



12 Margaretta Street  
 East Bentleigh 3165  
 Tel: 03 9563 8139



This office is located on the land of the Boonerwung people of the Kulin nation.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**MARCH**

**Monday 12th**

Labour Day Holiday

**Thursday 22nd**

School Council Meeting & Public Reporting Meeting 7pm

**Monday 26th**

School Photos

**Wednesday 28th**

Blue Day

**Thursday 29th**

Last Day Term 1

**APRIL**

**Monday 16th**

First Day Term 2

**Wednesday 25th**

ANZAC Day

**Monday 30th—Friday 4th May**

SSG Meetings

**MAY**

**Monday 7th**

Curriculum Day

**JUNE**

**Monday 11th**

Queens Birthday Holiday

**Friday 29th**

Last Day Term 2

# What's News

TERM 1 ISSUE 3 WEDNESDAY 7TH MARCH 2018



## Principal's Report

I have enjoyed moving around each of the sub schools over the last couple of weeks. The EEP and Foundation groups have really settled in and it's great to see the students enjoying the play areas. The Upper Primary school students are working hard and some have been doing rock climbing for the first time and another group is off to camp at Blackwood. The Seniors have had their first camp at Blackwood at the start of this week and it went really well.

## Facility Improvements

The four new classrooms are nearing completion and they will be a great resource. The staff have done an excellent job making sure the students education is not effected while working out of the gym spaces.

## Parking

I have been in contact with the local Council, Vic Roads and have met with staff from the Education Department around the difficulties parents and carers are having with parking in the local streets. It is still a work in progress however hopefully we can get an outcome that provides a safer and more workable system.

Please enjoy the long weekend while the weather is still pleasant.

**Bruce McPhate**  
 Principal



Southern Autistic School is participating in the Coles Sports for Schools 2018 program. When you shop at Coles, you'll receive Sports for Schools vouchers that can be exchanged for sports gear. The more vouchers you collect, the more sports gear we will receive. Start collecting today because the race is on!

Vouchers can be returned to the office at SAS or to the Bentleigh Coles.





## Assistant Principal News

I cannot believe we are already half way through the term. The weeks are flying by and everyone is busy in the classrooms working with the children on developing independence skills, including working at different stations and following schedules. I have visited classrooms from the Early Years up to the Secondary School and must say I have been very impressed with much of what I have seen. Southern Autistic has such a great name that I am getting many requests from other schools to come and visit, to get ideas to support students in the mainstream.

### SPOT Team

We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated Speech and Occupational Therapy team working at Southern Autistic. Their roles are varied and complex supporting children and teachers to provide the best for our students. I would like to also acknowledge the outstanding work done by the team to complete many Program for Students with Disabilities applications during the first few weeks of term. I am looking forward to the training that they will be doing with staff in different programs and more information on this will be forthcoming.

### Swimming

The swimming curriculum is an amazing program, led by dedicated staff. This is a valuable skill for all children to develop, particularly in this wonderful country. The children love the program and develop and reinforce many other independence skills such as getting dressed. We have qualified staff teaching the children with at least two staff members in the pool and one spotter at any one time. Pool testing is continuous and our latest results from outside testers show the water quality is excellent. This program is part of the curriculum and I encourage all children to participate.

### Office Visit

I had an awesome visit from two boys from 504 with the shopping trolley last Friday. I was very impressed with this initiative as it encouraged lots of language interaction and communication and what a great way to practice subtraction skills with money! With every chocolate purchased Tristan and Daniel shared a fabulous joke 'free of charge'. Lots of goals achieved and practiced from the Victorian Curriculum in an engaging and practical way.

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### Buses

Please be mindful that during the morning and afternoon bus drop off, no cars are permitted to leave or enter the carpark during this time. We do this to ensure the safety of our children. I thank you for your anticipated support in this matter.

**Julia Sadler**  
**Assistant Principal**

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## Pool Operations

Late last year Southern Autistic School changed the pool from salt chlorinated to magnesium after researching the benefits of magnesium. Studies have shown that it can support detoxification, reduce stress, improve sleep, assist in the balance of the central nervous system and alleviate aches. It promotes energy and wellbeing, and can restore soft and healthy skin. The students and staff are certainly enjoying the relaxation benefits!

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**Amanda, Rachael & Sharen**  
**Swimming Teachers**



## **EEP and Foundation School News**

It was great to meet with the Early Education Program parents at the recent morning tea held by Jessica Tang (Social Worker) and myself. If you were unable to attend but would like to chat to either Jess or myself regarding the learning program, school age transitions, outside school services or supports for families please do not hesitate to call us on 9563 8139. We are looking forward to meeting with the school age program parents this week.

Following the recent SSG meetings and the completion of observations and assessments the teachers have been working hard developing each students' Individualised Learning Plan (ILP). These will contain individualised learning goals and will drive the education program for your child. A copy of these will be sent home in the coming weeks.

### **Water play incursion**

Last week the Foundation students participated in a water play incursion. Students were actively engaged in exploring troughs of bubbly water with sea animals hiding below, using brushes and sponges to paint the wall with water, placing boats in the troughs and making them drift around the channel, filling and emptying cups, bottles and containers with water, investigating things that float and sink and squirting water spray bottles to pop bubbles.

Water play is an open ended activity offering opportunities for valuable social interaction, physical skill growth, concept development including scientific investigation, soothing sensory exploration, connecting with natural materials, full body engagement, hand eye coordination, strengthening fine motor and manipulative skills by lifting pouring and controlling. Mathematic and scientific concepts of heavy/light, float/sink, full/empty, shallow/deep and concentration and problem solving skills were also explored. Great fun was had by all.

***Natalie Walsh***  
***Foundation School Leader***

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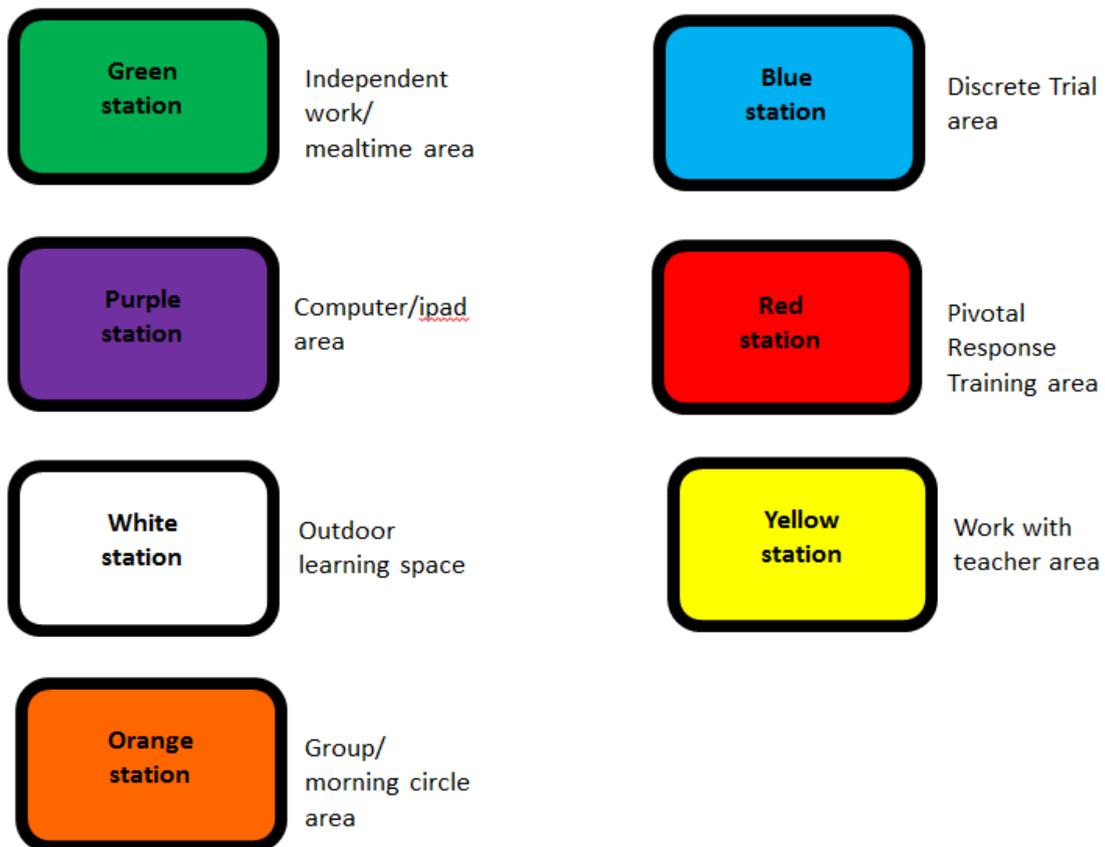


## Lower Primary School News

Thank you to all the parents supporting us in establishing a functional routine of independent walking to the classroom in the morning. We have seen some great success with students independently walking to their classrooms, and starting to unpack their bags without being prompted. This helps us to get the day started on a positive note and enables learning to start immediately.

The classrooms in Lower Primary School have established the different stations and getting students used to transitioning from one station to the next. We are also encouraging students to complete independent work that is tailored to the student's specific learning needs and we are completing motivator checklists for each student. All these preparations will allow teachers to implement the STAR Program more smoothly.

### Key to colour coding learning areas in the classroom



Thank you to all the parents coming to see us during SSG week. Parents are such a valuable resource to us and we value your input to make your child's learning journey throughout the year an extraordinary experience.

**Denise Van Der Nest**  
**Lower Primary School Leader**



## Upper Primary School News

RDA (Riding for the Disabled) has now started and as you can see from the pictures, the students all had a superb time in the sunshine.

Programs such as RDA are extremely important for our students. The program can help support our students understanding of the curriculum area 'Personal and Social Capabilities'. They will be developing skills in the areas of Self-Awareness and Management and Social-Awareness and Management. We often see students who find social situations challenging, become much more socially aware through the hard work of the volunteers at RDA.

### **Sunsmart**

There are still some very sunny days to come this term, so I encourage all parents to provide their children with sun hats, sun screen and a water bottle.

***Nat Proctor***

***Upper Primary School Leader***

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## Secondary School News

### Disability Support Pension

If your child is about to turn 16, they may be eligible for the disability support pension. Please check out the following website for more details:

<https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/disability-support-pension>.

### Cycling

Like many classes, Room 508 have been making the most of this sunny weather with our new Phys Ed teacher Zareen MacDonnell, bike riding down at King George Reserve.

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### Work Experience

If you happen to be shopping at IGA in East Bentleigh on a Monday this term, keep your eyes out for these three helpful young men!

Calvin, Thomas and Blake are doing a fantastic job learning all about the retail industry.

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This report provides an overview of points of interest for the school community.

### **Annual Implementation Plan Update**

An important part of our AIP is the further implementation of the Star/Links programs across the school. Staff had two very productive professional development days at the start of the year and we have already seen the positive impact in the classrooms.

### **Facility Improvements**

Summer building projects include a new storage room for Foundation, refurbished office space for Upper Primary and shade structures for 304-306 and 409-10. The allocation of the four new classrooms has been a bit of a journey but we now have clear schedules and ongoing contact with the project managers. The buildings are now onsite and the final work will be done out of school times to minimise the disruption to our students.

### **Variety School Bus and CBA donation**

We are very grateful for the support of Variety, which has provided us with a new bus. We would also like to acknowledge the local Commonwealth Bank branches of Bentleigh, East Bentleigh, Hampton and Elsternwick for their generous donation total of \$2000. This will go towards resources for the Star Program. They are also supporting us in our grant application for a further \$10,000.

### **Fundraising**

The fundraising sub-committee met on 21<sup>st</sup> February. Blue Day, Mothers Day and Fathers Day stalls will run again this year. Awaiting date allocation for Bunnings Moorabbin Sausage Sizzle. Next meeting scheduled 21/3/18 at 9.30am (a week before Blue Day).

### **School Council Election**

A ballot was not required for the DET and Parent positions on School Council as number of nominations equaled the number of vacancies.

Rochelle Pettit and Susie Amiatu were re-elected to the parent positions and Kerri Harkness (Secondary Teacher) re-elected to the DET role. We welcome new DET members - Julia Sadler (Assistant Principal) and Natalie Proctor (Leading Teacher, Upper Primary) to School Council. We would like to acknowledge and thank Catherine Dawson (DET) and Derek English (Community Member) for their contribution to School Council. We are seeking to co-opt a new community member.

#### School Council DET members:

Bruce McPhate (Principal)  
Julia Sadler (Assistant Principal)  
Natalie Proctor (Leading Teacher, Upper Primary)  
Kerri Harkness (Secondary Teacher)

#### School Council Parent members:

Susie Amiatu  
Arey Caliamanis  
Anne Crawford  
Mikaela Koia  
Hal Korpetutuncu  
Julia Morgan  
Rochelle Pettit

## REPORT TO SCHOOL COMMUNITY cont....

### Parking outside of school grounds

Parking issues are potentially dangerous and were particularly bad at the start of this year. SAS's school growth and the loss of Bentleigh Secondary School's staff carpark (due to construction) have intensified the issues. Local politicians, police and local council have been notified. Parents and children are a high priority, we have to work with neighbours and provide a safe and workable arrangement for staff. A list of suggestions to minimise safety concerns were discussed and Bruce is liaising with Glen Eira Council. It is imperative to observe parking restriction signage.

### Web portal for parents

Communication through web portals is becoming commonplace in schools. SAS currently utilises Compass internally. It is a priority to introduce the portal to parents but we need to iron out any potential issues before enabling parent access. Our IT Technician and a school sub-committee are working to rollout new functions throughout 2018.

### Accessing Grants

Whilst applying for grants can be successful; they can also be very time-consuming. If you have relevant experience/expertise and would like to assist the school in applying for relevant grants, please contact Bruce McPhate on 9563 8139 or [mcphate.bruce.d@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:mcphate.bruce.d@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Next School Council meeting and Public Reporting meeting: Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March @ 7.00pm.

## Disability Action Plan 2017–2021

Council is embarking on a consultation process to gather information from our community on how we can best support community inclusion for people with disabilities.

The consultation aims to reach people with disabilities and their families, service providers, businesses and interested community members.

This process will help us to shape and focus Council activity towards a strengthened role in planning, advocacy and leadership in disability support across the municipality.



We are interested in how we can build on these priorities and welcome your thoughts and vision for the future by visiting the website or by contacting NDIS transition officer Lauren Mandel on 9524 3333 or

[lmandel@gleneira.vic.gov.au](mailto:lmandel@gleneira.vic.gov.au)

[www.haveyoursaygleneira.com.au/allabilities](http://www.haveyoursaygleneira.com.au/allabilities)