

Principal's Report

Attitudes to School Survey

We value student voice as a means to improving student engagement, wellbeing and quality instruction and are conducting a survey to find out our students thoughts of our school.

The Attitudes to School Survey is an annual student survey offered by the Department of Education and Training to assist schools in gaining an understanding of students' perceptions and experience of school. Our school will use the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve their schooling experience.

Students from **Years 4-6** at our school will participate in the survey. Students will complete the survey online during school hours using a purpose built secure online survey tool. It is important to note that this is not in any way a 'test'. Students and parents have the right to refuse or withdraw from the survey at any point before, during, or after completion of the survey.

Our students will be provided with a unique login to complete the survey. The student login is an assigned identifier that may be used to link data for statistical and research purposes only.

All responses to the survey are kept anonymous in the response file. Personal identification data will not be recorded in the survey response file. This ensures that the confidentiality of the responses is protected at all times.

This year the Attitudes to School survey will be conducted at our school between **Monday 15th to Monday 29th May**.

STEAM announcement

We are extremely pleased to announce that we have appointed a new teacher to our school, Mrs Carly Foster. Carly will be our new STEAM teacher and will be taking classes on Tuesday and Wednesdays.

Carly comes across with having experience in this area after working at Dromana PS. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths. We now have a designated room set up for this in our previous music room. Check it out if you get a chance.

Dental Van

Later in the term we will be having the dental van attend our school providing a free service for our families. Information regarding this has been communicated via Compass.

I encourage all families to utilise this service and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school via the office.

Car Park

This is an important reminder that the drop off zone (Kiss & Go zone) near the bus shelter is not allocated for vehicles to stop and walk children into school. There are allocated car parks opposite the bus shelter., at the Service Station or on Baxter-Tooradin Road.

Nick Schneider Principal

IMPORTANT DATES TERM 2

Monday 24th April to Friday 23rd June

Monday 8th—Friday 12th May —Junior Swimming Program

Friday 12th May—Mother's Day & Special Friends Stall

Monday 15th—Friday 19th May—Education Week
Includes Open Afternoon and Information Evening

Friday 19th May—Assembly. Hosted by 5/6S

Wednesday 24th May—District Cross Country

Friday 2nd June—Lightning Premiership

Monday 12th June—Public Holiday — Kings Birthday

Friday 16th June—Mini Fete

Wednesday 21st June—Foundation 2024 students
Transition Session 1—9:15am -10:15am

Friday 23rd June—Assembly & end of Term 2.
Early dismissal (2:30pm)

Wet Weather Accidents

We kindly ask all parents/carers to pack an extra change of clothes in their child's/children's school bags over the coming months. Children of all ages, can easily get wet clothing in the colder months and if they have a change of clothes readily available, we will not have to disrupt parents/carers at work.

We acknowledge the Bunurong people, the Traditional Owners of the land on which Baxter Primary School resides, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



HARMONY DAY



Lightning Premiership Year 5-6



A big congratulations to our Rounders Champions!







ISSUE 2 | TERM 2 | 2023

Five Things Your Tween Wants You to Know

567 tweens participated in my 2020 anonymous survey, and chose to answer the optional question, what is one thing you wished all adults knew about life as a tween?

If your child was asked that question, how do you think they would answer? They might tell you that a 10 year old shouldn't go to bed at the same time as a sibling who is 7, or that kids who don't like broccoli should never be made to eat it. This is the important stuff that characterises much of our tween's headspace!

However, I wonder if we were to probe a little deeper, would there be one thing that your child wishes they could tell you, but can't quite manage to communicate? Do you think there is anything that they find difficult to talk about or perhaps even intentionally hide because of fear or shame?

Below I'll share the five of my top survey response that I hope give you insights into your tween's inner world.

Message 1: Life is Harder than You Realise

Tweens believed life was harder for them than their parents acknowledged, and they felt their challenges were minimised. Comments like these caught my attention: "It's not how they think it is. Everything is hard" and "I wish they knew how hard it is to get used to changes and that when we don't know what's happening more things are put on our plate". My concern is that if tweens don't feel understood now, where does that position us as they get older?

Suggested response: The tween years are a time of rapid developmental which can be overwhelming for our kids. What might seem small in their world, is big in theirs, so bring some patience to the table when talking about social and emotional challenges. Now is the time to validate your tween's feelings so they know you are by their side. I highly recommend regular one on one time as it indicates your willingness to invest into them.

Message 2: I am No Longer a Kid

Tweens voiced a strong desire to be taken more seriously by the world around them, and not to be overlooked or dismissed because of their age. I noticed that they felt like they had significant ideas to share, while only being recognised as children. That's quite a downgrade! My concern is if tweens don't have a meaningful place to contribute now, how will they build the confidence to make a more significant contribution as they get older?

Suggested response: A tween's developing self-esteem is hinged on their sense of competence and ability to handle life more independently. Now is a great time to invest into teaching your child practical skills, and giving them more meaningful responsibility at home. It is also a great time to ask your tween to help make family decisions as a way of validating their growing intelligence. Interestingly, tweens said they turned to people who were accessible, listened to them and were able to help them navigate life's challenges.

Message 3: You are Missing Stuff

Although it broke my heart, I was not surprised to hear tweens emphasise that their parents were missing stuff. When I walk through a primary school playground, I am often shocked at the 'teenage-like' themes I hear. I know that parents have no idea of the real content of these conversations and the pressures kids are under to engage in them. Comments like 'you think we are okay, but we aren't' and 'there's a lot more bad things out there than they think' expressed a real cry for support. My concern is, if we don't keep our eyes open, we may not see those things that are most important.

Suggested response: When your tween comes home with questions that are difficult to answer, be prepared to give them a thoughtful and comprehensive response. You may intentionally delay your response to allow yourself some preparation time, but never sidestep it. Remember, if you are not the source someone else will be; and that your language opens the way for theirs. You can initiate some of these conversations with quality resources that represent your family values.

Message 4: We Might Always Disagree about Screens

Technology was a central theme of tweens' frustration. PS: Feelings are often mutual! Emphasis was placed on parents' alleged lack of understanding of how central technology was to tweens' social status and life. As adults, we know there are some very real and legitimate reasons why we say no to screen time. For this reason, I'd like to suggest that we might always have different views about technology. My concern is, if we don't take the lead, tween's natural desire to charge ahead may lead them into dangerous waters.

Suggested response: When it comes to technology crystal clear agreements are absolutely essential. Technology has to be set up in order to last the rockiest of the teenage years. While gaming and group messaging is very common amongst tweens, it is easy to say "yes" to tech without appropriate accountability. Please now that what is easy to say yes to now can quickly become your worst nightmare if you are not in charge. For more specific thoughts on this please see my blog – [How to Set Up Social Media Well](#).

Message 5: It's Time to Start Knocking

When tweens begin to need more privacy, most parents respect and welcome it as a sign of growing up. However, when they begin to desire space from adult supervision, it poses a new range of dilemmas. While our tweens are pushing for all the trimmings that come with growing up, such as catching a bus on their own or shopping alone with friends, their limited life experience leaves them vulnerable. My concern is that if we are not willing to enter into age-appropriate negotiations as they grow, they may begin to hide unsafe behaviour.

Suggested response: Tweens are usually looking to be given more grown-up privileges and responsibilities as an acknowledgement that they are no longer children. Things like riding their bike to the shop by themselves, staying up later than their younger siblings or walking around a shopping centre without any adult can be relatively safe ways to help them spread their wings. Even small shifts can require a change in mindset from parents, so they can feel like big decisions to parents of tweens.



AUTHOR

Michelle Mitchell

Michelle Mitchell is an award-winning speaker, and bestselling parenting author. She has been termed 'the teenage expert' by the media and is sought after for her compassionate and grounded advice for parenting tweens and teens. Michelle uses her experience to write and speak in schools, community events and through media.

COME PLAY, EXPLORE & LEARN
WITH US AT BAXTER KINDERGARTEN!

OPEN DAY

26 Olstead Dve, Baxter
Saturday May 20th
10am-12pm

Free Children's Activities
&
Sausage Sizzle



CROSS COUNTRY WINNERS **Congratulations to...** **RED HOUSE**



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 \$2.

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!

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/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.



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.



Get in touch today!

☎ 03 9585 8000

🖱 straightorthodontics.com.au

✉ info@straightorthodontics.com.au

📍 MENTONE

39 BALCOMBE ROAD MENTONE VIC 3149

FRANKSTON

30 CRANBOURNE ROAD FRANKSTON VIC 3199

Providing Complimentary Initial Consultations

BAXTER PHARMACY

Bruce Hamilton, B.Pharm.

78 Baxter-Tooradin Road

Baxter Vic 3911

Phone 03 59 711 887

Fax 03 59 711 363

OPEN

Mon – Fri 8.30 am – 5.30 pm

Sat 9.00 am to 1.00 pm

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

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

www.baxterkindergarten.com.au

Find us on   

Pizza - Pasta - Risotto
PizzaThis
pizza that

www.pizzathispizzathat.com.au

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
ABN 11 068 049 178. AFSL 237879. (bb20994v1) (6/04/2006)

Ray White
FRANKSTON

Proud Partners of Baxter Primary School