

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Monday 11th March**

Labour Day Public Holiday

**Tuesday 19th March**

NDIS Information Exchange Meetings

**Thursday 28th March**

Last Day of Term 1—early finish for students

**Monday 15th April**

First Day of Term 2

**Thursday 25th April**

ANZAC Day Public Holiday

**Tuesday 4th June**

School Photos Day

**Monday 10th June**

King's Birthday Public Holiday

**Friday 28th June**

Last Day of Term 2—early finish for students

**Monday 15th July**

First Day of Term 3

**Friday 20th September**

Last Day of Term 3—early finish for students.

**Monday 7th October**

First Day of Term 4

**Tuesday 5th November**

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday

# BAYSIDE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 02

28 FEBRUARY 2024



**Bayside**  
Special  
Developmental  
School



## Maths is Everywhere!!

## Students love the new number and shape patterns

Bayside SDS Acknowledges the Bunurong Peoples' of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Owners and Custodians, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging



*Justin Walsh joins us from Andale School, where he has held the role of Principal for the past four years. Here he supported the school through COVID-19 lockdowns and improved processes for reviewing and developing school improvement plans with a strong emphasis on improving outcomes for all students. With more than 18 years of experience in school leadership, Justin has also worked as Assistant Principal of Southern Autistic School and Acting Principal of Katandra School.*

*Throughout his time Justin has been a strong advocate for the special education sector and*

*has worked closely with schools across the south-east region of Melbourne to support student engagement and inclusion.*

*Justin is very keen to build strong partnerships with the students, staff, families and the wider community of Bayside SDS, understanding that this is key to creating learning opportunities for happy and successful learners.*

### **Principal's Report**

I am delighted to have joined the community here at Bayside SDS. Staff, students and families have been so welcoming that, after just a couple of days, I am really feeling part of the team. And I'm already using the plural pronoun 'we' when I talk about this amazing school. It has been fantastic

to hear how valued Bayside SDS is from staff and families. And comforting to see students arriving happy for another school day.

My first early days are being spent getting to know students, and spending time with staff to understand their roles and hear about the programs and initiatives that have been a focus for the school. I've received valuable induction, and am getting to understand the systems in this very well organised school.

I feel very fortunate to have been offered the opportunity to lead Bayside SDS. Having worked in and with a number of special school settings, I appreciate that staff in our schools understand that they provide an incredibly important service to both students and their families. And that staff have been drawn to this type of work so that they can

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make a difference, knowing that the work we do can change the lives of our young learners and their families.

**Justin Walsh**  
Principal

### **Assistant Principal's Report**

#### **Southside Café is Open**



There was a buzz of excitement last week as the café program kicked off. The feedback from staff and students was very positive, and customers and crew were all onboard with this new program. After planning and visualising this space so long ago, we are delighted to be able to use our wonderful homecraft room as we had envisaged.

Later in the year, we would like to invite parents to attend a family café experience where you will have the opportunity to see the café in action and celebrate the great work of the senior school students.

#### **School Projects**



Over the school holidays, landscaping will occur in the North playground. We are creating a safer space for students by removing the uneven surface and installing synthetic turf. This project has been funded through locally raised funds.

Last year, Maths specialist Cheryl O'L, organised the installation of ground marking in the North and West playgrounds. The designs focus on mathematical concepts of number and shape and are

colourful additions to what was a plain concrete space.

We are very grateful for a recent donation of \$40,000 from Brighton Freemasons and will utilise this generous donation to enable further upgrades to our outdoor areas.

#### **Student Information**



We have a number of indemnity forms and student detail forms that are yet to be returned. Please return these at your earliest convenience. Likewise, it is vital that the school is informed in a timely manner of any changes to medical management plans (asthma, epilepsy, anaphylaxis, diabetes) and medications. Keeping us informed supports us to safely support your child as needed.

**Tania Castro Millas**  
Assistant Principal

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## EEP ~ Ka Ling, Gemma & Natasha

It has been an absolute pleasure watching the EEP students explore and grow in these short few weeks. They have continued to settle in, learning about the classroom routine and daily expectations. Students have also begun to get to know their peers in the classroom too.

As the students settle and get to know the environment, it has been wonderful to have the brief opportunity to quietly observe as they learn to engage with play independently, or engage with their preferred activity. Tommy enjoys looking at books and watches attentively as the car rolls down the car run. Catie loves a good rhythm

and beat, eager to tap with tapping sticks or have a turn on the drums. Hannah too, loves a good rhythm and enjoys listening to songs, engaging well with music time. Leilani is a social butterfly, enjoying being with others, but also watches attentively at her peers around her.

Layla has become more confident in using her voice to communicate, while still using her Proloquo2go when required. Lucas is quick to make a choice when he arrives, pulling off his choice between two photo visuals and having a big smile on his face when he is given his choice of toy. Will enjoys a good beat, particularly interested when

the guitar is being strummed. Brooke and Alex both enjoy going to the Engine room and exploring the equipment available there.

This fortnight, we have welcomed Adele and her family to the Early Education Program. This week, Jordan has also return to EEP after being away for therapy.

The playgroup program has recommenced this year and it was lovely to see some families attend Playgroup last week. The Bayside Playgroup program runs in E2 on a Friday from 9:30am to 11:00am. For enquiries, or to enrol, please contact our Assistant Principal, Tania.

## Room E4 ~ Carly, Melissa & Anouk

As I write this newsletter article, I have just paid a fond farewell to Yuki. Today was Yuki's last day at Bayside as he jets off to live in Japan with his Mum. Yuki has been so greatly loved and enjoyed across the school in his time here. As I said to Yuki and Motoshi (Mum and Dad) at the end of the day, Yuki was fitting in very nicely into E4 this year and was very much enjoying himself. Good Luck Yuki, and Sayonara!

Further in E4, we have settled into our rhythm of the timetable nicely and these have been sent

home in hard copy to families for the fridge, as well as a visual (symbol) copy to use when chatting about the day with students.

This week starts our new shared reading focus that was quickly and most easily decided upon as a transport theme – Dig, Dig, Digging. So many fans of tractors, dump trucks, rubbish trucks you name it! Props and videos are paired to the story to support engagement. Any spare time, or waiting for others to finish sees students choosing

sensory play or playdough and pairing our favourite miniature sized diggers and trucks

Our letter focus is renewed, and we move from "A&W" to "T&Q". A new range of sensory tastings and touching will be on the cards such as tea, toothpaste and tapping a tambourine. Q is the challenge as quince paste is a little obscure, but we push forward to play quoits and touch a quilt when its time for English – Letters and Sounds and Phonics.

## Room E5 ~ Lulu & Neena

Half way through the term already ... time sure does fly when you're having fun!

This fortnight we have celebrated yet another birthday in E5. Mamoud turned 8!!! We enjoyed blowing up balloons, having a dance party and playing with bubbles to celebrate.

This fortnight a highlight for the E5 boys has been our shared reading sessions. We started with 'Dig, Dig, Digging' and are currently reading 'Choo, Choo, Clickety-Clack!' In these sessions Xavier is a great helper and enjoys turning the pages of the book. Taiga and Mamoud enjoy using

the switch to repeat the repetitive sentences whilst Akain, Mitchell and Paddy use the switch to activate the videos on each page! The boys have enjoyed playing with the toy vehicles throughout the story and engage well.



## Room E6 ~ Cheryl & Alina

During our Literacy tabletop activities Isaac, Naila, Nicholas and Khang have been exploring the Sensory tubs. These tubs have a world of their own. From letter shapes, alphabet books, letter cards, posters, pictures, sorting posters and the interactive; (and very touchable—yes we have had the letter P—squeaky pink pig—“Oink, Oink”) story props, the students have had a wonderful time!

Meanwhile, Khizr has begun his journey following structured sessions with the Reading Eggs—Fast Phonics program on the iPad. He has also been a great role model, expertly sorting the two letter shapes, pictures, and cards into two trays during morning circle! Our story continues to follow Hattie’s adventure with her animal friends, and of course, Mr Fox! Our extension question this week has been warmly received

too! It is a combination of a (chosen) farm animal from the story, putting it in the bus and then going off on an adventure to the song “(The animal) on the bus goes (sound effect)”. To date, the cow has been the most popular. Could this be because the “Moooo” is a highlight in our story?

We have a birthday boy this week! Happy Birthday to Khang!

## Room N1 ~ Marshall, Jacqui & Bronte

Over the past fortnight, student’s in N1 have been working hard with their daily tasks and getting more familiar with classroom routines and expectations. We have started our cooking program which has been received extremely positive, with students often requesting cooking on the days it’s not scheduled. This fortnight we have been making fruit smoothies. Students have practiced their cutting skills and used various forms of communication to request what they want in their drink. We have also started our new gymnastics program which has

been a great success. In the program students have had the opportunity to work on a range of gross motor skills. Last week we had our first visit to the Southside Café which has recently opened on Wednesday’s, with all students getting the opportunity to make a purchase with their personalised credit cards! Aiden and James chose a fruit puree, Dylan chose rice wheels, Archer chose some cut up vegetables, and Olivia came along to watch how it all worked, choosing not to make a purchase this time around.

One of the highlights of our learning so far has been the new Fast Phonics program introduced by the school. Students have all been very motivated to participate, often putting their hand up to have the first turn.

With the various hot days, we have been exploring water play on the big table. James and Archer thought it looked like a bath and took it upon themselves to jump in!

## Room N3 ~ Cara, Karryn, Aura & Bridget

In N3, we are well and truly finding our rhythm. We are enjoying seeing all the therapists visit us weekly. One of the highlights has been working with Emily C in OT. Our focus for the term is our 5 senses. Emily has brought in some very exciting new things to explore. Ellie was very intrigued with the ‘out of this

world’ slime. She sat and explored this for quite some time. Both Kate and Bella chose the kinetic sand, using their fingers to pinch and sift through. Charlotte loved it all—sand, slime, playdough, anything she could manipulate with her hands that had small toys inside of it. Annabel loved anything bright and colourful,

especially the rice and chickpeas. Jay took a little to warm up, but once he realised he could request shaving cream, he was very happy.

We look forward to exploring and learning about our other senses throughout the year!

This week we celebrated Annabel’s Birthday with some yummy cupcakes and a little party. Happy birthday Annabel!!!

## Room W1 ~ Abigail, Gemma & Danielle

W1 would like to take the opportunity to thank and farewell Shaun Bacon after his time as acting Principal at Bayside SDS. Shaun has been a daily visitor to W1 to greet and interact with all the students, and I know that his presence will be missed. In recent weeks he has also been bringing Maggie, his dog, along with him to the classroom, much to the students' delight. Sakura made connections

with her friendly dog, Cinnamon, at home – as did Tom, telling us his dog Frank is black too! William and Adam were happy for a stroke and a rub from a wet nose as she came to greet everyone in turn. Rosie enjoyed Maggie snuffling around her rainbow shoes and had a little stroke with encouragement. Sam showed his confidence around dogs, and Maggie mirrored his energy, jumping

up to say hello. Shaun and Maggie will both be missed as they head back to their school this week, making way for Justin to join us as Principal. W1 are ready and eager to welcome Justin to the school and get him up to speed on all our favourite things! Best of luck Shaun – remember to pop in to visit soon (with Maggie, of course!).

## Room W2 ~ Gloria & Marion

Hi All,

All our students have settled well into the term and are busy, busy, busy.

This term our job for the school café program has involved our students washing and cutting up fruit and packing into little boxes for sale. All students have taken part, and take their jobs pretty seriously.

We then get to visit the café on Wednesday and choose a snack.

We celebrated Cade's Birthday this week and had a party with our friends from W3. Lots of lovely munchies, cake and fizzy drinks were enjoyed, and a bit of a dance too. Next birthday coming up is a biggie as Maddie will be 18 soon!

We are keeping moving with daily walking, bike riding and dancing.

Tasting different foods each week during our cooking time, we have had pancakes and toasties so far, and this week will be trying something new.

Enjoy our photos – till next time.

## Room W3 ~ Kate & Paddy

The W3 crew have been so excited that the therapy sessions are back up and running.

As part of our speech sessions, the class have been enjoying a summer sensory story where they get to explore, using their senses, the different things they might experience at the beach. They get to feel sand and shells, smell the

coconut sunscreen, look at themselves wearing different hats and sunglasses. and feel sprays of water on their face.

As part of our occupational therapy sessions the class have been focusing on their fine motor skills. They have been working on warming up their hands using playdoh while listening to different songs.

Then practicing their pencil grip with different colouring activities and everyone's favourite, (Including the staff) playing with Thera putty to build on their finger and hand strength.

It's been great fun for everyone having the class therapy sessions back

# Room W4 ~ Tiana & Mark

Last week was the very first week of the Southside Café, with W4 having a very important role to ensure the café runs smoothly – Shopping!

On a Monday, Archie, Jordan, Lachy, Theo and Reuvi venture out to Woolworths in Thrift Park to buy the produce needed for the café. It was a very exciting and new experience for some of

the group, with others being seasoned shoppers from programs run in previous years.

This week, Jordan and Lachy referred to our provided shopping list to pick items off the shelf. Archie and Theo also helped with picking out items in store and then scanned them through the checkout.

Reuvi was a brilliant basket carrier, and bagged and carried items back to the bus.

We are all looking forward to getting out to the shops again next week!

## Bayside SDS Values:

**Teamwork**—Working in teams offers a greater sense of belonging. By emphasising the value of teamwork and the importance of collaboration we achieve better outcomes for our students.

**Respect**—Respect means that you accept somebody for who they are, even when they are different from you or you do not agree with them.

Respect in your relationships builds feelings of trust, safety, and wellbeing.

**Opportunity**—We are committed to providing services, resources and encouragement that equip students and families for better outcomes, new futures, new hope and dignity.

**Compassion**—Compassion means temporarily suspending judgment so that you can appreciate others' perspectives or situations when they are different from your own. To be compassionate you need to be genuinely concerned about the other person or people's needs.

**Community**—Respect for the rights, differences, and dignity of others. Honesty and integrity with all members of the community. Accountability for personal behaviour



## Southside Café Program.

### Our Winning Logo



Thank you to everyone in the Bayside Community who sent in their nomination for the Southside Café Logo. Executive Committee member Sakura collated all the responses. It was a very tight race, with only four nominations separating the top three designs. The winning design was created collaboratively by all students in W1, using CANVA to design the digital logo.

### Our First Menu



The Executive Committee decided on the menu options in their first meeting last week. The menu will remain the same for two weeks – currently Fresh fruit box (strawberries, grapes and cucumber), Rice Wheels, Cheetos and Apple and Raspberry Fruit Puree.

### Crew Members of the Week

**Chris G:** For doing an amazing job following directions and preparing the fruit ready to be sold at the café.

**William S:** For trying new things and being fantastic at giving orders to customers.

### Customer of the Week

**Dylan K:** For confidently making a choice when ordering food at the café.

**Sam M-R:** For successfully transitioning to the café and engaging with his peers when ordering.



## Multi-Sensory Therapy Report—Jo Robinson

We have had a wonderful start to the year in the Multi Sensory Environment Room or Magic Room as it is affectionately known. The Magic Room is located in S4 between the Art Room and the Engine Room, which provides opportunities to practice transitions from classrooms to the Magic Room through the courtyard. Thank you to parents and carers for your quick completion and return of the permission forms to participate in the Multi Sensory Therapy program. Individual aromatherapy massage creams have been created to cater for each students unique needs. These individualised hand made creams are used in Multi Therapy sessions and are also available for use in the classroom as required and desired.

It has been fantastic to welcome students back to the Magic Room to begin to explore our interactive and inclusive technologies. The Bubble Columns which slowly change colour and rise from the bottom to the top of the Columns and can be turned on and off using a wireless switch. The Magic Carpet projection system is an app based interactive projection system that stimulates and engages people of all ages and abilities. Students simply move part or all of their body over the projected apps to interact with—they can even roll a ball or wave a ribbon. It has a motion capture camera that tracks users as they move over the projected apps. This movement data informs the software of the speed, direction and location of the movement. The software then converts this data into dynamic audio visual feedback which students will experience as real time cause and effect triggered by their movement.

I look forward to a sensational year ahead, welcoming new students to the program Isaac, Kate and Ellie. This year the Multi Sensory Therapy program will run on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. If you have any questions regarding the Multi Sensory Therapy program please do not hesitate to contact myself via the school email address.

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