PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome to week 4 of Term 2. This month acknowledges and celebrates National Volunteers Week, however little about this has appeared in the national media probably as a result of more topical issues being to the fore. At Barkly Highway State School we recognise our own outstanding volunteers. Whether in the tuckshop, the P&C, or assisting in classrooms – we’d like to thank all our volunteers for giving their time so generously. We value the contribution you make to our school community – thank you!

NAPLAN TESTING

As you would be aware the National Assessment Program, Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) has been administered to children across Australia. I am pleased to report to you that the administration of the tests at our school has taken place very smoothly. Some children may have missed some of the tests and every effort will be made tomorrow to allow them to sit the tests they have missed. The official date for the release of the results is in September. NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test, but rather shows how individual students are progressing in numeracy and literacy skills against national standards for all Australian children. Even though the tests are a ‘point in time’ assessment, the results provide data to direct future teaching focuses across the school.

DRIVING AND PARKING AROUND THE SCHOOL

Schools are busy places, especially from 8:15am and then from 2:30pm when school commences and finishes. I ask all members of the community to show patience around the school. Please be aware that the Police do patrol around the school, in the interests of your child’s safety, and that of over 500 children who attend our school.

STUDENT CONTACT DETAILS

It is important that our office records about each student contain the most current information on contact details. For instance, in the event of an emergency we need to know the correct phone number and person to contact. Likewise it is vital to have the latest residential information and other matters relating to court orders and access.

Report Cards will be posted at the end of this term; therefore it is essential we have correct address details as soon as possible. Please contact office staff to update any necessary information.

SUCCESSFUL GAMING GRANT

I am pleased to announce to our school has been successful in obtaining a grant from the Gambling and Community Benefit Fund of $35,000 to construct a playground. I would like to thank and acknowledge our former P&C President, Mr Lee Schmidt for all his work in preparing and working on this application. I would also like to thank Ben De Pasquale and Ann Kelly of their work as well in assisting Lee.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The cooler weather will soon be upon us this year (hopefully!) and with this comes the need for warmer clothes. There are a range of winter items available from the P&C uniform shop – winter jacket and winter pants. The shop is open each Monday from 8:00 to 8:30am and orders can be placed on Flexi-school. Please make sure all items of uniform are clearly named.

WORLD P&C DAY
Friday 23 May is P&C Day. This day, held each year during State Education week, is a chance for us all to recognise the contribution made by the hardworking volunteers on the P&C. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank the parents, carers and community members who give up their time by being active members of the P&C who make a difference for the students at our school. A “thank-you” afternoon tea will be held before the next P&C meeting (10 June commencing at 5:30pm) and I will be inviting members of the P&C to this afternoon tea.

UNDER 8s DAY
This year Under 8s Week falls from the 16th-23rd of May. The theme for Under 8s week 2014 is “Everyone Can Play.” At Barkly, we will be celebrating Under 8s Day on Tuesday the 20th of May from 8.45-10.25. The Preps, Year 1s, 2s and 3s will be participating in the Under 8s Program and the Year 7 and Year 6/7 class will be assisting on the day with the running of activities. Activities will include play dough, puzzles, disco, jumping castle, colouring competition, obstacle course and heaps more exciting activities.

P&C MEETING
The next P&C meeting will be held at the school at 7pm on Tuesday 10 June in the staffroom. On Tuesday evening we held our latest P&C meeting and it was great to see a number of new faces come on board.

I would like to encourage all parents to attend this meeting so that we receive input from as many families as possible into our school operations.

We still have vacancies on the P&C 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 (Gavin Donnelly or Rachel Juillerat) to discuss the roles and responsibilities. I would like to see these positions filled at our next meeting in June.

HELPING KIDS WHO CATASTROPHISE
Sometimes children automatically assume the worst case scenario in any risky or new situations. This frame of mind is often referred to as “catastrophising”. Children who catastrophise their fears and worries usually place enormous pressure upon themselves which can develop a sense of self-doubt.

Children who think in this way have their default mechanism always looking to the most negative outcome possible. They believe that the outcomes won’t just be bad; they’ll be the worst possible thing that will ever happen to them. Catastrophising makes children feel miserable and insecure. This can then lead them to not wanting to do anything that they have not tried before, because they expect the worst possible outcome.

Normally very young children don’t overtly catastrophise, however they can at times be negative. One of the best strategies to use to assist children, who think like this, is to make sure you model upbeat behaviour and think positively. School-aged children need to be encouraged to keep things in perspective. This is a valuable life skill that is worth teaching children from an early age.

WORKS & FACILITIES
Recently a further $24,000 worth of works have been authorised to be completed at our school through Building Asset Services (previously Q Build). These works include the following:

- Replacement of Prep Shade sail (finally) - $10,230 (this was scheduled to be completed earlier but required further assessment of works)
- Replacement of 2 upright water coolers - $5,380
- Installation of security screens, removal and replacement of some wall sheeting and repairs to some downpipes - $8,380

ENROLMENTS FOR PREP 2015
We are taking enrolments for Prep 2015. If you have a child who is age appropriate to begin prep next year (born between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010), please ask at the office for an enrolment form or we can arrange for one to be forwarded to you. It is most important that we know how many students to expect in Prep next year.

With our Years 6 & 7 students leaving for high school at the end of the year, it is very important for us to know as accurate as possible enrolment numbers in order to effectively staff our school for 2015.

Ross Kubler

PE NEWS
North-West Rugby League Trials
Congratulations to Kobe-Jay Johnson, Ethan Roberts and Joshua Egan who participated in the North-West Rugby League trials on the weekend. All three boys played great games and were selected in the North-West team. We wish these boys the best for their games playing at the next level.

District Soccer Trials
A few weeks ago, a group of students from our school participated in Mount Isa District Soccer trials. Following the trials, Allisa Sidnell, Jessica Knight, Brock Schafer and Jack Martens have been selected to play in the Mount Isa District Soccer Team. Congratulations to these students and good luck at the North-West trials in the coming weeks.

Interschool Rugby League – every Friday this term
Interschool Rugby League has started! The teams both played on Friday of week 1 and will be back at it this Friday, with the first game starting at 3:15pm for the junior team. Feel free to come along and support our junior and senior teams as we battle it out with other teams from Mount Isa schools. There is also a canteen with snacks available at Alec Inch Oval, where the teams will be playing.

Interschool Cross Country – Friday 16th May
This Friday 16th May, nineteen of our students will participate in the Interschool Cross Country Carnival to be held at Happy Valley State School. The students will run a marked course of 2km for 10 year olds (and complete it in around 10 minutes), and 11, 12 and 13 year olds will run 3km (and complete it in around 15 minutes). We wish the students participating in the Cross Country the best of luck!

Sports Education Tour – Thursday 22nd May
Next week, a group of people from the North Queensland Sports Foundation will be visiting our school to deliver a one day sports program that aims to provide students with exposure to a variety of sports including golf, cricket, tennis, hockey, baseball and
rugby league. The program is free and we hope that all students are excited and ready to participate on the day. Don’t forget to bring a hat!

Interschool Netball – Friday 23rd May and Friday 13th June
Miss Parker is our school Netball Coach this year. Students who are in the teams should have received a permission form and information notice. This needs to be returned to Miss Parker for students to participate in the Interschool Netball Carnival. The Carnival will be held over two days – Friday 23rd May and Friday 13th June. If anyone has any uniforms from last year still at home, please bring them in ASAP. For further information, please see Miss Parker or Mr DePasquale

School Fun Run – Friday 30th May
As our School Fun Run is approaching, I would like to remind and encourage students to support our school with this fundraiser. Permission notes and sponsorship forms must be returned to school by Thursday 29th May. There are heaps of cool prizes available for anyone who raises more than $10. The information booklets sent out also detail how you and your family could win a holiday to the Gold Coast, Hamilton Island, or Fiji. Start collecting money for sponsorship, as all funds raised will support the Barkly Highway State School Student Council. Parents and carers are also welcome to join us on Friday 30th May for some Fun Running. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the office or Mr DePasquale at any time.

Annual School Athletics Carnival – 26th and 27th June
Students are now gearing up for the Annual Barkly Highway State School Athletics Carnival to be held later this term. Each week during Physical Education, students will be working on developing their skills in all areas for the Carnival. In the coming weeks, students will have opportunities to practice their long jump, high jump, shot put, and discuss (and modified field events for prep – year 3 students). Our 100m, 200m and 800m tracks will be marked out in a few weeks, at which time students will be able to trial the course. More information about the Carnival will be communicated shortly.

AFL AusKick
The AFL AusKick program started at our school just yesterday. Students from prep to year 7 are invited to attend the afternoon program, which will run every Wednesday afternoon this term from 2:45pm – 3:45pm on our school oval. Scott Dalton from AFL Queensland will be coordinating the program and has some great games and activities aimed at developing the skills of our students. The cost of the program will be $65, which includes all the afternoon sessions and a backpack full of goodies including an AFL football. Come along on next Wednesday if you missed out – it won’t be too late to join! Please speak to Mr DePasquale if you need more information about this, or check out http://www.aflauskick.com.au/.

Jumping Castle Hire
Having a party? Need something to entertain the kids on the weekend? How about hiring a jumping castle! The Barkly Highway State School P&C has two jumping castles for hire. There is one Disney themed castle, which costs $200 to hire. We also have a Batman slide, which is $300. Prices are for day hire and the pick-up and drop-off times can be negotiated. Email jumpingcastle@barklyss.eq.edu.au if you are interested or want some more details. All money raised from hire of our jumping castles goes right back into the P&C and ultimately the school and our students.

Walk Safely to School Day – Friday 23 May
Walk Safely to School Day asks that we all consider our transport habits and try to incorporate more walking as part of a healthy, active way to get around. And although walking all the way to school isn’t realistic for many of us, it’s quite easy to figure out how you can build a walk into your family’s daily routine. Regular exercise like walking with your child not only helps them (and you!) beat chronic problems like obesity, heart disease, behavioural and mental health issues and diabetes. It also gives you a great opportunity to teach your child safe ways to behave around roads and traffic. Remember, Active Kids are Healthy Kids so get planning your own Walk Safely to School Day journey for Friday 23 May 2014! For more information, visit www.walk.com.au

6/7 NEWS
Mt Isa Mining Expo
Last Thursday, 6/7 Green and 7 Blue were given the opportunity to visit the Mt Isa Mining Expo. While visiting the expo we were able to participate in many exciting and educational activities. The Mt Isa Mine Rescue Team taught us about basic CPR skills and we got to try and resuscitate ‘Jimmy” the dummy. We were also shown how to treat broken bones using some of their inflatable equipment.

Many of us had a go at operating the remote control trucks at the copper processing stall. We also learnt how copper is processed once it is mined from the ground. We examined many different rock formations and learnt how to care for injured wildlife. The environment professionals showed us how to identify different aquatic life and native plants. Everyone had a great time. A big thank you to Glencore Xstrata for inviting us and also the P.C.Y.C. for assisting with bus transport.

RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS
Book Club
All orders from Book Club issue #3 have been handed out. Thank you to all families.

EdAlive
Brochures from EdAlive have been handed out to students on Wednesday this week. Please note: The new return date for orders is next Friday, 23 May 2014 (not the 16th May as printed on brochure).

- We cannot accept orders after the closing date as we have to send all forms together back to the promoter.
- We can only accept cheques/money orders or credit card payments as stated on the order form on the back.

Please do not send cash with your orders as we are unable to accept cash payment. Thank you for your understanding.

As always, please don’t hesitate to see us with any queries you may have.

Kind Regards,
Svenja Spitzner-Lewis
Hi Everyone,
This newsletter we continue looking at writing and get some more tips from the author of the Seven Steps to Writing Success Program – Jen McVeity.

When drafting a story grab your readers’ attention with some action like in the movies.

Enjoy writing,
Cheryl Gallagher
(Literacy Teacher)
Parent Literacy Workshops
One of the key focus areas of the school is developing the literacy skills of all our students. We know that our parents and carers play a critical role in the development of these skills. Talking, reading and writing activities undertaken at home are vital.

To help parents find out more about how we approach these skills in the school and how they can help at home, we are planning to hold four workshops based on the key elements of literacy:

1. Oral Language (the importance of ‘talk’ and how to build oral language skills)
2. Reading 1 – Decoding and Comprehension Strategies (helping students to work out unknown words and making sure they understand what they have read)
3. Reading 2 – Question Answer Relationships (different types of questions to build comprehension)
4. Writing (the key skills for writing success)

You are invited to attend these workshops! Dates and times are on the booking sheet that has been included in this newsletter. You may choose to attend just one workshop in an area of particular interest or you may choose to attend all workshops. A letter was sent home at the beginning of the week, but this is an extra opportunity to register for the workshops by completing the booking sheet and returning it to the school office by tomorrow, Friday 16th May.

Hope to see lots of parents and carers there!

Ann Kelly and Cheryl Gallagher

Trivia Night Date Claimer
Do you retain lots of unusual information? Do you enjoy answering questions for fun? Do you like catching up with your friends?

If you answered ‘yes’ to any of these questions, the inaugural Barkly Highway State School Trivia Night is just right for you!

The night will be held on Tuesday 17th June. Put it in your diary today and keep your eye out for a flyer with all the details about how to get involved!

Ann Kelly and Ben DePasquale

STUDENT COUNCIL
Mother’s Day Stall Thanks
Thank you to all the families who supported our Mother’s Day Stall by giving your child money to buy someone special a gift. We sold over $2000.00 worth of items so it was certainly a popular place to make a purchase!

Thanks also to the fantastic Student Council Representatives who gave up their lunch times to work on the stall. They displayed excellent customer service and a great level of responsibility. Well done everyone!

BHSS Student Council

ACTING FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICER
My name is Rose Viiga and I am currently employed with Barkly Highway State School as a Family Support Officer. I am of Cook Island/Samoan descent, born in New Zealand and migrated to Australia when I was 5. I am currently studying for my Certificate IV in Youth Work in the hope that I may be able to outreach to children in need. I have a passion for helping people and assisting those who need emotional support as I have faced my own challenges and obstacles throughout my youth years.

Growing up as the second eldest child of a family of 8 children was challenging culturally and personally. The responsibility as one of the eldest children was to help raise my youngest siblings and sacrifice time doing this. My experiences within my childhood and youth years influenced my decision to study Youth Work so that I may be able to make a difference in the lives of children who need help.

In my employment with Barkly Highway State School I have gained the opportunity to empathise and help children in need. It is my pleasure and passion to continue with assisting and doing whatever I can to help our children become confident in their surroundings.

TUCK-SHOP NEWS
Wow, nachos was a very popular special to start off our winter specials, we will be having it again before the weather warms up. Starting Monday 19th May until Friday 30th May is yummy chicken and gravy rolls, they are $4.50 each and can be ordered over the counter or on flexischools.

To celebrate State of Origin, on Wednesday 28th May we will be selling maroon and blue iced cupcakes over the counter for $1.50 each, but I have a feeling there will be more maroon than blue sold!! Go the Queenslanders!!

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.
Little Blake has been diagnosed with a very rare storage disease MPS1 Hurlers (mucopolysaccharidosis). Symptoms appear early in life and early death will occur due to organ damage. There is NO cure for MPS1 so treatment is focused on relieving symptoms. Enzyme Replacement Therapies are used to reduce neurological symptoms and painful Bone Marrow Transplantation has been used to help with neurological degeneration. ERT and Bone Marrow Transplant are high risk procedures with high rates of mortality. His mum had to stop work to care fulltime and Dad is working on an average wage to support his family and pay the mortgage. The government refused funding for treatment. So we have put together a ‘my cause’ page to help raise funds for Blake’s continued care and for West Mead children’s hospital. Any donation, no matter how big or small, will be truly appreciated.


Ready, Set, Read – Isa Therapy Services
A small group program for improving spelling and reading skills of Prep, Year 1 or Year 2 students.

Does your child:

- Avoid reading or spelling because they find it difficult?
- Have trouble identifying letters and the sounds that go with them?
- Perform below the expected reading or spelling level for their grade?
- Forget spelling or sight words soon after they have learnt them?
- Have difficulty understanding rhyme or counting syllables?

This program, run by an experienced Speech Pathologist, aims to build the phonological awareness skills that children need for literacy. The 8 week program will consist of fun and educational activities that incorporate a range of different learning styles and ability levels. The focus of group is on improving literacy skills of students as well as building confidence to learn.

The program includes: 1 individual screening session, 8 x 45 min group sessions, resources for home practice

Where: Isa Therapy Services, 92 Marian Street
When: Thursdays at 3:30pm
Cost: $380

Spaces are limited so book early to secure your spot.

To register your interest for the program please contact Isa Therapy on (07) 4743 6695 or email admin@isatherapy.com.au.

"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