Welcome

Welcome students and families to Level 5 and 6! We trust you enjoyed a lovely Christmas and New Year break. It's fantastic to see our students returning to school happy and ready to learn.

We welcome a new teaching team this year, Kathryn, Adam, Allison, Lisa, Murray and Debbie. Each brings with them a wealth of experience, enthusiasm and a commitment to implementing a high quality teaching and learning for our senior students.

Level Six students have eagerly and seamlessly transitioned into their roles as leaders of our school. They have assisted our Level Five students to settle into the senior school and become familiar with routines, learning and expectations.

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Our Integrated Studies topic this term is "Colonising Australia". In a study of colonial Australia in the 1800s, students will look at the founding of British colonies and the development of a colony. They will learn about what life was like for different groups of people in the colonial period. Key questions for investigation are:

What were the significant events and who were the significant people that shaped Australian colonies?
How did an Australian colony develop over time and why?
How did colonial settlement change the environment?

The COLONIAL SHOW has been booked and has been nominated Australia's best Educational School Show for Australian History and is a complete interactive educational show that allows students to experience what life was like back in the Colonial Times, during the Colonisation of Australia.

If you have expertise in Australian history we would value your shared knowledge.

Level 5/6 camp

We are all looking forward to our 5/6 camp to Beechworth, VIC.

Tuesday 24th Feb to Friday 27th
Departure: 9:00 am, Tuesday 25 March
Return: 3:30 pm, Friday 27th

Medical forms will be distributed next week, as will final payment requests if needed.

Homework

The aim of homework is to develop good work habits, provide enriching and challenging activities and a meaningful link between home and school. In line with Education Department and school policy, students are expected to complete no more than 45 minutes of homework per night. Homework may include projects, maths, independent reading, writing tasks and/or educational games. Students are required to get their guardians to sign the homework grid prior to submission.
Dates to Remember

February
12th February - Incursion “The Colonial Show”
17th February - Getting to know you interviews.
20th February - District Swimming
24th - 27th February - Camp Beechworth

March
13th March - School photos
27th March - Term 1 concludes finishing at 2.30pm

Student Wellbeing

During the first ten days of school our students have deepened their understanding of our school TRRAC values. They have identified responsible behaviours of good digital citizens and senior student of BLPS.
Level 5 students have participated in Buddies training, preparing them for leadership.
Level 6 students have participated in Leadership, Peer Mediation and Peer support training.
Over the year they will develop important, age appropriate social and leadership skills through MPower Girls and Revved up Boys programs.

English

This term students will concentrate on 2 different genres, recounts, in particular Biographical and Narratives. They will further explore the unique structure and language associated with these 2 styles of writing. In Grammar the students will be looking at punctuation, personal pronouns, adjectives and noun groups. Mnemonics, Gimmicks, Prefixes and Suffixes are some areas that will be examined in word study, as well as each student working on their individual spelling list.

Mathematics

Term 1 topics will include:
- Mapping and positioning—introduction to Cartesian coordinate system
- Investigating numbers
- Symmetry
- Place value
- 4 operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.)
**Mission X and PE**

Mission X: Train Like an Astronaut is an international educational challenge focusing on fitness and nutrition and encouraging students to ‘train like an astronaut.’

Mission X is focused on fitness and nutrition because a healthy body is necessary to be a 'Fit Explorer!' The World Health Organization has designated childhood obesity as one of the most serious public health challenges of the 21st century - and diet, physical activity, and health are the best answers to this largely preventable problem. Astronauts know the vital importance of physical training for mission success, and we can learn from them - for life success.

Around the world teams of primary school students learn principles of healthy eating and exercise, compete for points by finishing training modules, and get excited about the world’s future in space and the educational possibilities for their own future.

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**From our students**

“I am looking forward to our incursion “The Colonial Show”, it sounds like it will be fun and entertaining”. Erin 6D

“Before I started school I felt very nervous but now I am really enjoying being in grade 5 as the other students are friendly and chilled back and Allison is really bubbly”. Tahlia 5/6A

“I have had a great start to the year as I feel I have settled in well and I have a great teacher. I am really looking forward to camp”. Evan 5K

“I was abit nervous coming into grade 5 but I am not now because I know what is expected of me at this year level”. Jasmine 5A

“I am looking forward to fulfilling my leadership role as Peer Mediator this year. I like Murray very much”. Chloe 6M

“I am really looking forward to camp”. Tamsin 5L

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**SPECIALISTS**

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SPECIALISTS:
At Blackburn Lake Primary School, your child has the opportunity to participate in a variety of specialist classes.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Phil Lumsden - lumsden.philip.a@edumail.vic.gov.au
Level 5/6 students will begin the year by being involved in the NASA “Train like an Astronaut” program. Later in the term they will take part in the running events related to Athletics. In Sport students will be revising games in preparation for our summer sport round-robin. The games played will be rounders, volleyball, basketball, cricket and bat tennis.

Please ensure your child is appropriately dressed on the day they have PE.

ITALIAN
Vincey Montesalvo - montesalvo.vincenza.v@edumail.vic.gov.au
In Italian this term the students in Level 5 and 6 will be studying the heritage of the Romans. They will also be revising Italian grammar, singular and plurals, masculine and feminine.

VISUAL ARTS
Johanna McPhail - mcphail.johanna.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
Level 5 students will be working with Terracotta to create beautiful dragons using the pinch pot technique. Later they will hone their soft pastel techniques for a brilliant landscape artwork. Level 6 will be studying the work of Cezanne, in particular his still lifes. Later they will be doing a textile unit using merino wool to create felt using both the dry and wet felting techniques.

MUSIC
Sam Collins – collins.samantha.s@edumail.vic.gov.au
In Music this term Level 5 & 6 will be investigating folk music from Bulgaria. As part of this process they will be involved aspects of performing arts including drama, movement, instrumentation, arranging and notation. They will have the opportunity to create their own performances based on all the input above.