



Barkly Blurb!!!

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*Term 1 No 4
 20March 2014*

Upcoming Events

National Day of Action against Bullying21 March
 Last day of term 1.....4 April
 NAPLAN.....13 - 15 May

Payments Due

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

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents & Carers

It is difficult to believe that there are only two weeks remaining in Term 1 after this week. Once the school year commences, the terms certainly fly by.

Over the last weeks I have visited many classrooms and I am overjoyed by the professionalism demonstrated by all members of staff and the commitment to learning by the children. In every classroom, every day, I am seeing the continual improvement in children's learning through our focus on literacy and numeracy. The consistency of teaching practice is also establishing a platform for continual progress in learning for children as they advance through the year levels at our school.

This week we have held our Parent Teacher Student discussions providing an opportunity for parents and carers to be actively involved in children's education. I would like to thank all parents and carers who have taken the opportunity to participate in these discussions that will support the learning of your children. These discussions are a great way for schools to develop and enhance partnerships with home for the benefit of children.

P&C

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) followed by a general meeting of the school's Parents and Citizens Association was held in the staffroom on Tuesday 11 March 2014 at 6:00pm. I would like to thank all parents and carers who were able to take the opportunity to attend the meeting. I would also like to acknowledge the work and commitment of the 2013 Executive and the contribution they made to our school.

At the AGM all positions on the Executive were declared vacant. Unfortunately all positions on the Executive were not filled, but enough were to enable the continuation of the P&C at the AGM. There are currently vacancies on the Executive for Vice President and Secretary. If you are able to nominate for one of these positions (especially the role of Secretary) then I ask you to contact either myself or the Executive members to discuss the role and responsibilities. I would like to see these positions filled at our next meeting on 13 May 2014 (no meeting being held in April due to Easter vacation).

I would also like to congratulate the incoming office bearers elected at the AGM:

- President: Gavin Donnelly
- Vice President : Vacant
- Secretary: Vacant
- Treasurer: Rachel Juillerat

I am looking forward to working with the new Executive to further enhance the educational outcomes for our children at Barkly Highway.

BULLYING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

This Friday, 21 March we join with many schools around Australia to Take a Stand and Say No to Bullying. Whether the bullying takes place at school, at home, in the work place, or on the sporting field, bullying is unacceptable.

Our school takes bullying concerns very seriously and is committed to working to with parents, carers and children to address any such issues. Bullying is when a person hurts someone else on purpose, time and again. The hurt can be physical or emotional. Bullying can be physical, verbal (also can be via the mobile and computer), social, racial or sexual. It happens at any age (and is not just limited to children). Its effects can be life long and may contribute to depression, low self-esteem, shyness, poor academic achievement, and isolation.

Sometimes however bullying can be confused with 'peer conflict'. There are a number of ways to identify peer conflict. First, when a conflict occurs, both people involved have equal power in the relationship. And while both people are emotional and upset neither one is seeking power or attention. They just happen to disagree. Also, when people experience conflict they likely will feel remorse and take responsibility for what they did wrong. They just want to [solve the problem](#) so that they can start having fun again. If your child feels as though they are being bullied, you can assist them in the following ways:

- Ask your child directly and encourage them by saying you are concerned and want to support him/her.
- Avoid passing judgement, interrogation, over-reacting or offering advice too soon – it may backfire, and they clam up and don't want your involvement
- Ask your child what they have tried already to deal with the problem – did it work, what happened when they tried a particular strategy.
- It is important to try to change your child's perception in relation to how they respond in the bullying situation. Acknowledge that a problem exists – Let them know that bullying is not acceptable and that you will both figure out a constructive way of sorting out the problem.

HARMONY DAY

Friday 21 March is also Harmony Day.

The message of Harmony Day is "Everyone Belongs". Harmony Day is a day to celebrate Australia's diversity. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world.

NATIONAL CLOSING THE GAP DAY

Thursday 20 March is nationally recognised as Closing the Gap Day. This day recognises that equal access to healthcare is a basic human right, and in Australia, we expect it. If you were told that you can expect to live almost 20 years less than your next-door neighbour, would you accept it? I don't think anyone would.

Medical records show that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People can expect to live up to 10-17 years less than non-Indigenous Australians. This imbalance in the state of Indigenous health has many causes.

Working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is one of the critical success factors. With continued support from the public, we can ensure that Governments continue to work with Indigenous communities, recommit additional funding and invest in real partnerships to equalise these outcomes.

NAPLAN 2014

Our teachers have commenced class programs to prepare our Year 3, 5 & 7 children for their NAPLAN tests in May this year. Could parents please note that NAPLAN Testing this year occurs from May 13 – 15. Friday May 16 is a catch up day for students who may have been absent on one of the testing days.

Regards
Ross Kubler

DEPUTY'S REPORT

Representatives for School Based Local Chaplaincy Committee Needed

Here at Barkly Highway State School we would like to form a school based Local Chaplaincy Committee to further support the work being done by our school chaplain. We are seeking interested parents and community members to join this group to support Barkly Highway's Chaplaincy Program. Meetings are held at least once per term at a mutually convenient time. We are very privileged to have of Our Chaplain, Morgan Slykerman (Mr S) working here at Barkly Highway State School.

Mr S's work at Barkly Highway State School includes:

- Extending friendship and pastoral care to students and their families
- Listening and supporting when life becomes unsettled
- Participating in school events such as special events, breakfast club and lunch clubs
- Assisting children with transitions in life and supporting with spiritual inquiries
- Helping run programs to support the well-being of children at the school

Mr S's room is set up to provide the community with a safe environment to discuss issues, matters of interest and concerns. An appointment can also be made to see him by calling **Ph.: 44373633**.

Please contact me directly on **Ph: 44373633** if you are interested in supporting our school by being a representative on this vital Local Chaplaincy Committee.

Religious Instruction (RI)

Over the last 3 – 4 weeks, we have had meetings with all stakeholders regarding the delivery of RI at Barkly Highway State School. We would like to thank all members of our community who have provided valuable feedback on this important topic. After consulting our community and reviewing the Departmental policies, we have developed an effective plan that we believe, balances the delivery of the school curriculum core business and the delivery of an RI program. Our plan, which we intend implementing early next term includes:

- RI will be offered once a week across for children in Years 2-7 (no change from the previous mode of delivery).

- RI will be delivered between 2.00pm- 2.30pm to children through one 30 minute lesson each week.
- The content of the RI will follow the *Connect* program which we understand is a non-denominational program.
- RI lessons are planned to commence in Week of Term 2 (we are awaiting confirmation of this from the Program's coordinator).

It is parental choice as to whether or not you wish for your child not to participate in RI. Children who are not participating in RI will participate in an alternate educational program supervised by a teacher.

If you do not wish your child to participate in RI lessons then you will need to complete the opt-out form (ATTACHED BELOW) and return it to your child's teacher before Wednesday 2 April. If your child does not return the opt-out form, it is presumed that they will be a participant in the RI program.

If you have any questions, please contact myself or Mr Kubler.

Regards
Ash Wagh

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Opera Q is bringing Puccini's La Boheme to Mount Isa on September 4. They are looking for students and adults to participate in this community production. Auditions will be held in Mount Isa on March 25/26. To Register - <http://www.operaq.com.au/project-puccini-mount-isa> or Contact Yvonne Moore (0499246233) for more details.

MUSIC MATTERS

The choral workshop at Happy Valley School is fast approaching. The information and permission slips have been given out to choir members. The choral workshop forms are also available at the office for any other students who would like to go.

Other News

Students in Junior Choir have been busy rehearsing their song for parade in week 10. The first song to be presented is collaboration between teacher and students in the Creative Team. Parents of student's performing at parade will receive letters this week. Opera Queensland are auditioning children and adults in March for the production of Puccini's "La Bohme" to be staged later in the year here in Mt Isa. 34 Adults and 12 children will be chosen to be part of the Mount Isa chorus. For more information and to register for auditions go to <http://www.operaq.com.au/project-puccini-mount-isa>.

TUCK-SHOP NEWS

Very Important notice for parents and carers: Tuckshop will be serving snacks only over the counter at 1st and 2nd breaks on Friday 28th and Monday 31st March, Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd April. Flexischools will be turned off and no bag orders will be accepted.

Tuckshop will be closed on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th April for cleaning. We will be reopening to start Term 2 on Tuesday 22nd April.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Justine Scarsi to our wonderful team of people at the Tuckshop. Justine has been working as a volunteer for the past few weeks and has now been appointed as the casual Tuckshop Assistant. Congratulations Justine!!

A reminder that we have Eftpos 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 you can see us at Tuckshop or have a look online at www.flexischools.com.au



TUCKSHOP BIRTHDAY CLUB 2014!

To help take the stress out of your child's class Birthday Celebration.

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.

RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

What an exciting term we had!

We had a fantastic Book Fair this term. All Book Fair book orders have been handed out or parents have been notified of book arrivals (where indicated).

Our Book Club Issue 2 orders are being handed out as they arrive.

Please be aware of closing times for our Book Club orders. We usually hand out brochures to classes on a Monday and orders are due by Friday the same week. From issue 3 on we will collate all orders that are handed in after the closing date and order them with the following Book Club.

Thank you so much to all families who are supporting these events and fostering a love for books not just in their own children but for the benefit of all students at our school. We are able to use our commission from these events to purchase resources which will directly benefit all students.

With the holidays only a couple of weeks away, please ensure that all books are returned by the end of week 9 (next Friday).

Students from Prep-3 need a library bag to be able to take a book home.

Please don't hesitate to come and see us with any questions or queries you may have.

Wishing all families a hopping good Easter and a safe holiday.

Svenja Spitzner-Lewis and Kath Donnelly

Best Regards

Svenja Spitzner-Lewis

STUDENT COUNCIL DISCO

Our first school disco for 2014 will be held on Wednesday, 2 April, at PCYC. This is during the last week of school. For Prep – Year 3 students, it will go from 6:30pm – 7:30pm, and for our Year 4 - 7 students, it will run from 7:30pm - 8:30pm. The cost of entry will be \$5, and drinks and snacks will be available for sale at the canteen. There will be a 'Circus' theme – so come dressed as a clown lion tamer, magician, acrobat, or anything else circus you can think of. All money raised will go to supporting our Student Council and the PCYC. Get those dancing shoes on – see you there!

PE NEWS

Interschool Soccer and Touch Football – Term 1 Sports

On Friday 7th March, selected students from Years 5, 6 and 7 participated in Interschool Soccer or Touch Football. All the students who represented our school did a great job. There is one more day of interschool competition this coming Friday, 21 March. Touch Football is to be held at Alec Inch Oval, and Soccer will be at the Soccer Fields on Sports Parade. Students attending these events need to remember to bring food, water and a hat. If anyone requires further information regarding these events, please see Mr D. Congratulations on your games so far and good luck for this coming Friday!

Interschool Rugby League and Netball – Term 2 Sports

Students who are interested in playing netball or rugby league for Barkly Highway State School will be called for shortly. Keep listening for any messages that are in the school daily notices to know when trials are on. Rugby league will begin on Friday 2 May and be held every Friday afternoon during Term 2, at Alec Inch Oval. Interschool Netball will be held over two days throughout the term, in a similar round-robin format to the soccer and touch football. If you have further questions about these sports, please see Mr D. Start practising those skills ready for our school trials in the coming days/weeks!

Interschool Cross Country – Term 2 Carnival

The Mount Isa Interschool Cross Country Carnival will be held in Term 2. Students ran a short-course last week, and their times were taken to determine our team. Successful students have been notified and notes sent home. If you, or someone you know, participated in the trials and didn't get a note, please see Mr D. As the cross country is an intense sport, participants are required to attend weekly training sessions before school. This will ensure all participants can achieve a Certificate of Competency, which is required by students from each school to participate in the event. Congratulations to all those who had a go at the trials – running 800 metres in under 4 minutes is not an easy feat. Good luck to all those successful students!

Annual School Athletics Carnival – Term 2

As always, our Annual School Athletics Carnival will be held in Term 2. Further information on this event will be communicated in coming newsletters, but it is looking to be around the last week of the term. Keep your eyes open for more information.

Wear Orange on Friday!

This Friday, the 21st of March, is the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. To show that our school supports this cause, we are asking all staff and students to wear orange on this day.

You could wear an orange shirt, orange shorts, orange socks, orange shoes, orange headbands – or ALL of these things! Clothing must be appropriate for school and sun safe! That means shirts must have sleeves, shorts must be at least a medium length and broad brimmed hats only!

Students will be taking part in discussions and activities during the day to stress this anti-bullying message.

We look forward to seeing a sea of orange across Barkly Highway State School on Friday!

Thanks for supporting this cause.

Ann Kelly

You are your child's first literacy teacher.

With your support, your child will grow up to become an excellent reader with strong writing skills - and what a difference that will make when he or she enters TAFE, university or the workforce one day! You don't need a lot of special skills to help your child learn to read and write. Just spending time with your child doing everyday activities makes all the difference in the world.

Whether your child is just starting out or can already read and write, there is always room for more learning. As your child grows older, he or she will enjoy new opportunities and new successes because a first teacher - you - took the time at home to actively talk, play and listen. All this helps reinforce what your child learns at school.

Remember, lifelong success starts with strong reading and writing skills. And that means your child's lifelong success starts with **you**. Learning to read and write does not take place all at once. Everyone learns at a different rate. It just takes time, practice and support. Whenever you can, wherever you can, encourage your child and show that you have confidence in his or her abilities.

Top Tip One: Talk with your child

It may seem obvious, but it is as important to listen to as to talk with your child. Children develop the skills for reading and writing through both talking and listening.

- **Talk with your child about problems and solutions.** Talk about how you might manage day-to-day problems, such as finding time to make dinner, so that you will be ready to watch a favourite TV show or go online together.
- **Make sure your child has time to think.** It sometimes takes time to think of what to say next. Be ready to wait for what your child has to say.
- **Ask questions that will lead your child to talk about his or her ideas.** Instead of telling your child something, try to ask a question that will lead your child to talk about what he or she thinks. For example, instead of telling your child how you are planning to celebrate a family event, ask for ideas about making a plan.

If you're stuck, here are some "talk starters" to get your conversation going:

- What did you notice about ...
- What else could you have done ...
- What would you do if ...
- What would happen if ...
- How do you know that?
- Convince me about that!



For some fun things to do, visit www.tvokids.com and click on:

Ages 2 to 5 for this great game	Ages 2 to 5 for this great game	Ages 11 and Under for this great game	Ages 11 and Under for this great game
<i>Letter/sound recognition (phonics)</i> Alphabet Goop Learn all about the beginning sounds of familiar words. http://www.tvokids.com/games/alphabetgoop	<i>Understanding what we read (comprehension)</i> Out of Order Put the story pictures in order. http://www.tvokids.com/games/utorder	<i>Spelling familiar words</i> Word Magic Practice spelling by yourself or with another player. http://www.tvokids.com/games/wordmagic	<i>Word Fun: Spelling, comprehension, word games</i> The Amazing Spelling Fleas http://www.tvokids.com/games/amazingspellingfleas

(This information comes from *Reading and Writing with Your Child, Kindergarten to Grade 6, A Parent Guide* at available at URL: www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideLit2012.pdf)

Have fun learning together!

Cheryl Gallagher
(Literacy Teacher)

Easter Egg Raffle



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the families who have brought in Easter treats to help us make fantastic prizes for our raffle.

BUT....WE STILL NEED MORE!!!!

It takes lots of eggs, bunnies, toys and other treats to make up our baskets so ALL donations are very welcome and can be dropped off to me or into the office by Friday 28th March.

How the Raffle Works

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!

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

Ann Kelly

Raffle Coordinator



Barkly Highway State School

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Thursday, 20 March 2014

Religious Instruction

Please return to your child's classroom teacher before Wednesday, 2 April

Single Child

I _____ do not give permission for my child _____ from
class _____ to participate in Religious Instruction.

More than one child

I _____ do not give permission for my children
_____ from class _____
_____ from class _____
_____ from class _____

to participate in Religious Instruction.

Parent's signature: _____ Date: _____

