

From the Principal

BETTER TEACHING BETTER LEARNING BETTER ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

There is such a positive and energising atmosphere around our school. One of the reasons for that is that we are always looking at how we can constantly improve what we do to benefit your children, our students. Another is the delightfully collaborative nature of our school staff. We work as a team and share willingly to support each other.

Yet another of the reasons is our constant reminder of our school's purpose – better teaching, better learning, better achievement for all – and key strategies we have put in place over the next few terms to support this. Our staff (and many of our students) are very familiar with this purpose which is chanted at assemblies and in classrooms.

Our staff are implementing a series of strategies because they are part of a well researched "toolkit" of ways to raise students' connection and learning. A school priority is to support every teacher in every classroom in raising their level of awareness of – and confidence in – using these strategies from the "toolkit" of excellent teaching.

This term, staff have been fine tuning Learning Objectives and practising "Engagement Norms" and applying these wherever possible in their lessons. A copy of the Engagement Norms is included here. **If you are interested in finding out more, or watching them in action in a classroom, call us and we will happily share them with you.**

Each phase of learning will be focusing on teaching strategies to strengthen students' literacy and numeracy.

In our Kindergarten to Year 2 classes teachers are applying a program called "Let's Decode" which we introduced to parents and students in Term 4 last year. This will progress with further practise by staff of a strategy in the toolkit called "Daily Review".

Classes in primary from Years 3 to 6 will begin using a direct instruction strategy by the name of "Spelling Mastery" in Term 3.

In our Years 7, 8 and 9 classes teachers are introducing students to new learning using a method of direct instruction called "Maths Mastery". Some classes will also begin with special reading and spelling programs (all direct instruction programs) before the end of this term. These programs are called "Corrective Reading" and "Spelling Mastery".

Everything we are doing is evidence based and we are supported by some experts of world renown who have a great deal of interest in working with us. Indeed, feedback about the culture of our school has been very warm and positive from one of these experts, Dr Lorraine Hammond who visits, observes and coaches our staff as part of their professional development.

TELL THEM FROM ME Parent Survey Closes 23.3.18

A message has been sent out on CONNECT for parents of children across our school (from Kindergarten to Year 12) with the link to complete this survey. Only 74 responses were completed this time last year. We are very keen for more of you to contribute to our school by completing this survey. Surveys have some benefit for us if we receive them from parents of children across the whole school, and if we have a sizeable response. Although we're all very busy, I encourage you to show us your support by spending 10 to 15 minutes completing this.

The link is
<https://www.tellthemfromme.com/bullsbrook>

The link closes on **Friday afternoon, 23.3.18.**

Staff have also been invited to complete the survey, as have students in Years 4 to 12 with a separate report on each group being prepared when the survey closes.

DataWORKS Student **ENGAGEMENT NORMS**

- **Pronounce With Me**
- **Track With Me**
- **Read With Me**
- **Gesture With Me**
- **Pair-Share**
A → B, B → A
- **Attention Signal**
Eyes Front, Back Straight
- **Whiteboards**
Chin-it
- **Complete Sentences**
Public Voice, Academic Vocabulary

Three of our teachers (Mrs Alder, Mrs Edwards and Ms Hayes) won a "scholarship" which involved them spending one week of the summer school holidays in classrooms at a school specially organised for them to learn and practise techniques in explicit instruction from Dr Lorraine Hammond. Those teachers are now working on that newfound expertise to master their learning and share that with other teachers in the school. The very positive attitude of staff to the new classroom strategies is a pleasure to see. We all know that putting ourselves out of our comfort zone takes courage and support from colleagues – qualities staff in Team Bullsbrook have plenty of.

As the principal of the school I am very excited by the response of staff to these new school strategies to support our mission of **better teaching, better learning, better achievement for all**.

OLNA TESTS LAST WEEK – YEARS 10 to 12

These important online literacy and numeracy assessments were held last week. Thank you to all staff who organised and invigilated these important tests.

WE WON!!!! - INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

We have shouted loudly on CONNECT about how proud we are of our wonderful students in bringing home the trophy in their division for the first ever secondary interschool swimming carnival held last week. Mrs McCarthy and Mr McPhail both commented on the strong team spirit of our swimmers. Showing good sportsmanship is what it's all about. Winning is a bonus. Well done to them all.

NEXT ISSUE

Friday 16.3.18 is the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. We will have lots of information on this during this week.



Bernadette Jones, Principal

WHAT'S ON THIS TERM

WEEK 7

Monday 12 to Friday 16 March
 Primary Swimming (B3.2, B5.5, B6.1 and B8.2)
 Monday 12 to Thursday 15 March
 Year 12 Earth & Environmental Science Kalgoorlie Trip

WEEK 8

Monday 19 to Friday 23 March
 Primary Swimming (B3.1, B3.4, B5.4 and B6.3)
 Monday 19 March
 Kindergarten School Photos
 Wednesday 21 to Friday 23 March
 Year 11 Biology Rottneest Camp
 Thursday 22 March
 School Photos

WEEK 9

Monday 26 March to Friday 13 April
 Year 12 Work Placement
 Friday 30 March
 Good Friday Public Holiday

WEEK 10

Monday 2 April
 Easter Monday Public Holiday
 Tuesday 3 April
 Public Service Holiday
 Wednesday 4 April
 Year 8 Immunisations

WEEK 11

Tuesday 10 to Thursday 12 April
 Year 6 Bridgetown Camp
 Tuesday 10 to Friday 12 April
 Year 11 Prevelly Camp
 Friday 13 April
 Last Day of Term 1



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