Have you ever wondered how you can support your child’s learning at home but don’t know where to start? Well the answer is here. SchoolMate is an app that allows parents to see the types of learning that is happening at school and has some great suggestions for home activities. Great for that extra support or when family holidays come around! Using the school report to help identify the learning needs of your child would give you a great place to start when using this app. Below is all you need to know.

What is SchoolMate?
SchoolMate is an app for Victorian parents to help them understand what their kids are learning and to get more involved in their education.

Who is SchoolMate for?
Parents of Prep to Year 10 students in Victorian government schools.

Can parents with children in Catholic and independent schools use SchoolMate?
Parents with children at Catholic schools can use SchoolMate as these schools follow the AusVELS Victorian school curriculum. Parents with children at independent schools should check with their principal or teacher about how closely their school follows the AusVELS curriculum.

How can I get SchoolMate?
You can download it now for free from the App Store and Google Play. Just search for ‘SchoolMate’.

Does SchoolMate work on all phones and tablets?
SchoolMate works on all iPhone 4s, 5s and 6s and iPads. It also works on Android phones and tablets.

What does SchoolMate provide?
SchoolMate: • shows parents a snapshot of what their children are learning in each subject, at each year level according to the Victorian curriculum (AusVELS) • provides tips for parents about what they can do at home to help their child’s learning • suggests related apps, books, events and activities relevant to each subject area.

Who created SchoolMate?
The Department of Education and Training’s Communications Division, with lots of help from the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, educators from Victoria’s professional teaching associations and parents associations.

Will SchoolMate be updated?
Yes, and the Department would love to hear from anyone who has ideas for future updates to SchoolMate. As this is our first release, we want to know what you like and what we can improve. The Department welcomes feedback from Victorian parents, teachers and those in the education community. Please get in touch: online.comms.unit@edumail.vic.gov.au
Dear Buninyong and Scotsburn Parents,

Successfully managing a classroom and meeting the needs of all students can be a real challenge, so we are always keen to have parents helping out. Each year we run a Parent Helpers Program which aims to help parents build knowledge and confidence that is useful when helping out in classrooms. The focus is on Literacy and the course is comprised of 2 sessions. Attending the program is not a pre-requisite to help out in classrooms, but it is certainly very helpful.

We would like to invite you to participate in the Classroom Helpers Program for 2016. Details are as follows:

- **Session 1** — This session has a focus on home reading and sight words as is useful for parents wanting to support their child’s reading at home. This session will be run on Wednesday March 16th from 2:00 - 3:15pm and repeated on Thursday 17th of March from 9:00 - 10:15am
- **Session 2** — This session has a focus on being a helper with literacy in the classroom and is to be run on Tuesday 22nd March from 2:00 - 3:15pm and repeated on Wednesday 23rd March from 9:00 - 10:15am.

All sessions to be held at our Buninyong Campus in the meeting room which is located in the admin block.

If you would like to participate please complete and return the slip below to the office.

Thank you

David Young (T & LAP)

---

Parent: (please print) __________________________

Signed: __________________________

Please tick your preference

I will attend:

- **Session One**
  - Wed 16th March 9:00 - 10:00am or
  - Thursday 17th March 2:00 - 3:00pm

- **Session Two**
  - Tuesday 22nd March 2:00 - 3:00pm or
  - Wednesday 23rd March 9:00 - 10:00am
Hi everyone,

As you can see by the poster on this page, we have an exciting new event coming up for the school and extended community. Music on the Mount will be an evening that celebrates and highlights the value of music and the performing arts in schools and provides students with another opportunity to showcase their skills.

The night also offers an opportunity for parents and other members of the community to have an enjoyable night out, with all funds raised targeting music and performing arts initiatives across our school.

We are asking parents to encourage children to become involved by auditioning to perform on the night. Auditions will be held in the coming weeks, the details of which are set out below.

Please consider coming along...
Should be a great night out.

Bernie Conlan

---

**Who is the New Palm Court Orchestra?**

Australian pianist/composer Gemma Turvey formed The New Palm Court Orchestra (NPCO) in 2011, bringing together some of Melbourne’s best jazz, classical and improvising musicians to perform her compositions which combine a classical aesthetic with jazz and world influences.

The NPCO is a chamber jazz ensemble with a core of nine players led by Gemma Turvey at the piano and featuring double bass, drum kit, string quartet, clarinet and French horn. Additional instrumentalists also join from time to time.

For information regarding Gemma Turvey and NPCO visit

---

**AUDITIONS!**

We are conducting auditions for children who would like to perform in Music on the Mount.

We are looking for any musical act
Singing, acting, dancing or playing an instrument
No longer than 5 minutes in length
Solo or Group performances welcome

Auditions will be held at lunchtime on:
Monday 21 March
Tuesday 22 March
Wednesday 23 March
Japanese Question of the Week:
Shuu no Nihongo shitsumon

What is the word for music in Japanese?
Nihon de no ongaku no tame no kotoba wa nan desu ka

(Hint: Keep an eye out at your music class this week!)

Students, please place your answer in the box at the office before recess on Thursday. Remember to write your name and grade! Winner will be announced each Friday. One entry per person.

*Remember: Everyone who enters 10 or more times for the year will receive a prize!

Establishing & Maintaining Strong Attendance

We all know how important it is for our students to attend school regularly, both in terms of their learning and in terms of building and maintaining relationships with fellow students. Now that we are mid-way through term 1, it’s a good time to reflect on how the year has started in terms of attendance. Maybe some bad habits have started to creep in that are impacting on attendance. If that’s the case, now is the time to sort those out. If there are attendance issues that we can help with, please let us know…..speak to your child’s teacher, Bernie or Josh.

We understand that there are circumstances out of our control that impact on attendance, such as illness. We have no choice but to roll with those circumstances and encourage everyone to consider the things they can control to make sure your children are present as much as possible.

Painting the Cubby

This Thursday and Friday we have mini working bees to paint the cubby. Now that the cottage and surrounds have received some attention, the cubby is looking out of place and needs a spruce up. If you are able to come along and help out between 2 and 3:30pm on Thursday and/or Friday, you are most welcome. Bring along a paint brush and container if you have those, but we will some equipment on hand for those that need it.

A reminder to everyone that the official opening of the cottage will take place on April 22 at 10am and everyone is most welcome to come along.

The Friends of the Botanic Gardens group have come on board and will use the building as their base. They have already had a number of working bees and over time will completely landscape the yard surrounding the cottage. The gentlemen from the Mens’ Shed have now completed the picket fence around the cottage and the end result looks fantastic. On Monday the engraved pavers that school families and other locals have purchased will be laid to make a path to the front door of the cottage.
In this week's edition of BWN we will continue looking at developing a Growth Mindset. Below is a link to a youtube clip by Carol Dweck, the Growth Mindset guru.

Link of the week: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElVUqv0v1EE

**Family Time Questions**
While you sit and have dinner as a family try asking your kids what 3 things they’re grateful for? Discuss this often enough and watch how optimistic they become. It takes up to 21 days to change the way the brain works when thinking positive.

(Google: The Resilience Project)

Next term we will be focussing on:
1. Gratitude
2. Empathy
3. Mindfulness


**FAMILY GROUPS**
Feel free to provide feedback to Josh Ebbels. I am very keen to hear your thoughts.
A big thank you to the many families that helped out at the BBQ on Sunday. It was a very successful event. The money raised will go towards improving the play spaces in the playground.

This Friday we will be playing our part in Clean Up Australia Day. The students will be cleaning up around the outskirts of the school property. Please feel free to come along and help from 2pm if you are available.

This week we have another 2 visiting student teachers from Chester (UK). The students are enjoying working in each of our three classrooms and also loved helping with our cooking program on Monday.

Last week the students participated in a range of activities to develop their understanding of the importance of being respectful. The students in the P/1 and 2/3 class teamed together to create a wonderful display.

We would like to thank Phil from the Leigh catchment Group for helping out at our gardening rotation on Monday. Phil helped us plant the seeds that we collected a couple of weeks ago. They are now potted up and will be cared for until they are ready to transfer to our gardens.

We have had a number of students represent our school on a Wednesday night. The students all played with excellent sportsmanship and had a lot of fun. Special thanks to the parents that transported the kids to and from the games.

Ryan Lyons received this award for his excellent efforts during art classes.

Our next rotation for Term 1 will be on the (7th March). Our groups will be doing the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Cooking (Mrs Murphy)</th>
<th>Team Building Activities (Ms Morris)</th>
<th>Landcare/ Gardening (Mr O’Loughlin)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th March</td>
<td>Group 3 Chrissy Tischler</td>
<td>Group 1</td>
<td>Group 2 Richard Archer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lunch orders need to be collected from The Buninyong campus at 12.40pm.

- 4th March: St John’s First Aid Course
- 11th March: Gr 3-6 Sports Day
- 14th March: Labour Day Holiday
- **15th March**: Gr 3-6 District School Sports / Pupil Free Day
- 19th March: Buninyong Village Market
- 24th March: Term 1 Finishes
- 11th April: Term 2 Starts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>PARENT HELPER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd March</td>
<td>Naomi Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th March</td>
<td>Rebecca Blackburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th March</td>
<td>Faith Valent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24th March</td>
<td>Nikki Chapman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Don’t forget that Monday is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit.

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a silver Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward item in recognition of their regular savings habits.

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program
Buninyong Primary School

Waiting for their parents after school they popped into the art room and asked if anything needed tidying and took some lost property to the office.

This shows kindness, and great initiative and Mrs Belsar was very grateful for the help.