Parents/Carers,

WELCOME TO AN EXCITING 2012!
I would like to extend my welcome to all our returning and new families for 2012. It appears that 2012 will be a year of growth with several new members of staff and many additional students joining BNPS this year. I would like to welcome Ms Aimee Martel, Mr Chris Fletcher, Mrs Dale Walton, Mrs Belinda Wills, Mrs Georgia Gouros and Mrs Kerrie Carnohan to our school. I would also like to welcome back Mrs Rosa Fisher who has been on extended leave.

**CLASSES for 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KM</th>
<th>Aimee Martel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KF</td>
<td>Anna Foster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>Liane Sharp (rel AP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1N</td>
<td>Sylvia Nicolopoulos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1RA</td>
<td>Sandra Prioste (Mon-Tues)/ Toula Athanasiou (Wed-Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2H</td>
<td>Adel Hansen (AP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2TC</td>
<td>Ellie Charlton (Mon-Wed)/ Anastasia Theodoridis (Th-Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3W</td>
<td>Belinda Wills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>Maria Bajic (AP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4S</td>
<td>John Stivaktas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4M</td>
<td>Mina Sarris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4T</td>
<td>Yvonne Tan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5K</td>
<td>Vicki Koinis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5F</td>
<td>Christopher Fletcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6D</td>
<td>Aaron Deighton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6H</td>
<td>Shane Harcombe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6B</td>
<td>Keryl Ball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Kerrie Carnohan (Mon-Tues)/ Georgia Gouros (Wed-Fri)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL</td>
<td>Nick Sinanis/Helen Kaskoutas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RR</td>
<td>Nicole Duley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counsellor</td>
<td>Deb Curran (Wed + alt Fri)/ Kristy Deans (Thurs)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Getting off to a good start**

Wondering how to help your kids do well at home and at school this year? The department’s parent resource School A to Z has a webcast full of expert tips for you to help your children have a more successful year.

The ‘Getting off to a great start webcast’ has a number of chapters on how to motivate children for learning, advice on peer relationships and how to handle bullying, communicating with children and the importance of strong home-school relationships.

The expert panel features advice from a child psychologist, an experienced family doctor and the department’s deputy director-general (schools) Greg Prior.

Watch the webcast at:  

---

**What's the Buzz!**

- **Monday 30 January**
  Students return

- **Monday 6 February**
  Kindergarten students begin
  7.30pm P&C meeting

- **Wednesday 8 February**
  Kindergarten vision testing

- **Wednesday 15 February**
  Textbook Sale Day

- **Thursday 16 February**
  Official Opening of school year

- **Friday 17 February**
  Summer PSSA begins

- **Monday 20-Thursday 23 Feb**
  5-6pm Yrs 1-6 Meet the Teacher

- **Wednesday 22 February**
  Swimming Carnival

- **Friday 24 February**
  4pm P&C Welcome BBQ

- **Tuesday 28 February**
  5-6pm Kindergarten Meet the Teacher
**P&C Meeting**
Our first P&C Meeting for 2012 is on Monday 6 February. It will be held in the staffroom at 7.30pm. We would love to welcome both new and not so new parents to the school to come along and find out what is in store for 2012.

**Textbook Sale**
Students K-6 will be purchasing their set textbook requirements on Wednesday 15 February. The supplier comes along on this day to provide textbooks immediately to all students. The money is paid directly to the supplier and does not go through the school office. Envelopes for payment of all school expenses may be collected from the office by parents, or you can use any envelope from home with student's name and class marked clearly on the outside of the envelope, as well as the amount and reason for payment (i.e. Textbooks). Students in K-2 can hand their payment envelopes to their teachers for safe keeping, Years 3-6 can hand envelopes directly to the supplier.

**National Year of Reading 2012**
This is the national year of reading and to celebrate, there is a host of literary-related events and competitions happening right around Australia. For an events calendar and more information go to: [www.love2read.org.au](http://www.love2read.org.au). Why not make a late New Year resolution to read more yourself? And if you have younger children and don't already read regularly to them, set aside some quality time to help instil a love of books and reading.

**OH&S Issues in Staff Car Park**
School grounds are accessed by various types of vehicles including staff, student and visitor vehicles, contractor or delivery vehicles, student transport (cars, taxis, minivans, buses), garbage removal trucks, tractors, ride-on mowers and emergency vehicles. School grounds must be safe for children despite various areas being available for use by vehicles.

Children are more vulnerable pedestrians, so particular care must be taken when driving near them. Children are more susceptible to vehicle related accidents because:

- They can be impulsive and have little sense of danger.
- Their thinking and sensing skills may not be fully developed.
- They may not have the developmental skills to identify safe places to cross the road or driveway.
- They don't always behave in a consistent or predictable manner.
- They may be small and not visible over a parked car, or from the car.

Staff, students and visitors to schools need to be aware of the need to take special care when driving on school grounds. Therefore, I am requesting that parents do not use the side gate into the staff carpark in Wilkinson Road as I am concerned for the safety of our students and their parents. No vehicles, other than staff, are to enter the Wilkinson Road carpark. Your compliance with this request is greatly appreciated. Please note, students and parents are to enter and exit school grounds via Kingsland Road and Benjamin Street gates only.

**Crunch and Sip Program**

**What is Crunch&Sip®?**
Crunch&Sip® is a break during class when students can refuel on fruit and veg and rehydrate on water. The break assists students with physical and mental performance, and concentration in the classroom.

Crunch&Sip® encourages fruit and vegetable snacking and drinking water. Healthy eating behaviours are modelled in the classroom and reinforce the nutrition messages in the PD/H/PE curriculum. By making fruit and vegetable eating and water drinking normal in the classroom, healthy habits can be formed and continued into adolescence and adulthood.

The Crunch&Sip® break gives students the opportunity to eat the piece of fruit that might otherwise be left in their lunchbox. Students are also more likely to eat their fruit or vegetables and drink their water if their friends and peers are all doing it too! We will be having Crunch&Sip® breaks from Week 3. Please make sure your child has a piece of fruit or vegetables and small bottle of water each day.

**Kindergarten Photos**
Complimentary photos will be taken of our 2012 Kindergarten students on Tuesday 14 February by Master School Photographers. These photos are a wonderful memento of your child’s first days at school.
Swimming Carnival
Please ensure all notes and money are returned to school as soon as possible for student participation in the Primary Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 22 February. Students in Years 3-6, as well as students in Year 2 who turn 8 years of age in 2012 are eligible to attend. Parents are requested to fill in all information regarding their child’s swimming levels so that appropriate coloured wrist bands can be allocated to each child to ensure safety at the pools.

Meet the Teacher Meetings
Parents of students in Years 1-6 are invited to attend our “Meet the Teacher” meetings that will be held from 5-6pm during Week 5 (20-23 February). Notes will be sent home next week with dates and times for each class. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your child’s teacher and receive information about class routines and teacher expectation.
Kindergarten “Meet the Teacher” meetings will be held on Tuesday 28 February from 5-6pm.

School Parliament News
BNPS Suggestion Box
In my parliamentary campaign I promised I would introduce a Suggestion Box to the school. In the front office of BNPS, on the table next to the seats, you will find our new school Suggestion Box ready for suggestions from students K- Year 6, as to how we can make BNPS an even better school. This is how it will work. Write your suggestion on a slip of paper, add your full name and class and I will collate them and bring them to our Parliament Meeting. I would very much appreciate it if you only put sensible suggestions in, no rude or inappropriate comments, as these will not be discussed. If you don’t have a class parliament regularly, or you don’t feel comfortable expressing them in front of your class mates, then this is what you can use.
If you want to ask any questions, feel free to talk to me about it in the playground.

Sophie L
BNPS Prime Minister

Composites - Stages not Ages

At the beginning of a new school year, many parents might suddenly find their child in a composite class. Naturally, questions arise: for the older group - will my child be held back? For the younger group - will my child be able to keep up?

In primary schools, classes are organised in a wide variety of ways. Composite classes are one such type.

Background

Classes that are made up of children of different year levels have traditionally been called composite classes. In recent times, these classes have also been labelled multi aged or stage classes.

There are two reasons why these classes are formed:

- Administrative - this is where there is an uneven enrolment in school years and classes need to be formed across a number of school years. This occurs in most primary schools and especially in smaller primary schools.
- Educational - where classes are formed on the basis of educational rationale as they are seen to have educational benefit for the student.

Classes are formed following either of the above criteria or a combination of these criteria.

Composite classes have been the source of much controversy over the years, with parents often believing that their offspring is being disadvantaged in some way by being in one. The key to understanding composites is realising that growth is determined in stages and not by ages.

Composite classes teach children who are at compatible stages - not ages. It makes sense then to group children who are going through the similar stage so they can relate, help and experience together. Even within the same class, children will be at different levels. Teachers recognise this and usually extend the work of those who learn more quickly and give more attention to those who are slower. The class then becomes outcome based rather than competition based - this method of teaching also applies to straight classes.
The good thing about composite classes is that it draws attention to individual needs and development and facilitates individualised learning.

Managing composite classes requires experienced teachers. Teachers at BNPS are well-versed and experienced in conducting programs in composite classes. Older students are not held back in composite classes. Separate programs are used, in most curriculum areas, for the different groups of students according to their level of development, and there will be some joint activities.

Composite classes can provide significant benefits to both the younger and older students in the class. Older students can benefit from helping younger students in co-operative learning situations. The younger students have the opportunity of enhanced learning experiences where they are ready for it.

The Department of Education has published overseas research that shows children in composite classes do no better or worse academically than their peers in straight grade class, but that, socially, their development is enhanced. They are more confident, can operate better as part of a group, are more assertive, become more independent learners and better problem-solvers. They also make friends outside of their standard age-groups.

Composite classes, also known as multi-age, multilevel, fluid or vertical groups, are viable ways of grouping students.

The Education Tax Refund – Get 50% back

Many types of education expenses are eligible under the Education Tax Refund (ETR). And you do need to keep your receipts.

What is an eligible education expense?

An eligible education expense is:

- incurred by an eligible person
- for a child or independent student’s education
- an item specified in the legislation as an eligible education expense, and
- incurred on a day when the child or independent student satisfied the schooling requirement.

You cannot claim the ETR for an expense if:

- it is an allowable tax deduction or subject to another tax offset, or
- you received or are entitled to receive payment or property as reimbursement or payment for the expense under a Commonwealth Government or legislative prescribed benefit, grant or subsidy.

What items can I claim?

Eligible expenses include the cost of buying, establishing, repairing and maintaining any of the following items:

- home computers and laptops
- computer-related equipment such as printers, USB flash drives, and disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- computer repairs
- home internet connections
- computer software for educational use
- school textbooks and other printed learning material, including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationery, and
- prescribed trade tools for secondary school trade courses.

As well as the items listed above school-approved uniforms purchased from 1 July 2011 (including hats, footwear and sports uniforms) approved by the school as its uniform can be claimed in the 2011/12 tax year.
What items can’t I claim?
You cannot claim:

- school fees
- student attendance at school-based extra curricular activities such as excursions and camps
- tutoring costs
- sporting equipment
- musical instruments
- school subject levies - for example, payment for consumables for particular subjects such as woodwork, art or home science
- building levies
- library book fees
- school photos
- donations
- tuck shop expenses
- waiting list fees
- transport
- membership fees, and
- computer games and consoles.

Sharing eligible expenses
Where eligible education expenses are incurred for more than one eligible child, you can share the expense between the children. But all the children must use the purchased items and you must buy the item on a day when you satisfied the eligibility requirements for the ETR for each child. This is called pooling.

Example
Ben and Natalie have twins in primary school. Ben purchased a computer worth $2,500 which both children use. Ben can pool the expense of the computer between the twins and claim $794 in eligible expenses for each child, making a total of $1,588 expenses that are claimed.

★ BNPS P&C NEWS ★

Welcome back and welcome to Bexley North Public School to all our students, families and teachers for 2012.

The P&C Association is a group of parents, citizens and teachers that come together once a month to discuss and plan ways to improve and develop the Bexley North Public School community.

Coming to P&C meetings is a great way to get to know your school and find out what your kids are up to. YOU can also contribute with your ideas and create new ways to raise money to benefit both the school and your children directly.

The first P&C meeting this year is on
Monday 6th February - 7.30 pm

All P&C Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month in the school staffroom.

Please come and join us!

The 2012 committee is new and would love all the support and fresh ideas we can get.
★ WELCOME BBQ ★

Come and have a free sausage sandwich!

The P&C would like to invite all families to a Welcome BBQ to be held on Friday 24th February from 4-6pm in the school grounds.

The BBQ is an annual event and is a wonderful way to meet other families and get to know the school community.

---

BNPS Strings 2012 Information and Application Form

The BNPS Strings Program is expanding in 2012, and there are a number of changes from 2011 so if you are already a member, or are interested in joining and learning to play the violin, viola or cello, read on!

The Strings Program provides a fantastic opportunity for students learn to play with expert teachers at a reasonable cost, with the convenience of school-based lessons and rehearsals, and the benefits of performing regularly with other young musicians.

This year we are continuing our Senior String Ensemble and Group Lessons, and introducing a new intermediate group – the Junior String Ensemble.

**Senior and Junior Strings start next week! See below for times and locations.**

The 2012 strings program has four components:

1. **Group lessons**
   - **For:** beginner violin students with no prior experience. These lessons are limited to 4 students per group, and are designed to run for 2-4 terms. Group lessons are a ‘taster’ - a good introduction to the basics, and can help students decide whether to pursue individual lessons. (There is currently no group lesson for cello students, but one could be run given sufficient interest.)
   - **Prerequisites:** No experience necessary. Open to students from K – 6.
   - **Duration:** approx. 60min/week, 8 weeks/term.
   - **When:** at time to be arranged between tutor, school and students (e.g. lunchtime)
   - **Cost:** $120/term

2. **Junior String Ensemble**
   - **Prerequisites:** Members must be receiving weekly tuition either with one of the school strings tutors, or with an outside tutor, and be assessed by the Strings Director as sufficiently proficient.
   - **When & Where:** Friday 3:00-4:00pm, in the large Kindergarten room.
   - **Cost:** $90/term (based on 8 rehearsals/term)

3. **Senior String Ensemble**
   - **Prerequisites:** Members must be receiving weekly tuition either with one of the school strings tutors, or with an outside tutor, and be assessed by the Strings Director as sufficiently proficient.
   - **When:** Monday 7:50-8:50am in the School Hall
   - **Cost:** $90/term (based on 8 rehearsals/term)
(iv) Individual Tuition

Individual lessons are available through the school with Mr Henry Avila (violin/viola) and Ms Rosa Calcagno (cello), and are to be arranged directly between tutors and parents. Individual tuition fees are paid directly to the tutors. It is a requirement of joining the Junior or Senior String Ensembles that students be receiving weekly individual tuition, either from the school tutors (contact details below), or other tutors.

Instrument Hire

BNPS owns a limited number of instruments which can be hired through the school for $30/term. Junior and Senior Ensemble members are eligible for a 50% discount off the hire fee. These instruments can also be used over school holidays by arrangement with the school.

SMS Contact

To help communication, this year parents will be sent information via SMS as well as through the newsletter and email, which will allow everyone to be informed about any last minute changes. Please make sure your details are kept up to date.

Contact Details

BNPS Music Liaison Teacher – Mr John Stivaktas (John.Stivaktas@det.nsw.edu.au)
Strings Director and Violin/Viola Tutor – Mr Henry Avila (0416 013 370, avilahenry@hotmail.com)
Cello Tutor – Ms Rosa Calcagno (0421 917 592, rosa.calcagno@hotmail.com)
Parent Committee & Instrument Hire – Dani Scarratt (0434 522 177, dani.scarratt@gmail.com)

If you are interested in being involved with the strings program in 2012, please fill out the form below and return it to the School Office by Wednesday, 8th Feb. Please do this even if you are an existing member so we can update your details.

Please contact Mr Avila or Dani Scarratt if you have questions.

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

BNPS Strings Program 2012

Parent:________________________________________________________________________

Email:_________________________________________________________________________

Phone:_____________________________(h)______________________________________(m)

Student:____________________________________________ Class______________________

Please tick the option(s) you are interested in:

☐ Group Lesson
☐ Junior Ensemble (must be receiving individual tuition)
☐ Senior Ensemble (must be receiving individual tuition)
☐ Individual violin/viola/cello tuition with the school tutors
☐ Hiring a violin/cello
☐ I am interested in being involved in the parent committee
Dear Parents and Player,

Arncliffe Aurora Football Club invites you to our registration for season 2012 – to be held at Arncliffe Park next to Canteen area Please see below.

In order to be registered each player must have the following:

- New player must bring a copy of the Passport or Birth Certificate.
- Player MUST be present to have new photo taken (on computer)
- Parent / Guardian MUST be present to approve registration forms
- Fees for 2012 (see below) must be paid on the day.

For all players, a reminder that you are able to register online as per instructions sent to you by email. This will make it easier for you and decrease waiting times on the day you come down and validate the registration and pay your fees.

Please Note: Every player MUST HAVE ALL the above to be registered

Registration dates and Fee Structure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 03.02.12</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>ARNCLIFFE PARK</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT 04.02.12</td>
<td>ALL</td>
<td>ARNCLIFFE PARK</td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FEES:
- U/6-U/9 $120
- U/10-U/11 $150
- U/12-U/18 $180
- SENIORS $300

ALL FEES MUST BE PAID ON THE DAY
NO PAY NO PLAY

Included in your fees are the following: Shorts, Socks, water bottle, all new players will get a Jacket and team photos.

Please Note: Children who turn 5 before 31st Dec 2012 are eligible to play under 6

AAFC would like to invite 11 & 12 year old girls to register in our new Girls Only Team for 2012.

Further queries may be directed to the Aurora Registrar Kamal Kdouh on 0409 453910.

Yours In Sport,
Arncliffe Aurora Football Club - Committee