Greetings and salutations Broadmeadows Valley Primary School

It has been another a terrific week at BVPS. Now four weeks into the school year, it is clear that our new students are beginning to feel right at home. Our prep students are already starting to find some solid routine and there seems to be an air of confidence and enthusiasm with our more established students.

At Broadmeadows Valley Primary School, we believe in the rights of the student population to voice their views, opinions, and ideas with regard to their experiences at school in a formal and productive manner. We acknowledge the importance of leadership within the student population and that the Young Leaders and House Leaders groups provide avenues for students to take on leadership and decision-making roles for and on behalf of the student body. We believe that through participation in a variety of student leadership opportunities, our students are developing their capacity to be leaders of the future. Next week we will be able to announce the Young Leaders student council for 2013. The election speeches will be taking place on Monday at 9:30am in the blue studio of Learning Neighbourhood 3. Parents and family are cordially invited to attend. I would like to wish all the nominees the best of luck for their candidacy.

As I have mentioned in previous editions of The Valley View, Broadmeadows Valley Primary School, like all government schools in Victoria, will be commencing the election process for the official school council at the beginning of March. Our school will be calling for parent nominations for the 2013 council. The council consists of 15 members. Of those 15, 8 are parent members, 5 are school staff and we have 2 community co-opted members from outside the immediate school community. This year, 6 parent and 2 school staff positions will be available.

The school council is a wonderful opportunity to have an impact on the life and learning of your children. Participating as a school council member is a rewarding and challenging experience. The school council supports me to provide the best possible educational outcomes for all students.

School Council FAQ’s

1. Do I need special experience to be on school council?

No! What you need is an interest in the school and the ability to work cooperatively with others to help shape its future.

2. Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

3. How can I become involved?

The most obvious way to become involved is to vote in the elections that are held in March each year. Since ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant, you might seriously consider standing for election as a member of the school council, or suggesting to another person that they stand for election.

4. What do I need to do to stand for election?

The principal arranges and conducts the elections. Ask Lindy or Barb at the school office for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do. As principal, I will issue a notice and call for nominations in the week beginning March 4. For parents, this notice will probably be given to your child so you may need to check with them whether it has been sent home.

Please stay tuned for further information.

Sincerely,

Andrew Jones
Learning Neighbourhood

1 News!

Squawks of wonderment, delight, horror and curiosity ring through LN1 this week. Sometimes learning is really loud! Our grade 1/2 students could not quite believe that they were going to get to look at real sheep's brains. As part of our enrichment topic 'My Brain and Me' it made complete sense that our students should have the opportunity to see what a brain looks like close up. Questions quickly followed; "Are they real?" (yes). "Is that what our brains look like?" (yes, only smaller). "Can we touch them?" (yes, wash your hands afterwards). "Why is there blood?" (blood flows all through our bodies including our brains). "Where did you get them from?" (the supermarket). "Why does the supermarket have them?" (because some people like to eat them). What a magnificent way to learn!

Writing the next morning was all about the brain experience and students used some fabulous vocabulary including 'slimy, soft, gross, amazing, gory, blood, disgusting'. Now their interest in the brain has been amplified and the next few weeks will see all students in LN1 explore the purpose of the brain and ways we can best look after it. We ask our parents to join in the learning by talking to your child about the experience, by sharing your own knowledge of the brain, by researching together and most importantly by helping your child look after their own brains through lots of reading, stimulating home experiences, frequent discussions, restricted screen times, appropriate bed times, healthy eating, lots of exercise and by ensuring they always play safely.

It has been great to see a large number of children returning their home reading books every morning and swapping them over. There have, however, been a small number of children not doing this and we encourage them to do so. Home reading is an absolute expectation of all the students in LN1 and we thank all the parents who have been supporting their child with this very critical task.

Our preps have been further developing their letter knowledge with a focus on the letter M this week. Time to talk to them about all things beginning with M! Magnificent murmurs make me many miles mightily merry! Grab some flour, throw it on the kitchen table or bench and let your little one show you how they can write the letter M! Makes a mighty mess but makes learning about M more amusing!

REMINDE R S: IFI starts at 9:50am Mon – Weds. Grade 1/2 are all dismissed from Studio Arts in the LN3 Blue Studio on Mondays. Preps have one more week of staying home on Wednesday.

Have a magnificent weekend!

Jodie Coughlan, Karen Larkin, Beth Hunter, Rosie Stratats, Rob Pain, Marjla Avramoska and Laura Bishop (LN1 Teachers).

Learning Neighbourhood

2 This week in our 'Brainiacs' unit the learning got very real for our students as lambs brains were brought into the neighbourhood for our students to observe. Over the past couple of weeks the structure and main parts of the brain have been our students focus so being able to see real brains close up was very exciting for our students. Some of our students even touched them! Have you ever heard of the lamb's brain such as the medulla or brain stem.

Last Friday our students participated in their radio awareness incursion. Students worked in groups to write their own script which included news, weather and competitions. After rehearsing each group were able to present and record their show in front of their peers and even received their very own CD with the full recording of their show. All students seemed to really enjoy the program and this will be complemented in the students Studio Arts program throughout the term.

Currently our students are going through the process of redesigning our Neighbourhood Library. Students will have a say in the purchase of a range of new books which is part of our bid to really push and ignite a passion in all of our students to want to read all the time. Students will be able to borrow these books as well as part of their home reading.

Just a reminder to all of our parents that as a Learning Neighbourhood, the students and teachers have decided that all pencil cases will be left at school. We are still having issues with students forgetting to return their pencil cases back to school which makes it difficult then for our students to be ready for learning.

Troy Taylor, Nicole Cromie, Krystina Simpson, Paula Gaughan, Julian Tovey

LEARNING NEIGHBOURHOOD 3

News Around The Clock!
A reminder next Monday from 4:00pm in L17 (Blue Studio), there will be an information night with the Ipad Mini’s. The session is a fantastic opportunity for all parents to be updated with the new program and how the new technology will enhance their child’s learning. If parents are not able to attend the session, are encouraged, to visit the school in the coming weeks before the roll out of Ipads and be briefed with the new development and commitment that B.V.P.S is bringing on board for our students.

Next Friday, our up and coming Young Leaders will be attending the Annual Young Leader's Conference with Ms Rosie Stratats and Miss Lisa Halton at the Melbourne Convention Centre. The event will be filled with inspirational Australian Guest Leaders who have made an outstanding contribution towards employment, poverty, well-being and voluntary organisations.

In reading, students are building their inquiry around questions such as; how do authors use language to engage and communicate? How do authors construct their sentences to communicate with purpose, clarity and precision? With writing, how can I use powerful language to engage and communicate clearly?

It is still summer and the weather is not getting any cooler. We have encouraged all students in LN3 to bring along water bottles to school that will assist them throughout the day. This will be more beneficial than sending students to the taps during learning time.

To all families from LN3, please come and say hello to the staff as we would love to hear from you and support you throughout the term.

LN3 Teachers: Wendy Cecchin, Ljisa Halton, Jan Veiga, Clint Youngden and Daniel Montalto

2013 LEARNING NEIGHBOURHOOD 3

IPAD MINI 1:1 PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION

To all Learning Neighbourhood 3 Parents/Guardians,

Date: Monday, February 25th
Time: 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Where: Dance Studio, Learning Neighbourhood 3

This will be an important session for all to attend as all relevant documentation will be handed out during this session.

For more information visit www.bvps.vic.edu.au
COLLECTING YOUR CHILD FROM SCHOOL

School finishes at **3.30pm** every day and staff are on duty in the playground until 3.45pm.

It is expected that all students will be:

- Collected by a parent/guardian
- Collected by a person authorised by the parent
- Given permission to walk home by the parent

**Please make sure this occurs as the office is not a space to supervise children after school has finished**

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

*Celebrating women*

Thursday 7th March 2013
7pm-11pm
Brookwood Reception
10 Lawson Cres-Thomastown
$28.00 – 3 Course meal & Entertainment
Please contact school Hub Coordinator Brigitte at BVPS.