



Barkly Blurb!!!

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*Term 3 No 11
 24th July 2014*

Upcoming Events

ICAS English.....	29 July
District Athletics Carnival.....	31 July
Interschool AFL and Softball.....	7 August
Mount Isa Rodeo.....	8-10 August
ICAS Mathematics.....	12 August
Year 7 Camp Tallebudgera.....	10-15 August
Year 6 Camp Canberra.....	16-21 August
Father's Day.....	7 September

Interschool AFL and softball.....	12 September
Barkly's Got talent.....	12 September
Bike-A-Thon.....	15-18 September
Last day of term	19 September
Year 5 Camp Winton and Longreach.....	7-10 October

Payments Due

6 camp.....	OVERDUE!!!
7 camp.....	OVERDUE!!!

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

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Term 3! Like the previous two terms, I have no doubt that this will be another busy and engaging term at Barkly Highway State School. We welcome this term, our new students, families and staff to the Barkly Highway Family. Joining us this term on staff are Mr Geoff Miller (commencing in the role of Head of Special Education Services) and Ms Samantha Humphreys who replaces Miss Reader in 2 Gold. We also welcome back from leave Mrs Cassandra Milmlow who has returned to her Business Service Manager's position.

SCHOOL OPINION SURVEYS

Last week, letters went home with the eldest student in each family providing details for accessing the annual School Opinion Surveys. Parents/Caregivers, school staff and the representative sample of students are encouraged to take part in this year's School Opinion Survey and share their opinions about what this school does well and how this school can improve. Access details for the Parent/Caregiver Survey have been sent home with students—these are not linked to individuals, and you cannot be identified in the survey results that will be reported back to the school nor in the information collected by the Department. Parents/caregivers are welcome to complete their survey online at the school. School computers will be available before and after school from Monday 21 July until Friday 1 August. The survey remains open until 3 August 2014.

CONGRATULATIONS MISS READER AND MISS MELLICK

During the holidays two of our teachers achieved personal successes. Miss Reader was successful in being offered a position as a Guidance Officer in the Mount Isa area, which commenced at the beginning of this term. This opportunity arose on the last day of Term 2 so informing the community could only occur when we commenced this term. A letter to the families of the children in 2 Gold was forwarded home on the first day of this term. Additionally, over the holidays I was contacted by NEiTA (National Excellence in Teaching Academy) and advised that Miss Mellick had been nominated for a National Excellence in Teaching Award. On behalf of the school community I would like to congratulate Alex and Che on their successes.

CHAPLAINCY SERVICE

I would like to remind all our Barkly Highway families that our school has a chaplaincy service available to our school community 2 days per week (Monday and Thursday) to provide pastoral support to students and families. Our school chaplain Mr Morgan Slykerman is actively involved in school activities and is an integral part of our specials needs framework in supporting students and families in crisis. This service provides our school with a link to local community support groups and activities including a breakfast club and lunch time programs. Our school's chaplaincy program complements other welfare services in the school such as those offered by the Guidance Officer and is not a counselling service. It is also a part of the school's overall Care Program and our chaplain works closely with teachers, School Guidance Officer, parents and students.

ENROLMENT FOR PREP 2015

We are now taking enrolments for Prep 2015. Please contact the Office for forms or further details. To enrol next year, children need to be born between the dates of 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010. Enrolment forms are able to be collected from the Office or, if more convenient, sent to you electronically or in the mail. With the Year 7s moving to High School next year, there will be more flexibility with enrolments, and we are able to accept enrolments from families who reside outside the catchment.

JOHN COUTIS PRESENTATION

Today children in Years 4 – 7 had the opportunity to listen to a world renowned inspirational speaker, Mr John Coutis. John's life story is one about defying the odds and rising above adversity. Not only did he defy medical opinion, he has succeeded in achieving many personal successes. His message to our children emphasised respect for diversity, challenging

bullying, and developing resilience, motivation and courage. I am sure the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the presentation. Further information about John can be obtained by visiting www.rollingsuccess.com.au and pictures of John presenting with the School Captains can be seen on his facebook page John.Coutis

ADDITIONAL PREP TEACHER AIDE HOURS

The 2015 round of funding for additional Prep teacher aide hours was announced recently and our school will be the beneficiary of an additional allocation. This is part of the Government's \$54 million commitment over four years for more than 600 Queensland State School Prep classes. At the moment I don't have details as to the number of additional Prep hours we will receive, but when that information is to hand I will advise you accordingly.

PERSISTENCE

One of the life skills we strive to develop in all children is that of persistence (as part of our Be Resilient school value). Children who persistently apply themselves to any activity they are involved in (whether it is academic, artistic or sporting) are more likely to achieve greater successes in that activity, and throughout life. Developing persistence in children involves encouraging them to think 3 ways:

I CAN DO IT! - thinking that I'm more likely to be successful than I am to fail.

GIVING EFFORT - thinking that the harder I try, the more I am able to do and the more successful I will be.

WORKING TOUGH - thinking that in order to be successful in the future, I sometimes have to do things that are not easy or fun.

NAIDOC

Our school celebrated NAIDOC Day on Monday. I would like to express my thanks and gratitude for all the hard work of the Indigenous Parents Reference Group as well as staff, students, student leaders from Spinifex State College and community members in planning and organising the day's activities and events. The children were engaged in a variety of wonderful learning experiences providing them with an insight into Indigenous culture. Events like NAIDOC Day are important and valuable learning experiences for children to be involved in, in order to develop a better understanding of Australian history and culture. Thanks also to Mr Wagh who led the organisation and coordination of this event so competently.

FACILITIES AND CONTRACTORS

Over the holidays we have had some works and repairs carried out at our school. It's great to see the shade cloth installed to the Prep playing area and the drainage repairs completed to the admin office car park. We have also had a new bell system installed.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

Just a quick reminder there is a little over 6 weeks remaining in this Challenge. Children reading books as part of the 2014 Premier's Reading Challenge need to ensure they meet the Challenge requirements by Friday 5 September. If any children (in Years 3 – 7) have already completed the Challenge, they need to return the completed Reading record to their classroom teacher.

This year, the Premier has challenged all State and Non-State School students from Prep to Year 2 to read or experience 20 books, Years 3 and 4 to read 20 books and Years 5 to 7 to read 15 books. Experiencing books can include shared reading, listening to stories, or reading picture books. The aim for the 2014 challenge is to reach a total of 2 million books read. As well as being fun, the challenge aims to boost children's literacy skills by encouraging students to read widely for pleasure and learning, to develop their imagination, and to cultivate a passion for literature.

Every student who completes the challenge will receive a Certificate of Achievement signed by the Premier and all students receive a Certificate of Participation.

STUDENTS, HAVE YOUR SAY

Prep to Year 12 students are invited to have their say on the future of education in Queensland. We want to hear your suggestions on how we can ensure all students are given the best education and outcomes.

Your feedback will contribute to the development of the Queensland Education Accord, a 30-year vision for education in Queensland.

All you need to do is submit video feedback on one of the seven Queensland Education Accord student questions. If your video is chosen it will feature at the Queensland Education Accord Summit in September and you will be in the draw to win one of four \$50 iTunes vouchers.

Entries close Friday 8 August 2014.

For more information and to view the Queensland Education Accord questions, visit the website.

<http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/educationaccord/student-engagement.html>

STUDENT ABSENCES

All absences that your children have from school must be explained to the school. Children arriving late to school also need an explanation. All children should, whenever possible, arrive at school on time, however if this doesn't happen, please call the school or you can complete the form that is at the end of this newsletter. These can be used as late notes and/or general absence notes to explain why your child was/will be absent. More than one child can also be put on the note. Thank you to all the parents and carers that have been sending absence notes in. We appreciate your help with this matter.

Ross Kubler

DEPUTY'S REPORT

Welcome back to Semester 2, I hope everyone had a safe and relaxing holiday.

All students should have received their report cards at the end of last term. Any report cards that haven't been issued can be collected from the office between 8:00 and 3:00pm. NAPLAN reports for years 3, 5 and 7 will be sent home towards the end of this term as soon as the school receives them. (These usually arrive at school around mid-September.)

NAIDOC

It was a pleasure to have Aunty Joan Marshall, Uncle Alec Marshall, Shawn Major, Parent and Community Engagement (PaCE) group, Sam Minniecon, Zea Christopherson, students from Spinifex State Collage and other community members as special guests at our NAIDOC celebration parade on Monday. Highlights of the day were the workshops, Bethany's (6 Blue) reading of the poem "I am Aborigine" and the choir performance. Thank you to all staff and students for supporting our National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee.

ATTENDANCE

At Barkly Highway State School we expect regular student attendance at all times. Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day.

- they learn better
- they make friends
- they are happier
- they have a brighter future.

Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day unless they have an acceptable reason. Illness is the only real acceptable reason for being absent from school. Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

If your child is absent from school, parents must let the school know the reason why your child has been absent from school within two school days of their return. If possible, advise the school beforehand.

Parents can assist by setting up routines such as:

- have a set time to go to bed
- have a set time to get out of bed
- have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- have a set time for starting and finishing breakfast
- set a time for daily homework activities
- speak about school positively
- be firm, send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term!

Please contact your child's teacher or myself as soon as possible for advice and support if you are having any trouble in getting your children to school every day.

ICAS Competition

The next tests are the Maths and English competitions which will both be held early in this term. The dates are listed below.

English *Tuesday, 29 July*
Mathematics *Tuesday, 12 August*

Year 5, 6 and 7 Camp

School camps are just around the corner and the children are very excited! Please ensure your child's camp payment is finalised before the end of the week. Thank you to those parents that have already finalised payment.

Ash Wagh

YARNING CIRCLE

Last year, as part of our Focus School Initiative, Barkly Highway State School, in consultation with the Focus School Parent Reference Group, agreed upon the construction of a Yarning Circle –Community Garden to serve as a cultural learning resource, meeting place and to assist in strengthening our School Community engagement.

Representatives from the school and Parent Reference Group have been in discussions with Glencore Xstrata and are excited to announce that construction of some aspects of this area will begin this term. Glencore Xstrata have completed engineering drawings and plans based on the initial design work by Mrs Sheree Blackley.

The Yarning Circle Gazebo and concrete paving will now begin construction and installation. This will be taking place over the next few months and will result in the back right-hand corner of the oval being cordoned off for safety purposes. This area is not currently used by the school and is an out-of-bounds area. Barkly Highway State School would like to express their thanks to Glencore Xstrata, Duncan Turnbull (DRJT Constructions), Mrs Sheree Blackley and all members of the Parent Reference Group for their assistance in getting this important School/Community initiative underway.

Rod Nelson

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

This term, the Student Council will be raising funds through a Father's Day Stall and through our second ever Bike-a-Thon! Our Mother's Day stall was an amazing success and we hope all our mums and grandmas were happy with their gifts. Our Father's Day stall is going to be just as great, with lots of fantastic gifts, so start saving! The stall will run for the week before Father's Day. The Bike-a-Thon will be run over the last week of school. Letters about the event and donation forms will be sent home in the next few weeks. If you can't ride a bike, start practising now and throw away those training wheels!

PE NEWS

Fun Run Review

In Term 2, students participated in a school Fun Run as a fundraising event for the school. Each student who raised more than \$10 was eligible for a prize. These prizes have now arrived and have been distributed to each student, along with a certificate of participation. Thank you to everyone who supported our school and donated money. We were able to raise over \$7000! This is a huge amount of money and will be used to buy more resources for our school.

Annual School Athletics Carnival Review

The Annual Barkly Highway State School Athletics Carnival was held on the last two days of Term 2. Students from across the school competed in a number of novelty and field events to earn points for their House. All the students performed exceptionally on the days and the general behaviour of all was great. Congratulations to Kent House. They were victorious and, for the second year in a row, were announced as the overall Champion House. Thanks everyone for coming along to support our students in their athletic endeavours and making the day such a success.

Interschool Softball and AFL

In Term 3, our school will participate in Interschool Softball and Interschool AFL competitions. Trials for the school teams for each of these sports will be in the coming weeks. Games will be played in a carnival format over two days – Thursday 7 August, and Friday 12 September. AFL games are likely to be played at Legend Oval and Softball games at the Alexandra Park Softball Fields near the Barkly Highway (these locations are to be confirmed). Thanks to Mr Nelson for volunteering his time to take the AFL Team and to Miss Burke who will be coaching our school Softball Team. Further information will be forwarded home with students who are selected to participate in one of these teams.

District Athletics Carnival – Thursday 31 July

On Thursday 31 July, a number of students from our school will be heading to Sunset Oval to participate in the District Athletics Carnival. During the Carnival, students from all primary schools in Mount Isa will compete for a position on the Mount Isa District Athletics Team. Notes have been sent home with eligible students this week. Please complete and return these notes by this Friday, 25 July.

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.

P&C NEWS

STATE OF ORIGIN RAFFLE

The P&C is proud to announce the winners of our State of Origin Raffle. First prize: Peter L. Second prize: Mel W. Third prize: Teresa T. Please join me in congratulating all our prize winners. The P&C would also like to thank the wider school community in helping make this raffle a success. Thank you.

RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS

Welcome back to what promises to be an exciting Term.

We are pleased to welcome our Prep students who have started to explore the Library this term and also started to borrow books. All students from Prep- Year 3 do need a library bag in order to borrow a book. All books need to be returned on a weekly basis. We encourage all our students to take responsibility for their borrowing by returning their books on time as well as looking after them. We do appreciate parents helping their children with these tasks.

Book Club

Our first Book Club for this term went out on Monday and orders are due by this Friday. For your convenience, just add up your orders from different catalogues and children and fill in just one payment slip for all orders.

Book Fair

We will have our second Book Fair for the year this term, and it is going to be just as fantastic as the last one with lots of new titles this time. It is scheduled for Week 7. Keep an eye out for posters popping up around the school closer to the date!

PRC

As Mr Kubler mentioned earlier in the newsletter, our Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC) is still in full swing with 6 weeks remaining. So make sure your child is recording all their reading on their reading record sheet, once completed we ask for the sheet to be returned to the library. We are hoping for 100% participation as every one of our students is reading every day at school. Prep-Year 2 are reading as a class. Prep-Year 4 having to record 20 books while Years 5-7 have to read 15 books to complete the challenge.

Book Week

The Children's Book Council of Australia has shortlisted a variety of books from Australian Authors back in April. This year's Book Week, from the 16th of August, will see the announcement of the winners of the Book of the Year Awards. Here at school we will be reading some of the short listed books over the next couple of weeks and will also join the celebrations with our own activities. One of the activities will be a competition run by the Mount Isa Library network in which we will participate. Winning works being displayed at the town library. More information about Book Week will be sent home closer to the dates.

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

Svenja Spitzner-Lewis

LITERACY NEWS

Looking for Parents/Grandparents/Carer Volunteers

Do you have some spare time and would like to help out at the school?

We are looking for volunteers that could form a 'reading team' for our students. This team of people would go into classes as a group and read with our students to build their skills. It doesn't matter if you have never done this before or you are not sure how to approach reading with students, you will receive training in reading strategies and staff will be available to assist you as you 'find your feet'.

A flyer has been sent home this week seeking volunteers and training will be arranged over the next few weeks.

If you are interested, please return the slip from the flyer or email me akell150@eq.edu.au

We look forward to your help!

Ann Kelly

Support Teacher: Literacy and Numeracy

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.



Step 6: Ban the Boring Bits

SEVEN STEPS WRITING TIPS

Series One

Why do kids always fill their stories with the boring details of their day? How many of these have you seen?

• **Food Fetishes:**

We were at Disneyworld and we got to eat hamburgers with chips and a big thick milkshake. I had two whole bottles of Coke and my sister had...

• **Bedroom boredom:**

I woke up that morning and leapt out of bed and put on my best jeans and a jumper and then cleaned my teeth and put on my shoes...

• **Trapped in travel:**

In the bus on the way to the swimming sports we waved at the cars and Mark made us sing really boring songs and then we put our streamers through the windows and...

It's called 'warm-up' writing because people start with the safe and familiar. Professional authors know this - some authors even cut out the first few chapters when editing, so their book jumps straight into the action.

TOP TIP:

We often learn more about what kids ate going to the zoo than what happened when the lion escaped. So simply tell children to cut out the boring bits: no beds, no bus trips, no boring lists of friends or food. (See also Step 1: Sizzling Starts)



ACTION ACTIVITY:

Watch movies and see how little of the 'boring bits' they use. They rarely show people using the bathroom, brushing their teeth or blow drying their hair. Even stranger, notice how people never seem to travel, they just 'arrive'.

© Jen McVeity, author and National Literacy Champion

Seven Steps to Writing Success

The full *Seven Steps* program is available:
For Parents: www.sevenstepswriting.com
For Teachers: www.highlightingwriting.com
Email: office@highlightingwriting.com
Phone: 61 3 9521 8439

Seven Steps
TO WRITING SUCCESS

When drafting a story, encourage your child to ban the boring bits and move away from the “warm up writing” by starting with the action like in the action movies. In the movies characters won't be seen in the plane travelling somewhere (unless this has a link to the action/purpose of the movie) they just arrive at this place and the action begins.

Enjoy writing,
Cheryl Gallagher
(Literacy Teacher)

