

What else can I do to become a partner in my child's education?

- Encourage your child to take independent action in response to our Units of Inquiry. This may involve bringing to school any books, posters, etc., that may be of interest to the class. Please ensure all items are named.
- Encourage your child to demonstrate the PYP Attitude of the month (and praise them when they do so!).
- Complete and return the 'Parent Comment' section at the end of the Written Report (to be distributed at the end of Term 2).
- Understand and reinforce school rules and expectations at home.
- Show your child how much you value school and learning.
- Read ALL school communication e.g. newsletters, Connective messages and notes sent home.
- Familiarise yourself with our staff and their names (see photo board in foyer) and participate in informal opportunities to talk and get to know all school staff.
- Attend parent information sessions and other school events/opportunities – everything from sports events to Carols and more!
- Visit our website regularly, in particular our A-Z index for everything you need to know about BNPS!
- Share your family's practices relating to culture and values with us.
- Notify teachers of any significant changes that have taken place in your child's life.
- Attend social events arranged by your Class Reps to meet your child/ren's friend's families.
- Learn about school policies and practices.
- Answer calls for volunteers where you can.
- Take advantage of resources offered at the school e.g. KidsMatter Resources. For more information see: www.beaumarisnorthps.vic.edu.au/pi-kidsmatter.htm
- Serve on school committees.
- Attend Parents' Club and Fathers' Activity Club meetings and events.
- Encourage and support your child to serve in student leadership positions.
- Respond to school surveys regarding your interests, skills and opinions.
- Make appointments as necessary to discuss any concerns.
- Provide encouragement and praise for your child's efforts.

What else can I do to help my child at home?

- Develop a consistent daily routine and time for doing homework in a quiet, well-lit place.
- Help your child to break down big homework projects into smaller, more manageable steps – assist them with their homework but avoid doing it!
- Keep track of your child's homework and projects and regularly look at completed work.
- Work on the 'Areas for improvement/future learning' identified in your child's Written Report (to be distributed at the end of Term 2) by taking on board the suggestions in the 'What you can do at home to help your child's progress' section.
- View selected TV programs together and then discuss them.
- Make family trips to the zoo, museum or park a fun learning experience
- Ask your child lots of questions and make time for them to ask you lots of questions.

Anything you can do at home to reinforce and extend what the school is doing, even if it's just a few minutes a day, will be well worth the effort!

Something for the school holidays...

Over the school holidays or on weekends you might like to have some fun with experiments! Science Bob is a great place to start but there are many other websites if you google 'easy kids science experiments'. The Fantastic Foaming Fountain (or Elephant toothpaste) is always a favourite but remember to discuss how and why! <http://sciencebob.com/>

The Department of Education and Training (DET) Homework Guidelines for each year level can be found on the 'Year Level Information' page of our website under 'Homework' at:

www.beaumarisnorthps.vic.edu.au/year-level-information.html



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HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD AT HOME

At the beginning of the year you were given the opportunity to share your child's strengths, interests and any other relevant information, with your child's teacher, at our 'Meet and Greet' opportunity. More recently you have had the opportunity to share expectations and set goals for your child at our Parent/Teacher Interviews.

We would now like to share some learning strategies that may be of assistance to you and your child/ren at home.



Become a partner in your child's education



BEAUMARIS NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL



Is the question...

'What did you do
at school today?'

often met with...

"I can't remember"?



You might like to provide a talking point to interact with your child by:

- Prompting questions and discussing relevant information based on:
 - The current Unit of Inquiry:
www.beaumarisnorthps.vic.edu.au/curriculum-updates.html
 - Curriculum News:
www.beaumarisnorthps.vic.edu.au/pi-curriculum-news.htm
 - Specialist News:
www.beaumarisnorthps.vic.edu.au/pi-specialist-news.htm
- Using Konnective messages/photos to ask your child about what they did (or will be doing).
- Referring to the PYP Learner Profile and Attitudes at www.beaumarisnorthps.vic.edu.au/pyp.html (there is a link under each section with definitions/explanations).
- Reading our school newsletters, 'Waves' and 'Community News', together and asking your child for more information. Children enjoy seeing other students in the newsletter and reading staff interviews.
- Discussing the school day (supporting the PYP Learner Profile 'Reflective') where students 'give thoughtful consideration to their own learning and experience. They are able to assess and understand their strengths and limitations in order to support their learning and personal development.'
 - Ask your child if they participated in any incursions or excursions and if so, what they did and what they learned.
 - Ask your child to teach you something they have learned!
 - If your child says they have watched a movie, ask them how it relates to what they are doing in the classroom.
 - Ask your child to tell you all about a 'usual' day at school.
 - Discuss any assigned homework.

READING

Reading is the foundation for all learning and children, who read outside of school as well as in school, are much more likely to succeed.

- Encourage your child to read! Helping your child develop strong reading habits and skills is one of the most important contributions you can make to your child's education.
- Expose your child to a wide variety of reading materials (newspapers, magazines, books and websites etc.) and be ready to discuss what he or she has learned.
- Incorporate reading into everyday life; point out words on street signs and packaging, ask your child to read the recipe for you when you are cooking, take books with you to appointments and restaurants (or wherever you are going!).
- Read books more than once to consolidate expression, fluency, pausing, self-correcting and comprehension.
- Ask your child questions about the story to enhance comprehension and get them thinking about what they are reading.
- Discuss word meanings and talk about the story - many children are good oral readers, but struggle with comprehension.
- Encourage fluency and expression when oral reading.
- Point out any punctuation that is missed and remind your child that the story will not make sense without it.
- Talk about the title, cover, illustrations and characters.
- Read to your child (to model good reading) and ask them to follow the words.
- As you're reading stories at night, ask your child to make predictions. This also strengthens reading comprehension.
- Relax bedtime rules on the weekends - let your child stay up late to read in bed for as long as they like!
- Encourage your child to swap books and discuss them with friends.
- Encourage your child to read biographies about successful people (or read them to your child). Children are often motivated to adopt similar success patterns in their own lives.
- Keep reading to your child even when he/she is reading confidently. There is a lot to be gained from reading to your child until he/she reaches the teen years.
- Choose books that are of interest to your child (and you if you are reading with them!).
- Make a visit to the public library a regular outing!

SPELLING

- Play letter and word games like Scrabble.
- Work through a wide range of spelling lists and blends – the following websites provide a great starting point:
 - www.oxfordwordlist.com
 - www.ozspeller.com
 - www.kidspot.com.au/schoolzone/section+299+Reading-and-writing.htm#Spelling (click on 'Spelling' to reveal the 'Spelling Bee words' for your child's age group)
- Ask your child to visit the 'Literacy' page in 'Kids' Corner' on the BNPS website for a comprehensive list of spelling games, poems, stories, antonyms and synonyms etc. www.beaumarisnorthps.vic.edu.au/kids-corner-literacy.html

WRITING

- Ask your child to practice writing at home – anything from letters to friends and family, journal/diary entries and e-mail messages.
- Encourage your child to write about the stories that you have read together.
- Show your child that we write for a variety of purposes by asking them to write your food shopping list!

MATHS

- Make sure your child logs on to Mathletics regularly (usernames and passwords have been sent home) and sign up to receive weekly reports about your child's progress. For more information see: www.beaumarisnorthps.vic.edu.au/pi-mathletics.htm
- Incorporate maths activities into everyday life, for example, cooking (using measurement) and shopping where your child guesses the change (they may even get to keep the change every now and then if they get the answer right!).
- Practice times tables in the car – even if your child knows their times tables, it's great to work on speed!
- When your child is completing their homework, ask for an explanation on how they reached the answer.
- Help your child learn to estimate at home e.g. the distance to your destination and how long it will take to get there. Estimating is an important skill in maths.
- Visit the 'Maths' page in 'Kids' Corner' on the BNPS website for a list (by year level) of websites approved by our Maths Committee: www.beaumarisnorthps.vic.edu.au/kids-corner-maths.html