

Morning Briefing Notes – Monday 30 March 2020

Jeremy

As I said on Friday, a huge thank you all colleagues. We rose to an incredible technical and pedagogical challenge, our administrative and IT/E-Learning teams have worked tirelessly to make the infrastructure and support for Digital Bialik a reality, our students have relished the learning challenge and most of our parents have role-modelled positivity, growth mindset!

The full curriculum in every lesson and subject took place – we even had kitchen and garden lessons in the Primary School, and live assessments in the Senior School. Lunchtimes have had optional activities and Learning Support lessons have taken place on schedule. Student attendance has been in line with regular attendance. Kol HaKavod!

Lots of Learnings – Prep/G1 timetable and format, exhaustion of staff with heavy timetables

There are other stories of amazing camaraderie and support. My own house has a new community street noticeboard and has become a bit of a hub. In Venice, dolphins have been spotted in the canals. Pollution worldwide is at a century low. You can now stream Broadway shows into your home using Playbill. Also online, look at the balcony concerts from China to Italy to Germany and the United States – there is an amazing one of Lean on Me from New York. And I've noticed on the streets we are smiling at each other.

It's not all bad!

So, let's start our briefing with some good news!

BIRTHS:

Amy Ho and Aaron Win - Aurora (f)

Anna Dorevitch ('00) and Kenji Takasaki– Maya Rose (f)
Grandparents: Michael and Nicky Dorevitch

ENGAGEMENT:

Samantha Meyerson to Michael Aynbund

- Parents: Heidi and Marc Meyerson (Heidi and Sam worked at Bialik)

We unfortunately also have the following sad news:

BEREAVEMENT:

Shimon Ben-Moyal – husband of Vivienne. Father of Avi and Ariella - both ex Collegians.
(Brother in law of Anne Budlender, ex Bialik staff)

Notices:

Farewell to Tanya Bethune, ELC Music Teacher – thank you for your service.

This Week Please ensure learning for every class is loaded onto the class CLE page, and that ample learning is provided for both the week and for home learning over the holidays.

PD and Webinars (from Roxanne) - There is a series of webinars available this week, tailored to each sub-school. A schedule was sent out Sunday night. Please join in via Teams (instructions for how to join were included in the email). Some webinars may be filmed but a series of basic how-to videos will be posted to the CLE teacher's help page over the break. Continue use the help guides already created and posted to the CLE and to contact the eLearning team if you have further training needs.

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Staff Fitness Sessions (from Mick) - If Staff would like to be involved in the Fitness sessions with kids. Classes are Monday afternoon Yr 7 session 5/6 Tuesday session 4 Yr 7, Session 5 Yr 5/6, session 6 Yr 8/9 Wednesday session 5/6 Yr 10/11. If you are interested in participating, please contact the sport department and we can place you in a session by adding you to the relevant team. (limited numbers because of team capabilities) If you are not keen to do it with the class, I can send you the program, but please make sure if you are doing it unsupervised that if you experience pain, please stop. Any prior medical conditions that may stop you completing the activity should be considered.

Pesach (from Zac Gomo) - We will be sending our families a compendium of staff and student articles on the theme of Pesach/The Seder. Any staff who could write an article, or even a short thought and send it to Zac Gomo as soon as possible would be greatly appreciated. It is short notice and a big ask but any contribution would be of supreme value. Thank you.

Student Concerns (from Deb Reed) - Please refer any concerns about students to HOS and Student Services via Deborah Reed.

Holiday Activities (from Lee Howard) – Potential holiday program ideas being sought, an email will be coming out shortly.

Staying Healthy (from Frances Postma)

The way to protect ourselves, our loved ones and our communities:

- First and foremost is regular and thorough hand-washing
- Good respiratory hygiene – coughing into your elbow or using a tissue then disposing the tissue in a covered bin, followed immediately with washing of the hands.

COMMS - Bialik Youtube Channel - any youtube uploads that are relevant beyond a classroom, please send to Communications so they can be linked to our Bialik Youtube Channel.

There are Home Office Expenses that you will be able to get a tax benefit on - see <https://www.ato.gov.au/Individuals/Income-and-deductions/Deductions-you-can-claim/Home-office-expenses/>

Finance Dept - The timesheets for all casuals needs to be approved by 2 pm today. This will be last casual staff timesheet pay run until campus opens again in April.

Term 2 – we do not know whether we will be opening the campus Term 2. We do know that most pre-schools (Creche and Kinder) are currently open, even though schools are closed. A decision will be made in the last week of the holidays (which coincides with the first week of the state school term, so we will have a good idea that week what is the position of the Education Department). If we do not open, we will be reactivating Digital Bialik, albeit with some changes to the Prep and Year 1 offering, and with guidance on how SACs will work with our VCE students – Mark is researching this situation with the VCAA as we speak.

Non-teaching staff Term 2 – if school campus does not reopen next term, and if regulations and school policies permit (noting that most childcare centres are, as of today, currently open), we would like to support teaching staff who have young children, with childcare at home. We will be asking some non-curriculum staff if they would be interested in Alternative Duties next term in this way (entirely optional). Please liaise with HR for any follow up queries.

Many families may be worried about fees and their financial circumstances. If you hear of anyone going through financial hardship, please ask them to contact the finance department at accounts@bialik.vic.edu.au

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Whiteboards: We have 70 whiteboards available to staff (approx 500x350mm). These can be collected from Idan at the Auburn Rd guard box. One per staff member until stock lasts. Thank you to Judith for the suggestion and to Gary for securing these for staff.

Thank you again to all staff for an amazing effort in keeping up with your workloads whilst balancing your own families in these difficult circumstances. Please ensure you look after yourselves by accessing well-being sessions and moving around.

I will organise another staff briefing on Wednesday 1 April (last day of term). Wishing you all health, health and health!

Next ALL STAFF Briefing

Date: Wednesday 1 April at 10:40am

Location: MS Teams