matter a lot to us as parents because we want to see our children succeed. But please – PLEASE – remember:

Your child's NAPLAN score is not an indicator of your child's value, your child's potential, or your child's worthiness. It's just a number. And it's more meaningful to the school system than it is to you or your child.

When NAPLAN rolls around, treat it like a small, gentle wave at the beach. It rolls up the sand, it leaves a small, temporary mark. And then it disappears back into the ocean.



AUTHOR

**Dr. Justin Coulson**

Dr. Justin Coulson is a dad to 8 daughters. He is the parenting expert and co-host of Channel 9's Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia's #1 podcast for parents and family, The Happy Families Podcast. He has written 8 books about families and parenting. For further details visit [happyfamilies.com.au](http://www.happyfamilies.com.au)





# Easter Bonnet Parade

Thursday 6th April

Each class will parade their Easter Bonnets after the 9:15am Assembly, hosted by 3/4F.

Each student will go in the raffle to win an Easter hamper from the donations brought in during Harmony Week.

All class prizes will be drawn after the parade.



**Thank you to all of our families who are helping to fundraise through the Cadbury boxes. They are now available at the front office for collection.**

**If your child would like to purchase a single Caramello Koala or Freddo Frog, they are available at the front office for \$1. These will only be sold to students before or after school with parent consent.**








## 3 Week Intro Promotion

- Somerville Tennis Club  
Park Lane, Somerville
- 3 group lessons for \$33
- Offer available for Term 1 & Term 2 2023

### Tennis Hot Shots

- Shorter racquets, slower balls.
- Serve, Rally, Score.
- Players will explore technique while covering all areas of play.
- Great way for kids to play the game and have fun.
- 3 x 30/45min group lessons.

For bookings and enquires please contact  
Steve & Jeane - 0401 478 955 or  
admin@platinumtennis.com.au



## MORRINGTON PENINSULA LIBRARIES

- March Edition -

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### Connect Live

Ask your question and get help in real time

### HARMONY DAY 21 MARCH

Harmony Day Share Tables



Bring along your excess produce and pantry items to share with the community. Tables will be set up across all branches along with some special Harmony Day activities.

### SATURDAY STORYTIMES

Ages 4-7





**ROSEBUD LIBRARY**  
10AM - 10.30AM  
SATURDAY 11TH & 25TH MARCH

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

Keep an eye on our website and social media for the free April School Holiday programs

### CONNECT WITH US

- facebook.com/ourlibrarymornpen
- @morringtonpeninsulalibraries
- ourlibrary.mornpen.vic.gov.au

Transforming lives for stronger communities

## Creating Confident Teens Workshop

Family Life has teamed up with Stride Education to deliver Creating Confident Kids

Come along to our online Workshop to learn strategies to help your Teens' with their feelings of Anger and Anxiety!

**Do you worry about your Teens' Anger and Anxiety?**

Would you like:

- Some strategies to help your Teen with their feelings of Anger & Anxiety?
- To know more about Resilience & tips to build resilience in your Teen?
- To know more about Emotional Intelligence & tips to raising an emotionally intelligent Teen?
- Strategies to support healthy friendships & tips to talk to your Teen about Bullying?
- Strategies to build your Teen's self-esteem and deal with setbacks?
- Strategies on how to talk and connect with your Teens?
- Top tips for taking care of yourself?


A must attend for Parents and Carers living in the Morrington Peninsula Shire and Frankston City with Teens 12 - 18yrs old.

**Online:** via Zoom

**Date:** Tuesday 21st of March 2023

**Time:** 7pm to 8.30pm

**Cost:** FREE but bookings are essential and spaces limited




Book by clicking the Eventbrite link

Follow us on Social Media

www.familylife.com.au

STRIDE EDUCATION






Transforming lives for stronger communities

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- Strategies to build your child's self-esteem and deal with setbacks?
- Strategies on how to talk and connect with your children?
- Top tips for taking care of yourself?

A must attend for Parents and Carers living in the Morrington Peninsula Shire and Frankston City with Children 5 - 12yrs old.

**Online:** via Zoom

**Date:** Tuesday 2nd of May 2023

**Time:** 7pm to 8.30pm

**Cost:** FREE but bookings are essential and spaces limited



Book by clicking the Eventbrite link

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www.familylife.com.au

STRIDE EDUCATION





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A savings coach. Up to \$500 in matched savings.  
It's free.

\*Eligibility criteria apply

saverplus



saverplus.org.au

## Are you eligible to join Saver Plus & receive \$500 for your back to school costs?

Must meet all eligibility criteria:



Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card  
**AND** an eligible Centrelink payment\*



Be studying yourself OR have a child in school  
(can be starting school next year)



Have regular income from work (either yourself or your partner)\*



Be 18+ years old

\*Many types of income and Centrelink payments are eligible

saverplus



THE  
EDUCATION  
STATE

## 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

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:  
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/learn/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.



## TREAT DAYS

Treat Day will be held every **Friday** this term.

Treats will be sold at the canteen during lunchtime play and will range from 50 cents to \$1.

If you are happy for your child/ren to purchase a treat, please send them to school with small change.

Thank you to all of our parent helpers for making this possible!

## PIZZA THIS PIZZA THAT

Thank you to our Principal's Award sponsor for 2023.

Pizza This Pizza That are generously providing a voucher to each winner and we greatly appreciate their ongoing support.



**Ray White**  
FRANKSTON

Proud Partners of Baxter Primary School



Be sure to follow us on  
Instagram!



## Community Notices

**HALL FOR HIRE** The Baxter Primary School Hall is available for hire on 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.  
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**Phone 03 59 711 887**

**Fax 03 59 711 363**

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**Sat 9.00 am to 1.00 pm**

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### 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**

### 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**  
or phone 5971 1868

play. explore. learn

**www.baxterkindergarten.com.au**

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### Proud sponsor.

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

Pearcedale

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



**www.bendigobank.com.au** Bendigo Bank Ltd, Fountain Court, Bendigo, VIC 3550  
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