

NEWSLETTER

PO Box 66 NORTH BENDIGO 3550

Dear Families

We are already half way through Term One!

It always amazes me how quickly time goes by when we are busy setting routines and learning how new groups work together.

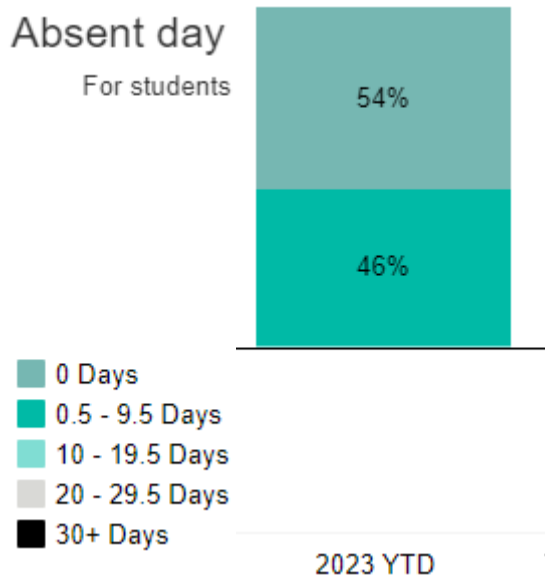
STUDENT ATTENDANCE

We are again focusing on student attendance this year.

We have over 80 students who have been at school every single day!

Well done to those students!

Others have missed a few days, but Sue and Ms G have done an awesome job checking in to see how we can help those students and families who have been away. We really appreciate families logging on to Compass or contacting us to let us know when a student is away and why.



SHELTER IN PLACE FIRE DRILL

We conducted our First Term Fire Drill earlier this week. This time we practiced sheltering in place– In the very unlikely event that evacuation from our school site is no longer a safe option, our school community will all move to our Gymnasium until the emergency has passed, or a more suitable alternative is made available by Emergency Services.

The school did such a great job! Only Mrs Johnstone, Kristie and I knew before the drill alarm sounded, but students and staff were all in the Gym within minutes!

Safety Drills, including Fire and Lockdown Drills are conducted each Term, in line with DET policy.

SAFE MOVEMENT IN THE CAR PARK AND ON HOLMES ROAD

The safety of children is our first priority. This should be the case for all. We acknowledge that the car park can be a very busy space particularly at the end of the school day. Unfortunately we have become concerned about the speed that cars are travelling in the car park. Additionally, there have been multiple occasions that cars are not exiting the car park safely. As per signage, it is illegal to conduct a right hand turn on exiting the car park.

We also ask that children do not walk across the carpark space—parents please get out of the car if parked on the opposite side to the gate and escort your children.

CROSSING HOLMES ROAD

For your child's safety we ask that all children use the crossing and wait for Doug, he is there to assist them across the road. We know that young children are not yet aware of traffic and may put themselves at risk in their eagerness to reunite with their family each day, which is why we ask the adults at school and within our community to help– be patient and BE A ROLE MODEL– follow the road rules, whether it be as a driver, passenger or as a pedestrian.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Lindsey Smylie will complete her tenure as a parent member of School Council in March, as her son has moved on to Secondary College. This has created another parent representative vacancy on School Council.

We are on the look-out for parents who are willing to attend a School Council Meeting once a month directly after school (usually between 3.45 and 5.00 pm).

As a School Council Member, you have the opportunity to offer input to school priorities, review our SWPBS school values and provide valuable feedback to staff as to how we can keep improving our wonderful school.

I have attached the forms for nomination– you can nominate yourself or another parent. PLEASE COME AND SEE ONE OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM IF YOU ARE UNSURE AND WOULD LIKE SOME MORE INFORMATION! We are happy to answer your questions.

SLC & HOUSE LEADERS 2023

Yesterday the 3-6 students voted on their class representatives to join the Student Leadership Council and lead the School Houses. The leaders were announced at the Assembly this afternoon. Congratulations leaders.



As Easter is fast approaching, we would like to get our Easter raffle happening. We would love it if you could bring in some Easter eggs for the raffle. Each classroom will have a box for their eggs and we will give a prize to the classroom that donates the most eggs in grams. Families can bring in one lot of eggs, and the weight of the bag will be split between the siblings homegroups. Start bringing your eggs in from next Wednesday, the first of March.

Don't forget we also need volunteers to help with parents and friends planned fundraisers and celebrations. Please feel free to talk one of the parents on the Association.

Jodie has Bella in Rm 2 and Charmaine in Room 4

Sonia has Jess in Rm 10

Hannah has Mia in Rm 3 and Evie in Rm 4.

Or you can see Kristie or Ms Ryan for more information.



SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS 2023

A) Notice of election and call for nominations	Monday 13th February 2023
B) Closing date for nominations	Monday 27th February 2023
C) Date by which ballot papers will be prepared and distributed (if required)	Thursday 2nd March 2023
D) Close of ballot	Friday 10th March 2023
E) March School Council Meeting (First council meeting to elect office bearers)	Thursday 16th March 2023

What is a school council and what does it do? All school councils in Victoria operate under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006. The school council has particular functions in setting and monitoring the school's direction. School councils have three main responsibilities:

Finance – overseeing the development of the school's annual budget and ensuring proper records are kept of the school's financial operation.

Strategic Planning – participating in the development and monitoring of the school's strategic plan.

Policy Development and Review – developing, reviewing and updating policies that reflect the school's values and support the school's broad direction outlined in its strategic plan.

What is a school council and what does it do? All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided 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? 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 Early Childhood Development (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not employed 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.
- ♦ An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members. The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

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.

What do you need to do to stand for election? The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March. If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category. Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election.

See attachments for nomination forms or pick one up from the office

Getting to Know You Conferences

It was wonderful to see some many of our families attend Getting to Know You Conferences. We had an attendance rate of 85% which is fantastic. These conferences gave parents/carers and teachers the opportunity to create a positive school/home partnership and create goals for the coming term. The feedback from both staff, parents/carers and students was very positive.



Monitoring and problem-solving words while reading

It is often tricky to know how much support to give when listening to your child read, or helping your child work out new or difficult words. Readers need the opportunity to develop their reading skills and their ability to problem solve independently. Part of good reading is learning to monitor our reading. Good readers notice when errors have been made, or when they become confused with what is happening in the text. They then problem solve and use strategies to fix up their errors in their word reading or their understanding. When readers get stuck on a new or unfamiliar word, they need the opportunity to problem solve using a range of different strategies.

It is important that you don't correct your child's errors straight away or tell your child a word before they have had an opportunity to problem solve the word themselves.

Questions you can ask to support monitoring

If your child has made some errors when reading aloud and not noticed when they have got to the end of a sentence or page, the following questions might help them. Try pointing at each word as you read to help them identify their error.

- You said _____. Does that sound right? Try that again and think what would sound right.
- You said _____. Does that make sense? Try that again and think of what would make sense.
- You said _____. Does that look right? Does the word you said look like the word on the page? Try that again and think of what would look right.

Questions you can ask to support unknown words

If your child is stuck on a word these questions might help them.

- Look at the picture. What word makes sense?
- Look at the picture. What can you see in the picture that might start with that letter?
- What letter (or letters) does the word start with/have in the middle/end with? What sound does that letter (or letters) make? Can you put those sounds together to make a word?
- Are there parts of this word you know? i.e. smaller words, base words, word endings, digraphs such as /ch/, /sh/
- Does that word sound right? Is there another word you could try?
- Let's skip the word and read on. What word would make sense there? Let's read it again.
- If they are still struggling tell them the word and move on.

Katrina Johnstone
Acting Assistant Principal



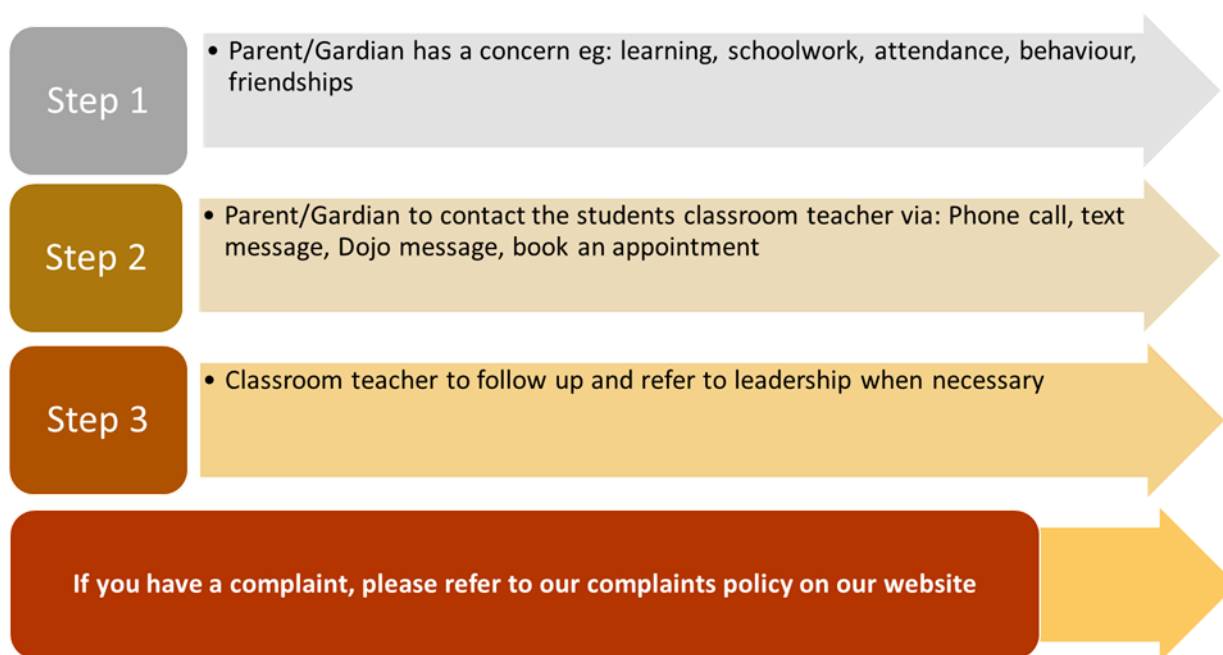
Breakfast Club

Breakfast club at Lighting Reef runs every morning from 8:30am — 8:55am.

Head Chef Jan and her assistant Miss G are there to provide milk, toast, cereal and sometimes special treats like spaghetti to any student that comes in, so come and say GOOD MORNING!

Parents: Reporting Concerns Flowchart

If you have a concern about your child, please follow the below flowchart to ensure your concern is heard and followed up according to our policies.



Useful websites/contacts

Kids Matter - www.kidsmatter.edu.au

Youth Beyond Blue - www.youthbeyondblue.com.au

Headspace - www.headspace.org.au

Reach Out - www.reachout.com

Raising Children Network - www.raisingchildren.net.au

Kids helpline - 1800 55 1800 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or [web counselling](#)

Parentline - 1300 30 1300 (8am to 10pm seven days a week) & [web counselling](#) Tuesdays and Thursdays between

ASSEMBLY AWARDS



We are now using



To login, you will require your unique family username and password. These details have been emailed to you, however if you are yet to receive them, please contact the school office.

You will initially be provided with a temporary password that you will be prompted to update to one of your choosing when you login for the first time.

To login, go to your school's Compass site. Type in your username and password and click 'Sign in'.

A screenshot of the Magic P-12 College login page. It features the school's crest on the left, which is a shield with a red and blue design. To the right of the crest are two input fields: "Username" and "Password". Below these fields is a "Sign in" button, and further down are social media icons for Google and Facebook. At the bottom, there is a "Remember me" checkbox and a link that says "Can't access your account?".

If it is the first time you are logging in, you will be required to confirm your email address and mobile number. These details may be used by the school for SMS/email communications and also, password recovery.

A screenshot of the "Welcome to the Magic P-12 College Parent Portal" page. It includes a heading, a paragraph of text explaining the purpose of the portal, and a section for "Mrs Sable BROOKS". Below this, there are input fields for "Mobile" and "Email" numbers.

Also when logging in for the first time, once you have confirmed your details, you will be required to change your temporary password to one of your choosing. When you have entered your new password, click 'Save'.

A screenshot of a password change form. It starts with the heading "Next, you will need to change your password". Below this is a section titled "Your new password must:" followed by a list of requirements: "Not contain your username", "Not be a password recently used by this account", "Be at least eight (8) characters in length", "Contain at least one (1) UPPERCASE letter", "Contain at least one (1) lowercase letter", and "Contain at least one (1) number". At the bottom, there are input fields for "New Password:" and "Confirm New Password:", and a "Save" button.

HAVE YOU LOGGED IN YET?
DOWNLOAD THE APP NOW
and search for Lightning Reef
Primary School!

We're excited to welcome your child back into the classroom.

Being at school is critical for your child's learning and their mental, physical, and social wellbeing.

Every day of attending school counts.

We want to support your child to have a positive start to the year. We will do this by:

- helping your child to re-establish positive school attendance routines
- working with you with respect to your child's wellbeing and learning needs
ensuring we understand where your child is up to with their learning and social-emotional development, where required
providing targeted support to help them progress

If your child is absent, please mark on Compass and provide a reason. If you don't, we will call to see if everything is okay.

If you have any concerns, please contact your classroom teacher who may refer to leadership when needed □

Amy Gillett- Wellbeing & Attendance Leader

**Happy Birthday to Charlotte A,
Aye Moo Kyi, Ryder D and Eh Paw
Khee.**

We hope you had an amazing day.



Calendar of events:

Monday March 13th– Labour
Day - no school

Wednesday March 15th -
Naplan testing begins

Tuesday March 21st - School
photos

Thursday April 6th - Fun run
and last day of Term 1

Monday April 24th - Term 2
begins

CONTACT US:

5443 2501

Acting Principal:

Jo Ryan

Business Manager:

Kristie Coates

Leader– Student Wellbeing:

Amy Gillett

Leader– Disability & Inclusion:

Paul Keller

Leader– Teaching & Learning

Katrina Johnstone

Social Worker:

Gai Maddams

School Council President

Daria Turnbull

Parents and Friends

Sonia Valli & Jodie Madon

**Please
remember
smoking is
banned
within four
metres of an
entrance to
all Victorian
Schools and
within the
school
grounds, this
includes our
shared
entrance and
the bus stop**



If you are missing any clothing items
please check our lost property.

It is located in the office area just inside the
front door.



BE YOUR BEST



BE RESPECTFUL



BE CO-OPERATIVE



BE RESPONSIBLE



School preparedness and pre-emptive actions for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings indicate how dangerous a fire would be if one started in those conditions and provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life. They can be a trigger for action in community and for school and household level fire plans.



Schools and children’s services listed on the Department of Education and Training’s Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at some lower risk of bushfire or grassfire on the Category 4 list will be closed when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their Bureau of Meteorology district.

Schools and early childhood services listed on the Department of Education and Training’s Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at lower risk of bushfire or grassfire on the Category 4 list take pre-emptive actions on elevated fire danger days to minimise the risk of being caught in a fire in these conditions. The category of risk (per the BARR or Category 4 list) determines the actions that the school or early childhood service will need to take on days of elevated fire danger.

Our school has been identified as being one of these schools at high bushfire or grassfire risk, and is a BARR school.

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as **Catastrophic fire danger rating** in the **Northern Country fire district**.

The department will advise our school of the potential for a **Catastrophic fire danger rating** as information becomes available, however the pre-emptive closure will be **confirmed by 1pm the day prior to Catastrophic fire danger day**.

Fire danger ratings are forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology up to four days in advance. Should a Catastrophic day be forecast, we will notify you of the potential closure by an email or hard copy letter, SMS and Compass notification. Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for the Bureau of Meteorology district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- Depending on which fire weather district is impacted, bus route cancellations may affect our school.

Families are encouraged to enact their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days. **On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.**

For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

As part of preparing our school for potential hazards such as fire, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan and reprioritised any maintenance works that may assist in preparing for the threat of fire and cleared our facility's grounds and gutters.

What can parents do?

- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements in the event that our school is closed due to elevated fire danger or a Catastrophic fire forecast. Further information can be found on the [CFA's website](#).
- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers. Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters, checking Compass, by talking to your child's teacher or any other member of the teaching staff about our emergency management plan.
- Most importantly at this time of year, if you're planning a holiday or short stay in the bush or in a coastal area, you should check warnings in advance of travel and remain vigilant during your stay.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's Bushfire Survival Plan.
- You can access current information about school and early childhood services closures, including those due to elevated fire danger, on the Department of Education and Training's website - see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/health/pages/closures.aspx>

Multiple sources that offer information on emergencies are listed below:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <https://emergency.vic.gov.au>
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency>)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/vicemergency>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

All proceeds support the
Bendigo Health Foundation

BENDIGO HEALTH
fundraising & foundation

Bendigo Ford
FUN RUN
Ford

**Sunday
5 March
2023**

Rosalind Park, Bendigo



1km KIDS DASH
PRESENTED BY
Jenny's Early Learning Centre

5km RUN/WALK
PRESENTED BY
POB Physiotherapy Centre Bendigo

5km BUSINESS CHALLENGE
PRESENTED BY
TSFN

10km FUN RUN
PRESENTED BY
AGNICO EAGLE FOOTBALL CLUB

21.1km HALF MARATHON

REGISTER NOW
bendigofordfunrun.com.au



NAMING RIGHTS SPONSOR



MAJOR SPONSORS



MEDIA PARTNERS



SUPPORTING SPONSORS & PARTNERS



FREE COFFEE and snacks!
No booking required.



CARERS SUPPORT GROUP

**Support Groups for anyone caring for a person who is
under 18 with disability, developmental delay,
neurodiversity and/or mental ill-health**

If you don't live in the
Bendigo region, you can
join us online by calling us
on: 0488 605 363
We can send you a zoom
link!



Morning Tea Group
Date: 1st and 3rd Thursday
of each month

Time: 10am – 12 noon

Where: 480 Hargreaves St.
Bendigo

If you have any forms or
documents you need help
with, please bring them along!

