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## IMPORTANT DATES

6.00pm, Wednesday 7 February  
Fundraising Meeting

Tuesday 13 February  
Pancake Day

Tuesday 13 February  
Acquaintance Night

5.00-6.00pm Open Classrooms  
6.00-6.30pm Chromebook Info  
Session (Library)  
6.45-7.15pm AGM  
7.15-8.00pm Governing Council  
Meeting

Monday 12 March  
Adelaide Cup Holiday

Tuesday 13 March  
Student Free Day

Friday 13 April  
Sports Day

## TERM 1 NEWSLETTER No. 1—1 February 2018

### Leadership News

Welcome to Black Forest Primary School for 2018! We hope that the summer break was restful and that your children have returned to school enthusiastic and ready for another year of learning. Already this year staff have been analysing your **child's learning growth over their time at school so far and planning to ensure they can meet their learning needs.** We have been discussing how we can continue to push Black Forest Primary School from a great to an excellent school with a relentless focus on supporting your child to achieve through focussed and sustained time on learning. To support this, the leadership team has undergone **some role changes, with principal Joy Milward now supporting the school's Literacy focus, deputy principal Brianna Jordan focussing on Numeracy across the school, and senior leader Joel Catchlove working with staff and students to develop skills and dispositions for learning at and beyond school.**

#### Communication

Over the last couple of years, the Governing Council, in collaboration with staff, have been working to refine communication processes between the school and community. Throughout 2017, the staff technologies committee analysed the **Council's proposals and this year have established some clear expectations for all staff.** While there were various areas for focus and development, clear themes emerged from the discussions:

- Consistency of communication methods and expectations
- Clarity of information
- Convenience of communication methods for both staff and families.

To support this, a number of strategies have been agreed to by staff: Acquaintance Night (Tuesday Week 3, Term 1) is the main opportunity for teaching staff to communicate class expectations and processes, including communication methods to parents.

Formal communication (such as class newsletters, excursion notes, etc.) will be checked by line managers to ensure clarity of information and will utilise a standard format to ensure basic information is easy to find and understand.

Teaching staff will release a Class Newsletter in Week 1 of Term 1. In Term 1, this could include:

- Introductions
- Acquaintance Night and other upcoming events
- Class expectations
- How families can communicate with teachers (inc. appropriate use of communication books, email, phone)
- Teacher email address

Teaching staff will release a curriculum overview by Week 3 of each term. This can be produced individually or as a year level team and may be combined with the class newsletter mentioned above. It would provide

- A broad outline of themes and topics

- The concepts expected to be taught
- Key dates or events

All staff communicate with families through email and will provide their email address in the class newsletter. Schools are incredibly busy places, and as classroom teachers are focussed on your child's learning they may not have an opportunity to check their email throughout the day. There is an expectation that staff check their email every two days at a minimum, and that they acknowledge these emails within this two day period. An acknowledgement may just be a note to say they've received your message as it may require further follow-up.

Implementation of the Sentral Parent Portal, supported by parent workshops in the first half of 2018. The Sentral Parent Portal is an app and online portal that allows families to access information about their child's activities at school. The first stage of rollout will include attendance information, student details and illness information. Academic reporting and wellbeing information will follow in the future. We are currently refining how this app will work at Black Forest to ensure it meets our needs - stay tuned!

Appropriate use of different communication methods.

While your child's class teacher will discuss this further at Acquaintance Night or in their class newsletter, please remember that for urgent or pressing matters, a phone call to the school is always the best method for ensuring your message is received. Email and communication books are useful for non-urgent communication, and communication books should not be used to include any confidential or sensitive information. If you have a matter you would like to discuss with your child's teacher, we encourage you to arrange a time with them for a face-to-face or telephone meeting to discuss the matter.

#### Way2Go Updates

Last year Joel Catchlove, Stuart Greene and Governing Council chair Mark Fidock participated in the Way2Go process with the SA Government, City of Unley and City of Marion to look at strategies to support safer routes to school. Black Forest's parent community provided an enormous amount of feedback which the SA Government and relevant councils have been considering. Some of these initiatives include:

- New fencing has now been installed on the school side of South Road at an increased height around the crossing.
- Plans are currently being considered for a drop-off zone at the entrance to the Forest Avenue Reserve/School Oval, with students and families then able to walk to class via the oval and school garden. In preparation for this, we are now trialling staff supervision of this area before and after school - feel free to drop off or pick up your child from this location and avoid the traffic around Kertaweeta, Oban and South Road.
- Further improvements are also being considered for Addison Rd, School and Forest Avenues.
- While changes to the Pleasant Avenue thoroughfare are limited due to the proximity of property boundaries to the road, Marion Council has conducted a number of works along this route as a consequence of the Way2Go process, including the removal of numerous trip hazards, the replacement of several pedestrian ramps and pruning. There are further works to follow including the suggested installation of some pedestrian fencing and further pruning.
- This term Black Forest Primary School will be participating in Bike Education to support student understanding of safe cycling behaviours and to encourage greater active transport to school. While initially we had hoped that all students in Years 4 and 5 would be able to participate, unfortunately our enrolment numbers have continued to grow beyond the capacity of the program. In light of this, the program will be offered to classes in the Year 5 team only: Rooms 4, 19, 22 and 23. This program will begin on Friday 9 February with students bringing bikes and helmets if possible on that day for a road-worthiness check by the RAA. Bike Ed will also provide some spare bikes and helmets for students unable to bring their own. Further information will be sent to the relevant families this week.

#### Banrock Station

This year we celebrate 20 years of Black Forest's relationship with Banrock Station. While there are several activities planned, the dates for the traditional Year 3 Family Camp and Tree Planting weekend have been released. This year the camp will be held on the weekend of Saturday 23 June. Information was sent to all families of this year's Year 3 students at the end of last year, please get in touch with [joel.catchlove402@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:joel.catchlove402@schools.sa.edu.au) if it missed you!

Canteen - volunteers for pancake cooking please!

Can you spare 30 minutes from 8.30-11.30 on Tuesday 13 February to help either cooking or serving pancakes? The more volunteers we have, the more we can make and sell. Please contact [corina.rowenstyles@blforest.net](mailto:corina.rowenstyles@blforest.net) if you're available.

If you use QKR, please ensure you've updated your child's classroom for 2018 so that their lunch can find them!

Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee is seeking new members! Come along to their first meeting for the year, 6.00pm on Wednesday 7 February to get involved, or contact [Brianna.Jordan143@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:Brianna.Jordan143@schools.sa.edu.au).

Our sympathies to the family of Peter Omond

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Peter Omond, a valued parent in our school community. We express our condolences to his family at this sad time.



## Our School Values - Room 4



This year Room 4 is a Y5/6 class which makes us unique. We have spoken as a learning group on Day 1 about numerous things and are committed to working hard together even when learning is tough.

We have volunteered for the Newsletter and Assembly this week. Our focus is on teaching the school community a bit more about our school values. We firmly believe that our five well-chosen school values are at the heart of who we are as a school community. Please come to our assembly on Friday to learn more.

The following are some quotes from our initial thinking about the school values.

*'Respect is something that you will need to value for your whole life.'* Tom

*'Spread kindness around like confetti.'* Ella

*'Every value is important because it makes people nice and caring.'* Addison

*'Respect is the most important value. If you don't use respect the other values don't work.'* Lachlan

*'I think endeavour is important because you should always believe in yourself and try your hardest.'*  
Scarlett

*'Creativity is the most important because people get to use the school values in a good and fun way.'*  
Naythan

*'We need these values to become better people in the future.'* Lilly

Thank you taking the time to read our thoughts. We hope you have a great year.

