



## UPCOMING

- Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May  
Education Support Staff Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
Education Week  
Showcase Your School
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May  
Hamilton Cinema
- Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May  
Mr. Snotbottom Regional Arts  
Victoria
- Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May  
'6 Seasons' with Reuben and  
Bec
- Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May  
Walk to School Day
- Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May  
Year 6s Baimbridge College
- Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May  
National Sorry Day
- Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May  
School Photos
- Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> May  
Simultaneous Storytime
- 27<sup>th</sup> May - 3<sup>rd</sup> June. National  
Reconciliation Week
- Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> June  
Public Holiday
- Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> June  
School Council
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June  
Reports go home
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June  
Student Led Interviews
- Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June  
Last day of Term 2, 2.30  
finish

## An interview with...

### Cooper

What is your favourite book, movie, or  
TV show and why?  
Sponge Bob! It's funny!

If you could only eat one food for the  
rest of your life, what would it be?  
Sushi

What is the best thing you have  
learned how to do lately?  
A new soccer trick.

What is your favourite game to play  
at recess? Tiggly

What is the best thing about our  
school? PE, it's my favourite subject.

What makes someone a good friend?  
When they cheer me up.

What do you like to do with your  
friends? Ride our bikes down big hills.

What is the most interesting thing  
you learned this year? At the Werribee  
Zoo I learnt that giraffes are BIG!!!

If you could be any animal, which one  
would you be and why? I'd be a dog  
because they have a good nose for  
smelling and run fast.

If you had \$1,000 to spend on  
anything you wanted, what would you  
buy? Lego

If you could make up a new holiday,  
what would it be called and how  
would you celebrate it?

World Children's Day when parents  
must obey everything the kids say for  
24 hours.



If you could have any superpower,  
what would it be?

Time Travel – history is fascinating!

What makes you feel truly happy?  
When my friends make me laugh.

What is something you are proud of  
from this year?

That I made 60 runs in cricket!

What is something you can do today  
that you couldn't do last year?

My new soccer trick!

What is the funniest thing that has  
ever happened to you?

Watching Hunter slide in the mud!

What do you want to be when you  
grow up?

Professional Sports Player – either  
basketball, cricket or footy!

If you could visit any place in the  
world, where would you go?

Louvre Museum, France – I could see  
the Mona Lisa and some fancy  
artefacts.

If you could ask an older person one  
question about their life, what would  
it be?

How does it feel to be old?

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Find us on Facebook

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PO Box 69, Branxholme, Vic 3302 103 – 113 Monroe St, Branxholme, Vic, 3302

# Education Support Staff Day

*We celebrate Education Support Staff Day because schools are not built on classrooms alone, they are built on people.*

*And among the most essential of those people are our Education Support (ES) staff, whose work so often happens quietly, but whose impact is felt everywhere.*

*On May 16 each year, communities around the world pause to recognise the extraordinary contribution of Education Support Staff. These are the people who keep our schools not just operating, but thriving, safe, welcoming, and inclusive for all. They are the warm, reassuring presence greeting families at the front office, the quiet achievers who maintain beautiful, cared-for grounds, and the dedicated staff who ensure every space is clean, organised, and ready for learning. They are the reliable hands attending to countless behind-the-scenes tasks, the skilled workers who keep facilities safe and functioning, and the compassionate professionals who stand beside students needing extra support.*

*Together, they create environments where students feel secure, valued, and able to succeed every day.*

*Teachers will often say they could not do their job without ES staff, and it's true.*

*From classroom assistants and allied health professionals, cleaners, maintenance teams, office personnel, and beyond, ES members form the backbone of every functioning school.*

*They support not only learning, but wellbeing, belonging, and dignity for every student and family.*

*Education Support Staff Day is more than a date, it is a moment to acknowledge what is sometimes overlooked. It is a chance to say thank you for the care, patience, skill, and dedication ES staff bring every single day. It is also a reminder that strong, inclusive education systems depend on valuing every role within them.*

*Introduced globally in 2018, this day highlights a simple but powerful truth: when we celebrate Education Support staff, we are recognising the heart of our schools.*

*Because behind every successful student, every supported teacher, and every thriving school community, there are Education Support staff making it all possible.*

***At BWCS we would like to sincerely thank Emily Rhook, Bec Clayton, Mark Spencer, Vanessa Daff, Dale Daff and Joy Bunting, for their dedication to our school and students.***

# Walk Safely to School Day

National Walk Safely to School Day 2026 will be held on Friday, 22 May 2026

across Australia. Now in its 27th year, this initiative encourages primary school students to build, healthy walking habits and learn road safety by walking to school.

Friday, 22 May 2026, 8.45am

Bus travellers will get on the bus at their normal time and then be dropped off at the shop to Mrs. Templeton.

Town kids may chose to walk directly to school.

Students who are brought to school by their parents, are to be dropped at the shop by 8.45am also.

Why Participate?

- Safety: Teaches essential road safety skills.
- Health: Promotes physical activity for a healthier, happier start to the day.
- Environment: Helps reduce traffic congestion and encourages active transport.
- Focus: Walking helps children arrive at school more focused and ready to learn.



# Happy Mother's Day from the Senior room!



I am very thankful to my Mum because she taught me how to read.

I love my Mum, but her farts stink the room out.

I love my Mum, so I go outside and fill up the wood box.

Hunter



I am thankful for my Mum because she taught me how to hit a cricket ball well.

I love my Mum, but she goes for Richmond.

I am thankful for my Mum, but she always tells me to clean my room.

Cooper



I am thankful for my Mum because she taught me lots of tricks to improve my netball.

My Mum is very busy, but she always makes sure she has time for me.

I love my Mum, so I try my best to help out as much as I can.

Kristianna

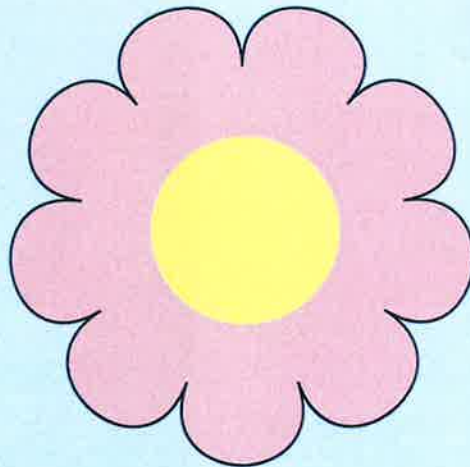


I love my mum because she cares for me and loves me.

My mum is always working, but she still makes me feel special.

I am thankful to my mum, so I help her in the canteen at the footy and netball club.

Nate



I am thankful for my mum because she takes me to lots of places.

I love my mum, but she has bad music taste.

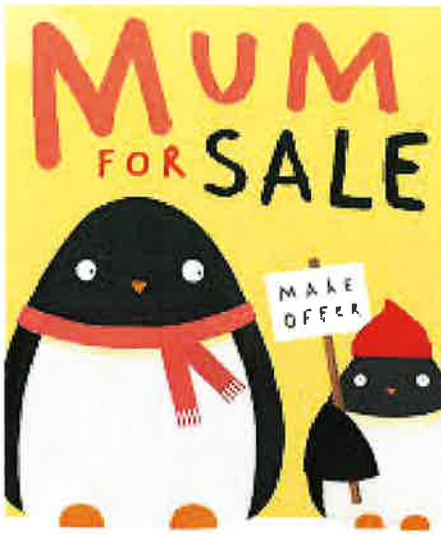
My mum makes me feel special, so she kicks the footy with me.

Robert



# Junior Room

In Literacy students have been working hard on their spelling skills, letters and sounds and reading fluency. To acknowledge Mother's Day, we read a funny book about a penguin wanting to sell his mum. For a book response, students created a 'mum NOT for sale' sign, which showed all the things they love about their mum.



Sam Lowie

Philip Burtin

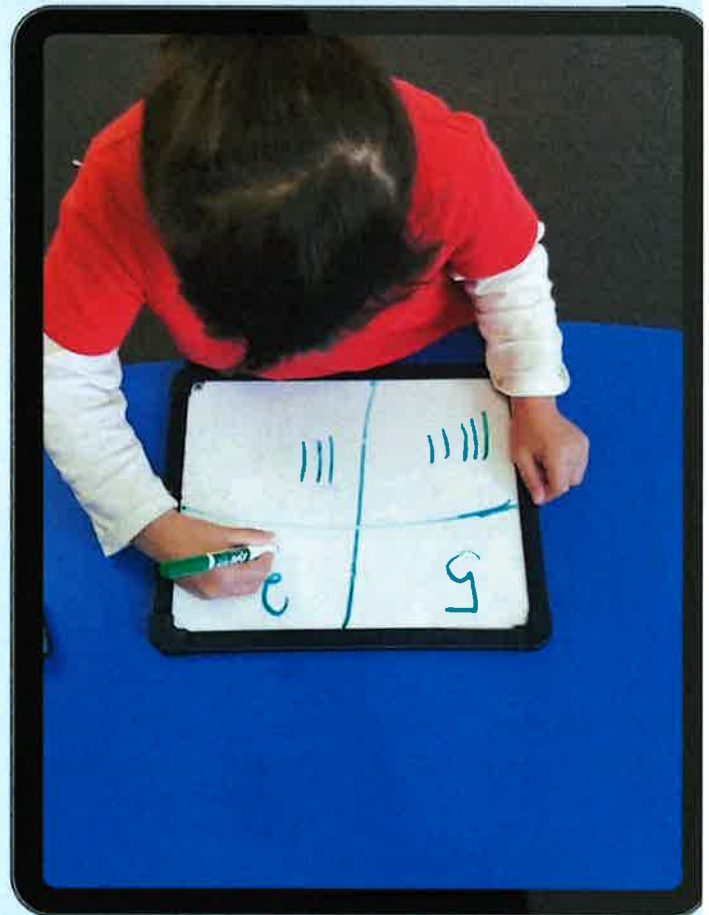


Congratulations Gabrielle for your reading and spelling awards.



In Numeracy, Group One have continued to focus on counting to 20, number formation, ordinal numbers and using ten frames to compare numbers using the terms more, less and same.

Group Two have been focusing on addition and subtraction fluency, two digit addition with regrouping, duration of time, with a particular focus on months and weeks.



Regrouping in  
2-Digit  
Addition

$$\begin{array}{r} 14 \\ + 28 \\ \hline 42 \end{array}$$

## Numeracy

# Science

**Maria:** This mushroom is living because it can grow and respond to the environment.



**Hannah:** This watering can is non living because it cannot grow.



**Gabrielle:** This leaf is once living because it can no longer grow and respond to the environment.





Communication Skills

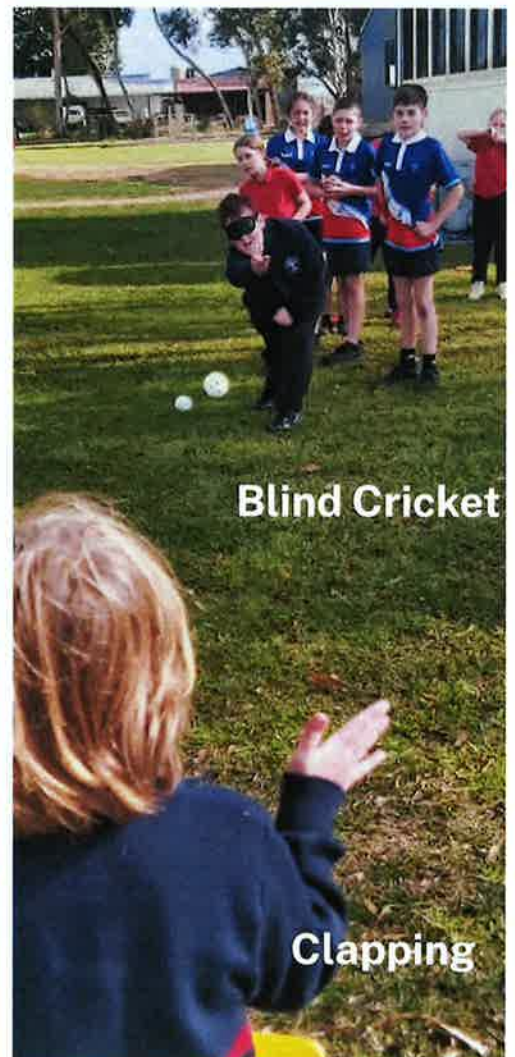


Blind Soccer



# Inclusive Sport Session

Rattle Balls



Blind Cricket

Clapping

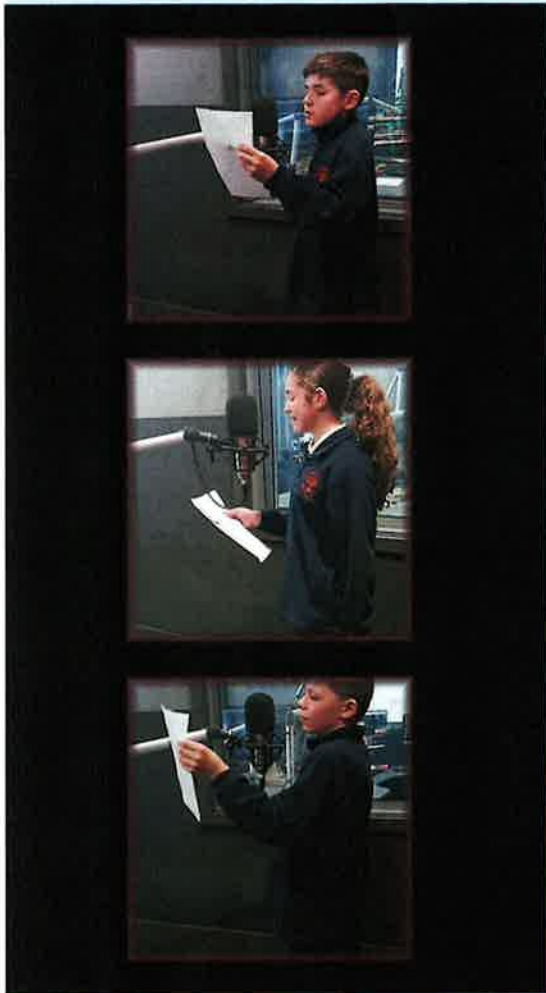
# EDUCATION WEEK

Education Week 2026 in Victoria runs from Monday 18 May to Friday 22 May, celebrating public education under the theme "Showcase your school".

Schools across the state will hold events to highlight their unique communities and learning opportunities.

BRANXHOLME WALLACEDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
18TH TO 22ND MAY

# SHOWCASE YOUR SCHOOL



YEAR 6  
ADVERTISEMENT ON  
THE RADIO



MR SNOTBOTTOM  
REGIONAL ARTS  
VICTORIA



HAMILTON SPECTATOR  
ADVERTISEMENT AND EDITORIAL



HAMILTON CINEMA  
TAPPOC CLUSTER  
KIDS MUSIC VIDEO  
ON THE BIG SCREEN

EDUCATION SUPPORT  
CELEBRATION



BEC AND REUBEN  
6 ABORIGINAL  
SEASONS



WALK SAFE TO SCHOOL

Branxholme Wallacedale Community School

## Year 6s kicking off Education Week



# Berry Street Education Model

Branxholme Wallacedale Community School is a Child Safe school



## Introducing BSEM

Our school has started using the Berry Street Education Model (BSEM), a whole school approach that supports learning and wellbeing. This information sheet is designed to share the BSEM strategies being taught and used at your school with families. We also share stories of BSEM in action at home, because we know these strategies can be helpful for families too!

## What we learned

### Consistent, predictable, routines

Routines help us start our day in the best way and keep us on track. What are three routines your family already practise? Eg. wake up time, lunch prep, bedtime.

### Actioning routines at home

Being organised helps us keep a routine. Ask your child to choose two things to try from the list below to help them get to school on time and be Ready to Learn.

- Put your clothes out the night before.
- Pack your school bag the night before.
- Have a morning pump-up song.
- Set an alarm.
- Have your lunch ready.

## Resource recommendation



Check out this podcast by our friends at Guiding Growing Minds.

Pop Culture Parenting

## Food for thought ...

Children do best when routines are regular, predictable and consistent.

## Family story

I have two daughters, aged 9 and 13, and as part of our morning routine we use a visual timetable. Rather than saying, "Are you dressed? Have you packed your lunch?" over and over again, I say, "Great I can see you're dressed. What's next on the list?" This sets clear expectations and helps everyone stay on track and remember the things they need for school. I am providing my kids with some autonomy, it is making my morning a little easier, and I get to feel like I am helping rather than hassling them.

My youngest daughter has a visual timetable at school already, so using one at home too has really helped her.

TIP: Discuss your morning routine and create the visual timetable together. This helps the child have some ownership, which always helps with motivation!

Sarah - BSEM Senior Consultant, NSW



Follow the Berry Street Education Model by scanning the QR code or check out their website at [bsem.org.au](http://bsem.org.au) to find out more.

The Child Safe Standards are a set of principles and requirements that guide organisations to create environments where children and young people are safe, respected and protected from harm.

They outline how BWCS promotes child safety through strong leadership, clear policies, staff training, safe recruitment practices, and a culture that listens to and empowers children.

These standards are important because they help prevent abuse and neglect, ensure concerns are identified and addressed early, and create a culture of accountability.

By embedding child safety into everyday practice, we can better protect children's rights, build trust with families, and support the wellbeing and development of every child.

**Standard One - We are committed to a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal people are respected and valued**

## What does this mean?

It means we create a place where Aboriginal people feel safe to be themselves, proud of who they are, and confident that their culture, families, and stories are respected.

Everyone is welcome, everyone is respected, and Aboriginal people feel safe, proud, and included. This is not about big gestures—it's about everyday actions that show genuine respect and a willingness to learn.

### What this looks like in practice:

Listening and learning - Taking the time to learn about Aboriginal cultures and histories, and understanding that they are the oldest continuing cultures in the world. **Respecting differences - Treating all cultures with respect. This includes not making jokes or negative comments about culture, skin colour, or traditions, and recognising that families and traditions can look different.**

Using respectful language - Using the term "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples" correctly and respectfully, and learning the name of the Traditional Owners of the land where we live.

Modelling respect at home. **Speaking positively about Aboriginal cultures and communities, and challenging stereotypes or misinformation when they arise. Learning alongside children. Reading books by Aboriginal authors, watching content created by Aboriginal people, and attending local cultural events when appropriate and respectful. Acknowledging Country - Supporting children to understand and take part in Acknowledgement of Country in a meaningful way. Building genuine understanding.** Recognising that Aboriginal cultures are diverse, living, and part of today—not just the past.

### What authentic practice looks like:

- ✓ Ongoing learning and respect—not just during special events like NAIDOC Week
- ✓ **Listening to Aboriginal voices and perspectives**
- ✓ Being open to learning, making mistakes, and improving over time



Many new items have been added to both boxes recent!

Thankyou to those people who have donated items!  
Please remember these items are there for anyone in the community to make use of.

Give what you can, Take what you need!

Donations much appreciated



Please get in touch if you would like to place an ad for your business or event in our newsletter.

	1/8 page	1/4 page	1/2 page	Full page
1 edition	\$5	\$10	\$15	\$30
5 editions	\$22	\$45	\$67	\$135
10 editions	\$42	\$85	\$127	\$255
15 editions	\$62	\$125	\$187	\$375
20 editions	\$75	\$150	\$300	\$450

Congratulations to Nate, Kristianna and Maddie on being the senior classrooms Super Spellers this week!

# GEM Chats

# Gratitude

## CREATING WELLBEING HABITS & CONNECTION

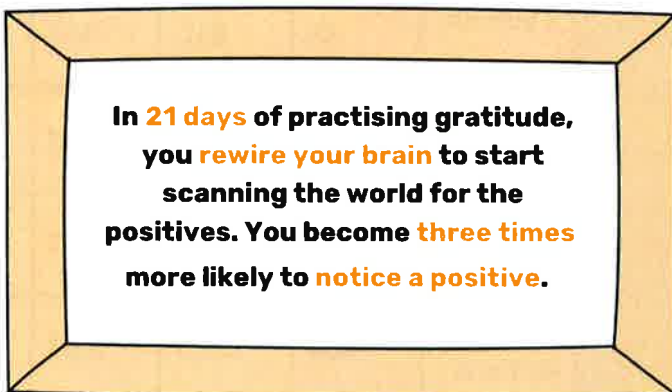
GEM Chats help families practice The Resilience Project's principles, offering a simple wellbeing check-in while **building stronger connections through daily conversations.**

### HOW TO USE GEM CHATS

Make GEM Chats a part of your dinner routine to reflect, check in, and practice gratitude.

Try these prompts:

- ★ What are you **grateful** for today?
- ★ Share a moment that **made you smile.**
- ★ How can you **support** someone tomorrow?
- ★ What was the **best part** of your day?



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESILIENCE PROJECT, HEAD TO:



kids  
help  
line

Call Us! **1800 55 1800**

We're here to talk 24/7.  
Every day and night.

1800 55 1800

*We're here for you. Any time. Any reason  
Talking helps!*

*No problem is too big or too small.  
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*

## Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land; the Gunditjmara people, who have cared for this area for over 60 000 years.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present. Kurtuk-Kurtuk, meaning sisters, is the traditional place name for Braxholme.

The Braxholme area is home to the Direk Gunditj clans of the Gunditjmara Nation.

We have beautiful plants, trees and animals.

There are gum trees, emus, kangaroos and red and yellow tailed cockatoos surrounding us every day.

We are especially proud of the rare native plant called the dianella, which grows around Kurtuk-Kurtuk.

The land we are on now, the land where we live, learn, breathe, eat, and sleep:

Always Was, Always Will Be! Aboriginal land!

Written by the students of Braxholme Wallacedale Community School