IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>16th December</td>
<td>Grade 5/6 ‘Sidetracked’ 10am - 3:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>17th December</td>
<td>Grade 5/6 Cameo Theatre ‘Hotel Transylvania’ 9am - 1pm</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Choir Performing at Salisbury House 10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>18th December</td>
<td>School Assembly 9am</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>PFA Christmas Raffle</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>School Finishes 1:30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>27th January, 2016</td>
<td>Curriculum Day - no students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>28th January, 2016</td>
<td>Curriculum Day - no students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>29th January, 2016</td>
<td>School Resumes 9am</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Foundation 9am - 1pm</td>
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<td>PFA Foundation Welcome morning tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>5th February, 2016</td>
<td>Parents Monthly Afternoon Tea 2:30pm Staffroom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9th February, 2016</td>
<td>House Swimming Carnival Gr 3-6 @ Pakenham Outdoor Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10th February, 2016</td>
<td>Getting to Know You Interviews 2:00pm - 6:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>12th February, 2016</td>
<td>Grade 5/6 Interschool Sport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue - Fri</td>
<td>16th Feb - 19th Feb 2016</td>
<td>Grade 5/6 Camp @ Sovereign Hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>21st February, 2016</td>
<td>Beaconsfield Upper Village Festival</td>
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PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

MY RETIREMENT (please refer to the letter that has been sent home with the “youngest” child today).

It is with great sadness that I formally inform you of my intention to retire as Principal of BUPS at the end of the current school year, this Friday, the 18th December. I will be going on Long Service Leave for the first half of next year. It has been an honour, a privilege and an absolute joy to be BUPS’s Principal for the past ten years. The poor health of my wife and my elderly parents have convinced me that this is the right time to retire after 37 years with the Department of Education, 20 as a school leader.

Importantly, the school has held firmly its belief that one of its major roles is to provide each child with a balanced education and strong family values. Values and healthy relationships are priceless in this competitive world that is evolving faster than we can document it. At BUPS, children have the opportunity to experience childhood before the pressures of society, teenage hood and technology take over.

I would like to thank the parents for the amazing support that they have given the school and me personally over the years. Parental involvement in school programs is a feature of BUPS. Our dedicated staff is to be congratulated on their commitment to making a difference to every child at the school. Their passion and professionalism is a credit to them. To hear of the successes of our past students in secondary schools reflects the great preparation that they have been provided at our school. To hear that the Dux of Year 7 went to BUPS, the school captains at a number of secondary schools in Berwick went to BUPS, a past BUPS school captain will be representing Australia at the South African Hockey Championships next year, and that the newest St Kilda recruit went to BUPS, reinforces the fact that BUPS is a great primary school, preparing students extremely well for a prosperous future.

In farewelling you, thank you for all your support over the years and I wish BUPS every success in the future. I have many fond memories of my time at BUPS. These I will treasure for ever. Thank you for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime.
SONGS AT SUNSET

Last evening’s Songs At Sunset once again brought our school community together, by the hundred year old pine tree, to celebrate the end of the school year and the recognition of the start of the Festive Season. Songs was started some nine years ago by our then music teacher, Mr Brown. The purpose is to bring the community together, to see our children perform some Christmas songs, especially with an Aussie flavour. Our children certainly got into the spirit of Christmas as they enthusiastically showed us how much fun they have had at school this year learning music, and enriching their performance with some handy choreography. Congratulations to the children who performed so well, even though the acoustics were a little soft at times. Thank you to Mrs Dekoning for coordinating this year’s Songs At Sunset. A big thank you to our PFA for looking after the catering requirements. Just another example of the magnificent work done by this rather dedicated group of helpers. Congratulations to president Mel Naismith for leading such a fantastic team of helpers.

SANTA’S VISIT TO BUPS

We were blessed once again this week to be visited by the same Santa as last year, in fact, the same Santa for the past 44 years. Apparently, the great partnership commenced when Santa’s first child started Preps at BUPS in 1971. The BUPS tradition of giving a gift to Santa that will be delivered to children (through the St Vincent’s De Paul Society) who are doing it tough this Christmas, is unique and one that we are very proud of. To give to someone in need is a special human gesture that is a part of the BUPS culture. We are most grateful to Santa for giving up his time each year to help BUPS and all those needy children in our community.

VISIT TO INDIA

During the January school holidays, Kerrie McDonald and Toni Blizzard will be travelling to India as part of the Australia-India BRIDGE Project. This is a wonderful opportunity for our two teachers to experience first-hand the education system of India and lay the foundation for our school exchange that will hopefully occur in a few year’s time. This visit will add to the hosting of the two Indian school leaders by BUPS in October and November of this year. Wishing Toni and Kerrie a safe journey and looking forward to listening to their reflections and reports about the education system in some of the Indian schools.

YEAR BOOK

What an amazing publication our 2015 Year Book is. It reflects so well “A Year in the Life of BUPS” with many of the year’s events and activities represented, in words and pictorially. Thank you to volunteers Sharon McDonald (integration aide) and parents Tracey J, Belinda K and Danielle K for their commitment, long hours, inspiration, flair and creativity in putting the publication together.

CLASSROOM REPS

Another group of volunteers that has supported teachers this year has been the Classroom Reps. Through the Reps, the communication channels between the classroom and the home have certainly been enhanced. The information, reminders and reports that have been forwarded to the parents in each class has helped many parents with organising their school life so it is manageable and enjoyable. The positive relationships among class families has been a positive by-product of the program. Sarah Sankey, as program coordinator, is to be congratulated on how well the Rep program is operating since it was introduced two years ago. A big thank you to our 12 Reps who have kept our families so well informed.

STAFFING FOR 2016

One of the factors that influences school productivity is the management of the workforce. The new BUPS Workforce Management Plan sets the staffing direction for the next three years. Extensive research has concluded that teachers are at their highest effectiveness level when they remain in the same year level for up to four years. After that, they need to be deployed in another year level. In consultation with staff, we have our Workforce Management Plan that will see some teachers remain at their current year level, whilst some will be moving to a new level in 2016. There will always be exceptions to this policy. At BUPS we value a staff that is well trained, maintains its professional growth and is as productive as possible, leading to better student achievements. Hence, some teachers will be moving grades and classrooms at the end of this year.

We farewell Tim Hughes (retiring), Jackie Dekoning (Dandenong South PS), Bianca English (Family Leave), Jo Clausen, Lucie Carneli (Cardinia PS) and Sharon McDonald . I would like to thank all of the departing staff for the valuable contribution that they have made to BUPS and wish them all the very best with their future endeavours.

We welcome new staff, Paige Hynd (Preps - returning from Family Leave), Jane Hodgman (Grade 1/2 - Sandringham PS), Georgi Lovelace (Grade 1/2 - Oatlands PS), Clare Johnson (Grade 3/4 - Upper Ferntree Gully PS), Lorraine Ploeg (Phys. Ed - returning from Family Leave) and Michele Bennett (Music - Livingston PS).
FINAL ASSEMBLY AND SCHOOL FINISH THIS FRIDAY
Our final school assembly for the year will be held in the Stadium at 9 am this Friday. The annual RSL FRANK CONN EDUCATION AWARD will be presented to two of our grade 5 students. School will finish at 1.30 pm. Please make suitable arrangement for the collection of your children.

I would like to thank staff and all of our volunteers for the time, commitment and passion that they have shown to providing every BUPS student with every opportunity to receive the best education possible. May you all have a safe and enjoyable Christmas break with your families, doing the family things you value the most. Kala Hristougenna to one and all!

Nick Karanzoulis

A message from our School Council president:
On behalf of the School Council, I would like to sincerely thank Nick for ALL of his efforts during his 10 years at BUPS. Not only has he provided strong and stable leadership but he has embraced the community as his own. He leaves our school in a positive and strong position – as one of the best schools in the area. Just think of what our children have and will achieve once they leave BUPS because of the grounding they have had here.

We are in a sound financial position which will allow us to continue to improve our facilities and infrastructure over the coming years. Nick leaves us with the extremely competent leadership team he has built and a group of dedicated and passionate teachers. I am confident that Kerrie McDonald will assist with transitioning us through the New Year and beyond.

Finally I wish Nick the very best for this next phase in his life. My gratitude and thanks for his support are unlimited.

Kind regards
Shayleen

COOKBOOK
Only a handful of copies left, get in quick. Available to purchase at the office for $15 each.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE
When: Tickets and hamper donations are due back to school NOW.
Cost: $1 per ticket

LICORICE CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER
Orders have been distributed. Please see the office if you have not received your order. (We do have one order without a name.) Thank you to Lisa Collard for coordinating this delicious fundraiser.

SONGS AT SUNSET
Thank you so much to the volunteers who gave up their time to cook and serve at our BBQ. We apologise to those who missed out on a sausage. Despite catering for significantly more than last year, we certainly could not have anticipated the record turnout on the night. I’m sure you will agree that our volunteers do an amazing job.

Thank you to all BUPS families for your support this year. We wish a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful break.

From the PFA team of 2015.
From Mrs McDonald………

WOORABINDA CAMP
We are excited to announce there will be an additional opportunity for students in grade 4 & 5 to participate in high quality but low cost residential outdoor experience. This camp will:

- provide students with high quality personal development experiences
- give them opportunities to face challenge in order to develop persistence and build resilience
- be guided through social learning experiences whilst living in a small residential community environment
- build skills which relate to working in teams outdoors to learn about the environment and the interaction between various life forms.

Woorabinda is fully staffed by experienced and committed teachers who will lead the program and work closely with the students to ensure the best possible outcomes. Woorabinda also employs a variety of staff who support the program through provision of healthy, well balanced catering, a regular hygienic cleaning schedule, efficient administration of the program, safely managed maintenance / grounds work and early intervention first aid.

The Woorabinda staff form a strong and vibrant team who will engage your students, encourage them to "have a go" and Inspire them to become enthusiastic learners.

DATES: 30/05/2016 to 03/06/2016
COST: $185.00

Expressions of interest will be asked for during Term 1 next year.

END OF YEAR
We are all asking ourselves, ‘Where has the time gone?’ Here we are at the end of another year. A year that has been full of many different activities and events. One of the highlights for me this year would have to be working with the chess team. Every Tuesday lunchtime, I had a dedicated group of students who came into the library to play chess. When choosing the chess team to compete against other schools, it was not necessarily the best players that were chosen but the students who attended the most sessions. Twice we went to Beaconsfield Primary School and twice we came back with the winning trophies. I was a very proud Assistant Principal with the way our students conducted themselves, and watching their excitement at winning was wonderful.

During the holidays I have my trip to India to look forward to. Below I have an overview of what I will be doing while I am in India:

- Visit Springdales School in Delhi and participate in a professional learning workshop on Indian education and school life.
- Attend various workshops that covers the role of ICT in Indian schools, organisations that work within schools in India and managing diversity in Indian schools
- Attend a briefing at Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) Delhi covering topics including:
  - Dimensions of School Improvement
  - Using data for planning
  - Challenges for learning and teaching in the 21st Century
  - Assessment to support teaching quality
  - Trends in assessment: new thinking, new metrics, new technology.
- A full day of exploration in Delhi designed to familiarise ourselves with day-to-day life on the streets of India. It’s one of the biggest cities in the world, both in size and in population, so the best way to explore is with a guided tour. Smita Vats, the co-founder of ITIHAAS, Indian Traditions and Heritage Society, will lead the walking tour ‘Faiths and Festivals - Pluralism in Harmony’. Smita will take us on a story-telling walk of the city, connecting contemporary India with its ancient past and taking us to places casual visitors would never find.
- A trip to the romantic Taj Mahal, built entirely of white marble, and regarded as one of the eight wonders of the world, and the imposing Agra Fort, which takes its name from the red sandstone that lines its impressive outer walls. We will be guided by a historian who can talk about this engineering masterpiece and why is it so important to the India’s history.
- A homestay with my Indian partner S.C. Joshi at his school in Haridwar and then off to meet his family.
- I then return to Delhi for one final briefing and dinner before I fly home.

I will share all of my adventures with you on my return.

It has been such a pleasure working at BUPS, a place where everyone is so enthusiastic and supportive of all the programs we run. Finally I would like to wish all families at BUPS a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope you all have a very safe and restful holiday and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Kerrie McDonald
Classroom Updates ..... 

**Junior School News.**

So, here we are; the final school week of the year. 
Last week the kids were excited to meet their teachers and classmates for next year. 
Thank you to all the students and families who came Monday night to Songs at Sunset. The kids did an amazing job singing their Christmas carols. And thank you to the PFA for holding the sausage/hamburger sizzle – smelt and tasted great!

The junior school had fun celebrating with their classmates today. The kids' faces were full of smiles as they shared their KK presents with one another.

From all of us in the Junior section, we would like to wish all families a very Merry Christmas, and all the best for the New Year! Stay safe, and we'll see you soon!

Mel, Shel, Lucie, Kel and Jo

**MIDDLE SCHOOL MADNESS**

It's hard to believe that the end of the year is here already; it seems like only yesterday that we were doing our Bouncing Back to BUPS activities. In saying this it has been an incredible year with many memorable moments such as BUPS FL, Swimming Carnival, Athletics, Science works, Hooptime and of course Camp!

This week we will celebrate our fabulous year with a class party. For 3/4G and M this will happen on Thursday and for 3/4E and LK this will be on Friday. Please bring along a healthy snack to share. As we have very restricted fridge space it might be a good idea to pack a few cold packs if your snack needs to be kept cool.

And finally, the 3/4 team wants to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas!

Enjoy the holidays,

Bianca, Bec, Meghan, Sherrin and Adele

**Sensational Seniors Scoop**

We finish our year 5/6 year with an array of exciting and special celebrations this week.

Thank you to the parents who are accompanying us over the next few days.

Students are reminded that school uniform is compulsory on all excursions.

**Graduation**

Rehearsals for Graduation are well underway and excitement is building in anticipation of the big night. Please ensure parents and guests are seated by 6.45 p.m. as the ceremony will begin promptly at 7.00 p.m.

If you haven't already returned your RSVP, please do so ASAP.

We would like to thank the wonderful parent helpers who have assisted us in so many ways throughout the year. Without your time and assistance, many of our programs would not be able to run as successfully.

We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and a safe and relaxing holiday break.

Toni, Bec and Karine
### Students of the Week

**Week ending 11th December, 2015**

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<tr>
<th>GRADE</th>
<th>STUDENTS</th>
<th>STUDENT/S</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/6J</td>
<td>Ellie H</td>
<td>PE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ellie, I am so proud of the resilience you showed this week, you are such a gorgeous girl with so many lovely qualities. You rock!</td>
<td>For an excellent game of Newcomb.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FC</td>
<td>Tali C</td>
<td>Art</td>
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<td>Congratulations Tali, for consistently warming our hearts, you’re such a gorgeous girl, who is so willing to take life in your stride, put others before yourself and just get on with the job! I am so proud of you!</td>
<td>Grace H For her gorgeous design work on Christmas card. A masterpiece! Well done, Grace.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/4LK</td>
<td>Alison G</td>
<td>Tana C</td>
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<td>Alison, regularly demonstrating all of the ‘Keys to Success’, which we know will help you settle into your new school life. You’re a gorgeous girl Al, good luck!</td>
<td>For outstanding singing performances at BUPS has Talent. Well done, Tana.</td>
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**Let’s get Moving**

**Free!**

**Wednesday 13 January**
**10.30am-12.00noon**

**O’Neil Road Reserve Playground**
**Janet Bowman Blvd, Beaconsfield**

“Let’s get moving” is an event for children up to 7 years old with arts and crafts activities and games. Together with the Beaconsfield Children’s Hub there will be plenty of fun for everyone.

Come and learn about fun ways to play with your child while getting some exercise too. This event will run the second Wednesday of the school holidays throughout 2016 in various locations in Cardinia Shire.

For more information visit [cardinia.vic.gov.au/health](http://cardinia.vic.gov.au/health) or call 1300 787 624

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**There will be no lunch orders this Friday as it is the last day of school and we finish at 1:30pm**

**Have a very Merry Christmas, safe holiday and see you all next year!**
Looking after the Ladies
Thank you to the Dunstone family for looking after the little ladies last weekend.

Carols by Candlelight Rehearsal - BUPS Students
There will be a rehearsal for all BUPS students singing at the Carols by Candlelight on Christmas eve.
When: Saturday 19th December from 3:00 - 3:30pm
Where: Keith Ewenson Park - behind the Community Centre
Please contact Helen de Jager if you have any queries helendejager@iprimus.com.au

Upper Beaconsfield Carols by Candlelight
When: 24th December - Christmas Eve
starting at 6:30pm
Where: Keith Ewenson Park, behind the Community Centre
A letter from Mrs Dekoning was sent home on 23rd November regarding an opportunity for BUPS children to partake in the carols.

SICK BAY ROSTER
Thank you to the Hall family, who will be washing the sheets in sick bay this week.

Enrolments being taken
now for 2016 courses

Let us help you achieve your goals