



Brunswick East Newsletter

Term 1 Week 2

Welcome back to BEPS for 2025. I am so excited for a fantastic year ahead. It has been so wonderful moving around the school that past week and a half. The buzz in the yard before and after school and in the classrooms is so positive, BEPS truly is a great place to be.

I am excited to introduce Lisa to you all. You may have met her around the yard before or after school. Her role is to oversee Curriculum at BEPS. She will have her own section of the newsletter each fortnight so families can keep up to date with all the learning staff and students are doing. Lisa has previously worked within the Department and at schools in the Bayside area.

This week we have also completed our testing to form our groups for MiniLit and MacqLit our literacy intervention program. These will start next week. Students who are selected for the first round of this program will receive a letter today. These groups have been based on teacher referrals as well as grouping students with similar needs. Touch base with your classroom teacher if you think your child needs these supports as they may already be flagged for the next round of students. These staff will also be supporting small group numeracy intervention in classrooms.

We officially welcome Orla Carr to the 3/4 team. Orla worked at our school as a CRT last year so she is probably a familiar face for you and we are so lucky to have her.

The Welcome to Country smoking ceremony was held yesterday and was brilliant to experience. We thank Uncle Perry for conducting this at BEPS.

Parent information Sessions will be held in Week 4. Please see the flyer in the newsletter for more information.

If you haven't already, please ensure you are connected to your child's Seesaw account as we will regularly be sharing learning this way. Information is available via your child's LC teacher

Please remember your hats this term!

Erin



Important dates to remember

Wednesdays until end of Feb - Prep Testing
Tuesday 18th Feb 5pm-6pm - Prep info night
Tuesday 18th Feb 6pm - 7pm - 1/2 info night
Thursday 20th Feb 5pm-6pm - 3/4 info night
Thursday 20th Feb 6pm-7pm - 5/6 info night
Thursday 20th Feb 9:30am - School Tour



Curriculum Update

Hello!

I am delighted to have the opportunity to be part of the Brunswick East Primary School community as the Acting Assistant Principal. A significant part of my portfolio will be working with the fantastic team here with the further development of curriculum and the strategic role out of the department priorities.

I have worked in the capacity of a classroom teacher, Learning Specialist, Acting Assistant Principal and most recently in the South East Victoria Region as an Education Improvement Leader, supporting Bayside-Peninsula Area schools in their improvement work. Since June 2024, the Department of Education has set a more assertive position about ensuring “Excellence in Every Classroom”. Brunswick East PS is in a great place to implement this work as many preconditions have been established.

I’m looking forward to working with students, staff and community- please feel free to say hello and have a chat!
Warmly, Lisa

Phonics @ BEPS

“Essential for some, helpful for all, harmful for none.”

A systematic, synthetic phonics program (SSP) is the “best bets” approach to ensure all students can read (decode) and spell (encode).

systematic	synthetic	phonics
<i>From simplest sound-letter correspondence to more complex.</i>	<i>Learning of individual sounds via explicit teaching so students can blend and segment.</i>	<i>The relationship between letters and sounds.</i>

At BEPS, we are committed to implementing an evidence-based SSP to allow all of our students to succeed. We will be using Little Learners Love Literacy (LLLL) in Tricocolo and Bicicletta to support the learning of Phonics.

What will it look like?

Every day, students will engage in a series of explicit routines and activities led by their teachers that are designed to assist students to commit new learning to memory.

Students will bring home decodable books and passages to practice the sound-letter relationships that have been focused on in the classroom.

Please reach out to myself or your child’s learning community if you have any wonderings about SSP or LLLL.



Mental Health & Wellbeing Leader – Gita Peterson

Dear BEPS Community,

I am excited to introduce myself as the Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader at BEPS. My role is all about fostering a positive, inclusive, and supportive school environment to help every student feels safe, valued, and empowered to thrive.

I work closely with our Leadership and School Improvement Teams to develop and implement School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) initiatives and provide professional learning for staff, ensuring we are all equipped to support student wellbeing. I also help guide important programs such as Respectful Relationships and Social & Emotional Learning, making sure our school provides engaging and meaningful learning experiences that promote kindness, resilience, and emotional growth.

Supporting student attendance and engagement is another key focus of my role. If a student has been absent for a few days without contact, I follow up with families to offer support and ensure students can reconnect with learning. Additionally, I co-lead the Wellbeing Team, providing professional development and resources to help our staff nurture mental health and wellbeing across the school.

At BEPS, we believe in proactive and evidence-based wellbeing initiatives, so I oversee and run various programs, including daily Friendship Groups, Smiling Mind, and play-based supports. I also supervise external professionals such as speech therapists, art therapists, and placement students, ensuring smooth integration of their expertise into our school environment.

Another important aspect of my role is safeguarding. As part of the Wellbeing Team, I support child protection processes and assist with any necessary referrals or reports to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students. I also apply for grants to expand our wellbeing programs and manage the Wellbeing Budget to provide resources that make a real difference in students' lives. To further support students, I coordinate and facilitate Lego Serious Play, Lego Therapy, and Go Zen, an Anxiety Awareness Program. I also support staff in the implementation of Taking the Talk and Respectful Relationships. These programs help students develop confidence, emotional awareness, and important life skills.

I am passionate about ensuring every student at BEPS has the support they need to flourish socially, emotionally, and academically. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our wellbeing initiatives, please feel free to reach out!

Warm regards,

Gita Peterson - Mental Health & Wellbeing Leader



OSHC Update

Hello families and welcome to a new school and OSHC year!

For those who are new to the school, the BEPS Outside School-Hours Care program operates daily from 7:30am – 8:45am and 3:30pm – 6:00pm. Our program encourages children to participate in a range of activities in areas such as Art and Craft, Sport and Movement, Reconciliation Action, S.T.E.M, and Sustainability.

There are plenty of spaces available in both our Before and After School Care Programs, so if you require your child to be in our care, either permanently or casually, please contact the program co-ordinator Rena via email at Ranita.Swamy@education.vic.gov.au. You can also find more information about the service on the BEPS website.



Term 1 Gathering Dates

Please Note: All gatherings are now whole school (preps will be informed when they will start attending)

Friday 14th Feb - Su Nei Cieli

Friday 28th Feb - Il Nido

Friday 7th March - Terra Verde Upper

Friday 21st March - Terra Verde Lower

Friday 28th March - Bicicletta



Parent Information Sessions

Come along and hear about what is happening in your child's Learning Community in 2025!

Meet your child's teachers, hear about the Curriculum and find out about key events happening this year.

You will also have time to check out the Learning Community space.

Triciclo - Tuesday 18th February - 5pm - 6pm

Bicicletta - Tuesday 18th February - 6pm - 7pm

Terra Verde (combined) - Thurs 20th Feb - 5pm - 6pm

Su Nei Cieli and Il Nido - Thurs 20th Feb - 6pm -7pm

Powerpoint slides will be made available to families who cant attend through COMPASS



Services at BEPS

BEPS is fortunate to have a number of external providers who visit students at school. We are very limited in the physical spaces we have available, but we will always work with everyone to ensure students' needs are met. If you would like your provider to visit the school, please make contact via the office.

Louise from Crisalida

Hello BEPS community,

Welcome back to all of the students, parents and staff! I've heard some wonderful holiday recounts from children excited to be back for a new school year. It's such a pleasure to continue to engage in Creative Arts Therapy once again in 2025, with students across Prep - Y6.

The expressive arts therapies offer a somatic, less verbally-centred opportunity to explore social and emotional wellbeing themes, including: transition, friendships, anxiety, navigating neurodivergency, confidence and efficacy, trauma, and gender, amongst other foci.

I've worked with many children at BEPS over the past four years. We seek to set appointment times that correspond with each LC and the Curiosita specialist timetable. With several of my former clients now beginning secondary school, I have some slots opening up on the days I'm based here at BEPS.

This is an opportunity available to children from Years Prep-6, including those who are covered by NDIS funding. As I am employed by Crisalida Therapy, a local family therapy clinic, there is also the opportunity to visit me in the clinic over school holiday periods.

If you have any inquiries regarding your child receiving 1:1 arts therapy, either short- or long-term, please email me at louise.arbanas@crisalida.com.au or call the clinic for more information: 9484 6299.

Kind Regards,
Louise Arbanas
Arts Therapist & Education Specialist;
Crisalida Therapy
W: www.crisalida.com.au

