

The Basin Primary School

Newsletter



IMPORTANT DATES

2026 School Dates

Term 1

January 28th – April 2nd

Term 2

April 20th – June 26th

Term 3

July 13th – Sept 18th

Term 4

Oct 5th – Dec 18th

2026 CALENDAR DATES

January 28th - 30th

Prep Student Testing Days

Monday 2nd February

First Day for PREPS

Friday 6th February

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAY



Wednesday 11th February

PFA AGM

7pm Staffroom

Monday 16th February

Parent - Teacher Interviews

2pm to 6:30pm

Tuesday 17th February

Gr 4 Lets Grow Incursion

Welcome back everybody to the 2026 school year. I hope that everyone managed to find some quality time to relax with friends and family during the summer break and that the start of this year has been a positive one for you all. The buzz in the yard yesterday morning brought the school back to life and the students have all settled into their classes so well.

This year, we again welcome new families to The Basin PS across all year levels, including our new Prep families. I know that the whole community joins us in welcoming you all to our school and trust that your time with us is positive and enjoyable.

Each year when we return, it is a pleasure to see such happy and enthusiastic faces, eager to renew old friendships, make some new ones and get back into some interesting and enjoyable learning. When staff chat to students, they share lovely holiday stories but they are also looking forward to their new school year and the opportunities that are in front of them. We would like to thank you, the parents, for your efforts in preparing your children so well for the start of the school year. Throughout the year, we will share through the newsletter, the many opportunities that our students have to shine.

A big thank you to the staff for all the preparations they have made for the 2026 school year. Teachers have already spent countless hours over the past weeks setting up the learning environments and planning to ensure a smooth start and exciting curriculum for the students this year. The Office and Education Support staff also worked on various administrative tasks to ensure that everything was ready for students.

I would also like to formally welcome Alec Baroni (Assistant Principal) and Melissa Bennett (Science) to the school this year. Both Alec and Melissa are excited to work at our fantastic school and we know that you will enjoy being part of The Basin community.

We would also like to welcome back to the school Claire Saliba (Gr 4) and Jess Holmes (Gr 5) who are returning from family leave and look forward to having both Claire and Jess as part of our school again.

Thursday 19th February*District Swimming**Prep Fun Night**5pm to 6:30pm***Friday 20th February***Prep Incursion***February 23 - March 15***Smile Squad Dental***23rd - 27th February***African Drumming Program***2nd - 4th March***Grade 6 Camp**Phillip Island***5th - 6th March***First Aid in Schools***16th - 18th March***Grade 5 Camp**Cave Hill Creek***24th March***Grade 5**Boronia K-12 Discovery Day***26th March***Harmony Day***2nd April***House Cross Country**Term ends 2:30pm***20th April***Term 2 Begins***DEVELOPING A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BASIN FAMILIES**

At The Basin we are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure all children can achieve their highest potential. We recognise that in order to be successful in school, our children need support from both the home and school, knowing that a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities, asking that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring:

1. Attendance at school daily and arrival on time, ready for the day's learning experience
2. Daily reading at home to develop a love for literature and to improve critical language skills
3. Sharing school experiences with you so that you are aware of your child's school life Working and "learning together" we can achieve great results.

Parental support of the teachers and the school's programs is also vital and includes displaying a positive attitude towards your child's learning, so I encourage you all to be fully involved in your child's education. Education is a Partnership! Let's all work together to ensure the best future for the children that we have in our care.

PARENT—TEACHER GOAL SETTING INTERVIEWS

We have set aside very important time for 'Parent/Teacher Goal Setting Interviews' on Monday February 16 (2:30pm—6:30pm). These meetings provide a timely opportunity for our teaching staff to form an effective partnership with each child's family. Working in partnership and having consistent expectations between home and school leads to better outcomes for our students. The Interviews are strictly 10 minutes and if you feel you need a longer time then a follow up time should be organised. The bookings for interviews can be done online through the Compass App and we will send out a notification when they are available.

TIMETABLE

In 2026 we will be having a new timetable. This change in timetable will allow us to maximise learning time in the morning session and accommodate the increase of our specialist sessions to 50 minutes.

- 9:00 – 11:30 – Learning Block 1 (3 x 50 minute sessions)
- 11:30 – 11:40 – Lunch eating time
- 11:40 – 12:20 – Lunch play
- 12:20 – 2:00 – Learning Block 2 (2 x 50 minute sessions)
- 2:00 – 2:40 – Recess Play
- 2:40 – 3:30 – Learning Block 3 (1 x 50 minute session)

NEWSLETTER

This year newsletters will be available fortnightly with a 'Student of the Week' edition every other week. These will be available on a Thursday. Each of these editions will contain lots of important information, dates and reminders so please be sure to read both versions. School families will be notified via a Compass notification and I urge parents to ensure that you regularly check Compass to ensure that you receive the information available.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Just a reminder that school photos are to be taken next Friday February 6. Class, Individual, Sibling and Group photos will all be taken on this day. To look our best and show pride in our school, as in all other days, students must wear their full school uniform for school photos. Orders for photos can be completed online using the code that will be sent home this week.



ASSEMBLY

Our first whole school assembly for 2026 will be held on Friday February 13. It will be commencing at 3:00pm in the Stadium. All our school community are welcome to attend assembly.

2026 PARENT PAYMENTS

Thank you to all those families who have paid the 2026 Parent Payments. Your contributions allow the school to continue to offer the programs that it does as well as maintain and improve the resources and facilities at the school. If you would like to arrange a payment plan option, please remember to contact the office directly as soon as possible to arrange.



During Term One, please remember that hats are compulsory at all times when outside at school (including Phys Ed sessions). As a Sunsmart school we strictly enforce the use of hats. If you need to buy a new one, please visit the Uniform Shop. Students who don't have a Sun Smart hat will be directed to play in a designated shade area. For further information go to: www.sunsmart.com.au

DROPPING OFF STUDENTS

Please be reminded that students should not be dropped off or be arriving at school before 8:45am. Supervision in the school yard commences at 8:45am every morning, and it is imperative that students arrive between 8:45am and 9:00am. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

CARPARKS

Student safety is of utmost importance to all of us. As we return from the break it is important for us to all work together to ensure that everyone is able to arrive and leave school safely. Please show courtesy and respect for each other when using our carparks and surrounding streets. Please take note of the following points in particular:

- Please move as far forward as possible when using the Kiss and Drop areas to allow as many cars into the line as possible and please do not leave your vehicle. If you need to leave your vehicle please park in one of the car parking spaces available.
- Please drive through the carpark at 10kmph or less - walking pace.
- Please wait for students, parents and staff to completely leave the pedestrian crossing before driving through.
- Please engage respectfully with school staff at all times
- No cars should park on Liverpool Road as it blocks the flow of traffic and impedes the view of traffic attempting to exit the school carpark.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

STUDENT INSURANCE – REMINDER FROM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Parents are reminded that the Department of Education does not offer any form of 'student accident insurance'. If families are concerned about this they are advised to make their own arrangements. Ambulance cover could be one consideration as the school will not hesitate to call an ambulance if we are concerned for a child's wellbeing.

PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AT THE 'OWNERS' RISK

The Department of Education does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools. All schools are requested to remind students and parents/guardians of this at the beginning of each academic year and to discourage parents/students from bringing any unnecessary or particularly valuable items to school. Please avoid bringing these items as it can be most upsetting for all concerned if items go missing or are damaged.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS (WWCC)

We encourage and value parental and community support at The Basin Primary School. There are many ways that parents, grandparents and friends can assist at our school. We encourage all parents to obtain a Working with Children's Check that will allow you to be very involved in your child's education. These checks are free for volunteers and will allow you to be involved as many school events as you require. Once you have your WWCC, please come to the office so we can photocopy this and we will add your name to our list of parents who have a current WWCC check.

UPDATE CONTACT DETAILS

As we are in the middle of the fire season it is a good time to remind our families to ensure that all your details are up to date at the school. If you have changed address, got a new phone number or have a new alternative contact please contact the office to give us the details so that we are able to contact you if required.

A new school year is always an exciting time and I again look forward to being part of our wonderful school community and working with our very passionate, talented and devoted staff and supportive families to provide a rich range of opportunities for our students.

Looking forward to a great year, take care
David Orlandi

ANNUAL PRIVACY REMINDER FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' privacy policy](#) and the [Schools' privacy collection notice](#).

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students policy, describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [\[Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education\]](#) safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' privacy policy: information for parents](#).



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

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 financial circumstances and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS and EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school excursions, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or support an out of home care student you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid directly 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 \$400 for all school students.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund>

HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments:** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances:** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

Library News



Mrs Wiersema



Mrs Mitchell



Mr O and Lexi



Mrs Krenn

Over the holidays many of our teachers spent time relaxing and enjoying a few good books.

Mr Orlandi promises he read – not books – but the water! He had to read the water conditions to see if it was suitable for skiing, fishing and surfing!



Mrs Smith



Mrs Durrand



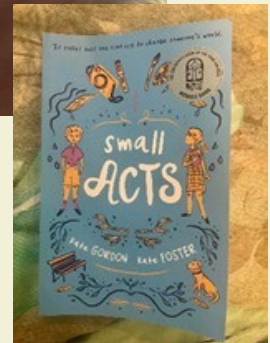
Mrs Pagnin



Mrs Dell



Mrs Bailey



Borrowing for the kids will begin very soon, once the borrower codes have been set up.

This year classes will alternate weekly between Library and Auslan, with all classes taking place in the Library. Borrowing will take place each week, even the Auslan week.

We encourage the junior students to read and return their books on a weekly basis. Once the students start to borrow fiction, we understand that books need to be borrowed for a greater length of time.

Students in Prep-2 can borrow 2 books at a time.

Students in grades 3-6 can borrow 4 books at a time.

It would be great if all students could bring a library bag to transport their books to and from school safely.

If you have any questions about Library or if you would just like to pop in to see our beautiful Library space please do!!

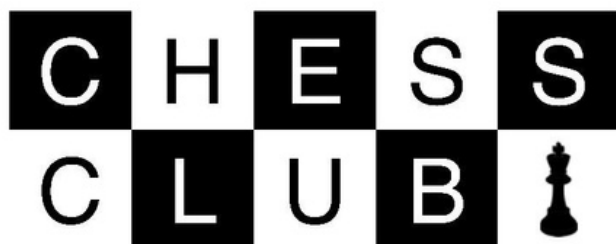
Jen Wiersema (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)

Abbe Saward (Wednesday)



CHECK OUT CHESS!!!

Dear Parents and Guardians, Chess Club will be kicking off on Wednesday 18th February, with five sessions for the term. Whether your child has been involved in Chess Club before or is just wondering if this is something they'd be interested in, our Term 1 program will be a great way to allow them to experience Chess Club. Our program has been very successful over the previous years with opportunities to develop skills and compete in tournaments. With experienced coaches, Chess Club is fun-filled with many enjoyable moments catering to each child's ability. It allows students to engage, through both lessons and games as they build and expand their understanding of the game of chess. Chess Club is available for Grades 2 to 6.



The Basin Primary School

Northern Star Chess will run lessons during Wednesday lunchtimes in the Library starting at 11.30am. The cost for our term 1 program is \$40 (\$8 per session). Session Dates: 18th Feb, 25th Feb, 11th Mar, 25th Mar, 1st Apr.

To register and pay for our Term 1 program please login to the Compass School portal and complete the required details. **Registrations and payment due Friday 12th February.** If you have any queries about joining Chess Club please feel free to contact me.

Andrew Weekes
The Basin PS Chess Coordinator



Wellbeing @ school

I trust the new school year has started well for you and your kid/s.

Well-being is taken seriously at TBPS with various options for support including our Chaplaincy service.

I thought being the first Newsletter for 2026 I would introduce myself.

I have 3 children who have all finished their schooling years now.

I love sport and play cricket in the Summer, Basketball in the Winter and the family is playing in a mixed Netball comp together for some fun. I enjoy coffee and helping people in life.

As part of the Wellbeing team I am available to see students who may need some help working through some struggles they may be going through.

If you think you would like some support then please connect in with the school leadership, class teacher or come have a chat with me.

May 2026 be filled with many blessings for you and the family.

Richard
School Chaplain



The Basin Primary School

PARENTS & FRIENDS Association

Who are we and what do we do?

The Basin Primary School Parents & Friends Association (PFA) is a dedicated group of parents and carers who meet twice each term to support our school community through:

- Organising community and fundraising events
- Assisting with school activities
- Bringing families together

Our goal is to help create a vibrant, connected, and supportive school environment.

We want you!

As of 2025, our PFA team has become much smaller, with many parents moving on as their children finished Grade 6. We're now looking for new members with fresh ideas and helping hands to keep our great school events running!

You don't need to commit a lot of time – every bit of help counts. The more people involved, the lighter (and more fun!) the load.

If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to have you!

First 2026 Meeting Date:
Wed 11th Feb @ 7pm
in the School Staff Room



To join or learn more, email pfatbps@gmail.com