



A word from our College Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we wrap up the term, it's a great time to reflect on what has been a truly successful and rewarding few months. From the incredible dedication of our staff to the achievements of our students across academics, co-curricular activities, and community engagement, this term has been filled with progress, growth, and many proud moments. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this term such a success.

Parent opinion Survey - All families have recently been asked to participate in the 2025 Parent / Caregiver / Guardian Opinion Survey. The Department of Education has contracted ORIMA Research (ORIMA) to conduct this survey. ORIMA is Australia's leading provider of end-to-end research and data analytics services to the public and not-for-profit sector. Each year the school conducts an opinion survey with the school community. Results are used to inform and direct our future school planning and improvement. Thank you to those who took the time to complete this survey for us, as your opinions are important to us and will contribute to the future management and organisation of our school. The department will also use the results from the survey for research purposes and to improve outcomes for students. If you have not completed this yet and would like to it closes tomorrow.

CCTV - Both campuses have Closed Circuit Technology (CCTV), this is to act as deterrent and reduce the likelihood of vandalism and theft. It can also act to deter misconduct and inappropriate behaviour and help to verify incidents on school grounds to support an evidence-based response. We have a documented policy about this system which can be found on our website for further information.

Uniform - We would like to remind everyone of the importance of adhering to our school uniform policy. It is essential that all students wear their full school uniform each day. Consistent adherence to this policy helps maintain a sense of unity and pride within our school community. Additionally, please ensure that hair accessories worn by students are green, maroon, white or black in colour only. We appreciate your cooperation in reinforcing these standards at home. This guideline is in place to keep the focus on learning and to promote a cohesive school environment. We appreciate your cooperation in reinforcing these standards at home.

2026 Planning - We are currently planning for the 2026 school year. Our staff put great consideration into ensuring a smooth transition for all students, they know the combinations of students that work well and those that don't. If parents have a particular request and can explain the rationale behind it we will consider these in our planning and accommodate if possible. These requests need to be emailed to the Baden Powell email address by 4:00 pm Friday October 3. Please note late requests will not be accommodated.

2025 Curriculum Days

Monday November 3

Professional Practice Day

Monday December 8

2025 Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

Monday 6

First day of term 4

Semper Dental Visit

Tuesday 7

Year 7 Science Works

Semper Dental Visit

Wednesday 8

Year 8 Science Works

Semper Dental Visit

Thursday 16

2026 Year 7 Tour 10am

Tuesday 21

2026 Year 7 Tour 5pm

Thursday 23

Grade 6 School Captains CDC

Champions Day

NOVEMBER

Monday 3

Curriculum Day - **No School**

Tuesday 4

Public Holiday - **No School**

Baden Powell College

Newsletter - Issue Eight

Empowering Minds
Nurturing Hearts



Student attendance term 4:

As we look ahead to next term, we want to take a moment to highlight the importance of regular attendance. We understand that many families have been impacted by illness recently, and we appreciate your efforts in prioritising health and recovery. That said, consistent attendance plays a vital role in student learning, connection, and progress. Every day at school counts, and we encourage all families to support their children in maintaining strong attendance wherever possible, so they can make the most of every opportunity in the term ahead.

The end of **Term 3** is **Friday September 19**. The children will be dismissed at **2:00 pm**. If you are needing the services of after school care, they will be offering care from 2:00pm. They also operate a school holiday program from our Tarneit Campus for those families who need this service.

Have a lovely break and we look forward to term 4.

Warm Regards

Vicki Minton

College Principal





BADEN POWELL COLLEGE

Grade 4 Camp

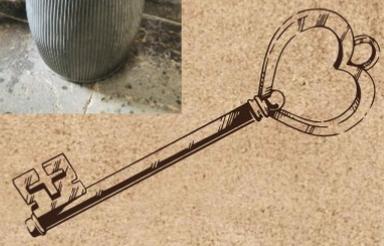
On Wednesday September 3 our Grade 4 students headed off to camp at Ferngully Lodge, Healesville. They participated in activities including High Ropes, Leap of Faith, Ziplining, Low Ropes, Rock Climbing and Initiative games. Students had to face their fears by having a go. They also enjoyed night activities which included a Trivia night and a movie night. The grade 4 students reported that the food was delicious the whole time and they especially enjoyed the pancakes on their final morning. Thank you to all of the teachers and volunteers who attended and made the camp possible.





Werribee Mansion

On Thursday September 11, our Grade 2 students visited Werribee Mansion to support the learning they are currently doing around CHANGE during Big Ideas. Students investigated the differences between 'modern day' and 'the past'. They were able to explore how things have changed over time with hands on experiences and activities.





BADEN POWELL COLLEGE

The background of the entire page features a collection of sharpened pencils in various colors (black, blue, green, red, pink) pointing downwards. Below the pencils are several solid-colored circles in shades of maroon and dark red, arranged in a descending pattern from left to right.

PREP 2026

Now accepting enrolments

If you have not yet enrolled your child at Baden Powell College, please contact us at either campus.

Tarneit Campus- 8734 0900

Derrimut Heath - 9748 8688



Happy Birthday to all of our students who have a Birthday in October

Aarohi	Dhruv	Mishika	Savannah
Aarush	Diego	Musa	Seerat
Ahmed Hiis	Ezra	Navya	Shan
Aleena	Hafeez	Nelson	Shangze
Alina	Hunter	Nyandur	Sienna
Anam	Ibrahim	Praise	Sione
Antarip	Isaac	Rama	Tanay
Ariana	Ishveen	Ranvir	Tasneem
Asees	Kingston	Redeemer	Uday
Atem	Liam	Rik	Ved
Blake	Lo'Onga Mmbese	River	William
Braxtin	Madison	Roman-Cooper	Yasin
Cassian	Marzia	Ruhina	Zayn
Deng	Mikaya	Samarpreet	Zola
	Mila	Samuel	

Parenting Through Tragedy: Discussing Political Violence with Our Children

The assassination of Charlie Kirk at Utah Valley University has captured the world's attention, including many of our tweens and teens. As parents, many of us now face the difficult task of helping our children process this killing while using it as an opportunity for meaningful growth and understanding.

When news like this reaches our children, it can create a mix of emotions, including sadness, confusion, even a sense of schadenfreude if they didn't like the person, and all-too-often, an unhealthy fascination. It's amplified by the fact that vision of the murder is available online on every platform (which is another reminder of why we need strong social media minimum age legislation).

Rather than allowing such tragic events to become a form of "news entertainment" or fuel for divisive arguments, we can guide thoughtful discussions that help our children develop critical thinking skills, empathy, and a deeper understanding of complex societal issues.

Essential Conversation Starters

Here are several carefully crafted discussion points to explore with your children, adapted for their age and maturity level:

Free Speech and Democracy

1. Should people be allowed to speak their mind, even when others strongly disagree?

Help children understand that democracy depends on the free exchange of ideas, even uncomfortable ones.

2. Should there be limits on what people can and can't say?

Explore nuanced examples: Should platforms be given to those who promote hate speech or Nazism? What about medical misinformation? Anti-religious vitriol? Racist? Sexist? How do we balance free expression with protecting vulnerable communities?

3. At what point does speech cross a line and become unacceptable?

Discuss the difference between disagreement and harassment, between robust debate and threats of violence.

Violence and Conflict Resolution

4. Is violence ever acceptable in response to words another person speaks?

Help children understand that while words can hurt, physical violence is not an appropriate response to speech we disagree with.

5. Are words dangerous? Why or why not?

Explore how language can inspire both positive and negative actions, and our responsibility to use words thoughtfully.

6. How should we respond to speech we find deeply offensive or harmful?

Discuss constructive alternatives: counter-speech, peaceful protest, voting, and community organising (and how it differs from cancelling someone or violence).

Digital Citizenship and Social Media Ethics

The digital dimension of this tragedy offers particularly important teaching moments:

7. Is it appropriate to use social media to post, view, or share content that shows harm or death?

Discuss the human dignity of victims, the impact on families, and the difference between being informed and being voyeuristic.

8. When someone dies whom we disagreed with politically, how should we respond online?

Should people use their platforms to score posthumous political points? To celebrate death? To silence opposing views? Help children understand that basic human decency transcends political disagreement.

9. How do we consume tragic news responsibly?

Discuss the importance of verified sources, the impact of constant exposure to violence, and taking breaks from news when overwhelmed.

10. What role does social media play in political polarisation?

Explore how algorithms can create echo chambers and how inflammatory content spreads faster than thoughtful analysis.

Age-Appropriate Approaches

Primary School (Ages 6-11): Focus on basic concepts of kindness, safety, and how we treat people we disagree with. Keep discussions brief and reassuring.

Middle School (Ages 11-13): Introduce more complex ideas about democracy, free speech, and peaceful conflict resolution. Acknowledge their growing awareness while providing guidance.

High School (Ages 14-18): Engage in sophisticated discussions about political violence, media literacy, and civic responsibility. Encourage them to think critically about information sources and their own digital footprint.



Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters and grandfather to 1 granddaughter. He is the parenting expert and co-host of Channel Nine's Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia's #1 podcast for parents and family: The Happy Families Podcast. He has written 9 books about families and parenting. For further details visit happyfamilies.com.au.

Creating a Safe Space for Difficult Conversations

- **Listen more than you speak.** Allow children to express their fears, confusion, or even inappropriate reactions without immediate judgement.
- **Validate emotions while correcting misconceptions.** It's normal to feel scared, angry, or confused about violence.
- **Model the behaviour you want to see.** Show respect for human dignity even when discussing people whose views you oppose.
- **Be honest about your own struggles.** It's okay to say, "I don't understand why someone would do this either".
- **Focus on what we can control.** Emphasise positive actions like kindness, civic engagement, and building community connections.

The Bigger Picture

A man—a husband and father of two—has been murdered. There is a human element to this that transcends politics. Yet it's also essential to be clear: debating publicly doesn't automatically make someone's ideas democratic or right.

Charlie Kirk promoted views that many people—including parents reading this—find deeply troubling. Others, of course, find him inspiring and connected to truth. Inviting our children to look at what he actually said, rather than treating him only as a victim or a symbol, helps them see that civility in debate is typically the best way for an argument to be won or lost.

This is also a moment to help kids recognise that violence is never the answer—even while acknowledging that people sometimes feel it *is* justified. Ask: *Have you ever thought a violent response might be acceptable? Why? What else could be done instead?* These reflections build empathy and critical thinking.

History matters here too. Teach world history alongside current events so children can see the fine line between politics and propaganda, and how movements for justice—and for harm—have arisen in every era.

Finally, explore ideological bias. We all hold views that shape when we think force is acceptable—whether in wars abroad, protests at home, or conflicts between countries we identify with and those we don't. Helping kids notice these biases doesn't mean excusing violence; it means raising thoughtful citizens who can examine their own assumptions before judging others.

As parents, we're not going to help our children work out who they are and be resilient if all we do is shield them from opposing views. Instead, we want to help them navigate life's big issues with wisdom, compassion, and hope. In doing so, we raise a generation better equipped to preserve democracy and human dignity in an increasingly complex world.



Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters and grandfather to 1 granddaughter. He is the parenting expert and co-host of Channel Nine's Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia's #1 podcast for parents and family: The Happy Families Podcast. He has written 9 books about families and parenting. For further details visit happyfamilies.com.au.

HOLIDAY ACTION

22 SEP - 3 OCT

Teenage Holiday program

For Young People aged 12 – 17 years old

All grade 6 students welcome

Cost is
\$15/\$12
concession
for all days



Bookings open September 5th from 9am!

WEEK 1

Healesville Sanctuary

Mon 22 Sep | 9am – 4pm

Explore a bushland haven with an Australian wildlife experience in the stunning Yarra Valley.

SENSAS

Wed 24 Sep | 12pm – 5pm

Step into the unknown and prepare to challenge your senses like never before!

Grand Final Public Holiday

Fri 26 Sep

No Program

WEEK 2

Royal Melbourne Show

Mon 29 Sep | 10am – 4pm

Come with us to Melbourne's vibrant annual event for a mix of agricultural displays, entertainment, food, and family-friendly attractions.

MCG Museum Tour

Wed 1 Oct | 12.30pm – 5.30pm

See sporting history and the hallowed turf of the MCG up close on this awesome museum and grounds tour.

Strike Bowling and laser tag

Fri 3 Oct | 9am – 12.30pm

Can you bowl a perfect game or get the highest score on a galactic laser mission? Join us down at strike for an afternoon of action!

Where to meet: Strike Point Cook
36 Wallace Avenue, Point Cook



For booking details and more things to do to this holidays please scan the QR code or follow the link to the website

- 🌐 www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/holiday-action-program
- ✉ holidayactionenquiries@wyndham.vic.gov.au
- 📍 @YouthinWyndham

wyndhamcity
Youth
Services

WHAT'S ON THESE HOLIDAYS

22 SEP - 3 OCT

Free activities for young people
in Wyndham

Free
Activities



WEEK 1

Drop In

Tue 23 Sep | 11am – 2pm

@Tarneit Community Learning Centre

Drop in for 18 -25 year olds

Wed 24 Sep | 2.30pm – 5.30pm

@Youth Services Hoppers Crossing

Courtside

Thu 25 Sep | 2.30pm – 5.30pm

@Stocklands Point Cook

WEEK 2

Drop in

Tue 30 Sep | 11am – 2pm

@Youth Services Hoppers Crossing

Culture Connect

Wed 1 Oct | 2pm - 5:30pm

@Hoppers Crossing Youth Services

Nothin' but Net

Thu 2 Oct | 10am – 3pm

@Eagle Stadium

Culture Connect

Fri 3 Oct | 2pm - 5:30pm

@Hoppers Crossing Youth Services

Dance Off

Sun 5 Oct | 12pm – 5pm

@Wyndham Cultural Centre

Free Entry for Spectators



Contact information

www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/youth-services

YouthInWyndham@wyndham.vic.gov.au

8734 1355

wyndhamcity
Youth
Services