

Benton Junior College



Our Mission:

To motivate to learn; to teach to think; to encourage to imagine,

Principal Report

Benton Picnic

I would like to give a very big thank you to a very small band of parents who organised our Family Picnic Carols night. We appreciate the positive feedback we are hearing from many parents. This small group of parents and staff worked extremely hard to organise this event, so a big congratulations to them. If you have time to help you are more than welcome to join the fundraising team next year with your great ideas and better yet your support to help organise these events. It was wonderful to see so many families come along and join in the singing of Christmas songs as a family.

Student Reports

Student reports will be sent home next Wednesday, 16th December. As I have previously mentioned we have changed the reports to show the "I can statements" that the students have been working on throughout the year. Accompanying the reports is a letter explaining the changes. Early in 2016 parents will be given an opportunity to comment on the new reports.

Sun Smart

Last week's Walkathon is a timely reminder that we need to make sure we are using sunscreen protection. On the morning of our Walkathon it was overcast but by the time we went out for our walk the sun was well and truly out. If students bring along sunscreen, they are allowed to use our staff will endeavour to remind students to reapply it at lunchtime before they go out. I have included below some information from the Sun Smart site.

Regular use of sunscreen has been shown to reduce the incidence of melanoma and squamous cell carcinoma, both in the short and long term. Choose SPF30 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen. Make sure it is within its use-by date and is stored below 30 degrees. It is best to apply a generous amount of sunscreen to any exposed skin around 20 minutes before going outdoors. Sunscreen should be reapplied every **TWO** hours even if the stated level of water resistance is four hours. Always use sunscreen with other sun protection measures – don't rely on sunscreen alone to protect skin.

Sunscreen application strategies:

Suggest children bring along their own sunscreen that suits their skin – as long as it is SPF30 or higher, broad-spectrum and water-resistant. They could try a clip on and hang it on their school bag for easy storage, as well as being a visual reminder.

11th December 2015

Newsletter

Diary Dates

DECEMBER 2015

Monday 14th
Prep—Visit to Opal

Friday 18th

**Last Day of
Term 4**

1.30pm

Dismissal

JANUARY 2016

Thursday 28th
First day of School
Year 1 to Year 6

Friday 29th
First day of School
Prep



Class Structure for 2016

There will be 37 home groups for 2016.

- 6 - Prep Classes
- 6 - Year 1 Classes
- 6 - Year 2 Classes
- 5 - Year 3 Classes
- 6 - Year 4 Classes
- 4 - Year 5 Classes
- 4 - Year 6 Classes

We welcome Rachael Schembri, Ella Tipping, Maddison Pearce, Emma Paul, Brent Jenkins and Robyn Bailey who will be joining our staff in 2016.

Retirement

Mrs Barb McNabb and Mrs Sue Pratt will be retiring at the end of 2015. On behalf of the whole school community I would like to thank them for their dedication and the wonderful contribution they have made to Benton Junior College.

Last School Day for 2015

Our final school day for 2015 is Friday, 18th December and students will be dismissed at 1.30pm.

Holidays

This is our last newsletter for 2015. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students, staff and parents for their hard work and dedication to Benton Junior College.

I would also like to wish you all the best over the festive season and look forward to working with you in 2016, as we continue to make Benton Junior College a vibrant and exciting school that we are all incredibly proud of.

Years 1 to 6 commence back at school on **Thursday, 28th January at 8.45am**.

Preps commence school on **Friday, 29th January from 9am to 1pm**.

Kerry Griffin, Principal

Congratulations to the winners of the Benton Christmas Raffle!

1st Prize	\$500 Travel Voucher	Declan L
2nd Prize	Dirt Scooter	Andrew M
3rd Prize	Xmas Food Hamper	Nicholas M
4th Prize	Outdoor Fun Hamper	Ethan L
5th Prize	Arts and Craft Hamper	Mitchell A
6th Prize	10k Block of Chocolate	Jackie S
7th Prize	1 x \$30 Voucher to Kirks	Isaac R
8th Prize	Canadian Bay Voucher	Ella W



Giving Tree

Once again our College community has responded enthusiastically to The Giving Tree Appeal organised by the Mornington Peninsula Hamper Committee. Goods such as groceries, toys, home wares were included in the fifty boxes we had collected last Tuesday. At this time of the year when Christmas preparations are foremost in our minds it is gratifying to see so many families wanting to share the season with our wider community.



Farewell to our Year 6 Students

On Thursday afternoon we celebrated the achievements of our 2015 Year 6 students. For some it is the end of a seven year journey at BJC. Your parents and teachers have watched you mature into amazing young people and we are very proud of your achievements. The future ahead is in your hands and if you take the dedication, enthusiasm for learning, care and compassion that you have shown at BJC then we are in good hands. Good luck at secondary school and remember dare to dream!



Performing Arts- Paul Seaman and Ant Richards

We have almost reached the end of an amazing year in Performing Arts at Benton Junior College. The children in all year levels have worked extremely well and produced some remarkable results. Highlights for 2015 include

- The highly successful band camp and concert, which many Benton students attended.
- Our incredible production 'Battle of the bands', well done to everyone involved.
- The Mornington Main Street Festival, where the ensemble band and junior and senior choirs performed so well.
- The spectacular end of year concert for Benton Celebration, how good were Mrs Catford and Miss Smith.

There were of course many other highlights in an incredible 2015 and Mrs Walkington's keyboard soiree is still to come on Monday December 14 in the Lloyd Poole Performing Arts Centre. Her students have been busy practising and are ready for their big performance.

We would like to thank the following people for their greatly valued contributions this year.

- Mrs Hobbs, Mrs Malcomson and Miss Power for their outstanding work with our production.
- All of the parents who assisted with the production and the end of year concert.
- Mrs Catford for an amazing effort with our senior choir all year.
- Miss Smith and Miss Hannan for their great job with our junior choir.
- Mr Dave Hedges for his invaluable expertise with our ensemble band all year.
- Our instrumental teachers, John Cosgrove, Trish Douglass, Aaron Sim, Lisa Walkington and Brendan Jones for teaching the many Benton students who are learning a musical instrument.

Again, thank you.

We wish all of our of our Year 6 students the very best of luck in their future schooling and musical endeavours. Finally, we wish all of our students and their families a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Thank you for a fantastic 2015. We are looking forward to seeing you in the New Year.



Our very best Benton wishes for Bob!



Many of you will know Bob, our crossing supervisor on Longwood Drive who quietly retired from his duties earlier this school term. He left with little fuss or request for celebration, though promises to call in to say a "quiet hello" soon.

Bob was one of our first school crossing supervisors or "the Lolli-Pop man", as he would demonstrate while referring fondly to his stop sign. He commenced here at Benton Junior College when the school was opened in 2003 and was the first to greet the then 183 children who enrolled that year. Bob has seen many changes to our school over the years and this year would welcome and farewell a good percentage of our 850 children, their parents, grandparents, siblings and friends. He particularly enjoyed his chats with the children and their parents, and mostly the mums! He took an interest in the children's daily activities and their life events, and in turn he was fondly regarded by all those who frequented his crossing.

Bob was proud of his role and that of the school, and it may not be known to many but he would often bring in his lawn mower in the boot of his car so he could mow the patches of lawn on the median strip near his crossing, not wanting to wait for council to cut the grass!

Earlier this term the children and parents recorded messages on cards for Bob who has passed on his sincere thanks and appreciation for the personal comments made by all. If you see Bob in the community or while shopping, he would appreciate you saying "Hi" and he looks forward to this opportunity.

Bob has passed on his "Lolli-Pop" to Christine, who will now assist all those crossing Longwood Drive; welcome Christine!

During these school holidays a new classroom will be erected close to the Longwood Drive school crossing and a tree will be planted near the classroom and school crossing in honour of Bob.

On behalf of our school community, together we thank you for many years of service and support for our children and families for their safe delivery and departure from their school.

We wish you the very Benton Best, Bob!

2016 Important dates

Term 1

27 January	SCHOOL CLOSED Staff Professional Learning
28 January	School starts Years 1 - 6
29 January	School starts Prep students (8.45am-1pm)
1 February	Prep students 8.45am-1pm
2 February	Prep students 8.45am-1pm
3 February	No school - Prep students
4 February	Prep students 8.45am - 3.15pm
5 February	Prep students 8.45am - 3.15pm
9 & 10 February	Parent-Teacher Meet and Greet Evenings
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
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
11 April	Start Term 2

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

Each year, the Department of Education and Training provides schools with four 'student free days' for professional learning for school staff.

Curriculum Days are an important part of the ongoing training and development of teachers.

Please add these dates to your 2016 diaries and calendars:

Wednesday 27 January

Friday 11 March

Thursday 14 April

Monday 31 October

NOTE: Students do not attend on these dates.



WALKATHON

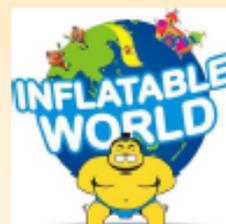


The Walkathon was a huge success! Thank you to all the families, relatives and friends for their generosity. Your donations have been greatly appreciated. The school community raised-

\$8001.70!!

A terrific result for the school and the Murdoch Children's Institute of Research!

A big thank you to our local businesses for their sponsorship!



Amica Hair
Mt Eliza





WALKATHON



**Benton
Christmas
Picnic**



Maths this term in Year 4!

This term in Year 4, students have been expanding their multiplication and division understanding by being introduced to the *formal algorithms*. An algorithm is a process where there sets of rules to be followed in order to accurately solve the equation. Algorithms are an efficient way of calculating and can be used to solve many everyday problems. The children have also been involved in a unit of measurement related concepts, including length, area and perimeter, volume and mass (weight).

Camp Maths!

Year Four had a terrific time at the Phillip Island Camp and there was lots of mathematical concepts that we were using. Here are some questions that you can answer that will also be reinforcing your understandings of using the multiplication and division algorithms.

Using Multiplication

The Camp Cooking activity was making pancakes. The mixture allowed every child to receive three small pancakes. Each group had 16 children in it. If there were 7 groups, how many pancakes were made altogether?

Using Division

There were 120 people from BJC on camp. There were 12 tables in the Dinner Hall. How many people could sit on each table?

What if there were 8 tables?

Show your working out to your teacher!

Challenging Tasks

We have been investigating angles through our challenging tasks lessons. These lessons encourage the growth mindset thinking, where children are reassured that it's OK to be challenged and work through the 'zone of confusion'!

In one of the lessons, children had to investigate angles on a clock face. Have a go at the task with a family member!

What might be the time?

I know that the minute hand of the clock is on 8. The hands make an obtuse angle.

(Give as many answers as you can)



Maths in Art... Angle fish



Learning Focus-

To use a protractor to measure an acute (less than 90 degrees), a right angle (90 degrees) and an obtuse angle (greater than 90 degrees).



Mass lesson- 'Riley's fish'

A lesson focusing on Mass looked at weighing everyday objects. This lesson involved three parts-

1. Trial stage (estimating the mass of everyday objects (an egg, book, water bottle, lollipop etc).
2. Discussion of how much the objects weighed (calculating the actual mass and discussing strategies for estimating objects)
3. Retrial (estimating the mass of a new set of objects).

Estimating Board 1			
Object	Estimate (grams)	Actual mass (grams)	Difference
egg	10g	50g	20g
book	80g	320g	240g
water bottle	350g	220g	880g
lollipop	20g	100g	80g
lollipop	5g	10g	5g
Total estimate			1350g