Volume 32 Issue 1

Thursday 5th February, 2026

Brentwood Park Primary School NEWSLETTER

brentwood.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au 9702 2022 www.brentwoodparkps.vic.edu.au

TERM DATES 2026 TERM 1 28TH JAN - 2ND APRIL TERM 2 20TH APR - 26TH JUNE
TERM 3 13TH JUL - 18TH SEP TERM 4 5TH OCT - 18TH DEC

DATES TO REMEMBER

9, 10, 11 FEB	PREP STUDENTS ATTEND 09:00 AM-03.20 PM
11 FEB	SWIMMING TRIALS
12 & 13 FEB	PREP PUPIL FREE DAYS - INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENTS ONLY
17 FEB	SCHOOL PHOTOS
17 FEB	SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING @ 6:30 PM
18 FEB	SCHOOL PHOTOS FOR SIBLINGS

JIM BELL, PRINCIPAL JUDY ANDERSON, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL JO-ANNE DORAN, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Start of School 2026

It's pleasing to report to our community, the extremely smooth start to the 2026 school year. With a current enrolment of 988 students, books were quickly unpacked, welcomes and introductions exchanged and lessons readily commenced! Thanks are forwarded to the staff who worked so industriously in the week before the students commenced to ensure such a smooth start to the year. The classrooms, as always, were organized, colourful and welcoming!

The efforts of the children themselves, assisted by their parents, must also be acknowledged. The manner in which they commenced the 2026 school year is commendable! Our cohort of 110 Year Preps settled extremely well into their first day at school! With photographs taken by accompanying parents, final hugs were exchanged and the children soon became absorbed in their classroom activities.

School Council Elections 2026

School councils play a key role in Victorian Government schools. Effective councils have a wide range of skills, expertise and knowledge to support good governance and provide the best possible educational outcomes for students. The annual school council election process provides an opportunity to attract members keen to add value and bring their expertise and skills to assist governance of the school. ***We are currently seeking nominations for parents wishing to stand for election.*** A parent can be nominated and seconded as a candidate on a completed nomination form or self nominate for the position. Both these forms are available from the office. The nomination forms need to be returned to the principal by ***Friday 20 February.***

The term of office for elected members is two years. Half of the members of a school council retire each year and this creates four vacancies within the ***parent membership category*** and two vacancies within the ***Department of Education of Education (DoE) employee category.***

A notice has been issued and a call made for nominations published in this week's newsletter. If you decide to stand for election, the nomination form is completed and returned to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election.

Being part of School Council does not require special skills or specific knowledge. All that is needed is a desire to work in partnership with others in shaping the school's future. If you decide to stand for election, the nomination form is completed and returned to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. If you have an interest and require further information, please don't hesitate to speak with the principal personally.

Please consider standing for election in 2026.

Schedule 4 - Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of **BRENTWOOD PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL.**

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4 pm on **Friday 20 February 2026.**

The ballot will close at 4 pm on **6 March 2026.**

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –

Membership category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2028	**4**
DoE employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2026 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2028	**2**

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Jim Bell
Principal

"Electorate of the school" means the Department of Education [DoE] employee electorate of the school and the Parent electorate of the school.

"Parent electorate of the school" means all persons (except the principal) who are parents of students of the school, other than those who are DoE employees.

Notes:

"DoE employee electorate of the school" means the principal of the school and –

DoE employees engaged in work at and for the school (other than those who are parents of students of the school) and other DoE employees who are parents of students of the school.

"DoE employee" –

means a person employed for eight hours or more per week in either an ongoing capacity or for a fixed term of at least 90 days -

(i) under the *Teaching Service Act 1981*; or
(ii) under the *Public Sector Management and Employment Act 1998*; or
(iii) by a school council of a State school; or
(iv) under section 5 or 5A of the *Education Act 1958*; or
(v) under more than one of the paragraphs (i) to (iv) above, and

does not mean a person employed under a contract for service or the employees or the contracted personnel of such a person.

Votes may be posted to the principal or placed in the ballot box at the school on any day up to the closure of the ballot. Further details on how votes may be lodged will be provided when ballot papers are sent to the electorate of the school.

Mixed Feelings - Cypress Trees Removed

Like me, a number of our school families returned to school with mixed feelings when they saw that the cypress trees on our northern fenceline had been removed. The cypress trees had been part of the Brentwood Park Primary School landscape since the school was built and part of the landscape of the former Brentwood Park homestead when this location was farmland!

The trees had always provided a shady play area for the students during the hot weather, however, regular monitoring of their health by an arborist informed us that they were reaching the end of their life and that for safety reasons, should be removed.

The reinstatement of the area will now give rise to another school landscaping project with new tree plantings to be undertaken but it will be years before their shade can be enjoyed. A new school fence will also be erected!

Facilities Update - Refurbished Hardcourts

With tradespeople recommencing work in the week commencing ***Monday 5 January***, headway was made in additional facilities projects; some which commenced just prior to the end of term 4, 2025.

A major project was the completion of the resurfacing of our hardcourts and accompanying line markings for netball and basketball. Additionally, given the select rendering of highlighted walls in the school over recent years, the completion of rendering to the small breakout rooms in the Year 1/3 building has now completed the overall contemporary look of the school. Thanks are extended to Jim Narayan and Barb Scott for the management of these projects.

Privacy Reminder for our School Community
The Department of Education, which includes all Victorian Government Schools, central and Regional Offices collects, uses, discloses and stores student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy.

The management of "personal information" and "health information" is governed by the Privacy and data protection Act 2014 [Vic] and Health Records Act 2001 Vic] which are collectively known as the Victorian Privacy Law. Please take time to read our school's collection notice, found on our website www.brentwoodparkps.vic.gov.au

We ask parents to review the guidance on how we operate safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information.

Additionally, after reviewing the guidance, if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using information communication technologies, please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents. This

Student Leadership

Prior to the end of the 2025 school year, our School Captains for 2026 were elected. Congratulations were extended to captains ***Terrence T*** and ***Neev M*** and vice captains ***Smayan B*** and ***Crystal J.*** We are now embarking upon our other student leadership positions with the ***House Captain*** elections being conducted this Friday 6 February.

Soon after we will engage in ***Student Representative Council*** elections for classes in Years 3-6 and the selection of our ***Specialists Captains*** for 2026. The team approach to fulfilling their respective duties is readily viewed at our student led assemblies each Friday afternoon.

Milestone Anniversary!

Yvette has been a crossing supervisor since January 2014 but has been our crossing supervisor at Brentwood Park Primary School since February 2016. As such, she has a tenth anniversary approaching. Yvette's favourite interests are walking, word games and, of course, being a school crossing supervisor. Thank you, Yvette for your ten years of dedicated service and for your commitment to maintaining our students' safety when crossing a busy road at the beginning and end of each school day!

New Staff to Brentwood Park Primary
New staff joining Brentwood Park Primary in classroom teaching positions are ***Linh Dang*** and ***Jade Lay***; teaching Year 2 and ***Silva Monterossa***; teaching Year 6. Joining the school's leadership team is ***Bryanah Chellew***, learning specialist for inclusion.

These new staff have replaced staff who left last year through relocation, family leave or accessing long service leave. We also welcomed a number of staff returning from family leave albeit in a part-time capacity supporting student learning. We welcome back Marina Kesigic, Kirsty Courtis, Donna Clayton and Beth Van Es.

A full staffing list 2026 is included in this newsletter.

School Injuries and Insurance

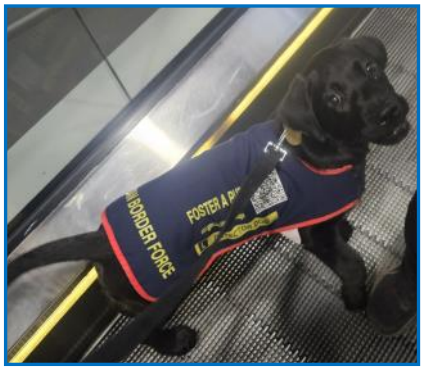
Parents and guardians are generally responsible for the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Most costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you would also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund.

Please be aware that the Department of Education ***does not*** hold accident insurance for school students, however, reasonably low cost accident insurance policies are available from the commercial insurance sector.

The Department cannot advise parents on whether to purchase a student accident policy or which policy to purchase as individual families are likely to have differing needs.

An Exception to Policy
Although school policy directs that dogs are not permitted to be on school grounds, there are, on occasion, exceptions granted. Exceptions in the past have been made for ***Guide Dogs*** for blind parents and dogs who, with owners, are part of the ***Responsible Pet Ownership*** program delivered to our Year Preps.

An additional exception this year will be for young ***Kiran***, an ***Australian Border Force*** pup undergoing his training which requires regular social outings and activities in a wide range of environments. Socialisation and environmental conditioning are crucial for the development of these pups which will enable them to grow into confident and outgoing adult dogs.



We thank our families for adhering to policy and enlist their understanding and support in this instance.

Introducing Our 2026 School Captains

School Captain	Vice Captain	Vice Captain	School Captain
Neev	Smayan	Crystal	Terrence

Congratulations, to our school captains for 2026!

Thank you, to our 2025 school captains who have shown great leadership skills. We wish you all the best for your future endeavours.

Staffing at Brentwood Park 2026

Principal	Jim Bell
Assistant Principals	Judy Anderson and Jo-anne Doran
Business Manager /Accounts Payable / Human Resources	Maree Dale
Business Manager Accounts Receivable / Facilities	Barb Scott
Office Manager / Administration	Mandy Scarlett [Mon, Wed, Thur] Administration Support Kat Oram [Tue, Fri]
First Aid / Office Administration	Ros Cleversley

Year Prep	Tania Lucas	Room 1
Year Prep	Rebecca Crellin	Room 2
Year Prep	Effie Perioris	Room 3
Year Prep	Lyn Pearse	Room 4
Year Prep	Melissa Butcher	Room 5
Support Term 1	Marissa Shami	
Year 1	Aranee Udayakumar	Room 17
Year 1	Sunny Lee	Room 18
Year 1	Kylie Morgan	Room 19
Year 1	Nicole Garrett	Room 20
Year 1	Chanel Blair / Mel Dennis	Room 6
Year 2	***Linh Dang***	Room 32
Year 2	***Jade Lay***	Room 33
Year 2	Amy Lacey	Room 34
Year 2	Leah McCartney	Room 35
Year 2	Carolyn Hilton / Donna Clayton	Room 36
Year 2	Sally Morris / Angela V	Room 40
Year 2	Sarah Martin	Room 41
Support Term 1	EmilyWood	
Year 3	Bronwyn Coombs / Angela V	Room 21
Year 3	Alyce Bagnall	Room 22
Year 3	Amy Macartney	Room 29
Year 3	Jasmine Robinson / Angela V	Room 30
Year 3	Georgia Albertella	Room 31
Support	Trish Shaw	EFT 0.7
Year 4	Chantel Rowley	STEM Room
Year 4	Tash Cooper / Marina Kesegic	Room 23
Year 4	***Nilumi Hettige***	Room 24
Year 4	Mark Swift	Room 27
Year 4	Shelley-Anne Adams	Room 28
Year 4	Vicki Kromlidis	Gymnasium Music Room
Year 5	Maryam Tuhuti	Room 11
Year 5	Courtney Warren	Room 12
Year 5	Rylee Hepburn	Room 23
Year 5	Sharlene Marsche/Beth Seaman	Room 24
Year 5	Nadee Rathnasoorirya	Room 25
Year 5	Kim Wilkinson	Room 26
Year 6	***Silva Monterossa***	Room 7
Year 6	Leanne Maslen	Room 8
Year 6	Eden de Robillard	Room 9
Year 6	Ebony King	Room 10
Year 6	Michelle Conroy / Ben Maloney	Rooms 38/39 [mod 4 classroom]
Year 6	Kim Renshaw	Rooms 38/39 [mod 4 classroom]
Year 6	Lily Scouler	MUSIC Room in Year 6 building

Graduate Support Beth Van Es and Melissa Evans	
Digital Technologies	Lisa Lilley / Daisy He with Sarah Ierfone
Health and Physical Education	Jim Narayan,/ Dylan Bennet / Kirsty Courtis / Chanel Blair
Visual Arts	Jessica Murphy / Bree Stribbles
Performing Arts	Kenneth Mills / Sarah Ierfone
Chinese [Mandarin]	Chunyan Zhang and Shuyue [Daisy] He with Chanel Blair
Leadership Responsibilities	Judy Anderson, Jo-anne DoranBen Maloney, Heather Ghazarian, Carolyn Hil ton, Sharlene Marsche, Mel Dennis and ***Bryanah Chellew***
Integration Aides	Sandra Hess, Jill Strafford, Jo Morris, Anthea Barry, Belinda Smalley, Paula Dumesny, Rebecca Watson, Siobhan Hepburn, Larisa Schweitzer, Joelle Stan ley, Michela Biagioli, Nyah Seelig-Schattner, Hayley Woolfe, Nina Zhang, Kyle Vassallo, Kasuni Rodrigo, Sasha Webb, Melinda Clancy, Michela Biagioli, Meg Garret, Olivia Nugara, Jean-Carlos Aguiar De Sousa, Marina Tilbrook and Jack O'Brien

Maintenance: Daryl West **Technician**: Damien Hawkins **Multi Media:** Annette Wright, Josephine Tan and Veronica Carvajal

3-Day Guarantee

Easier, Cheaper Before & After School Care*

Good news for families!

Eligible children can now access at least 72 hours of subsidised care per fortnight, covering before and after school care and up to three days of school holiday care - no matter your work or study hours.

How It Works:

During School Term: 72 hours of CCS covers a full fortnight of before and after school care.

During School Holidays: Your subsidy gives around three full days of Rocketeers care each week.

Any Time of Year: The subsidy adapts automatically to how you use care with no extra paperwork or recalculations.

What This Means for Your Family:

- Guaranteed subsidised care for every OSHC session each week.
- More care for the same subsidy giving you flexibility and peace of mind.
- Simple access: the subsidy is applied automatically.

Need Help or More Info?

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Camp Australia

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*CCS eligible families, from 5th Jan 2026

What's On in Term 1

Find out more

March
24

Free webinar for families

Mental Health First Aid

with
Dr Billy
Garvey

Every
Friday

Big Art Fridays

On Fridays, we pARTy!

Feb
20 - Mar
20

Big Art Comp

Show the world your true colours!

Mar
16 - Mar
20

SUPER HERO WEEK

See the hero.

Be the hero.

March
2

Ask a Marine Biologist

Free interactive webinar for kids

Your OSHC.
Before and After School Care

by Camp Australia

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Melanie's School of Dance

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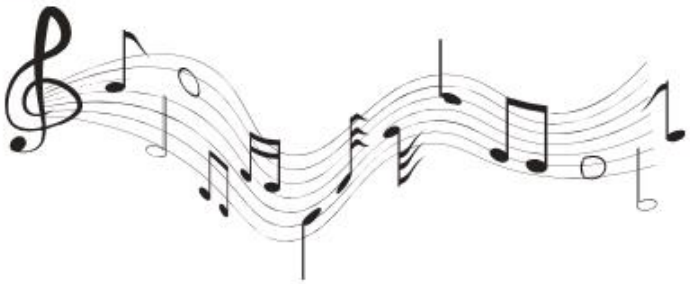
www.melaniesschoolofdance.com.au
Email: melanies.dance@gmail.com

MUSIC LESSONS FOR ALL

Finacial Assistance

Primary Music Institute believes every student should have the opportunity to learn music, and we offer confidential financial support (payment options and subsidies) where needed to help families who require assistance.

- Admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au
- www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au



Ways to Learn

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MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB COME & PLAY CLINIC

You're invited to attend our Come & PLAY clinic with Melbourne AFL players!

Location: Casey Fields, VFL Oval
Date: Tuesday February 10th
Time: 4:00 - 5:00pm

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

nab AFL Auskick

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AFL Superkick

7-12 YEAR OLDS

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*Kids can join NAB AFL Auskick if they are turning 5 in the calendar year (before 30th June in WA).

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STARTS MAY 1ST FROM 4:50PM

Scan the QR code to register!

AUSKICK

SUPERKICK