



Bethanga Primary School

PRINCIPAL: Rachel Saunders

Our Purpose We provide all students from Bethanga, Bellbridge and beyond with an inspiring and responsive curriculum to promote thinking and encourage curiosity. We nurture individual talents and needs in our setting underpinned by high expectations, quality opportunities and caring personalized attention in order for our children to reach their full academic and social potential.

School Values **R**APPORT – **R**espect **A**cceptance **P**ersistence **P**ride **O**ptimism **R**esilience **T**ruth

Term 2 Week 4 2023

Newsletter published
Thursday 18th May 2023

Upcoming Dates

Friday 19th

**NERSSA Cross Country-
YACKANDANDAH**

Week 5

Thursday 25th

SSG Meetings

Week 6

Monday 29th

**Year 6 Transition Day-
Tallangatta**

Friday 2nd June

Cluster Day- USC

Week 7

Friday 9th

**Student Free Day- No Classes
Scheduled**

Week 8

Monday 12th

**NO SCHOOL- King's Birthday
Public holiday**

Week 9

Tuesday 20th - Friday 23rd

**Grade 3-4 Camp
15 Mile Creek**

Friday 23rd

**Last Day of Term 2- 2:30pm
finish**



Upcoming Staff Changes

Although staff absences are often unavoidable, we will endeavour where possible to communicate any planned changes in the newsletter each week.

Week 5

Mrs Smith away Monday-
Wednesday-
Replaced by Madonna

From the Principal's Pen:

Benefits of practising gratitude everyday are:



Increased levels of energy.



Feeling happier.



Become more focussed,
determined and optimistic.



Better sleep.



Lower levels of anxiety
and depression.



Less likely to get sick.

Here are some quick and easy ways to
include gratitude into your daily routine
with your whole family:



Think about a friend or family member you are grateful for and write them a letter. Tell them why they are important to you and what you love about them.

Around the dinner table or before bed, have everyone talk about 3 things that went well for them that day.

Have a discussion of what you are looking forward to the following day, week, month.

In alignment with what we are teaching our students as part of The Resilience Project work, I have been reflecting on what I am grateful for... It really is amazing that the more you take the time to consciously think about the things you are grateful for, the more you begin to 'see' examples of this all around you. I encourage our families this week to incorporate the family talk time suggestion listed here. On a school level, I am so very grateful for the students, staff and families we have in our community, our strong connections will never be taken for granted! In addition to this, I am also grateful for all of the wonderful 'real life' opportunities we are able to offer our students to enhance our delivery of the curriculum... Cluster Days, Sports Days, Performances and Camps! Of course, this keeps us very busy however the development of knowledge and student confidence is so worth it!

3/4 Camp



The 3/4 camp is now only a month away! All forms and deposits (\$50 non-refundable) should be returned by now however if you haven't as yet, please ensure you do so by the end of next week. Thank you to families who have chosen to pay the full \$200 (one less thing on your to-do list!) although we don't have clear due dates for the remaining payment of \$150, the expectation is that it is paid prior to going on camp on the 20th June (Parents are welcome to pay by cash or bank transfer, in whatever amounts suit your families financial situation. If you are doing Bank transfers, I just ask that you please use 'camp' as the reference.



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Students from 9 NERSSA schools will combine at the Yackandandah Recreation Reserve once again for our annual Cross Country event. Students in F-2 will participate in a modified event around the Reserve. Students in 3-4 will complete a 2km course and students in 5-6 will complete a 3km course – these courses are different to last year however thanks to Mr Vincent at Upper Sandy Creek Primary, I was able to show students today a bird's eye view as well as a 'runners' view of both courses (aligned beautifully with our Location focus in maths!). Below is the approximate marshalling/running times however, last year we did move through the age groups faster than expected. Please ensure parent approval is confirmed for this excursion via uEducateUs.

F-2 CROSS COUNTRY TIMETABLE

10.20am	Schools arrive
10.30am	Marshall together, briefing for the day
10.40am	Recess - Walk course
10.50am	Run through of day
11.00am	F-2 cross country starts - staggered start to ease threading of beads on lap 1
11.45am	Lunch
12.30pm	F-2 cross country finishes

YACKANDANDAH SPORTS PARK

3-6 CROSS COUNTRY TIMETABLE

10.20am	Schools arrive
10.30am	Marshall together, briefing for the day
10.40am	Students walk the track
11.00am	10 & under girls (2 kms) – Text marks to indicate turn points/laps.
11.15am	10 & under boys (2 kms) - Text marks to indicate turn points/laps.
	For races below- text marks to indicate turn points/laps.
11.30am	11-year girls (3 kms)
11.45am	11-year boys (3 kms)
12.00pm	12/13 girls (3 kms)
12.15pm	12/13 boys (3 kms)
	Pick up cones after the last runner
12.45pm	Debrief and finish

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At Bethanga Primary School, we are extremely committed to the implementation of the Child Safe standards to ensure our students are safe. As a small, rural school, we already have a culture of caring – everyone looks out for each other be that teacher, parent or child. As part of Standard 1 'Creating a culture of Child Safety' we would like to formalise this Caring Culture by requiring all of our community members (at a minimum, one adult per family) to complete a Victorian Working with Children Check. Once you have obtained this, or if you already have one, please either text a photo of the card or bring it in so that it can be added to our register. If you would like assistance to apply for this (the volunteer WWC is free), please contact me and I we can organise a session to support you to complete the process. Currently we have 10/22 families with a parent with current WWC which is 40% of our family population... I'd love for this to be 100% by the end of this year! To hit this, we need 4 parents to complete the process each term for the remainder of the year... will you be one of them?



At School Council on Monday night, we discussed the discontinuation of our OSHC program. Currently (Since the beginning of 2022) we are running a before and after school care program however the enrolment for this service is two families (and for one of those families it is purely to support the service). Kaitlin does a fantastic job and makes strong connections with the kids but in a time of massive staff shortages in all industries, she is really under-utilised here. There have been many times that Kaitlin has gone and worked at another Big Childcare Service due to staff shortages – she will not be left without a job if our service closes. Another contributing factor (further impacted by staff shortages within Big Childcare), I have been informed that Vacation Care Programs will not run unless there is 12 enrolments daily which is just not viable in our setting (this is modified from the new policy implemented for larger services that specify that it will not run unless there are 25 enrolments).

Before making this recommendation to School Council, I considered many factors: the number of enrolments in the service, alternative arrangements available to support working families to access care, the time that goes into liaising with the Provider vs the benefit to our school, the generation of enrolments based on having an OSHC program. I have confirmed with Bellbridge Early Years Centre that they are able to accommodate before school care for Bethanga students (and students would then catch the bus to school). I am currently investigating utilising the remaining funding from the OSHC Establishment Grant to purchase a mini bus to transport students requiring after school care to Talgarno Primary where this service is offered (This is supported by the co-ordinators of the OSHC Establishment Grant). I will officially take steps to discontinue the contract with Big Childcare (which they have agreed to when I was investigating this prior to school council as there is a clause that states that it can be discontinued if it is a mutual decision made by the School and the Provider) next week. So, for full transparency, I am providing this information to ALL families via the newsletter so that you have the opportunity to ring or email to discuss this if you would like to (cut off for feedback/questions will be Wednesday 24th May)

Kind Regards, Rach Saunders





Student Achievement

Congratulations to the students who were acknowledged at Assembly this week for being active learners and making positive contributions to the Bethanga Primary School community.

Amelia: for the interesting design features of your collage flower bouquet. You worked so diligently to create brilliant variety in your leaf shapes and an interesting, balanced composition. What a beautiful, finished product, Amelia!

Aleysha: for an excellent effort in all your homework tasks. You are enthusiastic, extend your learning and always try your very best. Your peers enjoy listening to you share your items. Well done, Aleysha! Keep it up!

Ollie: for the interest he has shown in our information writing this term. Ollie has been using great vocabulary such as 'mammals' in his information reports and will always include a realistic diagram with labels.

Olivia: for the amazing effort she is putting into her spelling. Olivia has improved her ability to spell high frequency words and is showing great persistence in our weekly spelling check ins. Keep it up, Olivia!

Hugo: for an outstanding effort every week with your homework tasks. You are dedicated and show enthusiasm during talk time. We love listening to you share. Well done, Hugo!

Art Cart Fresh Start!

It is exciting to be back for Term 2, ready to hit the ground running! This term, students will be learning all about *collage*, while continuing to build on their drawing skills and colour knowledge.

Collage: A piece of art made by sticking various materials, such as photographs and pieces of paper or fabric, on to a backing.

We will be using the artworks of some well-known artists and illustrators, both historical and modern, to inspire our collages this term.

We have already enjoyed making a big old mess while ripping and cutting paper to create flowers, trees and landscapes (despite the mess clean up afterwards!). I'm excited to see what our budding artists create over the coming weeks!



Hot Choc Tuesdays

On Tuesdays, starting next week (Tuesday 23rd May) student voice will be selling hot chocolates with marshmallows for the remainder of the term. A hot chocolate will cost \$2.

All monies raised from our hot chocolates will go towards the student led, student voice projects that will be happening around the school.



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Dear Daff,

We would like to sincerely thank you for your contribution to our school community. Over the years you have been a constant source of comfort for students, through your calm disposition and therapeutic cuddles. Mudgee will miss reading to you, having you lounge on the mat with us during group discussions and listening to you snore in the background while we work.

Daff officially finished up her position last Friday. We hope you enjoy a well earned rest at home with your family, out of the winter cold.

P.S. Arlo is in training to be at school more - he has big paws to fill!



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Get to know our community



Mrs Smith



What makes me a good friend?



Cookies and Cream

My favourite Ice cream flavour

My favourite game



Five Crowns

You have such a warm heart that touches everyone you connect with and I'm glad to have met you. Thank you for you HUG and your kindness. Miss Sutton
You are a really kind and funny person. Billy Blackburne

You are an awesome AUSLAN teacher! You are very nice, kind and funny! Thank you. Annie
You are so kind to everyone, you make my day 99% better. Archie

You are a great teacher to Mudgee. Denver
You are a great AUSLAN teacher. Keep it up! Brooke

You are the best teacher and great at AUSLAN and you are so kind. Reuben
You are a great AUSLAN teacher. You are kind, caring and compassionate. I like you a lot! Ava

You are the best teacher ever and I think you are the most energetic teacher in the world. Amelia
You're so funny and the kindest teacher ever. Olive

You are a great teacher and you're really funny. Billy Bayliss
You are a great Mudgee teacher and a great AUSLAN teacher. Jacob

You are amazing at teaching Mudgee. Chase
You are always happy and you are such a great teacher! Our school would be incomplete without you. Ivy Lodge

You are a supportive teacher to everyone. Angus
You always used to make me smile in Mudgee and still do. Keep it up. Hudson

You are very kind to me. I hope you have a good day today. Bree
The best thing about you would have to be you teaching me AUSLAN. Aleysha

I love you x 700. Hugo
You are a super star oh and you're super funny. Quinn

You are the best teacher. Remi
You are good at teaching. Nick

I love you because you help me. Olivia Bryant
You are a very good teacher to Mudgee. Jude

You are the best teacher. Olivia T
When I see you, you have a smile. Maggie

Happy bucket filler day. You are a great teacher. Have a great day and you are really good at teaching. Everly
You are amazing at teaching Mudgee. Lucy

You are the best teacher ever! Olivia Barrow
You are a good teacher. Brianna

You are so kind to me and I love you. Ivy
You are the best teacher. Ollie

You are a warm and caring person who lights up the room with your incredible smile.
(Forward tap, back up, side close side, double kick) Mrs Hamam

