Bright P-12 College Newsletter

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club is a Victorian Government initiative designed to enhance a feeling of wellbeing and inclusion for all students from Prep to Year 12. Our students look forward to Thursday mornings as a time to volunteer, enjoy yummy food and connect with peers and teachers. Starting the day with a well-balanced breakfast improves engagement, learning and growth. Options include fresh fruit, toast, cereal, milo and fruit cups.

We look forward to seeing students from 8:15am each Thursday for Breakfast Club.



Hi Bright P-12 College students and parents / carers,

My name is Frankie. I am the Wellbeing dog here at Bright P-12 College. You might see me around the school from time to time. I have had a wonderful break and I have been resting, ready for the busy year ahead.

My school helpers, Miss Ambler and Jen have a video they would

like to show you, so you know what to do when you see me around. Thanks for taking the time to watch the video so I can meet you in person (or in dog). I can't wait to see you back at school. Woof! Frankie

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiWtqjmYzZs





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7 February 2024

Issue 1







Principal's Message

Dear students, parents and carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024! A very warm welcome to our new students and staff. We also welcome four students from our sister school in Germany, who are staying with host families as part of our long-running exchange program.

We have had a very positive start to the new school year and it is wonderful to see our students settling in so well, including our new Prep students who are navigating their first days at Bright P-12 College. Across the school, we are very proud of the enthusiasm our students are demonstrating for their learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage our

HAT REMINDER

As part of our SunSmart policy, all students are expected to wear a hat when they are outdoors in Term 1. This applies to recess, lunch and while doing outdoor activities. Students who are not wearing our school hats will be asked to sit in the shaded areas. Hats can be purchased from the front office or via our online shop <u>https://www.fcw.com.au/schools-online-shops/</u>



Primary students need to wear a wide-brimmed hat and Secondary students, a bucket hat. Hats cost \$13.50 each.

Parents / carers, please remember to label hats.

2023 YEARBOOK



The 2023 Yearbooks are currently being printed.

We will let parents/carers know via Compass when they are delivered to school.

students to make the most of the myriad opportunities on offer at our school. Within the classroom and beyond, our staff provide a wealth of ways to expand your experiences and enhance your learning. This term, we're eagerly anticipating taking a group of students to the Melbourne Writers Festival as well as on Outdoor Education adventures, camps, Sports, Media Studies and Arts excursions, as well as a very valuable week of Work Experience for our Year 10 students.

We look forward to continuing and building our partnership with students and parents, to ensure the very best outcomes for our young people as they grow and develop socially, emotionally, academically and physically.

Jean Olley - Principal

NOTE: ALL CALENDAR EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK COMPASS FOR MOST UP-TO-DATE CALENDAR

COLLEGE CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 2024

7 FEB	No school for Prep students
7 FEB	First GOTAFE day
8 FEB	Secondary Swimming Carnival
9 FEB	Primary Swimming Carnival
9 FEB	3:30pm Yr 7 students & families Welcome BBQ - school oval
14 FEB	No school for Prep students
19 FEB	Yr 12 Geography field trip
20 FEB	Yr 9-12 O&M Cricket
21 FEB	No school for Prep students

NOTE: School photos are booked for Tuesday 23 April

NEW PREP STUDENTS

We welcomed 24 new Prep students to our school last week. They've had a fantastic first few days and have settled in well. Teachers have been reading books to Prep students, who have been working on learning sounds. Students have also been developing their counting skills and have attended specialist classes of Japanese, Music, Art and PE.

The Preps should be very proud of themselves for putting in so much effort getting to know their peers and teachers and becoming familiar with the rhythm of our school.

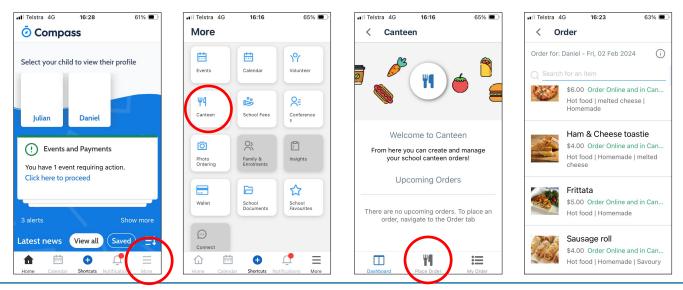


CANTEEN



Our Canteen Manager Christian is cooking tasty nutritious lunches for our students. On offer are toasted sandwiches, home made vegetarian frittata, home made sausage rolls and pizzas. He also cooks a fresh pasta dish each day and he always has vegetarian and vegan options available.

Please order via Compass. Go to the Compass app, click on the More button on the right at the base. One the next page, click on the Canteen icon and then on the Place Order icon.



NEW STAFF

Hi! My name is Claire Swan and I am very excited to be working in Year 2C in Term 1. After spending the last 15 years in the Adult Education sector, I am returning to Primary teaching and undertaking a Returning Teacher Program. I feel very fortunate to be undertaking this at Bright P-12 College with Ms Ferrito as my mentor and am delighted to be joining the school community. My family and I moved to Bright in 2020 to be closer to the mountains. We love the snow and recently returned from a skiing trip in Japan, where my two children were also lucky enough to practise their Japanese! Other than snowboarding, I keep myself busy with bushwalking, pilates, reading, playing the piano and spending time with my family. Having worked remotely for the last four years it is wonderful to be working in a school environment. If you see me around the school please feel free to come and say hi!





Hi there, my name is Adrian Harbison and I am excited to be starting work here at Bright P-12 College as a Secondary English teacher. I moved to the area 5 years ago with my wife, and now have three children – Matilda, who is 3 years old, and Jack and Lucy, 8-month-old twins. We love it here and find that we are constantly looking at the mountains on our doorstep and pinching ourselves – we are very lucky!

I moved here after 10 years in the Army living all over Australia since completing high school. For the past 4 years I have also been teaching at Myrtleford P12 College, so being a little bit closer to home is a nice change. My interests outside of teaching include running, riding (mountain bike and road), skiing (downhill and Nordic), and taking my family on as many adventures as possible.

Hi Bright P-12 College students, families and community. My name is Kate Moore and I am excited to be the new Student Wellbeing Counsellor. I will be working alongside your current Student Wellbeing Counsellor Jen to provide support and enhance the wellbeing of students. I am committed to being an approachable and caring team member who can contribute to the community and I look forward to meeting you all across the year ahead.

I moved to the Bright area from the Grampians in Western Victoria. I chose to move to the area because of its strong sense of community, its natural beauty and its proximity to numerous outdoor activities. I just returned from a trip to Tasmania, where I spent most of the summer hiking mountains and rock climbing. Some of my other interests include bike riding, swimming, doing yoga and reading.



I look forward to connecting with the school community over the year ahead, thank you all for your warm welcome.



Hello Bright P-12 College community. My name is Michael Gibbon and I have recently moved to the area, having lived in Western Australia.

I am teaching Mathematics to students in Years 8, 9, 11 and 12.

In my spare time, I love downhill and enduro mountain biking.

I have already received a warm welcome from the students and staff at Bright P-12 College and I am looking forward to getting to know more people in the area as I settle in here.

NEW STAFF ctd...



Hi! My name is Cilla Giannopoulos, and I am a Year 3 and Leading Teacher at Bright P-12 College. Originally from Melbourne, I worked as a teacher in Melbourne, England, Saudi Arabia and China, teaching children from three to ten years old. I have experience with the Victorian curriculum, as well as international curriculums, such as the Common Core and IB. While in China, I was the Vice Principal and Curriculum Coordinator at an international school.

I believe in a child-centred environment that puts the children's needs at the forefront of curriculum delivery. I also believe in education that emphasises hands-on learning and engages with real-life experiences that promote both curiosity and life-long learning.

I am inspired by my ever-evolving daily interactions with children and, in turn, hope to inspire others. I am excited to be a part of the local community, especially Bright P-12 College, as my mother and grandmother attended school here. Outside of work, I enjoy drama, dancing, music, swimming and being out in nature.

Hi my name is Matt Barrett and I am really excited to be joining the Bright community.

I have been previously working in upper primary years and am honoured to be part of the Year 6 team.

There is a good chance you might see me snowboarding up in the mountains or rolling around Bright skatepark. I can't wait to have an amazing 2024 in the High Country.

My name is Clementine Brasher (Clem) and I am the new Mental Health and Wellbeing leader in the Primary school. I have recently just moved back to the mountains after teaching in the Northern Territory. Prior to this, I taught in varied schools and kindergartens within Victoria and internationally. I have just completed my honours year in psychology; and this new role is a perfect combination of teaching and psychology. I am thrilled to be supporting our staff and students in addressing our whole school and individual Wellbeing needs.

I enjoy a myriad of different physical activities, including, hiking, running, swimming, skiing, mountain bike riding and yoga. I love spending quality time with my friends and family; and of course, my cat Leni.

I look forward getting to know all members of our community.

Hi everyone, my name is Anna Gander and I'm so happy to be joining the community of Bright P-12 College! My family and I have just moved to Porepunkah from Melbourne, a return for my partner who was born here but a new start for everyone else. This year I am teaching English (Year 12, 9 and 7) and Visual Communication Design (Year 8 and 7). You can find me in school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

I come from Prahran High School in inner city Melbourne so I'm loving yard duty here and seeing the mountains. I'm originally from Devon in the south west of England but I've lived and worked in Scotland, Thailand, Singapore and Costa Rica. Random fact: I used to be a professional dancer and had my own company before moving into teaching.

Outside of teaching, I love to read, paint and can make really great pizza dough from scratch. I'm not much of a cyclist but I'm starting to get into it. Please come and say hi if you see me around. I'm looking forward to meeting more of you soon.





GERMAN EXCHANGE

Bright P-12 College has welcomed 4 German exchange students this year. These students are participating in the College's sister-school exchange program, with the Wirtschaftsschule Alpenland in Bavaria. Each year a small number of our Year 9 / 10 students spend a full term in Germany, living with a host family, going to school, experiencing every day life and improving their German skills. The program is reciprocal, which means our students who were in Germany last year are now hosting their German partner for Term 1. We hope that these students enjoy the experiences of living with their host family, attending classes in Year 10 at Bright P-12 College, learning about Australia and improving their English skills.



Later this term we will begin the application & selection process for current Year 9 / 10 students who are learning German and want to participate in the 2024/ 2025 program. Further information will follow over the next few weeks. Alternatively, please get in touch with Katrina Ciolli through the College.

"Hi my name is Lena O, I am fifteen years old. I come from Bad Feilnbach, it's near Bad Aibling in Bavaria. My exchange partner is Jenna S, and I live with her family.

My hobbies are to play the flute and piano, and go skiing with my family and friends.

The school in Bright is very different to Germany, because we don't have uniforms, and we have only one building for all of the classrooms.

I like the kangaroos and the landscape in Australia. Very impressive are the trucks, ours are very different. In Australia the trucks have a different shape for where the motor is and the trucks are very colourful."

"Hey I am Sebastian and I'm 16 years old. I am staying in Australia with Sam G. The most impressive thing, in my opinion is the nature because it is really different to the German nature. My hobby is climbing and I tried outdoor climbing for the first time here and it was really much fun. The school here is interesting too because you can choose what subjects you want. I chose Forensic Science and it was a really good decision."

"Hi, I am Muriel, I am 16 years old. I live at Andy BS's house. My hobbies are playing the flute, doing gymnastics, shooting with an air gun in a shooting club and I am part of the firefighter team in my village.

I really enjoy staying in Australia (Bright) because I like the landscape, lifestyle and the people. Australia is different to Germany but I like it. In my school we don't have lockers, we just carry our stuff in our backpack, we are allowed to use our smartphone sometimes during class for work and during recess. Our school starts at 07:55 and ends at 12:50. We have one break with 25 minutes (from 10:10 to 10:35) and one period is 45 minutes. We also have 6 periods a day. I like the subjects here, because they're different to ours and they're fun.

I am looking forward for the next 9 weeks and I am excited about what my family and I are going to do together."

"Hello my name is Timon, I am 14 years old and I live in Taylor A's house. I'm a German exchange student and I am in Australia for 10 weeks. My hobbies are table tennis and I am part of the junior fire brigade in my home town. I like Australia and the school. It's interesting because in Germany we don't have a school uniform and we only have one break, not two. I would like to see a wild kangaroo, but I don't like to see any poisonous animals like spiders or snakes.

I don't like the warm weather, but it's nice when we can go swimming."

MELBOURNE WRITERS FESTIVAL

** Year 7-9 Melbourne Writers Festival Camp - Applications now open **

This year we are running the Melbourne Writers Festival Camp again, an exciting opportunity for high ability literacy students. Students from Year 7 to 9 have the opportunity to apply for this camp to spend two days in Melbourne working on their literacy skills, writing creatively and attending the Melbourne Writers Festival.

On the first day students will attend the Melbourne Writer's Festival and listen to published and successful writers tell their stories and give tips and tricks to encourage them as budding writers. They will have the opportunity to meet these authors afterwards. On the second day students will attend workshops in the National Gallery in Melbourne for inspirational creative writing activities, where they explore the connection between art and English. Students who have attended this camp in the past have expressed how much it inspired them to read and write, expanding their views of literacy.

Students will need to submit an application to Ms Farmer either via email or handwritten hardcopy.

Prompt: Justify why this experience would be good for your writing.

The submission needs to be a one page (maximum) written piece.

Successful students will have an excellent written submission and above average English reports to demonstrate their commitment to Literacy in the future. Students who have previously attended unfortunately will not be able to reapply.

Applications are due by the 12th of February 2024.

Yr 12 RETREAT

The Year 12 students spent Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd February at The Pavilion at Pioneer Park, engaged in a variety of sessions with several fascinating presenters. The sessions included topics such as well-being, study skills, road safety, careers, and life beyond school. Our heartfelt thanks go to the students for participating in such a fruitful manner.



Yr 8 ECONOMICS

Year 8 students are starting their \$20 Boss project. The challenge given was to build an observation tower for 'Parks Australia' that was inclusive to a variety of people, abilities and considered cultural and natural requirements.

The task had students practising their enterprise skills such as team work, innovation and creativity.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, **you may be eligible for CSEF**. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families.

The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from

https://www.vic.gov.au/camps-sports-and-excursions-fund

If you applied for the CSEF at your child's school in 2023, you do not need to complete an application form in 2024 unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments**; your child will start or change schools next year.
- changed family circumstances; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact Lisa – <u>lisa.flew@education.vic.gov.au</u>

ELEVATE EDUCATION INCURSION

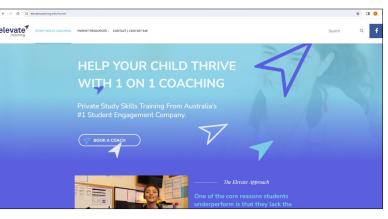
This term, all Secondary students are attending workshop sessions with Elevate Education, who provide a range of resources for students, parents/carers and teachers. At the recent sessions, topics covered included Study Skills and Time Management.

The team from Elevate guided students through workshops on developing a healthy study routine; breaking goals into manageable tasks and deadlines; developing a growth mindset; techniques for self motivation; techniques for overcoming procrastination; note-taking and more.

These are vital skills to support our students and we received feedback from several students in Year 7-12 that they found the sessions very useful.

The Elevate website features useful resources for parents. They include an online guidebook, links to TEDx talks, blog posts, videos and more...

Visit https://www.elevateeducation.com/



UKULELE LESSONS

At Bright P-12 College students have a chance to learn skills on the Ukulele. We run two sessions for Ukulele students:

Beginner Ukulele Group (for students in Years Prep-2) Tuesdays 8.15-8.45am. Commencing 13th February

Senior Ukulele Group (for students in Year 3 and above) Fridays 8.15-8.45am. Commencing 9th February

Sessions are held in the music room. The aim of these sessions is for students to learn some basic skills on the Ukulele and to have fun. There is no cost involved and total beginners are welcome and encouraged.

Please email Mr Campbell if you have any questions



BRIGHT P-12 COLLEGE FACEBOOK PAGE



Did you know that we have an official Bright P-12 College Facebook page? It's a great way to check out what's happening at school.

Give us a 'Like' to see videos of Year 9 students launching their home-made bottle rockets during Science class, or photos of what's growing in our kitchen garden, or watch our Acknowledgement of Country video, or see our Outdoor Education students cross-country skiing and kayaking.

Please note that Compass is the main form of communication with parents / carers.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

No Vopsepse

utoring.

ONLINE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Are you interested in part time work with school age children? Bright P-12 College have funding to develop an OSHC (Occasional School Hours Care) service onsite for families of Bright P-12 College and neighbouring schools.

There is currently high and unmet demand in the area however without staff we cannot provide the service.

qualification is helpful but not essential. Our funding can potentially assist staff to gain or upgrade their qualifications by providing work hours for study.

Check approved qualifications

https://www.acecqa.gov.au/qualifications/

If you are interested in working in this program please contact Bright P-12 College on 03 5755 1166.





School preparedness and pre-emptive actions for the bushfire season

Schools and early childhood services undertake a range of activities each year to prepare for bushfires and grassfires. The Department of Education conducts an annual fire risk assessment of schools and early childhood services. Those at the greatest levels of risk are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR). As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.



What does this mean for our school?

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a Category 3 school. Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in North East fire district.

What is the department's policy?

The department's Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

When will our school be closed due to Catastrophic fire danger?

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. Any information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by Compass.

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. Please be aware that:

- No one 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.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

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.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- 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 closed due to a Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the CFA's website.
- Enact your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are enacting your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

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

