



# BEULAH BLURB

Beulah Primary School is a Child Safe School

BEULAH PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Henty Highway, Beulah Vic 3395  
Telephone 5390 2332  
[beulah.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:beulah.ps@education.vic.gov.au)

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## Principal report

If you aren't having fun well you better check your pulse. I had good intentions of starting the year well without interruptions considering our interrupted year last year and we just can't seem to catch a break. Never the less we have and will continue to adapt and modify and be flexible with our teaching and learning program. We have been endeavouring to send home some work for those students who aren't on site so if you haven't got work sent home or would like some more please reach out to your child's teacher and they can work with you to meet your needs. This is not required by staff but something we are willing to do, just keep that in mind. Today at lunch I had an update that is included in the newsletter. A very similar document is included in the email for parents and carers to read through.

### Covid-19

We have been affected by COVID-19 and people have either experienced symptoms and are isolating or isolating because of being a close contact. If your child is not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, they can continue to attend school but should monitor for symptoms. Students who show symptoms of COVID-19 cannot attend school and should get tested. Please carefully read my previous email as they do have a lot of information and links available, and your cooperation in following those is much appreciated.

For information on symptoms visit: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/symptoms-and-risks>

For more information on how to get tested visit: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/taking-test-covid-19>

### Berry Street PD

Miss G and I will be in Rainbow on Monday and Tuesday for the completion of our 4 day training of Berry Street. A trauma informed educational model that we will look at implementing parts of in our school. Mrs Kelly and Issy will be supervising students in our absence.

### Swimming in Hopetoun

For students attending the swimming sports tomorrow it is important that students fill in the yellow form tonight and give it to Miss G or Cathy first thing when they get to the Hopetoun pool. The sports will start at 10am and it is expected that students arrive at 9.30 dressed ready to compete and not use the change rooms to get dressed into their swimming attire. I will email parents of students attending information that I have received about the running of the day.

## Calendar Dates - Term 1

### FEBRUARY

18th	Cluster Swimming Sports
21st	Berry street PD
22nd	Berry street PD
24th	Book Club Order due
24th	Closing date for School Council Nominations
24th/25th	Miss G will be away

### MARCH

28th/29th	Miss G will be away
2nd	Beulah Swimming Sports
3rd	MARC VAN
14th	Public Holiday
15th	School Council AGM
17th	MARC VAN
28th	School Photos

Getting Along

Confidence

Organisation

Persistence

Resilience

Our vision is to prepare our students to become active, ambitious, engaged and responsible citizens of our local and wider communities.

BEULAH PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Beulah Blurb...

## Buildings

Building works have started at the school and will continue in the coming weeks. I will keep you informed of the progress being made. I believe the administration building will be completed first including the offices, staffroom, hallway and toilets. The next step will be then to complete works on the Art room and Library spaces.

## School Council

This is notice of the upcoming elections and call for nominations for school council. Nomination forms can be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 24<sup>th</sup> February. The ballot if needed will close on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

We want to thank parents and students for the great job they have done in keeping our school as safe as possible by following important COVIDSafe measures such as mask wearing, physical distancing, ventilation, getting vaccinated and rapid antigen testing. This has meant that our school has remained open and our students in class. This is a fantastic outcome and a testament to the hard work of parents, carers, students and school staff.

## Rapid antigen tests

To keep schools as safe as possible, the Victorian Government has extended the COVIDSafe measures introduced for the beginning of Term 1. This includes extending the availability of free rapid antigen tests (RAT) for screening until the end of term. It is anticipated an additional 24 million RATs will be provided to schools and early childhood settings to continue to support early detection and prevent infection, for use at home.

The need for this program will continue to be monitored, and may end earlier based on health advice. This is great news and will mean we're able to continue identifying COVID-19 cases as early as possible, reducing the impact on our school and individuals.

Department of Health modelling indicates that in the first two weeks of school returning, the program has already prevented more than 21,000 cases in schools alone. Their modelling indicates, assuming a 75 per cent compliance rate with screening of students, that by continuing RAT screening in schools for the full 10 weeks of Term 1, we will prevent:

- 61,000 COVID-19 infections in children aged 5 to 17
- more than 150,000 COVID-19 infections in the overall community (on average 15,000 per week over 10 weeks, or more than 2,100 per day)
- around 400 hospital admissions.

The department will continue to supply RATs to our school for your use. I will inform you of when these arrive and can arrange pick up or delivery of these to families.

Twice-a-week testing continues to be strongly recommended for both students and staff.

Testing will be conducted at home, and students and staff must report any positive result. There is no requirement to report a negative result.

## Vaccination

Vaccination is another key component to protect students and staff in school settings.

Vaccinations for children aged 5 to 11 are open and third dose vaccinations for 16 to 17 year olds are now available.

There are lots of convenient options to access vaccinations. These include state-wide vaccination hubs, your local GP or pharmacy.

You can book your appointment in a few different ways, including:

online: [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine)

by phone: 1800 675 398 (Coronavirus Hotline)

In person: talk to your local pharmacy, doctor, or attend a state-wide vaccination hub.

using the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder - [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

In addition, schools provide a trusted place among the community to access vaccination, particularly for families who may experience language or social barriers.

Following successful implementation of school pop-up clinics at the commencement of Term 1, more than 230 schools across Victoria are currently hosting mini-vaccination clinics led by GPs and pharmacists. Many of these clinics will also make vaccinations available the broader school community, inclusive of families of students and school staff.

## Ventilation

Improving ventilation is one of the most effective measures to keep education settings safe. 51,000 air purifiers were delivered to schools by Term 1, 2022 to support COVIDSafe settings in schools.

Up to an additional 60,000 air purifiers will be rolled out to schools ahead of winter to supplement natural and mechanical ventilation during the cooler months.

The winter allocation will provide enough purifiers to cover all classrooms, in government schools and low-fee non-government schools based on current enrolments. This includes general purpose classrooms and other specialist classrooms such as art and science rooms.

Mask rules will remain the same, with students in Grade 3 and above required to wear masks – although they will not be required outdoors.

On behalf of the school, I would like to thank you again for your continued support in helping your child to complete the rapid antigen tests and other COVID Safe measures. As a result of these efforts our school can continue providing a safe environment for students and staff.

