



Barkly Blurb!!!

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*Term 1 No 3
 6 March 2014*

Upcoming Events

School Photo's.....17 & 18 March
 Last day of term 1.....4 April

Payments Due

Year 6 Camp deposit.....7 March
 Year 7 Camp Deposit's.....28 March
 Year 6/7 shirts.....17 March

Would you like your newsletter emailed to you?
 If so, please email: admin@barklyss.eq.edu.au

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents & Carers

It has been another wonderful fortnight at Barkly Highway State School. Six Four weeks into the year and all of our classes are working diligently on class programs. It is very evident to me as I walk around the school and talk with staff and parents, that our school has a very sharp focus on curriculum, learning and improving outcomes for all students. This is a testament to all the hard work and dedication displayed by all members of our professional staff.

On a slightly more disappointing note, our school was the subject of an unnecessary act of vandalism on Monday evening. An office and a classroom at school were broken into, and while it appears minimal items were stolen, the costs of fixing the damage done will run into the thousands. This is a cost the school will need to incur through the selfish and thoughtless acts of vandals. I encourage all members of the community to assist schools and public entities by immediately reporting any suspicious activities around schools, outside normal school hours, to the Police or Crime-stoppers.

Cybersafety help button

Online safety is just a click away with the Cybersafety help button now installed on all school computers throughout the state. The floating icon will be visible on computer desktops and is also available for parents to download to their home computer. It provides students with an easy means of reporting cyber-bullying and online concerns. The button is a federal government initiative providing an online hub with 24 hour access to cyber-safety help, reporting options, resources and information.

<http://education.qld.gov.au/studentservices/behaviour/qsav/cybersafety-button.html>

P&C AGM

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Barkly Highway State School Parents and Citizens Association will be held at the school on Tuesday 11 March at 6:00pm in the staff room. All members of our school community are invited to attend. The AGM will be followed by the normal monthly meeting. I have a strong belief that an active and engaged P&C is an essential element of all successful schools. The P&C Association is seen as an essential partner within our school. The role of the P&C is to support the school and work together, as one cohesive unit, enabling the best possible outcomes to be achieved for our children

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

This week we held our annual swimming carnival at the Mount Isa pool. I would like to thank all members of staff involved in the organisation and planning of the event. I had the opportunity to visit the carnival during the day and was very pleased with the behaviour of the children and the involvement of staff. A special thanks to Mr Ben De Pasquale for all his work as coordinator of this year's carnival. Great work Ben!

I would also like to thank all the parents and carers who were able to support the children by attending on the day. Swimming carnivals, like Athletics Day, take a considerable amount of time and commitment to organise. They are part of school experiences that I believe all students should participate in, whether it be as a competitor or supporter. I understand that some children are prevented from participating in swimming carnivals for medical reasons, and I am pleased that many of those children, who were unable to participate, attended school on Wednesday.

GREAT RESULTS GUARANTEE

In the last newsletter I wrote about the injection of funding to all school. Under this program our school will receive up to an additional \$146 116 from the Great Results Guarantee initiative to support our students in literacy and numeracy. This money is above our normal state government resource allocation. The focus of this Guarantee is primarily on the Prep to 3 areas, but clearly we want flow on effects across the school for all students. Our Great Results Guarantee agreement has been endorsed by our Assistant Regional Director and provides for the implementation of evidence-based strategies and actions to improve literacy and

numeracy which will ensure that students at our school achieve the National Minimum Standard for literacy and numeracy in their year level. You can read more about the Great Results Guarantee at www.education.qld.gov.au/resultsguarantee.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

This week, the first opportunity for children in upper primary to participate in extracurricular sporting activities, is being offered. I would ask that parents and carers please be aware of the following information from DETE regarding accident insurance cover for students.

Some school activities and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury.

Parents are advised that the DETE does not have Student Accident Insurance cover for students. Therefore, if your child is injured at school as a result of an accident or incident, all costs associated with the injury, including medical costs is the responsibility of the child, parent or caregiver. Some incidental medical costs may be covered by Medicare. If parents have private health insurance, some costs may also be covered through the private health insurance. Any other costs would be borne by the parents.

Student Accident Insurance is an insurance policy that pays certain benefits in certain circumstances should your child have an accident. It is a personal decision for parents as to the types and levels of private insurance they arrange to cover their child for any accidental injury that may occur. Parents should contact their insurer or an approved Australian insurance broker if they choose to take out student personal accident insurance cover for their child.

OUR STOP DROP & GO ZONE

Just few things to remind parents and carers on how this area can continue to operate smoothly:

- Parents are not allowed to 'stop' in the SD&G zone and wait indefinitely for their child.
- The 2 mins standing rule does not mean you can wait for 2 mins. It means your child has some time to get into the car and put on their seat belt.
- Parents and carers cannot arrive before 2:30pm and 'park' in the drop off zone.

SCHOOL LEADERS

Congratulations to all of our 2014 school leaders who were acknowledged and presented with badges on our Student Induction parade on Friday 21 February 2014. Our school is very lucky to have a number of dedicated students who volunteer to lead and help our school and fellow students in a variety of extra ways. This is very commendable. I hope you all commit to your role with enthusiasm and dedication throughout the year. It was also great to see so many family and friends of our school leaders able to attend and share this important occasion with us.

WHEN THINGS GO WRONG AT SCHOOL

(taken from Michael Grose's Happy Kids see parentingideas.com.au)

Every parent wants the best for their children, and that includes having great experiences at school.

Despite best teaching practice things do go wrong at school. Most kids experience difficulties at school from time to time. Peer conflict and rejection are normally experienced by many children as part of school-life. The developmental nature of childhood means that there will always be some turbulence, particularly around key transition ages, such as the start of adolescence.

During these times young people frequently experience a dip in their learning as well as significant relationship difficulties. Kids will often come home from school with grievances, and call on their parents for assistance.

Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school makes huge difference to their resilience, and their future relationships with teachers and peers.

Here's a six point checklist to help you stay focused and be effective if your child experiences difficulty at school.

1. Stay calm and rational

It's natural as a parent to protect, or defend your children, particularly when you think that they've come in for some unfair or poor treatment. But acting when you are full of emotion is not always smart. Rather than getting on the phone straight away to organise a meeting at school, take your time to think through how you might assist your child.

2. Get the all facts

Once you've calmed down, then get the facts about the situation. Kids are faulty observers and often only see one side of a story when there's a problem with a teacher or a fellow student. They sometimes can't see that perhaps they may have contributed inadvertently to a dispute at school, or perhaps said something that may have upset a teacher. It's the job of parents to help kids process what happens in an incident, so that all the facts emerge and understand their place in any problem. Ask good questions to help the full story emerge.

3. Assess whether to go to school or not

Kids, like adults, like to vent and will benefit from having told their side of a story to trusted source. Often problems can be dealt with at home, simply by talking through an issue, and giving kids some common sense tips to help them cope. If your child has a recurring problem that he can't solve himself, or you think adult intervention maybe needed to sort out a relationship issue with a teacher or peer, then consider meeting with your child's teacher or year level coordinator.

4. Go through the right channels

Approach the school calmly, going through the school office, or directly to your child's teacher if that is the usual protocol. If you have already established a relationship with the teacher concerned, then it's often easier to approach them directly.

5. Look for solutions rather than blame

Parent-teacher meetings usually get nowhere when either party blames the other. State the problem as you see it and view your child's teacher as an ally, not a foe. "I'm really worried about Jeremy. He's been acting strangely lately and I need some help" is the type of approach that will elicit a helpful response. Talk about your concerns and keep the discussion focused firmly on what's best for your child. Listen to your teacher's viewpoint, valuing a different perspective.

6. Stay in touch

Be realistic with your expectations, remembering that some problems can't be solved to your satisfaction, nor will they be resolved straight away. Be prepared to work alongside your child's teacher over the long-term, which means you need to keep communicating with each other.

Regards

Ross Kubler

DEPUTY'S REPORT

Every Day Counts

At Barkly Highway State School, we believe that every day counts in ensuring that our students experience success and reach their potential in learning. Great learning occurs in every classroom for every child every day. Full and regular attendance is a priority and a cornerstone in supporting your child's achievement.

This year we have implemented a monitoring system of student attendance in each and every classroom. You will notice in your child's classroom tracking and recording of attendance (present days, early departure, late arrival and unexplained days). Our class and school target for student attendance is 95%. In Week 1 of next term, attendance of 95% and above will be recognised and rewarded with a special celebration day.

Full attendance at Barkly Highway State School means that students are in class and ready to start learning at 8.25am; arriving late means that your child will miss important information and the explicit instructions that are necessary for them to engage productively in the learning experiences so that they will enjoy success. Leaving early not only interrupts the class because of the messages that have to be communicated but also interrupts the learning time of your child. While I acknowledge that arriving late and leaving early are at parent request, I ask that this only happens in an emergency and does not occur regularly. Although aware of and empathetic to families who may need to resort to presenting late, or leaving school before the close of the school day with pressing reason, I ask parents to acknowledge school policy. Our school day at Barkly Highway State School is 8.25am – 2.30pm.

We will continue to monitor student absences and contact families where absences from school are cause for concern that progress and achievement are at risk. We will also be monitoring those students whose late arrivals and early departures are impacting on their learning.

It's important we work together for the rest of 2014 to make school attendance THE priority as our kids deserve to get the most out of their Barkly Highway State School experience. Every Day Counts!

On a side note, it was with delight that I informed our school community at Monday's Parade that we exceeded state average attendance this week. Last week we obtained 93.12% as a school, that makes us better than average across the state. Congratulations everyone!

Religious Instruction (RI)

Our school is still in consultation with the RI coordinator regarding the proposed change. We have received written feedback from 33 people. When more information is available it will be communicated with all families.

Regards,
Ash Wagh

2014 SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Students aged 9-13 years were invited to attend the annual Barkly Highway State School Swimming Carnival on Wednesday this week. WOW! What an amazing carnival it was. Everyone was in fine form, with great swimming and sportsmanship being shown by all attendees. Thanks and congratulations to all our students who participated on the day. The contest was close as the scores were delivered throughout the day, but the final scores for each house were:

4th - Abel Smith - 610
3rd - Bowen - 839
2nd - Kent - 885
1st - Athlone - 1002

Students competed in a 25m heat for each stroke, and those with the fastest times made up the 50m final. This is where students earned their points for age champion. The winners of the age champion for each house were:

9 Years - Boys - Tom Norton (Athlone)
- Girls - Katie Mason (Abel Smith)
10 Years - Boys - Tom Bowden (Kent)
- Girls - Hayley Watt (Athlone)
11 Years - Boys - Dylan Johnstone (Athlone)
- Girls - Katie Stuart-Russell (Kent)
12 Years - Boys - Conor Bowden (Kent)
- Girls - Mikayla Norton (Athlone)
13 Years - Boys - Jacob Pyke (Bowen)
- Girls - Cassidy Forbes (Athlone)

Thank you so much to all the parents that came and assisted with the time-keeping. Without our parent volunteers the day would not have run so smoothly. It was great to see so much cheer and enthusiasm throughout the whole day. The behaviour of our students was exceptional. Great fun was had by all. Thank you to all staff, parents and students for supporting this great sporting event at our school. See you next term at the Athletics Carnival!

RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

Book Fair

Wow! Our Book Fair was once again a huge success. The children enjoyed coming in for browsing all week. Many brought their parents and family in before and after school to have a look as well. Thanks to your generosity our book Fair result was overwhelming and we were able to choose resources to almost \$2000.00 for our Library and our students to enjoy. So, a big thankyou to our school community who supported this event and I am sure all the students who purchased a book are enjoying it. Also, our winner of the guessing competition was Shennay Donnelly. She won the jar of lollies to share with her class and more importantly, she was able to choose \$20 worth from the Book Fair. Congratulations Shennay!

Books that had to be ordered in are on their way and are handed out as they arrive.

Book Club

Book club issue #2 has been handed out and orders are due back at the office by tomorrow (Friday 7/3).

As always, if you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to come in and see us.

Svenja Spitzner-Lewis and Kath Donnelly

MUSIC MATTERS

Exciting news! Junior Choir (years 2 to 4) has started. Their first performance will be at parade on the last week of term. The music club is still going strong and will continue this term. Students who are in the music club come at first break on Thursday. They are enjoying exploring and creating their own music on classroom instruments.

Other News

The Choral Fest 2014 is drawing near Friday 28th March from 8.30am to 2.30pm at Happy Valley School. This is a great opportunity for those students at Barkly who love to sing. Students gain skills singing in a large mass choir, gain confidence performing in front of people and have the opportunity to mix with students from other schools in Mt Isa who love to sing. Students also perform songs learnt for parents and friends. Letters will be going out shortly to students who are interested. Just remember if you have any music questions just ring the office and leave your phone number and I will get back to you. Joanna

LITERACY TIPS FOR PARENTS

Hi Everyone,

I'm enjoying working in my new role as the school's Literacy Teacher.

"What is literacy? Literacy is the ability to read, write, design, speak and listen in a way that allows us to communicate effectively and to make sense of the world. Literacy is vital to ensuring your child has the best chance to succeed in their schooling and everyday life." (<http://education.qld.gov.au/literacyandnumeracy/pdf/factsheet-l-n.pdf>)

At the moment, I'm working with the children and teachers in Prep to Year 3. My focus is supporting children with writing in these classrooms but I also provide support with reading and oral language development.

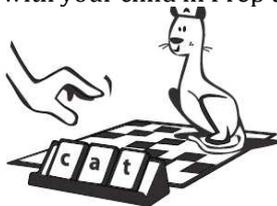
Each newsletter I hope to include some ideas on how to help your children with learning. This newsletter, the tips focus on some simple, yet effective activities you can do with your child in Prep to Year 3 to help them apply literacy skills they learn at school.



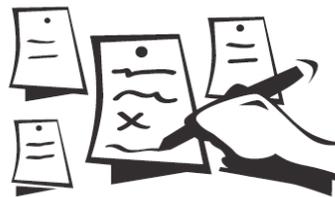
Make a scrap book

– this could be about a holiday or special event and have your child write captions for the photos and pictures.

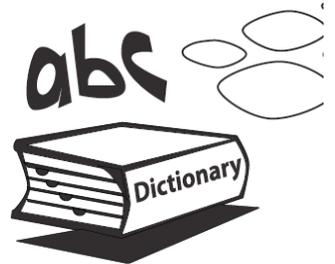
Play word games and do crosswords to help develop spelling and vocabulary.



Have your child collect and sort the mail – who are the letters for and who are they from?



Make the writing of letters, notes, cards or emails a daily family activity – you can write notes to your child and encourage them to write notes back to you.

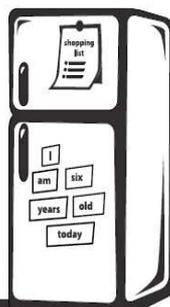


Keep a dictionary in an easily accessible place – show your child how it can be used for a variety of purposes and accessed while word processing on a computer.



Create a collage using junk mail, old magazines or your child's drawings with a particular focus – this could include pictures of things beginning with an 's' sound or all pictures showing a particular colour.

Make your kitchen a 'cooking' zone and a 'reading' zone – use fridge magnets to make new words and short sentences, have your child write the weekly shopping list and read names on packages.



Read with and to your child everyday.



Keep blank paper and pencils handy at home for writing activities.

(These 9 tips come from URL: <http://education.qld.gov.au/literacyandnumeracy/resources.html>)

Enjoy trying out some of these activities with your children to improve their literacy skills.

Cheryl Gallagher (Literacy Teacher)

HISTORY UNIT

Our Year ones are doing a history unit this term and need your assistance. If you have any spare shoe boxes laying around that you want to get rid of, can you please bring them to the office. It would be much appreciated. Thanks Kym

EASTER EGG RAFFLE

A HUGE thank you to parents and carers who have sent a donation of Easter eggs into school for our Easter Egg Raffle. The draw is getting closer and students are starting to let me know about how many tickets they have received for their behaviour.

Each class has a book of raffle tickets that are being awarded to students in recognition of outstanding classroom behaviour. On the last day of school we will hold a special parade to select a raffle ticket winner from each class. This student will win an Easter basket full of goodies. All remaining tickets will be placed in a central draw for a large Easter basket as the 'school-wide prize'. Students must be at the parade to win a basket so make sure you are attending school right up to the last day!

To make this raffle as amazing as last year, we really need your help! We would love every family to donate at least one large egg, a carton of medium eggs or a bag of small eggs to the raffle. This will make sure we have enough goodies to make fantastic baskets. These eggs can be dropped off to me or into the office by Friday 28th March.

Thanks again for your support! These baskets are going to be great rewards for great behaviour.

Ann Kelly
Raffle Coordinator

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

The BHSS P&C announce that the uniform shop is once again open for business! This is due to Tammy Richmond and Aylwin David who have so very kindly volunteered their time to be our new Convenors. The uniform shop will open on Mondays 8am to 8:30am. You can still order online through www.flexischools.com.au. Please make Tammy and Aylwin feel welcome.

TUCK-SHOP NEWS

The BHSS P&C wish to announce the appointment of Deborah Fisher to the position of Tuckshop Convenor. Deb has worked in the tuckshop for the past three years and we are very pleased to have her in the top job. Please come down and congratulate Deb!

The position of Assistant Tuckshop Convenor is now open to those who wish to apply. This is a casual paid position for 12.5 hours over approx. 3 days beginning in Term 2. Please forward all resumes and expressions of interest to Deb Fisher at the school tuckshop. Applications close Friday 14th March 2014, Thank you.

Special from Monday 10th March – Friday 21st March – all available on Flexischools

- Bacon & Egg Quiche with salad \$5.00 (Extra .50c each for cheese & salad dressing).
- Along with this yummy limited time special we have our delicious everyday menu with our daily specials.
- Also we have fresh fruit salad available at \$2.00/cup. (while stocks last.).
- A reminder Eftpos is available at Tuckshop and if you haven't already joined the easy way to order online, Flexischools is a great time saver for those busy parents. For more information visit the Tuckshop or online at www.flexischools.com.au
- Another great time saver is our Birthday Club for your little Darling's special day. We can make fresh cupcakes or supply ice blocks to your child's class! All we ask is that you give us a week's notice to be able to prepare for the special day. Cost is \$1.50 per head.

"LIKE" US ON FACEBOOK



Keep up to date with the latest information and events on Facebook. Search and "like" us at 'Barkly Highway State School'.
www.facebook.com/barklyhighwaystateschool

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Parkside United Junior Soccer Club is looking for players. Under 6 to under 15. Training times are Tuesday and Thursday at 5.15 to 6.15 at our grounds cnr Davis and Urquhart St. Contact parksideunitedjunior@gmail.com
Or phone 0404 649 672

Barkly uniforms for sale:

Phone/text: 0427495418

Size 16Y: 4x shorts (good condition but one been professionally repaired) & 4x shirts (average to good condition) \$50

Size M: 2x shirts (almost new) \$25

Size 6: blue sports shirt (good condition but small paint mark on back hem) \$10

Size 4 & 6: girls Skorts (good condition + free size 6 Shorts that pocket needs repair) \$20