

Thursday 24th April  
2025  
Issue 5

# LINK LETTER



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## Tony Ryan - Assistant Principal

Welcome back to Term 2 everyone. It's been a bit of an unusual start back to term with a short week, but we have hit the ground running with lots of activities going on.

It's been great to reconnect with our students, families and staff and hear about all the exciting things families were getting up to across the holiday period.

I know the holiday period can be a challenging time for families still balancing their work commitments, whilst looking for activities to keep the kids stimulated. My own girls are a little older now being teenagers, but one family day that was a highlight was our visit to Metart World in Port Melbourne. This is like a scrap metal art gallery, that is hands on with some exhibits kids can touch, climb on and interact with such as motor bikes and full scale cars. It has some other elements in terms of sensory mazes, 9D rides etc. This isn't a paid endorsement but the inner child in me was wowed by the scrap metal sculptures and I can see particularly older students enjoying the experience. I thought that might be a future holiday activity some in the community would be interested in. I've included some photos on the next page.

## Term 2

- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
ANZAC DAY  
Public Holiday
  - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April  
Grade 3 - 6 House  
Cross Country
  - Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May  
Kids Roar Parent  
Zoom @ 7:30pm
  - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
ISS-Watsonia North  
Primary School vs  
WHPS
  - Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May  
Prep Roar Incursion
- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May  
Afternoon  
Celebration for Mr  
Kent with WHPS  
families held in the  
GP room at 2:30pm.
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May  
Cultural Diversity  
Day & Special Food  
Day
  - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May  
Mr Kent's FINAL  
ASSEMBLY  
&  
ISS-St Mary's vs  
WHPS
  - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May  
District Cross  
Country
  - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May  
Grades 5 & 6  
Elephant Ed  
Incursion
  - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May  
ISS-WHPS vs  
Streton

## Term Dates 2025

Term 1: January 30 - April 4

Term 2: April 22 - July 4

Term 3: July 21 - September 19

Term 4: October 6 - December 19





Today's House Celebration Day has been an exciting day at school and a nice way to restart the term and acknowledge all the great accomplishments of our students across Term 1. Our students had the opportunity to dress in their house colours and engaged with a bunch of fun activities such as time on jumping castles, parachute activities and a variety of fun game and activities outside. Many thanks to our staff who supported our students and these activities and particularly Miss Agnew for her coordination of the day.





**ANZAC Day:**

Tomorrow marks our National Day of Commemoration for ANZAC day on the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli in 1915. This is a very special day on our calendar and an opportunity to show our respect and appreciation for the sacrifices that have been made by our servicemen and women in fields of combat.

As is our tradition, our school student leaders will represent the school tomorrow at the ANZAC day ceremony at Watsonia RSL to lay a wreath and pay our respect. We thank Kathryne and their parents for supporting our students at the ceremony. With tomorrow being a public holiday, we also took the opportunity to stop together as a school and mark this day with a whole school ceremony today.

**Cross Country:**

On Monday our students in years 3-6 will compete in our school cross country run. The results of this event determine the team chosen to represent the school at the district cross country competition. We have a change in venue and course this year with the run being completed on the school grounds rather than offsite as we have previously. Out thanks go to Miss Massa for her coordination of the event and to those parent/carers helpers that are volunteering their time as course marshals. This is another great house event and we wish all our students all the best.

**Farewelling Mr Kent:**

As we shared at the end of last term, we are very sorry to hear that Mr Kent will be leaving the school in the coming weeks. Mr Kent and family are moving away to embrace a new opportunity and Principal role at another school. Mr Kent has led our school across the past 15 years and has played an instrumental role in establishing a strong positive culture at our school. We know that he will make the same strong impact at his new school and wish him all the best for the new role.

To acknowledge and thank Mr Kent for his contribution to our school and the impact he has had on many students, we are planning a couple of opportunities for the community to farewell Mr Kent.

On Wednesday of week 3 the 7<sup>th</sup> May, the school will be offering an afternoon tea and coffee opportunity in the GP room at 2:30pm. This will be an informal opportunity for those that wish to touch base and connect with Mr Kent prior to his departure.

We will also be running a special assembly on Mr Kent's last day Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> May where we will hear from Mr Kent and hopefully send him off in style! We welcome our community to attend both these events.

**Other staffing changes:**

We also welcome back Ms Kucewicz to the school this term who has returned from maternity leave. Ms Kucewicz will be supporting some of our support programs across the school in addition to some other teaching roles. We are excited to welcome her back into the community.

**Success Teamwork Respect Individuality Visionary Effort!!**

### **Autism Awareness Month:**

April is Autism Awareness Month and a good opportunity for us to improve our inclusion, acceptance and understanding of those with Autism.

Below are details of an opportunity offered by Banyule City Council for those interested in learning more about supporting children with Autism. A flyer is also attached.

### **Supporting autistic children through life transitions**

Join us for a thought-provoking evening session facilitated by Mel Spencer, CEO of Different Journeys. A passionate advocate and recipient of an Order of Australia Medal, Mel brings both personal experience as an Autistic parent of three and professional expertise in community leadership to this workshop. The workshop will feature a powerful panel of local parents who will share their lived experiences raising autistic children. Together, they'll explore how to support autistic young people through key life transitions—empowering them to grow into confident, happy, and well-rounded autistic adults.

**Date: Wednesday 28 May 2025**

**Time: 7.30 – 8.30pm**

**Online – link to be provided**

Registrations essential via <https://www.trybooking.com/DAVGT>

Questions for the panel can be submitted with registration.

#### **Accessibility:**

If you have any access needs to fully participate in the workshop, please reach out to the event organisers—we're here to help.

For more information, please contact Lisa King [Lisa.King@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:Lisa.King@banyule.vic.gov.au) 9098 8011

I hope everyone has a great long weekend,

Tony



The flyer features a photograph of a young child with curly hair, looking upwards with a serene expression. The background is a soft, warm glow of yellow and orange light. The text is arranged in a clean, modern layout on the right side of the image.

**Supporting autistic children through life transitions**

**Wednesday 28 May 2025**  
**7.30pm - 8.30pm**  
Online forum  
Lead by Mel Spencer OAM,  
CEO of Different Journeys

Mel Spencer OAM will explore life transitions and how parents can support their autistic children from early primary school through to the teenage years.

Hear from a panel of local parents sharing their lived experience supporting autistic children.

Bookings essential via the QR code or [trybooking.com/DAVGT](https://www.trybooking.com/DAVGT).

Questions for the panel can be submitted with registration.

Please contact Lisa King, Community & Social Planner for more information [lisa.king@banyule.vic.gov.au](mailto:lisa.king@banyule.vic.gov.au)





**Success Teamwork Respect Individuality Visionary Effort!!**



# Student of The Week

Week 10

CONGRATULATIONS



Lucian, Sadie, Carter, Dorothy, Oliver, Ari, Zoe, Hamish, Albie,  
Leila, Louis, Emma, Alma, An, Llywelyn, Arlo, Corbin, Dusk,  
Evan, Ben, Brennan.

Week 1

CONGRATULATIONS



Alby, 2J, Jesse, Sebastian, Rylan, Bailey, Matisse,  
Gabby, Lana, Kit, Ember, Matilda, Cohen, Lily, Alik.

Congratulations!



Do you have a  
daughter in Grade 5?  
**Year 7 2027 enrolment  
applications close  
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Hear from  
our Principal  
Stephanie Evans



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# Triple P Fear Less Group

A FREE online parenting group for primary carers of children experiencing anxiety residing in the Cities of Yarra, Darebin, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Banyule.

The Fear Less Group runs over 6 x 1.5-hour sessions. Attendance to all sessions is required.

Dates:

- 12th May 2025
- 19th May 2025
- 26th May 2025
- 2nd June 2025
- 16th June 2025
- 23rd June 2025

Location: Online via Zoom

Time: 10:00am- 11:30am

Fear-Less Triple P supports parents to learn new strategies for managing their child's anxiety. This group is for parents that are concerned about their child's anxiety that would like to learn strategies they can put in place to support the wellbeing of their child and the family. Content is suited to parents or caregivers of children aged from 6 to 12 years.

The topics covered in this program include:

- Understanding how anxiety works,
- Becoming the best possible model of anxiety management for their children,
- Becoming effective emotion coaches,
- Understanding and teaching the value of flexible thinking,
- Managing their children's anxiety effectively, and
- Using constructive coping.

How to Enquire: Contact the Triple P Team with your full name and best contact number by:

- Emailing us at [triplep@berrystreet.org.au](mailto:triplep@berrystreet.org.au), or
- Calling or sending a message to Georgia on 0499 301 006.

We ask that enquiries are made no later than 5pm on 2nd of May 2025. Due to limited spaces, we encourage carers to reach out ASAP to avoid disappointment as spaces may fill before this date.



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Monday 28 Apr - 23 Jun  
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Watsonia Heights Primary  
School



Years 3 - 6

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