



Briar Hill  
Primary School

# Briar Hill Broadcast

Newsletter 16

Friday 19th July 2019

## Principal Report

### A Quiet Start

The children have steeled back into routine quickly after the winter break. The play pod is up and running and at this stage classes are taking it in turns. I managed to pop into most classrooms and listen to the stories from the Holidays. The movies seem like a very popular choice and there were certainly less families travelling compared to the Easter break.

### Spring Fair

A date has been set for the BHPS Spring Fair, Sunday October 27<sup>th</sup>. This is our major fundraiser for the year with last year's funds going towards the installation of student kitchen & cooking facilities. Each year we rely on the kindness of parents to plan and run the Spring Fair. We are in **urgent** need of a small group of volunteers to begin Spring Fair preparation. Please consider being a part of the Spring Fair working committee. Contact me if you are willing to help.

### The Kitchen Update

The Kitchen is coming together and look fantastic!! Sang Vo along with Nick Matthews, Anthony Nicklen, and Mark Oretti have been flat out. The timber benchtops made by Sang are particularly impressive! If you able to help with painting please contact Sang on 0416630122.

### Tuckshop Increased Price

Lunch in the Tuckshop has been increased to \$6.00. It was a decision not taken lightly by School Council but School Council is required to ensure that the Tuckshop breaks even. It's also not supposed to make profit either! We all love the tuckshop. Most staff eat Deb's meal each Thursday and I certainly look forward to not having to think about lunch on the day. It's a program that actually draws enrolments to our great school and we need to continue to support the meals each week.

## Dates to Remember

### JULY

24th German Feast 6pm  
26th Class 1/2M Chai  
30th Prep 2020 come & play  
31st Prep/6 German Morning Tea

### AUGUST

6th Prep 2020 come & play  
12th House Athletics  
13th Prep 2020 come & play  
20th Prep 2020 come & play  
20th August Class 4 Viking Excursion  
23rd Class 1/2I Chai

### SEPTEMBER

12th Soiree  
18th Kulin Day

## **Playtimes and Parents in the Yard**

Unfortunately it's not possible to allow parents to be in the playground during lunchtimes and playtimes. All visitors to the school are required to sign in at the office. If they are in the school working unsupervised they need to have a Working with Children Check. Parents are able to work in their child's *classroom* without a working with children's check as long as they are working with direct supervision of a teacher. This is unable to be fulfilled during playtimes or lunchtimes. It is an unfortunate that we can't have this happening but these requirements are necessary to ensure that we keep our children safe at school.

Have a great weekend

Rowan Kayll

Principal

# Hope

**Lottie Bruce**

**Year 5**

I let the tears pour down my face. The tangle of emotions, so tight inside. Tighter than the locks on the cells of the rebels in Syria. I feel so sad sometimes. So sad I want to die. The tears rake my face like knives, and the memories come flooding back. Back in waves of grief, pain and anger. Back past the day when Mahdi died. The way he hacked and coughed. The way the fight went out of him like a tiny, fragile baby bird. How Mama screamed as the icy water flooded the deck of the tiny ramshackle fishing boat; the people smuggler. And Papa. Brave, strong Papa. He tried to hold onto us, but in the end only me and Mahdi survived. I only feel despair. Numb to love and joy. My heart frozen. Laughing is a distant memory. How can being alive be illegal? How can people be so cruel?

I have almost forgotten Arabic. The guards at the Detention Centre don't even let us pray. I do hope Allah forgives me. I am so sorry that I couldn't take care of little Mahdi. They wouldn't let me tend to him. They said I would catch it. If only you were here Mama and Papa. You would know what to do. In the end he started coughing blood. Then he was gone. Gone like a feather in the wind. He didn't even get buried properly. He was just taken away on a stretcher. No mourning. No white shroud to cover his tiny pale body. I did try to sneak and pick some dandelions by the wire fence, but the guards found me and ripped the flowers to green shreds, laughing. One of the kinder guards patted me on the back and sighed.

Oh Mama, Papa, I still miss you so much, my heart aches. I still have so many memories. Some memories make me feel happy and wistful all at the same time, and others make me want to scream, cry and shout at the unfairness of the world. Memories of Damascus; starlit nights perched on our terracotta roof, wrapped in a warm embrace of love. Memories of famine and poverty. Memories of death and destruction.

Mama used to tell me, "There is hope in everything; it is up to us to believe it". I think of the kind guard and smile. I know that no matter how difficult the hardships were, I am grateful for being alive. Grateful for surviving, and just maybe, I can start a new life. Not be known as the weird refugee kid. Be brave. Be funny. Be someone...

Human rights matter to me because I believe that everyone deserves equal rights, no matter where you come from or what your skin colour is. The Syrian war is sometimes called the biggest modern human crisis in the world and I agree. It is heartbreaking how many children and adults don't make it to safety. Families are torn apart and sometimes not reunited. Asylum seekers deserve to find a safe, happy home. I think that Australia is the perfect place, sometimes called the 'lucky country'. How is it that we have so much, and yet we can't share with people who are in greater need than ourselves?



**MACLEOD COLLEGE**  
**GERMAN**  
*Christmas*  
**MARKET**

**FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019**  
**5PM - 8PM**  
**AT MACLEOD COLLEGE**  
IMPACT CENTRE  
SARAWAY STREET, MACLEOD

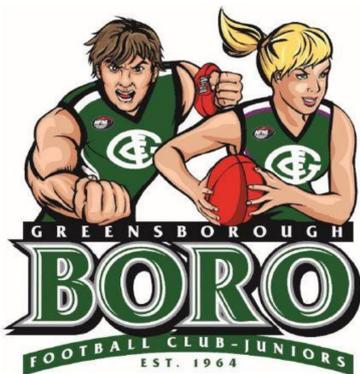
Sample traditional German food and drinks, including German beer, Selters, delicious soups and home-made German cakes, proteins and gingerbread.

Join in with a range of family friendly activities, including coffee, gingerbread-decorating, face painting, music and dancing.

Browse our stalls and take home art and craft handouts for students, staff and parents of our college.

SEE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS:  
<http://www.macleod.vic.edu.au>

CONTACT:  
83 9439 9222  
[info@macleod.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@macleod.vic.edu.au)

**18<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019**  
**25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2019**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO TRAIN WITH THE GREENSBOROUGH U9 TEAM AT ANTHONY BEALE**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> July – 5pm to 6pm**

Greensborough Junior Football Club Under 9s currently field 4 amazing teams & we would be delighted to have your Auskickers join us for two special training sessions. We will be able to answer any questions you may have about Junior Football at a "tacklers" level. Wear your footy gear!

If you have any queries please feel free to contact either Sara Flottl on 0412 389 456 or Damien Toomey on 0407 564 406.

Are you considering U9s in 2020?

If your child is born before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 they are eligible to play in 2020

Modified rules encourage U9s to learn new skills

Two Special Training Sessions held by U9s Coach & Head Auskick Coach

**ANTHONY BEALE RESERVE**  
St Helena Road, St Helena

[www.gjfc.org.au](http://www.gjfc.org.au)




**Catholic Ladies' College**

**Thrive**  
orientation program

Have you heard about THRIVE?

The great leap forward into Year 7 is a big transition. It often comes with a fair amount of trying to deal with the unknown for both students and parents/carers.

Catholic Ladies' College is proud to introduce our new orientation program THRIVE, with the purpose of creating a positive and confident experience for our students making the move from primary school into secondary school.

Want to know more? Book in for upcoming School Tour on the 7<sup>th</sup> August or contact our College Registrar Carolyn Key [registrar@clc.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@clc.vic.edu.au) for more information.

**Unlimited possibilities.** [www.clc.vic.edu.au](http://www.clc.vic.edu.au)

# IS YOUR CHILD EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES?

Briar Hill Primary School has partnered with Play Therapy Melbourne to offer parents and carers a trusted referral for children's counselling.

Play Therapy is a gentle, evidence based approach to counselling that allows children to work through difficulties in their 'language' - play. In play therapy, toys are like the child's words and play is their language (Landreth, 2002).

Play Therapy Melbourne can help many issues, including:

- School and social difficulties
- Anxiety
- Family breakdown
- Grief and loss
- Low self-esteem
- Low self-confidence
- Anger and aggression
- Autism Spectrum Disorders



If you are interested in play therapy for your child, please see Mr. Kayll for a referral.



**Briar Hill**  
Primary School

**(03) 9439 2450**  
**info@playtherapymelbourne.com**  
**www.playtherapymelbourne.com**

