Dear everyone,

Our thoughts are with those who were impacted by the horrific fire conditions over the weekend. We are incredibly grateful to the efforts of volunteers and emergency services personnel who remain on high alert both locally and further afield.

- Today we are sending home a laminated copy of our “Safe, Respectful and Caring School” poster which has been compiled from the ideas of our students. Please talk to your children about the poster and check in with them at the end of each day to chat about the positives. If there were any problems during the day, ask them about how they went about solving them. Empowering our children to become resilient in the face of setbacks (especially the minor ones) is the role of every parent and teacher. You will also notice another “catastrophe scale” on the back, for home use.

- Last year we wrote a letter of support for Towong Shire’s proposal for the “Berringa Integrated and Community Services Hub”. This proposed “Hub” would offer before/after school care in Bellbridge. The proposal will now go to the application stage for possible funding approval. Financially we cannot afford to run our own before/after school care so it makes perfect sense for such a service to be included at Bellbridge but there would need to be enough interest shown. Today (on red paper) is a survey which needs to be back tomorrow. I am sorry for the tight timeline of which I only became aware on Friday. The survey data will be included along with a school letter in the Shire’s application (due Thursday). This is probably our only opportunity (in the near future anyway) to really lobby for before/after school care for our families. Such a service in Bellbridge would also secure additional enrolments for us in the future as I am sure you all know of students who attend school in Albury/Wodonga due to the necessity of before and after school care for parents who work in town. Please return the form tomorrow so we can make sure the application really highlights how valuable this service would be to our current and future families. We really appreciate your help with this.

- We are now on the Bushfire at Risk Register (BARR). Please continue over to find out more......

When packing lunchboxes, please remember we are a nut free school. This means no nuts or products made with nuts.

THERE WILL BE NO HOT LUNCHES FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

BANK DAY WEDNESDAY
Currently in Victoria there is a Bushfire At Risk Register (BARR) which lists early childhood and educational settings at high risk on a CODE RED (catastrophic) fire rating day. Bethanga Primary was included back in 2009 but then removed in 2010. Given our location (hills, winding roads, limited access) and the environmental conditions (dry vegetation, long grass, bush etc.) we wrote a letter to the Department of Education requesting a review of our omission from the list. As such we are now back on it. This means that on a CODE RED day (catastrophic fire risk) our school will be closed. Usually, weather forecasts enable catastrophic days to be predicted (on average) three days prior. The safety of our students is paramount on all days but especially on a catastrophic fire risk day hence the pre-emptive closure. We have included an information sheet about the register and a FAQ sheet also. Please phone if you have questions.

Please remember the session being run by Sue Reid of Tallangatta Health this coming Wednesday from 7.30-8.30pm. Sue will provide information about the program she will run with our year 5/6 students in term one. All parents are most welcome but we especially urge all parents of years 5 and 6 to attend.

A flyer is included about our Pancake Breaky to raise money for Uniting Care (homelessness). We hope as many people can come along as possible. This is one small way we can help others.

"Let’s Meet” sessions will occur next week for those parents who would like to take the opportunity. These 10 minute sessions will allow parents to share information about their child, develop a link with the classroom teacher and have a short chat about how your child has settled into 2014. We have a 12 month subscription to School Interviews.com and would like parents to use this again. If you do not have access to the internet please give us a call or come into school and we can show you how to complete the process on a school computer. It is so easy and it saves us sifting through paper and shuffling times around. The access code will be sent home tomorrow.

Asthma Action Plans: Today we are sending home new asthma action plans for those children identified by parents as being asthmatic. Currently there are only three which makes us suspect there may be asthmatics we do not know about. Please let us know if your child does suffer from asthma ASAP.

Good luck to a number of our students participating in the cluster swimming sports at the Albury Pool tomorrow. Ross and I will both attend. Many thanks to the parents who are assisting with transportation. This has saved us the cost of hiring a large school bus for a small number of children.

And finally, I want to thank our staff (Sarah C, Sarah K, Bert, Ross, Jen, Chelsea and Al) for all their efforts in settling our students into the new school year. A big thanks also to Robin for ensuring our school is lovely and clean and to Mick for taking great care of our bus travellers. We have had an amazing beginning to 2014.
**School Hats and Sunsmart behaviour:** Our red bucket hats are compulsory for term one and this will be reassessed at the beginning of term two. Please assist/remind your child to apply sunscreen prior to coming to school. We do have sunscreen available at school but students will need to take responsibility for remembering to apply it.

**School Satchels:** *If your child does not yet have a school satchel, they are available from the office for $10.*

**Uniform:** We have a small selection of second hand uniforms for sale. We also buy back uniforms in good condition so if you have any uniforms that your child has outgrown, please bring them along to school and we will buy them back from you.

**Reading/Classroom Helpers:** Both our F/1 and 2/3 rooms would love to hear from parents able to hear reading in classrooms. Please pop in and see us if you can assist.

**Head Lice:** While we have not had any reported cases, I am told that head lice are currently very busy so please keep weekly head checks going and remember whichever form of treatment you use, you need to follow the instructions and treat more than once. Richard at the Bethanga Store stocks Moov Headlice Solution for $17.50 which is very handy to know!

**Do you love to sew?** Thanks to the crafty people who have offered to help us already. If you don’t want to miss out on the fun of curtain creation please chat to Bert. Thanks!

**Parent Contributions:** All parent contributions need to be paid by 28 February. If you wish your child to be insured through the school, payment must be received by Monday 10th February or your child will not be insured.

**175 Nights of Reading:** Each child who reads 175 nights during the school term will choose a free book at the end of the year. Diaries need to be signed by an adult each night.

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**What can parents and carers do to help their child’s asthma at school?**

- If your child is self-managing their asthma, or capable of taking their asthma medication independently, ensure that your child is always carrying their reliever medication (*e.g.* Ventolin, Asmol, Airomir and Bricanyl) as well as a spacer while at school.
- Ensure that you have provided your child’s school/preschool with an updated Asthma Action Plan.
- Ensure that your child knows how to recognise early symptoms of an asthma attack and check to make sure they are using their reliever medication properly.
- Ensure your child will seek help from school/preschool staff if they experience asthma symptoms.
- Ensure that your child’s asthma is being well managed and that their medication and management is reviewed annually by your GP (this is a good opportunity to also update the Asthma Action Plan required by your child’s school/preschool).

For more information, please contact The Asthma Foundation of Victoria on 1800 278 462 or [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au)
## What’s Coming Up at BPS?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week:</th>
<th>Term One 2014</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tuesday 11th February</td>
<td>Cluster swimming sports for confident 3-6 students who can swim 50 metres in any stroke.</td>
<td>Make sure you have plenty of water, sunscreen and all your swimming needs. Good luck!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wednesday 12th February</td>
<td>Banking Day</td>
<td>Please try to remember to bring bank books tomorrow and we will look after them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY</td>
<td>Sue Reid—Information Session about our Personal Development program for Yrs 5/6 in Term 1</td>
<td>7.30pm-8.30pm at school. Weekly sessions for 5/6 from 19th February.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY</td>
<td>MARC Van Active After School—F-2</td>
<td>Return and borrow books Return blue form ASAP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Monday 17th February</td>
<td>SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING</td>
<td>Sub committees begin at 5.45 with whole school council meeting at 6.pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tuesday 18th February</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Monday 24th February</td>
<td>Responsible Pet Ownership sessions at Bethanga Primary</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Monday 3rd March</td>
<td>Deb will be at the Network Principals' Meeting in Wangaratta for the whole day.</td>
<td>Madonna will work in the 2/3 in Deb’s absence. Welcome back Madonna!</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tuesday 4th March</td>
<td>Pancake Breakfast to raise money for Uniting Care—homelessness</td>
<td>Please invite family, friends and community members. Let us know of numbers by Wednesday 26th February.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Friday 21st March</td>
<td>National Day against Bullying and Violence</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Monday 24th March</td>
<td>Presentation of our own Peace Flame from Wodonga West Rotary and Albury/Wodonga Peace Flame Committee</td>
<td>A special assembly will be held at 3.pm. Please come along for this special ceremony. Our children will sing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Attachments to Newsletter:
Please ensure that all forms have been sent back to school to save us chasing these up. **PLEASE COMPLETE ALL FORMS AND RETURN TO SCHOOL BY TOMORROW. (IE PHOTO/VIDEO/WEBSITE PERMISSION FORM; WALKING EXCURSION PERMISSION FORM; APPLICATION TO TRAVEL ON A SCHOOL BUS; BUS TRAVELLERS CODE OF CONDUCT; EMA APPLICATION FORM IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE).**

### Uniform Orders:
Have closed for this term.
BLUEARTH PROGRAM: Bluearth began on Wednesday. Our coach Cathryn Humphrey worked with F-2 and then 3-6. Our students and teachers had a great time participating in a variety of physical activities. Cathryn attends each fortnight and on the week she is absent, the classes will participate in a follow up Bluearth session. We will provide extra information over the coming weeks but feel free to go to http://www.bluearth.org if you would like to know more. Thanks again to MILSPEC Engineering who are providing a part sponsorship to our school for the Bluearth program for 2014/15.
Smiles on Dials

Disco & MC for all occasions
Albury/Wodonga and surrounding areas

Mark Lee
Tel: 0404 370965
smiles.on.dials@hotmail.com

BETHANGA GENERAL STORE
AND COFFEE SHOP

- Takeaway food
- Coffee, tea, milkshakes
- Cold Drinks
- Groceries
- Papers and magazines
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- Friendly Service

Please ring through all orders on 02 6026 4215
Open: 6.30am-7pm Monday-Saturday
8.00am-7pm Sunday

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Mick Childs
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(Please leave message if not answered–landline preferred)
bethangaauto@bigpond.com
mazz.mick@bigpond.com

Vehicle Services and repairs to cars, tractors, trucks, small and stationery engines.

Starter ropes and Caltex oils and lubes available

Workshop facilities

Onsite repairs (when viable)

Competitive rates.

BETRUMBLE TUMBLRES Indoor
Play Centre & Café
Unit 1 919 Calimo Street
North Albury
Phone: 6040 4450
Rumble Tumbles entertains the children and allow parents a place to be able to come and sit, read the paper, have a coffee and enjoy a bite to eat while the kids wear themselves out!

Party at Rumble Tumbles........ Rain, Hail or Shine, that peace of mind that your party is organised and hassle free is priceless.

OPENING TIMES:
Tuesday to Friday 9.30am to 3.00pm
Saturday & Sunday 9am to 4.30pm
NSW & VIC School Holidays
Monday to Sunday 9am to 4.30pm
Private parties available outside these hours by arrangement.
For further details Phone 6040 4450.

ADVERTISING SPACES FOR SALE

If you would like to advertise on this page of our newsletter please email your advertisement to bethanga.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au as soon as possible and we will send you an invoice. If you do not have email facilities, please drop your advertisement into the office.