IMPORTANT DATES 2020

Monday 23rd March
Yr 7 Immunisations

Tours of the School 9am and 4.30pm

School Council, Annual General Meeting from 6.00PM – 7.30PM.

Tuesday 24th March
7/8 Sport POSTPONED

Wednesday 25th March
Year 7 Sports afternoon
Periods 3 and 4
Bring your PE gear.

Tours of the School 9am and 4.30pm

Thursday 26th March
BSC Open Night POSTPONED

Thursday 26th March
9/10 Sport POSTPONED

Friday 27th March
PUPIL FREE DAY
Curriculum Day for Staff

Tuesday 14th April
First day Term 2

Principal’s Report

Pupil Free day - Friday 27th March
Thank you for the support shown by our school community as the school staff work through developing resources and teaching strategies, planning for a Transition to Remote Learning if this is required sometime in the future.

To assist this process, please ensure your contact details and email addresses are correct. Take a few minutes to check your ability to access COMPASS, as this will be our main contact and process for delivery of course work for students. If you need assistance, or need a new password, please contact the office prior to the holidays.

I will be providing you with regular updates regarding the COVID-19 response information relevant to our school. This correspondence will be sent via email and be accessible via COMPASS.

Our main focus is always to support the health and well-being of all our students, staff and the wider school community. I have detailed, daily advice from DET, who are working closely with the Health Authorities to ensure we have students health and learning in mind. Detailed planning for our possible Transition to Remote Learning is in place. It is important to note in this context that the Victorian Chief Health Officer’s advice is that the risk of transmission represented by children appears to be low.

We remind students to be conscious of the need to be mindful of the recommendations for hand washing and limiting unnecessary contact or sharing of drink bottles etc. DET has provided additional resources for next week to support additional cleaning throughout the school day.

As our Interschool Sport days in the last week were postponed, we will be running some additional sport activities to keep up the enthusiasm and participation opportunities for our students.

Students have been shown various new online learning platforms they would be able to access, have all been given their BSC email address and edupass address, and senior students have a range of learning supports they are familiar with to ensure they will be supported in their learning. If there is no option for internet access from home, alternative options will be available. If we do need to Transition to Remote Learning, families will receive details of the learning program and processes involved to access this. We are planning towards maintaining a study routine for all students.

If you have any concerns, questions or need support at this time, please contact the school.

COUNCIL AGM.
This has been postponed until Monday April 20th.

SCHOOL TOURS
Our building program is well underway, and I invite anyone from our community who would like to have a tour of what has been done so far, and view the plans for the future, to join a tour of the school next Monday or Wednesday at 9am or 4.30pm or visit the school on Thursday 26th March at 5.30pm. Next week, our new Music room space in the old PE shed will be nearly completed.

CCTV Please be aware that after our recent issues with damage to the school, we have recently installed security cameras at the school. We follow the DET guidelines for limited access to any vision within the school, as this is only accessed if needed. Notices have been posted to inform visitors to the school.

Patricia Broom Principal
Building-Demolition finished and work begins!

Demolition works are completed this week and our building program is working to schedule, with a few days off due to the great rain recently.

Works will continue over the holiday period and throughout the remainder of 2020.

The earth works in preparation for the new building are now underway at last. Many, many layers of concrete later, they finally removed all the footings and remains of the old admin area. The works for the upgrading of the old PE Shed, to be transformed into the new music space are well underway and due for completion for term 2. It cannot be seen externally so much at this stage, but much work has been happening on the inside of this space, with ceilings, new doorways and acoustic panelling on walls to assist this becoming a subject specific space. It will have a large covered area in front for setting up our new stage.

The portable stage was purchased through the Local Schools Community Grant fund, distributed by the selection panel led by Helen Haines MP.

This will be available for other local schools to access for their events as needed.

We are looking forward to having some great student lunchtime performances during the year.

FROM THIS...

TO THIS........
Adolescent Health Nurse Report

We are in difficult times at the moment, as countries around the world, including our own, are trying to find the best ways to contain and manage the COVID-19 outbreak. As a school we have been trying to keep you updated as best as possible, but it is important to note that information on this situation is unfolding and evolving on a daily basis. This is common when we are experiencing large scale outbreaks, as we find out more information on how best to manage the disease and ensure the safety and protection of entire populations. Each country has taken a slightly different approach in management and at present there is no ‘gold standard’, we are all learning as we go. The main points I want to emphasise today:

• Please seek health information from trusted sources (like the WHO and Department of Health websites). Social media and news outlets can be unreliable and contain alarming words and images that do not always portray the full picture.
• Washing hands should not be undervalued. Simple warm water and soap is very effective in maintaining hygiene. If you are using public bathrooms try to use paper towels over hand dryers wherever possible (see the hand washing poster in this newsletter for a reminder!)
• If you are feeling unwell with any symptoms that have been associated with COVID-19, please stay at home until you are fully better. It usually takes about 2 weeks for an illness to pass through.
• If you are feeling unwell with any symptoms AND have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 then absolutely stay home for a full 2 weeks and contact your nearest health care provider to organise testing.
• If you have regular contact with anyone who is elderly (60 years and older), immunocompromised (this can include someone who is receiving chemotherapy or has blood disorders, but is not limited to) or pregnant then please try and keep a safe distance wherever possible. We have a role to play in protecting those who don’t have strong enough immune systems to protect themselves.
• Be kind to one another. We are learning each day about how best to navigate this situation and protect ourselves and our loved ones.

To end on a more positive note, I would like to say thank you to all the volunteers who have helped with Breakfast Club this term. They are:

Ryan Pollock  Will Tidball  Lily McPherson  Ruby Ryan  Trent Leeds  Lily Wilkinson  Bell Holding

As well as the wonderful staff: Ms Lawry and Alex O’Connor. It makes such a huge difference when there are more hands on deck! If you are interested in helping out next term please come see me or flick me an email!

In the meantime, with Easter break approaching, stay well and stay positive. Enjoy the break as best as possible. If you need any support during this time you can contact me on my email address which can be found on Compass and I will endeavour to get back to you in a timely manner.

Sarah Williams - Adolescent Health Nurse

Message from School Council Gael Barr Evans

As School Council President I commend Beechworth Secondary College and the community for their commitment to uplifting not only the grounds but also student outcomes, service and culture. It has been a year of great change and challenges, and although we have more on the horizon (dare I mention COVID19) it is nice to see our small school uniting, working towards a common purpose and a fantastic new building!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to join our Beechworth Secondary College School Council, Annual General Meeting this coming Monday the 23rd of March from 6.00pm – 7.30pm. We are a friendly bunch, so join us in person in the school staff room (enter via the main reception entrance). Or if you are practicing your social distancing (which we are very supportive of) feel free to join us online. Please let us know and we can link you in.

School Council is a great way for you to influence the direction and outcomes for our students, families and learning streams —and with the new building under construction it’s an exciting time to be involved.

NAPLAN 2020.

Education Ministers reiterated that the National Cabinet has agreed, on the advice of the Chief Health and Medical Officers, that “pre-emptive closure of schools are not proportionate or effective as a public health intervention to prevent community transmission of COVID-19 at this time”.

The decision to not proceed with NAPLAN in 2020 has been taken to assist school leaders, teachers and support staff to focus on the wellbeing of students and continuity of education, including potential online and remote learning. Further, the impact of responses to the COVID-19 virus may affect the delivery of NAPLAN testing, including the operation of centralised marking centres and the implications for nationally comparable data if an insufficient number of students are available to do the test.

Gael Barr Evans
President School Council.
Outdoor Education

Year 11 OES – Murray River Kayaking
The year 11 Outdoor and Environmental Studies (OES) class took to the Murray River to experience kayaking down it. They are studying personal responses (emotions) to outdoor activities as well as the variety of ways of knowing different environments. The good weather meant that all the students were in good spirits and ready for an enjoyable experience. The water was quite low and this resulted in some extra knowledge being developed about the risks associated with being on the river. The group performed reasonably well all day as they improved their paddling skills and understanding of the flow of the river.

A range of emotions were experience throughout the day which gave us plenty to talk about when we got back into the classroom. Thanks to Storme Bishop for offering her time during this busy term, and special thanks Isaac Haebich for volunteering to support the Outdoor Education program.

Year 10 OE – Mt Pilot Rock Climbing
The second instalment of the OE climbing program occurred at Mt Pilot. Following on from their indoor skills, the class faced a new challenge of granite slab climbing. I was impressed to see every student give the climbing a real go and extremely proud of those who pushed themselves well past their comfort zone. We were again very lucky with perfect weather this year and the crew from Snowy Mountain Climbing School did a wonderful job supporting our kids.
Wodonga TAFE Work Experience Day

On Friday a group of kids went down to Wodonga TAFE for a day to see the different types of opportunities it holds. Being the only girl in the group was really nerve racking and scary. But by the end of the first activity, they had made me feel comfortable being there. The first half of the day I was in health and fitness. Second part was Engineering. Going to the TAFE day was very helpful to myself because I saw all these different things that were very interesting that I would have never thought of myself doing. That day was a good day because it made me have to try new things and meet new people.

Bella Webster.

I liked driving the forklifts, the food and seeing the technology that is being used. Bryce Warren.
I liked learning how to drive the forklifts, making the spinning wheel as well as using the machinery to make the spinning wheel. Blair Jones

I found it very interesting to see what you did there if you did an Engineering course. The forklift driving was also very cool to do. Liam McRostie

School Photos 2020

Our annual school photos have been taken and are now ready to order. Arthur Reed Photos uses an online ordering system where you can view your photos prior to ordering.

On photo day all students received a flyer which includes a code unique to them. You will require this 2020 code to register online and view your photos. If you have already registered, you will receive an email or SMS from Arthur Reed Photos with a link to view your photos.

If you have not yet registered, please go to order.arphotos.com.au and enter your code to complete your order. If you have misplaced your registration code, please contact the Arthur Reed Photos customer service team directly on 5243 4390

Please note that you will need to register online with your 2020 photo code to gain access to this year’s images.

There is a 10 day ordering period if you wish to receive free delivery back to the school. This ordering window closes on 4th April 2020. After this time, there will be a $4.95 postage and handling fee on all orders, as they will be sent directly to your nominated address.

If you require any assistance ordering your photos, please contact Arthur Reed Photos directly on 5243 4390 or email customerservice@arphotos.com.au
O & M District Swimming Carnival

The OMDSSSA Swimming Carnival was held at the Albury Pool on Tuesday 11th March after the postponement caused by the welcome rain. Weather wise, it was warm day after a cool start with a perfect water temperature for a carnival.

There were many fine performances on the day both individually and in the relays. The following relay teams qualified for the Hume Region carnival.

Girls 13 Yr. Freestyle Relay – Mia Klimpsch, Maddi Sandow, Amelia Wingard, Taya Waller
Girls 16 Yr. freestyle Relay – Asha Bright, Zara Warren, Brie Wingard, Lily Webster

A great effort all round!

Individuals who qualified for Hume region were:
Mia Klimpsch – 13F 50m Breaststroke, Backstroke
Travis Dunkley – 20M 50m Butterfly, Freestyle, Backstroke

Special congratulations to Mia Klimpsch and Travis Dunkley who were also their Age group champions. Special thanks to staff Ben Appleford and to all the student helpers who timed our lane all day. Well done.

Andrew Mackenzie

Year 7 and 8 Awards

Well done to these students who received Aspire, Respect Contribute Awards for demonstrating our school values.
Year 9 Stanley camp

The year 9's battled torrential rain on their overnight camp in Stanley. When I arrived on Friday morning, bright, well rested and dry, I was greeted by a bunch of quiet, tired soggy year 9's. It had rained around 200ml the previous night and I was impressed with the students attitude and resilience. The morning began with some team games followed by packing up (and drying out tents), and a talk by the CFA Stanley unit. Mr Nuck from the Stanley CFA stepped in last minute to give a very informative talk about the recent fires, how the CFA operates and how firefighters and volunteers are trained. He then most kindly let the students climb all over the CFA truck and obliged in demonstrating the water hose from the front - operated by a joystick. Everyone was impressed.

By mid morning the weather was perfect to begin the return hike from Stanley footy oval to Beechworth Secondary College. Walking though the farmlands and forests was beautiful. Students enjoyed looking at the mine shafts on the way and some were lucky to spot a koala. There was a quick stop at lake Kerferd for a "bucket lunch" (you had better ask the students what this is) and on to the the school where we arrived in good time. I'm guessing that all of the students enjoyed a fabulous sleep that night in warm, dry beds where some may now have a greater appreciation of home comforts.

Thank you to the Yr 9 co-coordinators and Jo Morrison for organising such a fabulous and memorable excursion.
Ms Cator