**FULL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY FRIDAY**

**Lyn’s Lines**

We are so lucky at Bittern Primary School to have students that look further than their own back yard to the plight of others. Abbi Andrew and Tom Bowring have made a commitment to support leukaemia sufferers by joining in the world’s greatest shave day. $400 was raised on our crazy hair day for the foundation from our small school. Congratulations to all the Bittern community.

Welcome to our newly elected school council members who have made a commitment to oversee the governance of Bittern PS. The council members provide a voice for the parent, student and wider school community, if at any time you would like something discussed at school council meetings please approach any of the councillors who will bring your opinions to the attention of the council. The parent representatives on the school council are:

- Melissa Taggart  Flynn 5/6A
- Brooke Monck  Abigail 1/2A
- Tanya White  Lincoln 1/2 B & Harley Prep
- Melissa Mur  Charlotte 3/4B Georgia 1/2A
  & Zac 1/2B
- Lorna Bagworth  Michael 1/2A
- Rebecca Andrew  Abbi 5/6B & Laila3/4A
- Sue Mills  Sophie 3/4A
- Narelle Treloar  Paige 5/6A & Mia 3/4A
- Alina Perdikomatis  Hayden5/6A & Jordan 3/4B

There is at least one or more councillors from all areas of the school a great representation of the whole school community.

Do you believe that the term is nearly over already!? I’m not sure that it’s the older you get the weeks go by quicker or if our lifestyle is getting busier!

Thinking of holidays, which can be an expensive time for most families I found this article outlining some inexpensive activities that might give some ideas of affordable holiday activities.

_Sophie Blanc_

Arm yourself against the 'I'm bored' please this holidays!

**School holiday activities**

In these rather less than great economic times, I hear more and more parents talking about budgets and belt-tightening and this weekend it was our turn. Several life/job changes have meant that everything needs to be re-examined, re-juggled and slackened spending habits pulled into line.

Where to start? As the kids get older, experience tells me that (a) it pays to be prepared with lots of ideas (b) I need to get my kids on board and enthusiastic about said ideas and (c) I enjoy the holidays so much more and find them vastly more relaxing if I am flexible about not ticking everything on my list off or pinning my hopes on doing certain things.

**My criteria**

The Plan must be relaxing for everyone. A
holiday is after all supposed to be a holiday, it doesn’t have to be all go-go-go.

When I heard the dreaded whiney-voiced 'I’m bored!' I could point them to the list and pick something off it.

It doesn’t have to be completely free. My theory is much like sensible dieting or buying clothes, if you do as many free or cheap things as possible, you can afford to splash out on one or two special activities. I don’t want to be remembered by my kids as ‘Mum who wouldn’t spend any money on anything’.

The holidays do not need to be scheduled from dawn to dusk with every minute accounted for. A maximum of one activity a day will suffice and it doesn’t have to be an all-day event either.

The Plan of Action
There are 14 days in the holidays, if I wrote down a list of different things we could do together, asked the kids for their input (I often find they come up with great creative fun that hadn’t even crossed my mind), we could print it out and stick it on the fridge. Then when I heard the dreaded whiney-voiced 'I’m bored!' I could point them to the list and pick something off it.

Once the inspiration started to flow, I found it hard to stop! Here are the first 21 things I came up with, what would your list include?

Costs are based on a family of four. Some activities are based in or near Sydney, but similar activities can be found in most regions.

1. Plant some veggies or herbs together. Even if you have no garden, you can have so much fun collecting recyclable pots, decorating them, filling them with potting mix and planting seeds. My advice is to do this at the beginning of the holidays and choose something fast growing so that the kids can water them and watch them grow over the holidays. Cost $10 approx.

2. Day at the beach. Cost $0

3. Bushwalk in National Parks. Cost $0-11 for park entry

4. Rollerblading/biking. Cost $0

5. Camp-out in garden or living room depending on weather. Cost $0

6. Kids Bedroom Make-over. Every kids room needs a sort out once in a while and a new ‘look’. School holidays are the perfect opportunity. Search the op shops and internet for cheap ways to update their room. www.designdazzle.com is a great starting point for gorgeous ideas and links to other sites but even just moving things around is great fun to do with kids. Cost from $0-you decide.

7. The No Particular Reason Party – invite as many people as you like to bring a plate of finger food & a bottle. Cost $0

8. Invite a playdate around. Cost $0

9. Melbourne Museum Cost Train Fare

10. Art Gallery. Inject a little culture into the holidays and discover The Art Gallery.

11. Write an adventure story together. Cost $0

12. Get the kids to put on a fashion show & join in. Make sure you film it or take photos for posterity; it’ll make great memories for the future. Cost $0

13. Make greeting cards together – Grandparents and friends will love the creativity of your kids. Cost $0


15. Picnic in your local Botanic Gardens, there are always some never very far away and what is more relaxing than taking an armload of stories and a picnic rug and spending a lazy morning doing absolutely nothing much. If your kids are old enough, you may even have the luxury of being able to take your own novel and enjoy the beautiful silence. Cost $0

16. Fairs & markets. Do a bit of research on the internet and find out where the spring fairs or farmers markets are happening near you and spend the morning exploring one. Cost $0

17. Thousand steps in the Dandenong’s
WALKATHON

A huge thanks to Kay Morsman and Brenda Lanigan who organised the walkathon last Friday. It was great to see so many students and parents walking together. We have raised enough money to purchase a shade sail over the sandpit in the junior school area. Thanks to all the students who raised a substantial amount of money for a good outcome.

WESTERNPORT SECONDARY COLLEGE OPEN NIGHT FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 4-6.

COME AND SEE WHAT OUR LOCAL SECONDARY COLLEGE HAS TO OFFER

SOME OF YOU MIGHT RECOGNISE THE FACE ON THE PROMOTION MATERIAL!!!

BITTERN PRIMARY SCHOOL IS TURNING

A year of celebration!!!

Bittern is celebrating its 100th Birthday this year with exciting events and happenings. We are currently hunting up old photos of the school to look at our humble beginnings and where we are at currently. Many existing parents have also been students of Bittern PS and could possibly have photos of interest. If you would like to bring in your old photos we can scan them and return them to you straight away. Thanks for your support.

DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THESE STUDENTS?
PAYMENT OF SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS
Those parents who did not pay any Essential Items payments on book pick up day are advised that full payment is now **OVERDUE**. Without these much needed funds, our school cannot proceed with full school programs. Your co-operation is much appreciated.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th April</td>
<td>Harmony Gaylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th April</td>
<td>Kate Mirabella</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th April</td>
<td>Oscar Milsom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th April</td>
<td>Eliana Hughes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th April</td>
<td>Julian Przesmycki-Woodlock</td>
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</tbody>
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Please **do not** park in the school staff car park. **It is dangerous.**

Children are not allowed to be in the car park at any time. Please do not walk your children through the car park either. Please park at the front or back of the school. If there is no space when you arrive please drive around the block and wait for a space. Our car park clears very quickly so please be patient. It is a good idea to organise a meeting place with your child so that they know where to wait for a few moments if you are held up getting a car park.

Wanted Rubber Backed Picnic Rugs
If anyone has a rubber backed picnic rug which is not being used, it could find a new home at school! I need 8 picnic rugs for children to sit on at recess and lunch time so that they can play games, do jigsaws etc. Any rubber backed picnic rugs would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks

Linda Owen

Easter Bonnet Parade

**Date** - Thursday 24th March
**Time** - 9.15am
**Where** – In the courtyard – weather permitting
Use the internet to Google “Easter Bonnets” Images for plenty of ideas.
Looking forward to seeing all our children in their Easter Bonnets!
All parents welcome! Please come to see your child “parade” their Easter Bonnet!

IT’S NOT TOO LATE!!
CSEF APPLICATIONS
If you are the holder of a current pension card or health care card, then you are eligible to apply for this government payment for your child/ren. For more information on eligibility, or to complete an application, please call into the school office. You will need to present your valid HCC or pension card.

Please note that you need to re-apply each year.

Most families who previously received the Education Maintenance Allowance will be eligible for this payment ($125 per child).

Walk to School

The successful ‘Walk to School’ program will once again occur on the last Friday of every month. We meet at the Bittern station at 8.30am on the last Friday of the month and walk to school together. This is a great way for parents, students and teachers to participate in a whole school event and have a ‘get to know you ‘chat along the way.

OUR ONLY ‘WALK TO SCHOOL’ THIS TERM WILL BE THURSDAY 24TH MARCH WHICH IS THE LAST DAY OF TERM.
Harmony Day

This is coming up on Monday the 21st of March. Students will be asked to wear a ‘touch’ of orange with their school uniform.

Harmony day is held each year on 21st March. It’s a day to celebrate our cultural diversity. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone.

The message of Harmony Day is everyone belongs.

DON’T FORGET HOT DOGS THIS FRIDAY

HOT DOGS!!

Hot dogs will be available this Friday, at a cost of $2.50.
If you would like your child/ren to purchase a hot dog, please complete the order form and return it to school this Friday, together with the correct money.

I would like to order _____ hot dogs @$2.50
NAME: _________________  GRADE: ____
Please find enclosed $_________________

HOT DOG ORDER FORM

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NAME: _________________  GRADE: ____
Please find enclosed $_________________

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