



Term 1 Week 9
25 March 2020

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Principal's Message

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

Detailed below is information from the Department of Education regarding schools and student learning programs.

- Schools remain open**

The health advice on schools remains unchanged. Our Chief Medical Officers indicate that our schools should remain open for education provision at this time. The Government and Department are encouraging you to keep your child at home from Tuesday 24 March to contribute to supporting the community response to COVID-19. The school's doors will remain open for those students whose parents are in the essential services or who are vulnerable. As updated expert information comes to the Department, who are in constant liaison with NSW Health we will keep you informed of any impact on school operations.

- Supporting continuity of learning for all students**

Our staff have been working hard to develop a suite of learning resources and options for students to undertake from home. The Department has developed and will continue to develop resources and offer professional learning to help teachers with this task. Whether your child is at school or at home, the aim is for all students to access the consistent learning content provided by our school.

- Support for students at home**

I encourage you to access the [Learning from Home](#) resource which provides practical advice to parents and carers on how to best create and support a productive learning environment in the home. In addition to this all families were emailed a week's unit of work on Monday of this week. During the remainder of this term new units of study will be provided each Monday. The school staff are also working tirelessly on remote materials for the future. The primary platforms we will use are SeeSaw (Years K to 3) and Google Classrooms (Years 4 to 6). Further information will be forwarded on these platforms later this week.

- Extra-Curricular Activities**

All extra-curricular activities (bands, strings, recorders, dance groups, drama group, choirs, robotics, tech club, debating, chess, the Music Bus, Headstart Mandarin and Science Club) are cancelled until further notice.



Canteen

The school canteen is closed until further notice.

Lots of Socks Day

Thank you for your support of Lots of Socks Day last week.



Harmony Day

The students participated in a range of enjoyable and worthwhile activities last week as part of Harmony Day. Thank you to Miss Caruso, Miss Saltmarsh and Ms Daly for organising our school activities.



Opportunity Class Year 4 Parent Information Session

The Year 4 Opportunity Class Parent Information Session will be rescheduled to early next term.

Upcoming Events

Term	Date	Activity	Time
Term 1 Week 10	Monday 30 March		
	Tuesday 31 March		
	Wednesday 1 April	SportsPro Years K, 1 and 2	
	Thursday 2 April		
	Friday 3 April		
Term 1 Week 11	Monday 5 April		
	Tuesday 6 April		
	Wednesday 7 April		
	Thursday 8 April	Last day of Term 1	
	Friday 9 April	Good Friday	

Our school will continue to keep you updated with information on our school practices and strategies through the weekly Newsletter, email and the school app. In addition you are welcome to contact me.

David Shuster
Principal

Positive Behaviour for Learning

Each week students learn how to be respectful, responsible and try their personal best in specific areas of our school. This week's focus is learning to demonstrate respectful hygiene practices.

Respect	
Learning Intention	Success Criteria
We are learning to show respect for ourselves and others by demonstrating good hygiene practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wash hands regularly• Cough into elbows• If using a tissue dispose of it immediately• Practise 'Social Distancing'

Band Program Update

In light of recent communications from the Principal, all extra-curricular activities at school are cancelled until further notice and this includes the Balgowlah Heights Public School Band Program. We were fortunate to have held a fantastic Band Camp and settle the kids into their new band environment over the last few weeks. Thank you to the parents and students for your support and positivity of our band program.

Our wonderful band conductors, Mr Hampton and Mrs Clain, are keen to keep the students engaged in band and have proposed an online platform. Details of this will be sent to students together with an invoice for Term 1 by the end of the week.

We encourage students to take up the option of online tutorials where possible. These online sessions will be a direct arrangement with the conductors/tutors while the program is on hold and school is not in full operation.

If have any questions please contact Caroline Fechner, Band Administrator on bhspconcertband@optusnet.com.au.

P&C

The COVID-19 virus pandemic has created an unprecedented situation that most of us probably never thought we would experience in our lifetime. It seems clear that the immediate and future impacts are wide reaching and will be economically, socially and emotionally severe. It is our sincere wish and hope that the people in our BHPS community, particularly the most vulnerable, are protected from the illness itself and supported in any way they need during these difficult times.

We would urge everyone in our wonderful community to unite in the face of adversity and to follow government guidelines by doing everything we can to limit the spread of the virus by:

- **Taking your children out of school if at all possible.** The Department of Education, BHPS school administration and teachers are all working very hard to make learning materials available online to help parents and carers maintain a level of education at home. This will make it safer for key workers such as healthcare staff to continue to send their children to school.

- **Staying at home and self-isolate except for essential needs.** Even one-on-one playdates at home or at a playground can result in transmission. If we all adhere to the government social distancing guidelines then hopefully the number of sufferers will be lower and isolation time will be shorter overall.
- **Offering help to those in need.** Our community is great at this already, but please consider any elderly or otherwise vulnerable neighbours who may need help with obtaining groceries or medicines, whilst respecting social distancing rules.
- **Staying virtually connected as a school community.** Share useful information and learning resources online, create non-contact opportunities for interaction, support local businesses where possible, and share fun, positive stuff via our [BHPS Facebook Group page](#).

We fully support all the hard decisions that David Shuster, the school Executive team, the teachers and the school support staff have made with respect to the best care of our children. It is an unprecedented time and they are operating in uncharted territory and under extremely stressful circumstances. We thank them for their hard work. The role of the P&C is to work together with the school to help support parents, carers and students, so please feel free to contact either Billie (bhpspresident@gmail.com), Alison (bhpsvpcomms@gmail.com), Diana (bhpsintheloop@gmail.com) or Nicole (bhpsstreasurer@gmail.com) if you have any questions or if there is anything we can do to help during these challenging times.

Wishing everyone the best in wellness and health.

The P&C Team

Join our Facebook Group at [Balgowlah Heights Public School P&C](#) 

Canteen News

Canteen services to close from Thursday 26 March

Based on advice from the Department of Education regarding Covid-19, Balgowlah Heights Public School canteen will be closing from Thursday 26 March until further notice. Lunch and recess orders for today (Wednesday 25 March) will be honoured and any future orders that have already been placed in Flexischools will be refunded.

We apologise for any inconvenience. Please contact healthycanteenbhps@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Sanja Vidaic & Kathrine Boulderstone
Canteen Managers

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is now **closed** to in-shop service. A big thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who helped out in the shop this Term. Deliveries will still be made to students on **Tuesdays** and **Thursdays** via Flexischools or the Online Order Form on the school website.

Winter Uniforms

Girls Years K-2:

- winter tunic or navy long pants
- winter blouse
- grey tights
- navy jumper or zip fleece
- navy BHPS tracksuit pants for sport

Girls Years 3 to 6:

- winter skirt or navy long pants
- winter blouse
- grey tights
- navy jumper or zip fleece

Boys Years K to-6:

- long sleeved polo
- long grey pants
- navy jumper or zip fleece
- navy BHPS tracksuit pants for sport (Years K-2)

Loretta Mykityshyn
Uniform Shop Manager
bhpsuniformshop@gmail.com

Thank you for your support during this difficult period, we hope you're all getting by as best you can and we really appreciate all your supportive emails and conversations. Please find below an update on some of our procedures and some useful information for you.

Short notice - check emails

As you can appreciate, we are managing operations day by day and we will do our best to give you notice of a closure, change to our program or opening hours, however this may out of our hands and be at short notice. Please keep a close eye on your emails.

Survey Monkey - please complete

Thank you to those 137 families who have already completed the survey. Our position remains unchanged from last week in that our service for families remains open in accordance with the Department's decision to keep the schools open, enabled by our capacity and staff safety and availability to look after the children.

As communicated with you last week, we are still planning to accommodate 44 children during Vacation Care, starting on the 14 April with now incursions and excursions cancelled.

We are seeing daily attendances drop during Term time with parents electing to keep their children home. So we are asking you to reconfirm some important details to ensure that we can provide a service to families whom are most in need, which we deem as those working in the essential services that the government has declared currently remain open <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7QZ22BK>

Term Time Cancellations - please email

Thank you to all those parents who have let us know about cancelling your booking, if you no longer require your Term booking please let us know via email.

Cancellation of permanent bookings - We've got your back

We will be honouring all current permanent family spots when we open back up normally and will not offer places to new families until we hear from you. An email will be sent out confirming further details at the time.

Vacation Care - Various

We are currently running vacation care but due to the reduced numbers and guidelines the government have set we will be cancelling all excursions and now incursions. The programming team are putting together a super fun program in the meantime for those families requiring care.

- **Fees**
All vacation care fees will be a flat rate of \$75 irrelevant of when booked or activity and all cancellation or changes to booking fees will be waived.
- **Priority of bookings**
If we reach capacity we will be prioritising families working in essential services and single parent families working to our capacity of 44 children per day.
- **Confirmation**
Please check your emails for updates on vacation care. A confirmation email will be sent today (Wednesday 25 March). If you don't receive an email please let us know.
- **Cancellation**
If you need to cancel your booking please let us know via email.

Mariah - back this week

Mariah has been overwhelmed with all the emails and well wishes from families, thank you. It's with great pleasure to say she'll be starting back to work later this week. She'll be sporting a brand new helmet, fixed up bike and is looking forward to being back.

Signing in/out - leave it to the staff

To try and reduce the amount of contact, our staff will sign your child in/out via the iPad. Speak to the supervisor on duty for assistance.

Social Distancing - maintain guidelines

We are finding groups of parents congregating on school site after picking up their child. Please maintain the set social distancing guidelines and we ask that once you have picked up your child you make your way from the school site.

The BIG Question - will “wacky shirt Wednesday's” continue?

Well, we can firmly say, if we're open then wacky shirt Wednesday's will continue and we welcome all children and parents to join in. Simply don your most floral or garish shirt/t-shirt and wear it on Wednesday's at Arabanoo (or whilst you're working from home). If you're off school we'd love to see a post on Kinderloop of your wacky shirts!

Financial FAQs

1. What happens to the fees I have already paid should the school and Arabanoo close during term?

Term fees paid for days when the centre is closed due to NSW Department of Education's action will be refunded as soon as possible considering admin staff availability.

2. What happens to term fees already paid when my child(ren) can't attend Arabanoo due to illness?

Arabanoo's current policy states term fees are payable for sick days. This measure will continue to apply and allows the centre to adhere to Child Care Management System (CCMS) policy in relation to absences.

3. What happens to term fees paid when I choose to keep my child(ren) at home?

Arabanoo's current policy requires parents to give 2 weeks' notice when cancelling bookings. This measure will continue to apply and helps Arabanoo remain financially viable.

4. What happens to staff while the centre is closed?

Arabanoo value their staff and always aim to support them to the maximum extent possible. All staff will receive individual communication about support and entitlements should the service be mandated to close.

5. How long can the centre afford to be closed?

Arabanoo holds cash surpluses to meet any unanticipated reductions in revenue. The current buffer is considered sufficient to operate the centre with no revenue until the end of the calendar year.

6. When will I be charged for my autumn vacation care (VC) bookings?

Arabanoo currently accepts VC booking requests, however, will only process these for payment once we are certain of opening. Operating under the principle of only charging parents for services provided and any VC fees paid for days that did not proceed will be refunded as soon as possible.

Stay positive and we'll get through this together.

Rowan Friend

Centre Director

T - 0299 486 722

M - 0421 014 308

E - admin@arabanoo.com

W - www.arabanoo.com

Live Life Well @ School

MAKE YOUR MOVE - BE ACTIVE FOR LIFE

Tips to be active:

- **Keep a box of balls** or a kite at home and in the car so you will always be ready for action!
- **Walk and talk** practice multiplication, spelling or other homework with your child while walking
- **Encourage activities** that strengthen muscle and bones at least 3 days per week e.g. hopscotch, martial arts or dance
- **Incidental activity counts!** Take the stairs, walk the dog, do some housework or spend time gardening.



For health benefits, children **aged 5-12 years** need at least **60 minutes** of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day. Variety is important.

For more tips visit www.makehealthynormal.nsw.gov.au



Health
Northern Sydney
Local Health District