



# Barkly Blurb!!!

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*Term 4 No 19  
 27 November 2014*

### Upcoming Events

Year 6 Farewell Dinner .....27 November  
 Year 6 and 7 "Celebration Day .....28 November  
 Year 7 Farewell Dinner (8:45am).....1 December  
 Whole School Awards Parade .....1 December  
 Uniform Shop Extended hrs 2-3 pm .....2 December  
 Year 6 Tools for Change Spinifex .....2 December  
 Year 6 & 7 Tools for Change Spinifex .....3 December

### Upcoming Events

Uniform Shop Extended hrs 2-3 pm .....3 December  
 End of Year Concert .....3 December  
 Last Day of Flexischool tuckshop orders .....3 December  
 Tuckshop over the counter order ONLY .....4 December  
 Year 7 Tools for Change Spinifex .....4 December  
 Tuckshop CLOSED.....5 December  
 Last day of Term 4 .....5 December

**Would you like your newsletter emailed to you?**  
 If so, please email: [admin@barklyss.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@barklyss.eq.edu.au)

### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Carers,

This will be our final newsletter of the 2014 school year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Barkly Highway community for its continued support during the year. Great results are always achieved when there is a positive proactive partnership between school and home. I express my thanks and appreciation to all parents and carers for being active participants in this partnership.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the members of the schools Parents and Citizens' Association for their input during the year. The members of the Executive (Gavin Donnelly, Silvana Gowland, Rachel Juillerat and Zea Christopherson) are also acknowledged and thanked for all their work this year in leading the P & C.

Finally, I would like to thank all the school staff for their commitment to improving the educational outcomes for your children. Their commitment to improving the educational outcomes for all children is commendable and demonstrates dedication to the teaching vocation.

To those families leaving our school community at the end of 2014, I would like to extend our best wishes in your future endeavours. My third year at Barkly Highway State School has been an extremely satisfying and rewarding time and I am looking forward to the future. I wish all members of the Barkly Highway community a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2015.

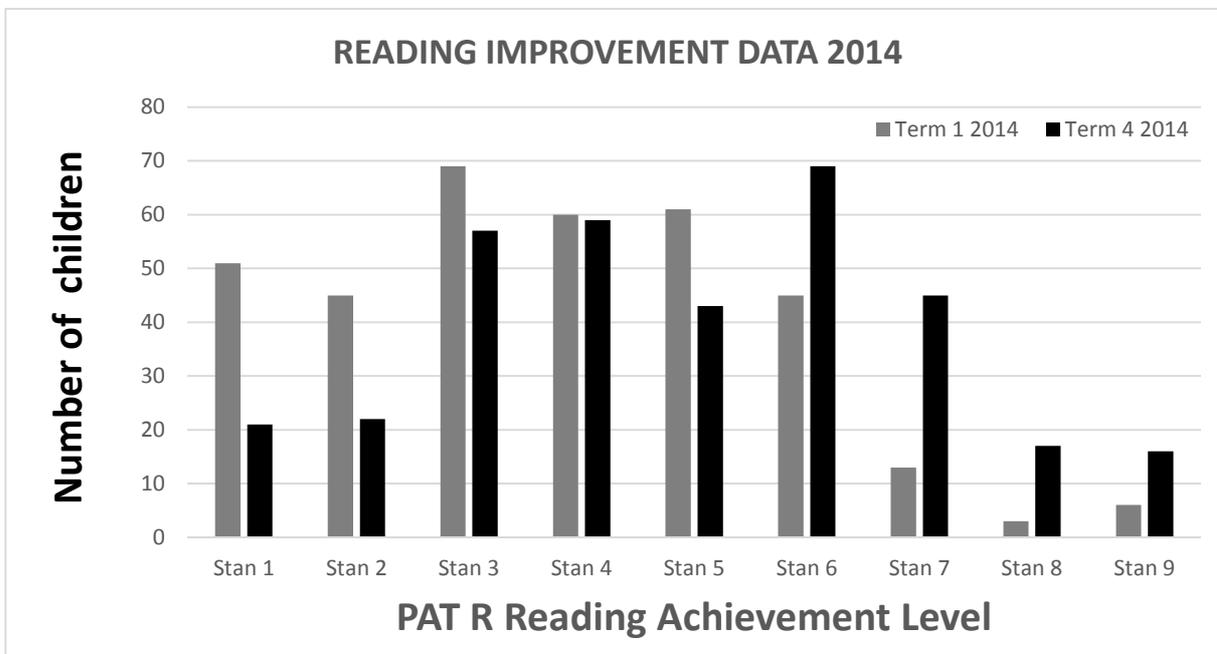
### SCHOOL READING IMPROVEMENT

At this time of year we have completed our diagnostic assessment reading results for our children. It always brings me great pleasure to share wonderful news about the progress of children at our school. Each year we administer a diagnostic tool to Years 2 - 7 to measure the growth and improvement in children's reading. This is done through administering the PAT - R Comprehension test.

At the commencement of the year, the data showed 47% of children at our school reading in the bottom 3 stanines (lower 20 percentiles), 47% of our children were reading in the middle 3 stanines (middle 60 percentiles) and 6% of our children reading in the top 3 stanines (top 20 percentiles). Having administered this diagnostic assessment for a number of years, this is normal results because the assessment tasks are set for term 4 of the year of instruction.

Our November results illustrates the significant growth of children at our school in reading with the recent data showing 27% of children at our school now reading in the bottom 3 stanines (lower 20 percentiles), 50% of our children were reading in the middle 3 stanines (middle 60 percentiles) and 23% of our children reading in the top 3 stanines (top 20 percentiles).

These results have been achieved through the hard work of all members of staff, and a strong commitment to learning demonstrated by our children.



#### **YEAR 6 & 7 FAREWELL DINNER**

The Year 6 & 7 Farewell Dinners will be held tonight (Thursday 27 November) and on Monday 1 December respectively at the Overlander Hotel commencing at 6:30pm. Letters detailing particulars about the evening have been forwarded home. I would like to thank all the sponsors of the events and I am looking forward to seeing as many parents and family members at the evening.

#### **STAFFING MOVEMENT**

In last fortnight's newsletter I detailed the staff transfers for 2015. I neglected to advise that Ms Catherine Cantoni will also be transferring out of Mount Isa at the end of the year. I thank Catherine for her work at Barkly Highway and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

#### **AWARDS PARADE**

This year we will be holding our annual Academic Awards Parade for Years P – 5 on Monday 1 December in our undercover area commencing at 8:45am. This annual event looks at the overall achievements of our students and presents some students with awards that vary from trophies to medallions. If your child is receiving an award this year their teacher will be contacting you to advise of this. Year 6 and 7 children will be receiving their awards at their Farewell Dinners.

#### **END OF YEAR CONCERT**

On Wednesday 3 December we will be holding our school's End of Year Concert in the undercover area. This night is always a wonderful and entertaining evening and I look forward to seeing as many families as possible at the event. It is a great way to celebrate the end of the year.

#### **REPORT CARDS**

Report cards for Semester 2 2014 will be forwarded home next week. The report card is a summary of the achievements of your child this semester. Teachers provide numerous opportunities and assessment tasks to students to allow them to demonstrate their abilities. Teachers plan assessment tasks collaboratively and carefully design them to ensure that they assess not only the children's knowledge and understanding of the content but also how effectively they are able to demonstrate that understanding. Teachers then moderate student work samples to ensure that the standard is consistent across the year level. Evidence collected is used to determine ratings allocated. Parents are welcome to make an appointment with classroom and specialist teachers, if they need further clarification about any details provided.

Please remember to look carefully at the Effort rating on the report cards and to read the comments to help you gain a true picture of your child's performance. It is not inconsistent for a child to receive an 'A' for Effort and receive a different rating for their Achievement. This means that the child has worked conscientiously in class to obtain that achievement and this has been duly acknowledged by the teacher.

#### **SCHOOL DATES**

Parents and carers are advised that the last day of school for 2014 is Friday 5 December. School will resume in 2015 on Tuesday 27 January. The office will be closed over the Summer Vacation period and will re-open on Monday 19 January 2015.

#### **ACT FOR KIDS CASUAL DRESS DAY**

Dr Neil Carrington has asked me to pass on his sincere thanks to the Barkly Highway State School community for our efforts in raising approximately \$450 on the casual dress day. Act for Kids has now partnered with the Morecombe Foundation to provide better education to children about personal safety.

## **DEPUTY'S REPORT**

During 2014 our school has continued to build on its outstanding academic results and community focus. Collectively we have maintained a safe and caring learning environment and provided outstanding opportunities for our 510 students. We should be enormously proud of the educational opportunities and diverse programs we have provided our students during 2014 and their positive results. Throughout 2014 we have been committed to providing a learning environment based on the belief that all cultures are valued and respected and all students treated as individuals in their quest for improvement. Throughout 2014, with parents' constructive input, our staff have helped to continue to develop students that are creative, innovative, resilient, disciplined, enterprising and critical thinkers, who are well equipped to meet the changing needs of our community.

2014 has provided students with an opportunity to showcase their individual and collective talents in all areas of school life. We have seen large numbers of our students excelling in the pursuit of academic excellence at a class, regional and state level. Academically, our community can be very proud of their children's growth and the school's performance based on staff assessment, and objectives measures like NAPLAN. Our Value adding from 2013 to 2014 continues to be of an exemplary standard. We have received accolades for students' musical, dance and drama abilities after their public performances at numerous events including Rock Pop Mime, Barkly's Got Talent, District Music concert, assemblies. We have continued to impress our school and other local communities with our sporting prowess and sportsmanship in numerous interschool competitions, carnivals and events. The continuation of the school's Homework Club has also contributed to the fabric of a vibrant school community.

Ours is a wonderful, exciting and special community. It has strong, high-quality programs with equally high expectations and standards which challenge and prepare our students for a life of learning. 2014 has been a rich and rewarding year and our spirit as a community remains strong and united. As we move into 2015, we will continue to rely on the committed contributions of our very active P. & C. Association, our dedicated and committed professional staff to ensure that students always come first, and receive the very best education we can offer. I would like to thank our staff for their continued dedication to their craft, their high standards and expectations and their commitment to supporting each student in their care.

It is this outstanding community of ours that continues to make a difference to the positive relationships we build, the programs we deliver, the quality outcomes we achieve and the students we nurture and teach.

On behalf of all our staff, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and look forward to continuing to build education in our community in 2015.

## **REPORT CARDS**

Report cards will be coming home to families next week, so please ensure that your child remembers to present it to you. Both Mr Kubler and I have been reading the reports over the last few days and we have been very pleased with the progress children have made over the semester. It is particularly pleasing to read comments about students who have really pushed themselves to make progress against criteria for learning. It has also been pleasing to read many positive comments about the effort children have invested in their learning across the school.

## **YARNING CIRCLE**

Wonderful progress continues to be made on this project. Mr Duncan Turnbull and his co-workers are certainly determined to have this project completed before 5 December and we thank them sincerely for their dedication and commitment towards this initiative. Pictures below were taken Tuesday 25 November.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>Week 8</b> 24 – 28 November	Parade 2.00- 2.30			Year 6 Farewell Dinner and Graduation	
<b>Week 9</b> 1 – 5 December	Academic Awards 8.45am (2015 School Captains Announced)  Year 7 Farewell Dinner and Graduation	Tools for Change Year 6 Spinifex State College	Tools for Change Year 6 and 7 Spinifex State College  End of Year Concert 6.00pm	Tools for Change Year 7 Spinifex State College  End of year Class Celebrations  Behaviour Rewards	Last day of School for 2014  Attendance Reward Day Prep- 7 8.30-11.30  Behaviour Rewards

## KEEP A WATCH ON OUR SCHOOL THESE HOLIDAYS

With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school. If you see anything suspicious, please call School Watch on 13 17 88. The School Watch program is a partnership between the Department of Education, Training and Employment, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools. If you do see something suspicious, please don't attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter. Keep the number handy—13 17 88—and let's work together to help create a safer school community.

Ash Wagh

## PE NEWS

### Interschool Basketball – Review

Ten students from Years 6 and 7 attended the Basketball Carnival Day last Wednesday 19 November. Many of our team members had never played basketball before and they approached the Day with enthusiasm and positivity, training hard to learn new rules and skills. They played 6 games against different schools from our town and improved with every game. Our team won 2 games and came very close to winning 2 more. It was a great day and the team showed exemplary sportsmanship. Fantastic work everyone!



### Interschool Futsal – Review

On Friday 21 November a group of students from our school participated in the Mount Isa Interschool Futsal Carnival. The students played some excellent games and refined some of their skills throughout their games. Our team won a few games and were fortunate enough to come third overall on the day. Every student approached the day with enthusiasm and worked great as a team. Well done Futsal players!



### School Swimming Lessons Prep – Year 3

Thanks to everyone who supported our Prep to Year 3 Swimming Lessons this year. It was a hectic four days of lessons, but the students had a great time getting in the pool and cooling off while having fun and learning basic pool safety and survival skills. Over the four days, we had around 850 students pass through the gates to the pool. The behaviour displayed by our students while at the pool was exceptional. Some of our teachers even decided to hop in also! Thanks also to our staff who attended and assisted with the lessons each time. We also need to give a huge thanks to Mr Ryan Juillerat for driving the bus on each of these days. Without his assistance, we would have struggled to get all the students to their lessons on time.

*From Mr DePasquale (Physical Education Teacher)*

## YEARBOOK 2014

Our Yearbook once again looks amazing. To all those families who have purchased one, your Yearbook should be arriving soon and will be distributed to students when they are available.

## END OF YEAR CONCERT – WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER

It has been a longstanding tradition here at Barkly Highway State School that we host an End of Year Concert to celebrate the year that was. This is a celebration for the whole school, and this year it will be held on Wednesday 3 December (during the last week of school). It will be a family event, so students who attend must be accompanied by an adult. The tuckshop will also be open on the evening to sell drinks and snacks. Further information about the event, including times, will be available in the coming weeks. The Tuckshop will be open for this event with drinks and snacks available for purchase on the evening. BYO chairs.

*From Mr DePasquale*

## STUDENT COUNCIL

### Holiday Post Box

Are your children planning to give cards or holiday messages to their friends? If so, don't just hand them over, post them in the holiday box in the office!

From Monday 1 December, there will be a 'Holiday Post' box in the office. It will be covered in festive paper and will be located on top of the pigeon-holes just inside the office door.

If your child has cards or letters they would like to 'post' to their classmates or other people in the school, they simply write that person's name and class (or location – eg office) on the front of the envelope. Each day, our fantastic Student Council Representatives will collect and deliver the mail to classes.

This just makes receiving those messages and cards a little more exciting! Please make use of this completely free 'postal' service.

### Oval Playground Update

A new playground for our senior students on the oval is coming! It is expected that the playground will be installed over the coming summer holidays and will be ready for the start of the 2015 school year. The P & C and Student Council have worked hard to achieve this, and with the grant we received earlier in the year, our playground is now happening! Well done all – it has been a long time coming and we finally did it!

*From Miss Kelly and Mr DePasquale (Student Council Coordinators)*

## MUSIC MATTERS

The choir will be performing at the Christmas concert Wednesday 3 of December. This will be a great night of entertainment with all classes presenting a special item to end another great year at Barkly.

## RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

Here we are a few school days away from well-earned holidays. We are busy returning all resources and have again sent out overdue notices with students to take home. We are still having about 150 outstanding student loans! Home readers are also required to be returned. We would greatly appreciate if all borrowed books are returned as soon as possible.

All Book club orders have been handed out.

We wish our Barkly community a wonderful Christmas and safe travels. We are looking forward to seeing everyone back for another exciting year in 2015.

As always, if you have any queries or questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards

Svenja Spitzner-Lewis

## LITERACY NEWS

Hi Everyone,

This week's *Literacy News* is about the *Writing Trait – Word Choice*. The 6 *Writing Traits* are: *Ideas, Organisation, Word Choice, Voice, Sentence Fluency* and *Conventions*. These traits are the keys to good writing.

*"Word Choice is all about using the right words at the right moment."* Writers need to reread their texts to ensure their choice of words makes sense and to read their writing aloud to hear the impact of their words. Writers can be prompted to collect and use favourite words in their writing. They can be encouraged to use verbs to add punch and action, and to use sensory language to put readers in the scene. Word Choice is about developing understanding in writers that there are different ways to say things and stretching to use new words.

*Vicki Spandel*

*Creating Young Writers: Using the Six Traits to Enrich Writing Process in Primary Classrooms (2012. p.7)*

As you talk, read and write with your child, you will be building an important foundation and taking steps that will help your child become a better speaker, reader, writer and student. Your efforts now will make a difference - and it may be just the difference that your child needs to succeed!

**Enjoy writing over the holidays,**

*Cheryl Gallagher*

*(Literacy Teacher)*

## TUCK-SHOP NEWS

It is hard to believe that there is only one more week and school is over for this year!!

We have had a fantastic year in Tuckshop this year and I would just like to take this opportunity to thank our fantastic team at the Tuckshop. They help it run smoothly and make coming to work a pleasure. These people are Kellie Swaffield, Justine Scarsi, Keith Fisher and Lorraine Hilton. Thanks guys!! Also I would like to say thank you to the ongoing support from our P & C committee Gav, Rach, Zea and Silvana.

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**WORD CHOICE**

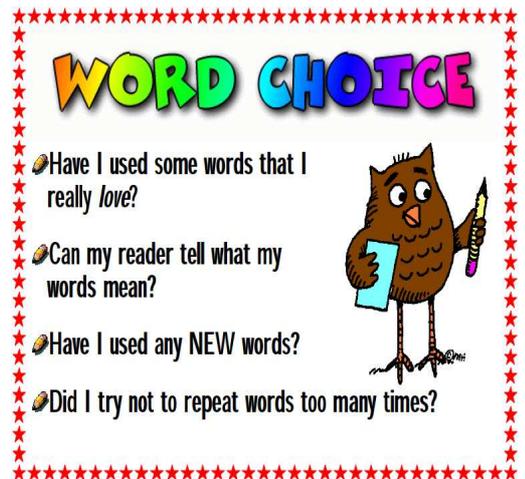
Have I used some words that I really love?

Can my reader tell what my words mean?

Have I used any NEW words?

Did I try not to repeat words too many times?

\*\*\*\*\*



One special note I would like to also make is a **BIG THANK YOU** and a sad goodbye for now to Mr D and Miss Kelly. They played an integral role in the tuckshop receiving the much needed grant to purchase refrigerated airconditioning and we are all going to miss them and their happy, smiling faces so much. Goodbye and good luck also to our other fantastic teachers that are moving on to bigger and better things. We won't say goodbye, just say seeya later because with any luck, we might see them again at Barkly some day!

I would also like to thank the wonderful children, parents, carers and our fantastic staff from Barkly for supporting the Tuckshop this year and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and safe and happy new year!! See you all in 2015. ☺

Please see attached tuckshop menu for over-the-counter sales for this year's Christmas Concert on Wednesday 3 December.



## TUCKSHOP BIRTHDAY CLUB 2015!

*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.

### UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform shop has a **NEW OPENING TIME!** It is now open on **THURSDAYS 8:30-9:00 AM**. If you can't make it to the school, sign up to Flexischools for an easy way of ordering, flexischools.com.au and your order will be delivered to the student.

**EXTENDED OPENING HOURS:** Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 December 2:00-3:00pm. Get your uniforms ready for next year!

**EXTENDED OPENING HOURS 2015:** TUESDAY 20, WEDNESDAY 21 & THURSDAY 22 January 2015 9:00am - 12:00pm.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### Help Wanted!

Our school community Yarning Circle Project is well under way. This area will be a valuable resource in fostering strong links between school and community.

This Saturday morning we will be laying some turf in this area and would be extremely grateful if there were any parents or family members who may be able to offer some assistance to staff in completing this aspect of the project. Many hands make light work!

When: This Saturday, 29 November. Time: 9:00 a.m.

Where: Barkly Highway State School Yarning Circle

Would be great to see you there!

### RATEP INTAKE 2015

RATEP is a community based teacher education program to enable Indigenous people to become qualified teaching assistants and /or registered teachers.

We are currently taking applications for the following courses:

- *Certificate IV in Education (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)* part time studies of 18 hours per week for adult students. Applications close 6 March 2015.
- *Diploma in Education (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)* full time studies of 25 hours per week or part time studies of 13 hours per week (over two years) for adult learners. Contributes to one year of study in Primary Education at JCU. Application close 6 February 2015.

Where: Spinifex State College Senior Campus  
Q Block, Room 5

Contact: Prue Pocock or Sharyn Pratap  
Ph: 4749 0180

Email: ppoco3@eq.edu.au or [sprat24@eq.edu.au](mailto:sprat24@eq.edu.au)

### MOUNT IS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

3 on 3 basketball competition for juniors!

Suitable for Under 12's right up to Under 21's!

Starting 2 December - 20 January (with a 2 week break over Christmas)

Times 5:30pm - 6:30pm

For more information please call 4743 5444 or email [adminmtisabball2@bigpond.com](mailto:adminmtisabball2@bigpond.com) or register on the website.

### ON THE BALL HOLIDAY PROGRAM - MOUNT ISA

'On The Ball' holiday program is an exciting program and an opportunity for young people to exercise, have fun and meet current and former Basketball players.

LEARN BASKETBALL SKILLS FROM.....NBL Brisbane Bullets Legend Leroy Loggins & Andre Moore and SEABL super star Sam Rioli  
THIS IS A FREE PROGRAM, THERE'LL BE COMPETITIONS, PRIZES & LUNCH IS PROVIDED...!

REGISTRATIONS: Wednesday 10 December  
9:00am (7-12 year olds)  
12:00pm (13-17 year olds)

When: Wednesday 10 – Friday 12 December 2014  
Time: 9:15am - 11:30am (7 - 12 year olds)  
12:15pm – 2:30pm (13 - 17 year olds)  
Where: Mount Isa Basketball Stadium - Corner Jessop Drive and Sports Parade

Please bring along your parent/guardian consent form (or complete it on the day)  
For more information contact Lyn Lenehan at Whitelion (Stride Programs) 0415 770 319 or llenehan@whitelion.asn.au

**2014 CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT – proudly presented by the Mount Isa City Council**

This year's Carols by Candlelight are on Sunday 30 November at Buchanan Park. Gates open at 5:30pm and a gold coin donation is required for entry. Santa will be making an appearance, food & drinks will be available for purchase and a fireworks display. PLUS, a lucky door prize of a \$1500 Mount Isa to Cairns airfare voucher.

**MOUNT ISA SCHOOL OF DANCE**

On Friday 28 and Saturday 29 November the Mount Isa School of Dance will be showcasing our 2014 dance concert 'The Guardians'. Tickets are now on sale at Outback at Isa and will be available at the door on the night of the performances. If you could kindly add a copy of our poster image with your next School Newsletter we would be most appreciative.



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