



BERRINBA EAST STATE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER 2020

Berrinba East State School Newsletter
ISSUE 2020/15 Wednesday 28th May 2020



From the Principal
Mr Steve Kanowski

Welcome back

All our staff was very excited to have all students return to school this week. While a majority of our students did an amazing job accessing learning at home through our virtual and/or paper-based programs, we are excited to be in a position to accelerate student learning. Given the time away from the school site, it is important that we are mindful of student attendance moving forward. While I strongly encourage students to stay away from school if they are ill, missing school days for other reasons such as birthdays, family visits, shopping trips, etc. cannot occur.

Our teachers have been working hard to ensure learning in the classroom is highly engaging for our returning students. This has seen students engaging in nature play and outdoor learning as well as accessing our loose parts space for maths and STEM lessons.

Drop off and collection process

I would like to express my gratitude towards the majority of families who have modelled patience and understanding to our students through their conduct at the drop off and collection areas. Our staff have been encouraged by the friendly chats and hellos they have been receiving. While I acknowledge there has been some poor behaviour displayed by a very small number of parents, please be assured that this behaviour has not overshadowed the incredibly positive response we have received by most our parents.

While our process has become streamlined due to parents becoming familiar with it, there are a few tips we would like parents to consider –

- Please maintain social distancing while you wait at the walking drop off/pick up area. Once you have collected your children, please move on.

- Turn left out onto Bardon Road. All it takes is one car to turn right to halt any movement in the car park.
- Ensure your child know what area you will pick them up from. On tip might be to write this on a bag tag and attach it to their bag.

Again, I would like to express my gratitude to all the parents who have worked with in implementing this process.

Facilities Update

Within the next month there will be some major work happening in our school. The biggest project is the removal of two classroom blocks (F and G Block) from our school. These buildings will be removed due to their physical state and that they are current excess to our school needs.

This work follows the completion of our school air conditioning fit out. There is still work to be done with the but the air conditioners in every teaching space will be operational once the warmer weather returns.

#DIS Moments

With our partnership with the Resilience Project, our staff and students practice displays of gratitude by identifying them using the term #dis. A few of my #dis moments for the week just gone include –

- The expression of thanks from parents for our staff efforts in the drop off/pick up zone. One parent was even kind enough to buy hot drinks for a few of the staff standing there on a cold morning.
- The work of Mr Clubb and Mr Collie working with our Social and Emotional Intervention groups in the Forest and Loose Parts Spaces.
- A few parents saw a visitor to our school and started discussing how appreciative they were of the efforts of our staff during the learning at home period. This visitor turned out to be the Assistant Regional Director so it was nice for her to hear this.
- The efforts of our cleaners who have gone above and beyond to ensure our school environment is safe. Our cleaners are some of the hardest working people I have ever worked with and have gone to amazing lengths, with minimal fuss, to ensure all hygiene risks are minimised at our school.

Steve Kanowski
Principal



**From the Deputy Principal – Prep to Year 2
Miss Kathryn Marshall**

Outdoor Learning – Forest Play

Another of our developing outdoor learning spaces is the forest, positioned at the back of the school. This space replicates what you might have heard described as ‘Bush Kindy’ for younger children.

There is strong evidence that good quality learning and nature play adds much value to classroom/indoor learning. It can lead to a deeper understanding of the concepts that span traditional subject boundaries and which are frequently difficult to teach effectively using classroom methods alone.

Some of the ways that exposure to the natural environment is beneficial to student's learning and health are:

- * an opportunity to practice and develop personal and social communication skills
- * increased physical health, supporting the development of healthy, active lifestyles
- * enhanced mental and spiritual health (linked to mindfulness and resilience)
- * developing resilience to challenges and responsibilities
- * learning to manage risk and cope with change
- * develop the learning skills of enquiry, experiment, feedback, reflection, review, communication, problem solving and cooperative learning

Mr Clubb and Mr Collie have been working with some groups of students, introducing the concept of Forest School. This week they have been cooperatively building tepee or cubby structures using material found in the forest.



OUTDOOR LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

- ✓ *1,2,3 Basecamp*
- ✓ *No Pick No Lick*
- ✓ *Stay within the boundary*
- ✓ *Trade with others*
- ✓ *Reset the area*

The work our staff and school are doing is informed greatly by a partnership with Nature Play QLD. If you would like to learn more about Nature Play Qld and opportunities to attend bush kindies with little ones, jump on the Nature Play Qld Facebook Page.

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=nature%20play%20qld>

Whilst in the forest, students work within the following expectations. These are designed to help students learn to manage the low level risks of learning in outdoor areas.

As with loose parts, a key reflection question for students is :

“Tell me how you are being safe.”

We are excited to see more learning gradually occur in the forest area, with our Year 2 students gradually working towards much more outdoor learning in Term 3.



Nature Play QLD
Community Organization



From the Deputy Principal – Year 3 to 6 Mr Harry Stirk

Return to school tips

It has been great to welcome most of our students back to school this past week. Some of our students have had up to nine weeks away from school, which is likely to be the longest time away from school they've ever experienced. Teachers have been working hard to re-establish routines, review classroom and school-wide expectations and ensure students are feeling comfortable as we slowly return to normal. Our school has developed a range of processes and procedures to assist students as they return to the classroom, however parents and carers also play a key role in ensuring the transition back to school is as seamless as possible.

Here are a few tips:

- Get back into the school-day routine – waking up, eating and going to bed at regular times.
- Get your child involved in planning out their lunches and snacks.
- Plenty of detail can be calming. Talk through the steps of a successful day.
- Stick to familiar routines as much as possible. Try to have a calm evening and allow more time to settle before going to bed.
- Help your child pack their bag the night before. A visual checklist can help them remember what they need to take. Lay out their clothes so everything is ready for the morning.
- Allow some extra time to get ready so you're not rushing.
- Tell your child where to meet you in the afternoon.
- Talk through any issues or fears your child might have.

And finally, check your own behaviour. In such changing and uncertain times, it's important to try and keep your own anxiety levels under control. The more you can stay calm and present the return to school as a fun, positive experience – the better.

Should I be worried?

- It might take time for your child to adjust as we return to school. If you notice changes in your child's behaviour lasting beyond the next few weeks, speak to your child's teacher about your concerns.

P&C NEWS

Tuckshop and Uniform Shop are closed until further notice.

YMCA OSHC

Hi BESS Families,

We are loving seeing more familiar faces back at OSHC. While we missed our service buzzing with so many children and families, it was a great opportunity for staff to get organised and set up our Vacation Care Program for June/July. This is now complete and we are looking forward to opening up our bookings soon.

At OSHC we had a busy fortnight full of exciting projects for our children to pamper their mum's for Mother's Day and extend on their interest of Insects. We have also had a great time partnering with Mr. Clubb & Mr.

Collie, donating some extra items for the gardens they have been setting up around the school. We can't wait to see these new exciting spaces open for children to explore.

Have a fantastic week and stay safe.
The YMCA OSHC Team

BREAKFAST CLUB CLOSED

Breakfast Club is closed until further notice.

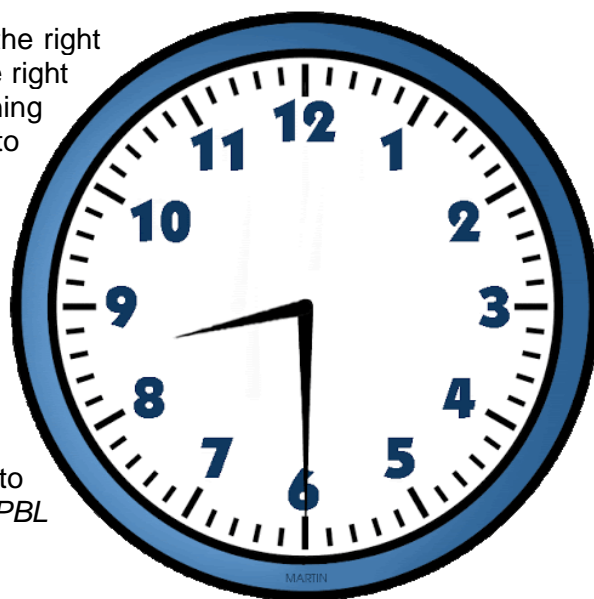
PBL FOCUS OF THE WEEK

PBL Focus of the Week

This week's PBL focus is 'I am Safe- I am in the right place at the right time'. This focus is all about making sure that students are in the right place at all times throughout the day, this may be being in the learning area, being in their designated eating and play areas and getting to class on time.

The challenge this week for our PBL focus is to aim to be in the right place at the right time every day. By following this expectation, supervisors are able to keep all students safe during learning time and lunch times. There are some great lunch time activities that are open to students and each activity is supervised. What activities do your children do at lunch times?

For more information and examples you can head over to the *Berrinba East State School YouTube channel* to find the *PBL Lesson for Term 2 Week 6*.



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