

BEEAC PRIMARY  
SCHOOL

LANG STREET

BEEAC 3251

PRINCIPAL:

ANDREW ROGERS

PH. 0352 346 463

**20 June:** Finance.

**21 June:** Council meeting 7.00pm

**22 June:** Parent/ teacher interviews

**24 June:** CSEF program closes

**27 July:** secondary acceptance of

enrolment forwarded to parents.

**10 August:** acceptance of secondary

enrolment by parents to Beecac

PS

**1 September:** second visit Wide

Smiles Dental check up

**17th August:** probable whole

school performance at Costa Hall,

Geelong.

**23-26/8 August:** Mt Buller excursion

Grades 3 to 6

**9 September:** Colac Division Basket-

ball

**7 October:** GW Athletics Ballarat

Regional Athletics Centre.

**17 October:** Winchelsea Neighbourhood

Watch, whole school

excursion.

**31 October:** school shut, whole

school PD Day

**1 November:** Melbourne Cup

**4 November:** Colac Division Cricket

at GMHBA Stadium for our big kids

**9 November:** GMHBA Healthy

Heroes Leaders Celebration day at

GMHBA Stadium for our big kids

**26 November 2022:** Victorian

State Election, school voting centre.

**12 December:** whole school excursion

Melbourne Arts Centre Christmas

melodies.

**13 December:** State wide Grade

6/7 secondary schools hosted orientation

day.

**19 December:** Christmas Concert

**20 December:** last day of term,

teachers tidy up post concert.. No

students required at school.

**27 January 2023:** teachers only

return to school

**30 January 2023:** students return

to school

**26 - 28 July 2023:** Beecac PS

cluster Urban Camp Melbourne,

Grades 4,5 and 6 students

# Beeac Primary School



Beecac Primary School is a child safe school

6 June 2022

## Last week.

Welcome everybody to the last week of a term which has been busy beyond belief. With a finish time of 2.30pm this Friday, we have one final hurdle to sprint over before we get there. I'm sure that most parents have signed up for parent/ teacher interviews this Wednesday starting at 2.15pm and finishing at 6.00pm. These meetings are an important opportunity for us all to get together and make sure that we are all working together in the best interests of our children.

The booking sheet printed with this newsletter is available if you have not yet signed up. If you find that someone else has already beaten you to the only time slot you are able to attend, or indeed even if you cannot get to our school at all this Wednesday we would still like to meet with you. Do please contact us to make another time which will suit all parties.

## 14 "new" policies and procedures on our website for your comments.

Actually most of these new policies have already been written and in operation in an earlier form. However this is the first time in four years that they have been updated. Sometimes the updates have been substantial. For example our new Child Safety Code of Conduct, which still has to be approved by Council, continues to uphold the safety of all children at all times. The new version is quite specific and explicit about who will be protected. On page 1, for example, it states that we will be, "promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal students, students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, students with a disability, international students, students who are unable to live at home and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTIQ+) students."

Additionally, whilst the original policies have been available for parents by request, they are now publicly available for you to look at, because I've uploaded them to our school website ahead of tomorrow night's council meeting.

This is a very short timeline for you to have access to them and for you in turn to comment on them, I realise. But, the timeline is not of my making. Should you find parts of any of the policies that concern you, do please contact me. I would be delighted to talk about your concerns with you and take them forward for to our council for further discussion.

I should make it clear that each of the policies has been adapted from original Department templates, and that almost all of the statements are Departmental statements which we cannot change. Each of the policies however has been personalised to suit the specific situations at our school.

## From policy to practice: please keep speaking to us.

Whilst we make sure that we are up to date with all our policies, that doesn't necessarily guarantee that every child bounces out of bed every morning desperate to get to school. For example we have a great policy "Beecac Primary School Bullying Prevention Policy" which describes how bullying will be addressed at our school.

But how well does that policy actually get implemented at our school? At the policy level I believe that it has been implemented well at our school, but as readers may know: in the last two years one family has chosen to leave our school because they believed that we implement the policy too harshly. And during the same time we have had a family leave because they believe that we implement it too softly! It isn't the policy that will dictate how much your child enjoys school. It is the way we manage it that is vital for your child.

Parents will be mindful of the fact that our core purpose is to teach all of our students to be the best that they can be and that we work hard to make each day the best it can be for all our children. Despite our best efforts we don't always succeed of course, and that's where you parents play a vital part. Yes, you can vote with your feet and move school if we are too harsh or soft with the way we implement policies. But raising your concerns with us and working together to solve problems is a better way forward, I believe. Do please come and talk to us about what is concerning you. I'm often amazed by the fact that parents wait for six months or more before coming to talk about what's upsetting them. And that's too long for things not to be going right in a child's life.

Will talking to us solve the problem? Sometimes it does. We can offer you an apology and often solve your concern quickly if we know about it quickly. But in many cases we can't. Problems are often complex and evolving and need many meetings over many years to resolve. And I'd like to thank those parents who keep the conversation going and don't lose faith in us.

But if you have been reasonable, and tried everything and things still aren't right, what can you do if you aren't happy with how your concerns are being addressed. Do please read the "Beecac Primary School Complaints Policy." it describes some suggested processes for parents to consider, including having a friend attend meetings, and includes a complaints number to the Region, if you believe that you have tried everything and things are still not being resolved.

## Ending the term's theme.

Sue Bath taught students in the Big Room how to make recycled paper. This was a nice way to end the term's theme of: reduce, reuse, recycle.

## Party last day.

We are returning to our traditional last day party format. Come in casuals if you wish, please bring in a plate of party food to share, and be prepared for a movie and fun as all the classes come together to celebrate the last day of term two.

PTO: Term dates & Student of the Week



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**Beeac's Garage,**  
55 Main St., Beeac  
Servicing, break downs  
and repairs to late model  
cars, lawnmowers and  
some machinery. Towing  
cars available. Now  
carrying out servicing on  
vehicle air conditioning.

For all enquiries and  
bookings call Jason on  
0417 412 152

**Student of the week**  
**Kendra Beani** for looking out  
for her younger peers and main-  
taining a positive mindset in  
class 10/6  
**Katie Loudon:** having a posi-  
tive attitude and staying on  
task. 20/6

Term Dates	Start	Finish
2022 Term 1	31/1	8/4
2022 Term 2	26/4	24/6
2022 Term 3	11/7	16/9
2022 Term 4	3/10	20/12

### Put Your Oxygen Mask On First



### Chris Daicos whole school staff PD.

You need to look after yourself before you can look after the students, was the theme of Friday's whole staff PD. Nine of us listened to a presentation from Chris, which acknowledged the interesting times that we have lived in over the last two and a half years.

Some themes were familiar to us all, including the need to get eight hours of sleep a night and not the four to six hours that most of us are apparently getting at the moment! References to the work of Martin Seligman and Rational Emotional Therapy were at the core of her message. Science based research suggests that how we think of ourselves predicts how we will deal with the world. Indeed that point alone impacts so profoundly that not only does it predict how healthy, happy and wealthy we will be, it even predicts how long we can expect to live!

If you are interested in any of this, why not try out these two free questionnaires she shared with us on the day.

[VIA Character Strengths Survey & Character Reports | VIA Institute Login - The PERMAH Wellbeing Survey \(permahsurvey.com\)](#)

### Job opportunity: cleaner at Beeac PS.

This is a reprint from the last newsletter. I am REALLY REALLY REALLY keen for the new appointment to be someone from our parent body.

On Sunday evening I received the following Departmental email, "From 11.59pm on Friday 24 June 2022 (in effect the start of Term 3), staff in mainstream schools will no longer be required to meet vaccination requirements to attend work..... Vaccination remains strongly recommended for all staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors working at Victorian government schools". I await clarification about the detail of this information, but this may be good news for someone who is interested, but don't presently meet the Department's soon to be out of date requirement of three vaccinations.

Do please contact me if you know of anyone, before I reluctantly end up having to share this request with a wider audience.

Wendy Aisbett, has unexpectedly announced that she would like to leave her job when a replacement can be found for the position. Whilst Wendy has enjoyed the job, she is very busy with many commitments which take up her time. The job involves an hour of cleaning after school five days a week. The school cleaning is supplied by an external contractor Grant Walker. At a base rate of \$24.97 an hour this could provide a handy extra income. The decision about who will be employed will be made by Grant, who can be contacted on 0407093614. Do please ring him for further information. I hope we can find someone willing to give it a go. Wendy will be willing to show the successful applicant, what the job involves. I will catch up with Grant in a week's time to see how things are progressing.

### Public holiday.

We have one more on the 1st of November for the Melbourne Cup, and in addition a student free day on the 31st of October for a whole school professional development day.

### More RATs than you can poke a stick at.

RAT tests and powerful air purifiers are the most obvious signs of how the government is addressing how to keep schools as free as possible of covid. We have just received a large number of RATs which will shortly be coming home with your child. If you are like me your cupboards will be nearly filling up with them! The advice for when to use them is as follows:

It is recommended that RATs are used by students and staff, only when symptomatic. RATs are also required to be used for 5 days if a student or staff member is a close contact of a confirmed case and they are attending or working at a school.

According to the press, modest changes to the stay at home five day rule will also be lifted from next Saturday, when, "Mask mandates will be removed ..... people who have COVID-19 will be able to drive children to school". (Mask mandate in Victorian airports lifts, workplace job rules changed June 18 The Age)

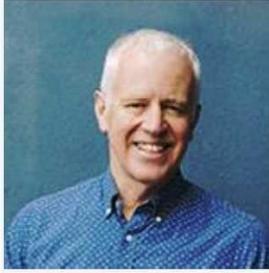
Less obvious, but probably more importantly is the way that we use management practices to minimise contamination between students and adults during our everyday lives at school. These include the points that we hope parents will observe when you visit us for parent/teacher interviews this Wednesday.

1. We ask that you practice good hand hygiene, particularly on arrival to school.
2. Unless medically at risk, face masks are recommended, but not required in any school settings
3. To add safe distance barriers between families please adhere to your appointment times and enter and leave the building promptly within your appointed time limit..

### Parents and Friends pie drive.

The P&F are running our pie drive fundraiser again. Order forms will go home this week and need to be returned with money by Thursday 14th July. Don't miss out on the beautiful pies baked at Ritcho's Bakery in Colac with the added bonus of fundraising for the school.

# Know what makes boys tick



by Michael Grose

Boys can be a mystery to many parents, particularly those who were raised in all-girl households or who have had minimum exposure to males in their formative years. Here are some insights into what makes boys tick:

## Boys are more likely to learn from experience than being told

Boys, more than girls, are likely to learn many of their lessons from experience rather than being told. This can make parenting them challenging, particularly if you don't have an appetite for risk yourself. Perhaps the biggest challenge is keeping them safe so some risks need to be out-of-bounds. It can also be difficult as a parent being the support person when the lessons that boys learn bring hardship and tears.

## Boys brains are designed by a different architect

In the first five years of life a girl's brain is busy developing fine motor skills, verbal skills and social skills, which are all highly valued by parents and teachers. Meanwhile, a boy's brain is busy developing gross motor skills, spatial skills and visual skills. These are all handy hunting skills. So boys often start school with a distinct disadvantage when it comes to learning and fitting in. You can overcome this disadvantage through extra fine motor activities in the early years.

## Boys mature differently to girls

The maturity gap between boys and girls of anywhere between 12 months and two years, seems to be consistent all the way to adulthood. Parents should take this into account when deciding the school starting age of their sons. This maturity gap is also evident when kids

supporting boys well into their adulthood.

### Loyalty is high driver for boys

Understand that a boy's loyalty to his friends and family is a key driver and you'll begin to understand the male psyche. They are incredibly influenced by their peers, which can hold many of them back. It takes a brave boy to get too far ahead of the pack, so they often hold each other back when it comes to achieving. Use encouragement rather than praise to motivate your son, thus decreasing his reliance on others for approval.

### Boys are more likely to be visual learners

Boys generally need a reason to learn. If you are having difficulty motivating your son then try linking learning to their interests. They may play a musical instrument when they know they can play in a band or practise their kicking a football if they can see it will help kick more goals. If they love skateboarding the chances are they want to know more about it, so use this as a lever to motivate them if reading is a problem.

### Boys benefit greatly from silence

Boys don't have the same innate tendency for reflection that girls are born with. Don't get me wrong, males of all ages have the ability to reflect on their behaviours, values and their lives (when older) but they need the environment to be right for them to do so. Quiet time and down time give boys the chance to let their thoughts wander around inside their heads. It also helps them get to know and even like themselves. Boys will often do their best thinking on their own, so they tend to retreat to their caves (bedroom) when things go wrong at school or in their relationships. They need to go within to find their own answer.

### Boys just want to blend in

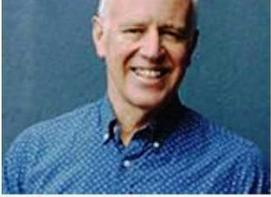
Boys are group-oriented by nature. They want to fit in. They tend to play group games and form themselves into structured friendship groups. Boys generally don't want to stand out from the crowd.

Don't put them down in front of their friends and understand that they may make poor friendship choices rather than be in a group of one – by themselves. They prefer the 'wrong friends' rather than no friends at all.

### Approval is at the heart of parenting boys

Approval is at the heart of working parenting boys. They will walk over broken glass or hot coals if they feel you like them. In a sense this notion holds many of them back, as most boys will only work for a teacher if they like them and close down on learning if they sense the teacher doesn't like them. If as a mum or dad you show your love and approval of them personally, even though you may not always approve of their choice of behaviours then you'll more than likely enjoy a strong relationship with your son.

Take the time to nurture a relationship with your sons or the boys that you interact with. Some boys like to talk; others like to share an activity; some like you as an adult to do something for them; others are very kinaesthetic and love to be touched, cuddled and



## Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.

## Parent teacher interview time request: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

Please complete the following form and return it as soon as possible. We will make every effort to allocate your nominated time, but may need to allocate you on a first in basis. Parents not returning a preferred time will be allocated a time. If the time that we allocate you does not suit, please contact the school so that a mutually agreed time can be reached. Please list one time slot for each child.

### **Covid arrangements**

1. We ask that you practice good hand hygiene, particularly on arrival to school.
2. Unless medically at risk, face masks are recommended, but not required in any school settings
3. To add safe distance barriers between families please adhere to your appointment times and enter and leave the building promptly within your appointed time limit.

Time	Kara Wishart*	Jackie Wilson*	Paul Maddern
2.15pm – 2.30pm			
2.30pm – 2.45pm			
2.45pm – 3.00pm			
3.00pm – 3.15pm			
3.15pm – 3.30pm			
3.30pm – 3.45pm			
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4.45pm – 5.00pm			
5.00pm – 5.15pm			
5.15pm – 5.30pm			
5.30pm – 5.45 pm			
5.45pm – 6.00pm			

\*If you wish to see both Year 2-3 teachers, please book time slots for both. Book the slots following each other.