

Benton Junior College



Our Mission:

*To motivate to learn; to teach to think; to encourage to imagine,
and to show the compassion to care globally*

5th February 2016

Newsletter

Principal Report

Welcome back to everyone. We certainly had a very smooth start to the school year. All our students looked refreshed and ready for a busy year of learning. Congratulations to you all for supporting our school uniform policy especially with the wearing of black shoes/runners.

We have new teachers starting and I am sure we will make them feel welcomed at our fantastic school. So if you see Kim Pickering, Emma Paul, Brent Jenkins, Robyn Bailey, Emily Tyler, Madison Pearce and Ella Tipping please say hello. Also we had some staff get married over the holidays so we have new names to learn. Lisa Treloar is now Lisa Cuming and Lisa Quon is now Lisa Nixon congratulations to both of them. Finally Laura and Warwick Millar had a little boy called Judd and Kirsten and Matt Smith had a little boy called Beau. As you can see it has been a busy holiday season.

In particular I would like to welcome our 134 new Preps and their families to BJC.

Staff Emails

I am sure you are very appreciative of being able to communicate with staff via email but over time communication expectations between parents and teachers has grown. Over the past few years time spent responding to emails has increased significantly. So to help the staff have a healthy work – life balance, staff will only be responding to emails between 8am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday. Thank you for your support and understanding around this issue.

We certainly want to continue to encourage parents to contact the teachers/school directly via a phone call to make a time to discuss any issues or concerns. It is sometimes much easier to have a face to face chat or conversation over the phone than have emails going backwards and forwards.

Year 6 Leaders Badge Ceremony

Next Friday, 12th February we will be conducting our Badge Ceremony for our Year 6 Leaders. The Mayor Graham Pittock will be making the presentations to our Year 6 Leaders. The assembly will be held at 9.10am and we welcome the school community to attend and celebrate this exciting time for our young leaders.

Information Nights

Information nights will be happening soon and I look forward to catching up with parents on these nights. Also later this term we will facilitate our Parent/Teacher interviews.

Bikes and Scooters

Just a reminder to all parents and students that bikes and scooters are NOT to be ridden within school grounds. There are toddlers, grandparents and parents in our school grounds at the start and end of the day so to ensure the safety of everyone we ask that **no one** rides or scoots on school property.

Parking

At the end of last year I had a very upset and concerned parent talk to me about the parking around the school. I knew exactly what he was talking about as I have witnessed parents dropping students off and they then walk between cars to the footpath. It will only take a parent backing out not to see a student and we could easily have a fatality. I have also seen parents stopping in the middle of the roundabout to pick their child up. These situations are all potentially dangerous and could cause accidents or injuries. The parking bay section on Racecourse Rd creates a backlog of cars on to Racecourse Rd when parents double park along the side road waiting for a parking space. Once again this is a parking area where students walk behind cars that may be backing out to get into their waiting car on the road. If there are no parking spaces available could all parents please move on and come back around to the parking section. Police and traffic wardens do patrol the area and give out traffic infringement notices. Parking is always a challenge at any school, so parking further away and walking is one option or leaving the pick up until 3.25pm can make a difference to the congestion we have. A teacher is on yard duty to supervise until 3.30pm. Finally I have had another parent express concern that we have a 'Kiss and Go' area and parents are actually parking and leaving their cars. Please abide the signage around the school and if you stop in these areas please kiss and then leave do not leave your car to come into the school. Our children are our most precious belonging so let's work to keep them safe.

Below I have attached some information from VicRoads.

Children & pedestrian safety

Research shows that young children do not have the skills and experience to be safe in traffic on their own. Parents and carers need to take special care and supervise young children in traffic.

Children up to 5 years

Parents and carers must always hold children's hands when near traffic or the road. Once a child is mobile, especially walking, they must never be left unsupervised around roads or vehicles. Young children lack the skills, knowledge and judgement to be able to cope with traffic and so need to be constantly supervised.

Children 5 years up to 12 years

Parents and carers can help children by providing plenty of practical supervised experience in using the road safely, as a part of the journeys taken every day. Research shows that children under age 12 do not have the skills and experience to be safe in traffic. Teach them safe traffic behaviour and set a good example.

ICT

This year all our students will be having a lesson every fortnight in the Computer Lab. Mr Gains is our ICT teacher and will not only be teaching lessons but working in classrooms alongside teachers.

College Council

In the next newsletter I will put in some information about our College Council elections process. Joining College Council is a wonderful opportunity to work with parents and staff to continue to make BJC school the wonderful place it is. Below I have included some general information about School Council from the department site.

School Council Elections 2016

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 state wide 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.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years.

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.

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

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider
-standing for election as a member of the school council
-encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No. 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.

Kerry Griffin, Principal



2016 Important dates Term 1

9 February	Parent-Teacher Meet and Greet Years 2, 4 and 6 @ 6.30pm
10 February	Parent-Teacher Meet and Greet Years 1, 3 and 5 @ 6.30pm
17 February	No school - Prep students
22 – 26 February	Water Safety Week @ Mornington Life Saving Club – Years 4 - 6
23 February	Prep Parent Information @9.15am
24 February	No School – Prep students Prep Parent Information @6.30pm
29 February	Prep students start full-time SCHOOL PHOTOS
1 March	Prep Parent Information @9.15am SCHOOL PHOTOS
2 March	Prep Parent Information @6.30pm
3 March	eSmart PD for parents
4 March	Ride to School Day District Swimming Carnival - Selected students (Years 4,5,6)
8 March	Prep – 2 Family Maths Night @5pm
11 March	SCHOOL CLOSED Staff Professional Learning
14 March	Public Holiday LABOUR DAY
22-23 March	Parent-Teacher Interviews
24 March	Last day of Term 1 Assembly @9.15am School finishes @ 2.30pm
NB: These dates are accurate at the time of publishing but may change according to school needs. Changes to this list will be published in future newsletters.	

2016 STAFF CURRICULUM DAYS

Curriculum Days are an important part of the ongoing training and development of teachers. Please add these dates to your 2016 diaries and calendars:

Friday 11 March

Thursday 14 April

Monday 31 October

NOTE: Students do not attend on these dates.

NEW CASH PAYMENT PROCEDURE

We are introducing a new cash payment system to the School. Situated in the foyer of the General Office, you will notice on the left hand side, a silver letter box. We are requesting that parents/children drop in their extra curricular/camp monies, along with their permission slips, in a **CLEARLY** named envelope, first thing in the morning, before class. A receipt will be sent home via the classroom, that day or the following day.

This 'drop box' procedure, is to avoid the class teacher collecting monies and will be emptied regularly during the day, by **TWO** members of staff, to avoid any discrepancies.

Subway, hotdog and icypole orders together WITH MONEY will still go the classroom.

Our preferred method of payment is via BPAY, if you do pay via BPAY, please place your permission form in the 'drop box' with your BPAY receipt.

Music

Welcome back everyone. 2016 has begun with energy and enthusiasm at Benton Junior College and it promises to be an exciting year in music. We are certainly looking forward to it. Already children from all year levels have been dancing, singing and discussing all things musical and many are taking advantage of our instrumental program.

The ensemble band will begin rehearsals on Monday 8th February. They will rehearse on Mondays and Wednesdays at lunch break in the junior music room with Mr Seaman. The ensemble band is a major commitment and all members are expected to attend each rehearsal unless otherwise advised. Last year we were greatly impressed by both the talent and dedication displayed by our young musicians and look forward to adding some fresh faces in 2016. As the ensemble band develops the children will play at Year level and whole school assemblies and there will be various other performance opportunities throughout the year.

Paul Seaman and Ant Richards, Music teachers.

Forming positive relationships, communication is key.

Research shows that parents who are involved in their child's education from foundation can help improve academic achievement, social engagement and satisfaction with school experience. Parental involvement in children's education from an early age has a significant effect on educational achievement and continues to do so into adolescence and adulthood. The attitudes and aspirations of parents and of children themselves predict later educational achievement.

One sure fire way to get off to a good start is to attend information evenings and parent teacher interviews. They give you a great opportunity to;

- *learn more about your child's academic, emotional and social development
- *get to know your child's teacher and expectations for that specific year level
- *help the teacher understand more about your child's individual needs
- *make plans with the teacher about how you can both support your child

Information Evenings will be held on the **9th and 10th February**.

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held on the **22nd and 23rd March**.

Sam Cooney (Welfare Co-ordinator)

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

We are looking forward to an exciting year of teaching and learning at Benton Junior College in 2016. Throughout the year ahead, you will be seeing regular updates on our curriculum programs via the fortnightly newsletter so we can keep our school community up to date on all our hard work, successes and achievements.

There are a few things on the Term 1 calendar which I'd like you to get involved with. These are important events that are in place to help support the fantastic learning that is happening in classrooms:

Meet and Greet – Class Information Evenings

Tuesday 9 February: Years 2, 4, 6

Wednesday 10 February: Years 1, 3, 5

Teachers will be outlining classroom routines, discussing curriculum programs, homework expectations, ways to help your child with their learning ... and much more! We strongly encourage families to attend these sessions. Please return the RSVP slip to your class teacher to let us know how many attendees to expect. ***See you on the night***

Prep Parent Information sessions

Session 1: Tuesday 23 February – 9.15am OR Wednesday 24 February – 6.30pm

Session 2: Tuesday 1 March – 9.15am OR Wednesday 2 March – 6.30pm

These sessions are designed to assist parents in ways that you can help your child with their learning during their Prep year, with a particular focus on early reading. Keep an eye out for more information to come.

Family Maths Night: Prep-Year 2

Tuesday 8 March: 5 – 6.30pm

This night is designed to debunk some myths about how Mathematics is taught and how children learn Mathematics best. It is a fun and interactive night where the children work with their families through some games and problem-solving challenges.

Parent-Teacher Interviews

Tuesday 22 March OR Wednesday 23 March

As a whole school, we will continue to have a big focus on English and Mathematics as our core business, providing high-quality learning opportunities for all our Benton Junior College students. These programs are complimented by the other curriculum areas, specialist subjects and the PYP program to provide our students with a well-balanced learning platform.

Please look out for the other newsletter articles highlighting the English and Mathematics classroom work from our students. We look forward to celebrating their learning with them.

I will sign off with a couple of my favourite quotes ... feel free to share these with your children:

"Sometimes what we call 'a failure' is really just that necessary struggle called learning".

"It's OK to not know, but it's not OK to not try".

Nadia Walker, Assistant Principal

International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program (PYP)

As a proud state primary school, Benton Junior College follows the curriculum as outlined by the Victorian government. The way in which teachers at BJC present the curriculum is through the Primary Years Program. The PYP provides schools with a curriculum framework encompassing 5 essential elements – **knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes and action** that young students need to equip them for successful lives, both now and in the future. Schools work with the 5 elements to construct a rigorous and challenging curriculum. The explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy skills is at the core of the structured inquiry. These 5 essential elements will be broken down in the coming newsletters to allow parents/carers to gain a better understanding of the PYP. Also year levels will highlight their units of inquiry so parents/carers are aware of the wonderful learning that is taking place within and out of the classroom.

Before the Meet and Greet sessions next week, Jodie Brasher and myself will present a short session on understanding the PYP for parents. These will be held in the staffroom.

You can go to the link below and find out more information about the Primary Years Program.

<http://www.ibo.org/programmes/primary-years-programme/>

Lyn Foster, Assistant Principal



Fundraising, Thank you

As a result of our fund raising effort from our school community in 2015, over the school holidays we were able to install air conditioners in all classrooms that didn't have them. The ongoing effort in relation to fundraising allows the school to invest in the 'extras'.

A HUGE thank you from all our students.

Physical Education

First off on the Sporting Calendar for BJC is our College Swimming Carnival. It will be held at the Mornington Secondary College pool on Wednesday 17th Feb. Students from Years 3-6 are eligible to come along and swim in a series of 50m races against their age groups. The winning students in the freestyle, breast stroke, backstroke and butterfly events will proceed through to the Mornington District Swimming carnival to be held at the Pines Pool on the 4th March. Notices have already gone home to those interested students. If any one has any further questions about this event, please don't hesitate to contact Jabyn Hogarth at the College.

Jabyn Hogarth, PE



eSmart Community Engagement Program

As part of their commitment to support school communities in being safe, smart and responsible online, *The Alannah and Madeline Foundation* will be facilitating a seminar for Years 4, 5 & 6 parents at Benton Junior College on March 3rd at 3.30pm and 6.00pm. Facilitated by the experts in their eSmart Schools team, parents will presented with all the latest trends and research about cybersafety and online behaviours. Strategies and guidelines will be discussed that relate to safe, smart and responsible uses of technology in the home

The eSmart Schools program is a cultural change initiative developed by the Foundation in consultation with academic and industry experts. eSmart aims to create positive, respectful and inclusive cultures that reduce bullying, cyber bullying and increase cybersafety.

Grant Gains, ICT Teacher

The Alannah and Madeline Foundation
Keeping children safe from violence



ART AWARD

At the end of last year, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery held their annual FMPRG Friends Art award ceremony. Benton Junior College students were incredibly well represented with their interpretation of 'Life's a beach'. During the last week of term students and teachers were invited to the gallery for the award ceremony. Winners in the junior primary category were Ethan O and Zoe S while senior primary winners were Robyn W and Willow A. Students who received a Highly Commended were Ava F and Sarah C. As a result, Benton Junior College won the overall Junior and Senior primary awards. We were presented with a cheque for \$500 which will go towards our Arts program.

Congratulations to the winners and all participants, whose works were displayed at the gallery and the Mornington library. All students who entered the award showed wonderful commitment in creating the works during their own time. We are sincerely appreciative of students' families for their support and guidance in planning and creating their artworks.

Emma Hannan, Art teacher



MPRG MORNINGTON
PENINSULA
REGIONAL
GALLERY



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the school year – a year that we hope will be full of exciting challenges, successful learning, lasting friendships and, the key to so many activities – reading!

Our world is certainly changing in the area of communication, but the place of books and the ability to read fluently remain critical to a person's independence, success and personal fulfilment.

So how can you help your child with reading? Children of all ages respond positively when the important people in their world show interest and support for their activities. By encouraging the ownership of books, by sharing and talking about them with children, parents are helping children's reading to develop with enjoyment and understanding.

Quality, Choice and Convenience

Scholastic Book Clubs offer a convenient way for your child to select and purchase worthwhile and appealing books. The books have been expertly selected to span a range of reading levels and interests and are offered at very reasonable prices – considerably lower than elsewhere. The wide range of newly published titles and old favourites represents a thoughtful mix of books from Australian and international publishers.

Scholastic Book Clubs operate at least eight times a year. Attached is the latest student brochure. There are 2 ways you can order books:-

Online via LOOP .Simply log in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download the iphone and ipad app from the App Store or get it on Google Play for Android. Click on ORDER and follow the prompts. – easy! Or, you can fill in the order form in the middle of the brochure and send the correct payment to the school by the closing date.

The school sends all these orders in together, and then the books are delivered to the school and are then distributed to the children to take home.

Furthermore, the school also receives free books and/or teaching resources from Book Clubs that allow us to regularly update our class and school libraries with just-published and favourite books.

I hope that you will encourage your child to order books this year (though there is never any obligation to order). I know of no better way to encourage reading than to give children the opportunity of choosing their own books. We feel sure that you and your children will really enjoy Scholastic Book Clubs.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Nunn
Book Club Organiser

Satisfaction Guaranteed

All Book Club items come with a full guarantee of satisfaction. If for any reason an item is found to be unsatisfactory, please return it to us within one month of purchase and a full refund will be arranged.





Book Club LOOP

for Parents

LOOP is the Scholastic Book Club
Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform for parents.

To order and pay for Scholastic Book Club by credit card visit:

www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP



From the Department of Education & Training: Never Leave Younger Siblings in Cars at School Drop Off and Pick Up

As school returns parents are reminded not to leave younger siblings in the car during school drop off and pick up.

Although getting the kids in and out of the car is never a fun task, it's not worth the risk of leaving them vulnerable to dangers of extreme heat.

Victoria, it is against the law to leave children unattended in a car. Parents or carers could face fines of nearly \$4000 or up to six months' jail, or both.



We are using an App to communicate with you.

You will be notified of our news, messages, events and other communications.

Our goal at Benton Junior College this term is to eliminate 'paper notices' from the office and become a paper notice free school. In order to achieve this goal we are asking parents in the college community to install the app tiqbiz onto their smartphones, ipads/tablets and computers.

To date, we note that you have not downloaded the Tiqbiz App. Please follow the instructions below to download the App. Please contact Alex Petrovic - pe-trovic.alexander.a@edumail.vic.gov.au if you require any assistance.

This App is an effective form of communication, if you choose not to download this App, you must register your name at the office to receive paper based notices. By choosing this option, **you will be required** to call into the office to collect Newsletters. Other notices will be sent home with your child which may take one or two days to arrive at home and risk being lost or misplaced. Tiqbiz communication is instant, and notifications remain on the App for you to refer to again if required. This App will also be used for photos and updates while your child is on camps and excursions, and also to notify you if excursions/camps are running late.

We're using an app to communicate with you.

You'll be notified of our news, messages, events and other communications.

Simply download the tiqbiz app to your phone or tablet.

To download, search **tiqbiz** in your app store:



IMPORTANT NOTE TO APPLE USERS:

Click 'allow' notifications when asked.

Don't have a smartphone or tablet?
Download tiqbiz on your PC or Mac at www.tiqbiz.com/register

To select us, follow the steps on the next page ➤



www.tiqbiz.com

Find and tick

Log-in
Open tiqbiz and register/log-in.

Find
Inside the menu, click on 'Find & Tick'.
Type our name into the search bar.
Select us from the results.

Tick
Click the grey tick on the boxes that apply to you.
When the tick turns green, you're connected.

Inbox
Click on the Inbox icon.
This is where you will receive our instant messages, newsletters, notices and calendar events.

For technical support,
please email our friendly team.
Email: team@tiqbiz.com

www.tiqbiz.com

Anaphylaxis Awareness

There is no cure for allergies; therefore, avoidance of the food or allergen is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction

What is Anaphylaxis?

Severe allergy is on the increase in Australia. One in ten Australian children aged up to 12 months now have a food allergy. Allergic reaction can be mild to moderate or severe **Anaphylaxis**. Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction to food, stings, bites, or medicines.

How is Anaphylaxis Treated?

The best form of treatment is **avoidance**. Prevention strategies are used to help minimising the risk of an anaphylactic reaction from occurring. At Benton Junior College, we support the following-

We **strongly discourage** parents from sending any nut products to school (including peanut butter, all tree nut butters, almond butter, Nutella, actual nuts, muesli bars with visible nuts). This is for everyday snacks, lunches, excursions, class parties and when celebrating birthdays.

Children **should not** share or trade food with their peers.

Wash your hands after eating (good hygiene practice for all of us!)

Be aware of triggers that may cause an anaphylaxis reaction and avoid these from occurring.

*A severe allergic reaction can be rapid in onset and commonly occurs **within 20 minutes** to two hours after eating the food or being in contact with the allergen

Raising awareness of Anaphylaxis at BJC

You will notice these signs are displayed around the school. The **amber sign** reminds families that classrooms are **nut restricted zones** and food products such as peanut butter, Nutella and nuts should not be brought to school.

The **red sign** is for a specific classroom where a child who has anaphylaxis and all food products containing nuts and treenuts should not be brought into the classroom.



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 and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be 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.

HOW TO APPLY

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

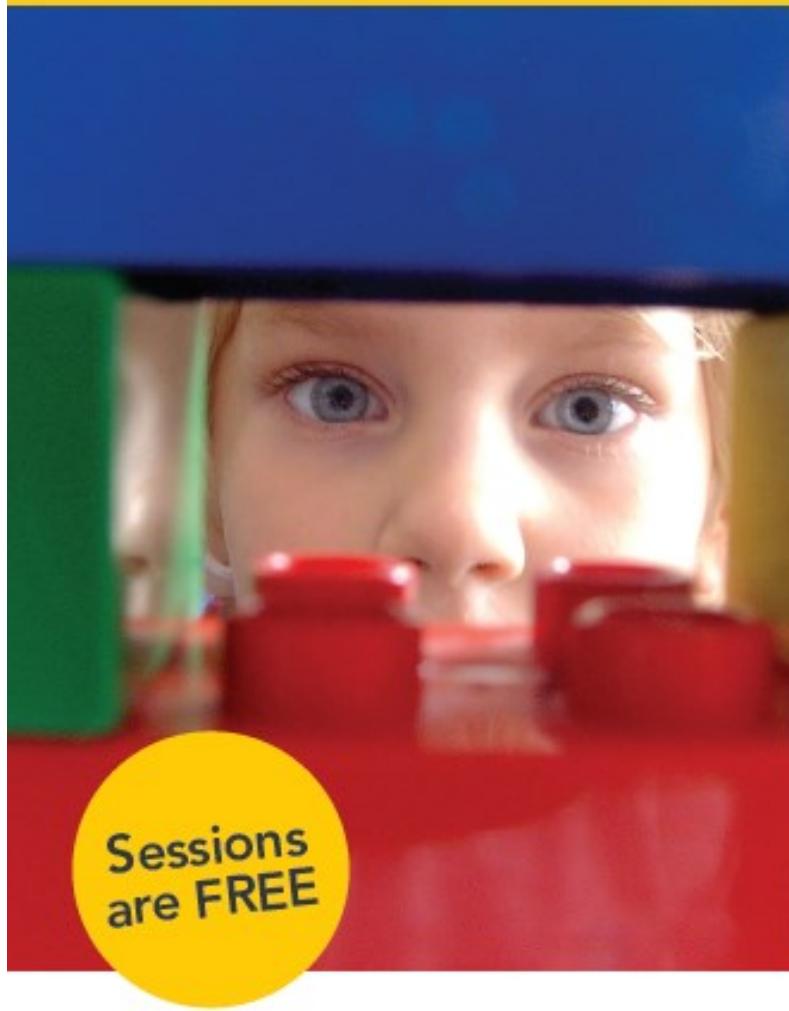
MORE INFORMATION

For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef



LIVING WITH AUTISM

FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH ASD AGED 6-11 YEARS



PROGRAM DETAILS

WHEN: 10th, 17th, 24th February, 2nd, 9th, 16th March

TIME: 9:45am-11:45am

WHERE: Ballam Park Primary School
Belar Avenue Frankston VIC 3199

WHO: Parents, grandparents, carers of children with a diagnosis of autism

For bookings & enquiries contact:
Parentzone Southern 1300 984 011
or Joanne Templeton,
0499 007 418 or 03 5945 2000
Joanne.Templeton@anglicarevic.org.au

**FREE BUT BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED**

Are you a parent/carer of a child on the autism spectrum aged 6-11 years?

Join with other parents/carers to share experiences, ideas and learn strategies in a relaxed, friendly place.

During the 6 weeks you will:

- Meet with other parents to share ideas and strategies
- Develop skills to further support your child
- Find out about other resources and funding
- Take time to think about how to care for yourself and others in your family



anglicarevic.org.au