

# Newsletter to Parents

## BRANXTON PUBLIC SCHOOL



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Week 2 Term 4

WEDNESDAY, 19TH OCTOBER 2016

### Principal's News

Welcome back to school for the final term of the year. Everyone at Branxton is already busy preparing for the term. We have stage excursions, High School transitions, reports, carols, Kinder orientation and very exciting end of year presentations and activities.

I would also like to announce I have been officially given the role of Principal at Branxton Public School. I am very honoured and excited about the prospect of working with the staff and students in the coming years. I am slowly getting to know more and more students, parents, carers and local community representatives and realise I am very lucky to be part of such a wonderful community. If you would like to speak to me at any time please contact me through the office, my door is always open and I am genuinely interested in your concerns and contributions.

Did you know we have an Australian Champion attending our school? Joel and his brother Alec recently attended the National Trampoline Championships in Melbourne. Joel performed outstandingly and was judged as the Australian Champion, competing against boys much older than him, and Alec finished 11<sup>th</sup> place. This is an amazing effort by both boys who put in many hours of training each week. Congratulations, we are so proud of you at BPS.

I would also like to mention Grace who was recently selected in the Emerging Jets football team. I have had a few chats with Grace about soccer and it is obvious that she is committed and has a love for the game; maybe a Matilda of the future? Well done Grace!

If your child has made an outstanding achievement outside the school in an academic, cultural or sporting area, please let me know. This way the whole community can celebrate their achievement.

I would like to give very special thanks to Mrs Neville in the Library. Recently she met Mr Paul Hillier, a conservation officer from the Office of Environment and Heritage, and she was given 3 very special native plants to plant at Branxton Public School. These plants are North Rothbury Persoonias and are

### Calendar of Events

<b>28.10.16</b>	Reptile Park Excursion
<b>28.10.16</b>	Day for Daniel
<b>8.12.16</b>	Carols by torchlight
<b>13.12.16</b>	Presentation Day - 9.30am

an endangered plant only found in this area, nowhere else in the world. We will enjoy watching these beautiful plants grow in our school.

Our school is definitely growing and our numbers for next year are very strong. I expect we will form another class, if not two? If you are considering moving or you know of a family moving into the area please contact the office so we can organise the class groupings. I will remind you that we can only accept enrolments that are within the Branxton Public School Zone.

A fantastic day was had by all at the Infants Athletics Carnival last week, many thanks to Mrs Nimmo and all the infants' staff for organising the fun activities. The weather was as delightful as the smiles on all the children's faces. One of the highlights of the day was the yummy water ice blocks graciously supplied by the P&C, thank you. It was great to see the carnival was supported by so many family spectators.

Next Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October we will be having a "Walk to School" morning to support the Daniel Morcombe Foundation. The focus on this day is to raise awareness of the safety of our children within our community. I would love to see as many parents, carers and children, wear **RED** and participate in this morning walk which will begin at Millers Park at 8.15am. There will be also great activities happening at school, more details will be sent home soon.

We have a couple of staff members on LSL leave at the moment; Mr Johanson is being replaced by Ms White and Mrs Kleinman who is being replaced by Mrs Beech. Both classes are continuing to function well.

**PBL News**

At Branxton Public School students, staff and community are respectful, responsible, and achieve their personal best.



We would like to congratulate the following students for being a winner in our Monday morning ticket draw.

Term 4 Week 1 ticket draw winners were:  
Nate - Personal Best, Clayton - Personal best, Alana Nemeth - Respect and Lily- Responsibility.

On Thursday Mrs Ballenden, Mrs Wicks and Ms Towns will be attending a regional PBL expo in Newcastle. They will have a display of what we do at Branxton PS for PBL to share with other schools.

Mrs Wicks



**Gardening News**

Mr Paul Hillier, Regional Biodiversity Conservation Officer from the Office of Environment & Heritage recently visited BPS to donate three North Rothbury Persoonia plants. This is a rare plant which is native only to a small area of North Rothbury and was first discovered in the region in 1997. The plant exists nowhere else in the world. BPS is delighted to have acquired these critically endangered plants, which have been included in our new gardens.



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**Baby News**



Congratulations to Mrs Dennis and her husband Tai on the birth of their beautiful daughter Emma. Emma was born last weekend weighing in at 6p 2oz. By all reports they are thoroughly enjoying parenthood and the sleepless nights.

**Book Club**

Book Club is due back by Wednesday 28th October.

**School Mobile Application**

Branxton Public School now have a school mobile app. Go to your App (either Apple or Android)store and search **BranxtonPS** and you can download it for free.

We will send out notifications and reminders for things happening at the school, you can access our newsletters, calendar of events and send us absent notes when your child is sick.

**BRANXTON GRETA AMATEUR SWIM CLUB**

The BGASC offers an inclusive and encouraging non competitive and competitive swim squad training.

- Exciting free Junior Dolphins program
- Make new friends while being active and getting fit
- Swim squad sessions suitable for children 5+ years
- Training twice weekly based on competency
  - Fun & inclusive club night on Fridays
  - New committee
- Season from 10th Oct to 17th March with a break over Xmas school holidays



**FURTHER INFO**

[www.branxtongreta.swimming.org.au](http://www.branxtongreta.swimming.org.au)  
[www.facebook.com/BranxtonGretaSwimmingClub/](https://www.facebook.com/BranxtonGretaSwimmingClub/)



**REGISTRATION TIMES**

Miller Park Bowling Club  
 7 Sept 3.30pm–5pm  
 10 Sept 2pm–4pm  
 St Brigid's Markets  
 18 Sept 9am

**Tuesday 25th October 2016  
 At Recess (near canteen)**

McHappy Day Drink bottles will be for SALE for just \$4. 6 bright coloured Drink bottles to choose from. For just \$4 your child receives:

- 800ML (PBA FREE) colourful drink bottle
- Information on healthy drinking
- Bottle filled with Ice and water
- Child's name on their drink bottle



McDonald's Greta has kindly donated to our School a 45L Drink dispenser for our children to benefit from



Pink, Blue, Orange, Red, Green Purple

A child safety initiative by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation

# Day for Daniel



## Facts for parents and educators

'Day for Daniel' is a National Day of Action to raise awareness about child safety and protection. Parents, carers and guardians are asked to start a conversation about personal safety in the real world and in an online environment.

**Wear Red and Educate** is the theme of 'Day for Daniel' as we strive to have schools, kindergartens, businesses and community groups across Australia take action and conduct child safety activities in their local communities to help in 'Keeping Kids Safe'.

### The objectives of 'Day for Daniel' are:

- To raise awareness about child safety and protection and to promote a safer community for children.
- To educate children regarding their personal safety and empower them to **RECOGNISE, REACT** and **REPORT**.
- To provide **FREE** safety and educational material.
- To honour the memory of Daniel Morcombe.

'Day for Daniel' is an opportunity for Australians to make a statement that crimes against children are not acceptable in modern Australia. It aims to help empower our children to **RECOGNISE, REACT** and **REPORT** if they feel something is not right.

### What does **RECOGNISE, REACT** and **REPORT** mean?

**RECOGNISE** encourages students to be aware of their surroundings and to recognise body clues in situations where they don't feel safe. **REACT** helps students to consider choices that may keep them safe or help make them safe again as quickly as possible. **REPORT** encourages students to report unsafe incidents to an adult.

### Resources available:

#### 'Keeping Kids Safe' Resource Kit

The 'Keeping Kids Safe' Resource Kit is a suggested resource to be used on Day for Daniel. It includes DVD's and Educational Resource Booklets with information and activities suitable for children in prep to year 9. The kit is developed by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and aligned with the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum. It is based around three key messages: **RECOGNISE, REACT** and **REPORT**.

Developmentally appropriate scenarios are also used to explore and discuss safety situations that children and young people may encounter.

New for this year is the additional DVD and booklet which is specifically targeting children and young people with mild to moderate special needs. There is also a new version scripted for children and young people with Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage.

#### 'Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum'

The 'Daniel Morcombe Child safety Curriculum' is only available to teachers in Australia and not available for public use. More information is available on [RecogniseReactReport.com.au](http://RecogniseReactReport.com.au)

### How do I get the 'Keeping Kids Safe' Resource Kit?

The full resource kit is available on our website under the tab 'Educational Resources'. There are videos, information, activities, links to games and information about the 'Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum'. You can also order the kit free of charge on our website.

### How can I help?

For more information about 'Day for Daniel', the 'Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum', the 'Keeping Kids Safe' Resource Kit and what you can do to help, visit our website.



[DayForDaniel.com.au](http://DayForDaniel.com.au)



**FLEXISCHOOLS for P & C run canteen and uniform shop.  
Online Ordering is starting Week 3, Term 4 – 7th November**

Our school has now introduced a great new online ordering system for **Canteen, Uniform and P & C Fund-raising** called FlexiSchools. This system allows parents, students and staff to place orders from home, work or school at any time. The payment is also done online, so **less paper bags, cash, cheques, and envelopes are sent via your student to school**. As well as being convenient for parents, the online orders are much faster and easier for the school coordinator to process - so it makes everyone's life a little easier. FlexiSchools is well established and tested, operating in hundreds of schools across Australia.

Getting online is easy and only takes a few minutes to register. From 7th November simply go to [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au) and click "**Register Now**". You will be sent an email with further instructions on how to complete the registration. Once registered, you can start placing orders immediately. If you have any questions, FlexiSchools provide a great help desk on 1300 361 769, or you can contact them via their website.

There are a variety of payment options supported, including Visa, Mastercard (credit and debit) and Bank Transfer. The system operates via a pre-paid account, so you no longer have to worry about the manual process of sending payments into school, and you can easily budget your students spending and expenses throughout the year.


If you have any questions about the online services we are introducing, please ask the school office for more information.

<b>Canteen Roster</b>					
<b>Week 3 Term 4 commencing 24th October, 2016</b>			<b>Week 4 Term 4 commencing 31st October, 2016</b>		
<b>Monday</b>	Toni Langlands	Volunteer Needed	<b>Monday</b>	Penny Faustini	John Faustini
<b>Tuesday</b>	Emma Morrow	Lee Fenn	<b>Tuesday</b>	Bev Copot	Kristen Rackley
<b>Wednesday</b>	Denise Bagley	Karen Webber	<b>Wednesday</b>	Denise Bagley	Thelma Ralston
<b>Thursday</b>	Marg Holz	Lisa Dunn	<b>Thursday</b>	Leigh Lovell	Jane Wilkinson
<b>Friday</b>	Denise Bagley	Jane Tickle	<b>Friday</b>	Denise Bagley	Kylie Noyes



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We now have a great new online system to make the ordering of lunches easier and more convenient.

- **Order at a time convenient to you**  
in the morning, night before, or weeks in advance!
- **No searching for cash required**  
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- **Teach students healthy eating in a fun way**
- **Order from home or work**



## It's so easy!

- 1) Go to [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au)
- 2) Click "Register Now" to create account
- 3) Top-up your balance
- 4) Start ordering immediately

## To view a demonstration

go to the [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au) website and in the "Find Your School" box, enter a few letters from our school name and click the name when it appears below.



## **What Does it Cost?**

The online menu is the **same price** as the usual menu. However, there is a small fee for the online orders to help pay for the labels and the website

system. So why not order your next lunch online!

## What payment methods can I use?

FlexiSchools accepts payment via Visa, Mastercard, and Bank Transfer. To perform a bank transfer to your FlexiSchools account, click 'Topup Account' when logged into the FlexiSchools website and select 'Bank Transfer'; you will be given your unique EFT code. You can then make a transfer via your bank's internet facility or at your branch.

## **How Does It Work?**

Go to [www.flexischools.com.au](http://www.flexischools.com.au) and click "Register Now" in the Login Box. Then enter your student's name, school and class, and add funds (say \$50) into a pre-paid account. **You can log into the website at any time** to place orders, typically up until just before school starts. As purchases are made, the funds are taken from your pre-paid account. The account can be topped up again in the same way, or set to automatically top-up via credit card when the balance falls below a pre-set minimum. Each order is sent automatically to the kitchen, where an easy-to-read label is produced with the student's name, class and order details. At lunch time, students can simply pick up their order without the need for cash.