Dear Parents and Carers

It seems like yesterday that the term started and yet we are already in week 4. Term 3 is always a busy term and there are a number of events that have been timetabled to occur during it. I encourage parents and carers to take particular note of newsletters, Facebook page and the school sign to keep informed as to these events.

FRIDAY IS A SCHOOL DAY

Even though tomorrow is Rodeo Friday, I would like to remind all parents and carers that Friday is a normal school day at Barkly Highway. Students will be engaging in their usual learning activities during the day and I would encourage all parents and carers to ensure children attend school tomorrow and every other school day.

ENGLISH CONTINUES TO BE OUR FOCUS

Our focus this year has continued to be on improving reading and writing. Our Great Results Guarantee was developed around improving reading and writing, and considerable financial and human resources have been dedicated to this focus. At our school we continually review and adapt proven strategies that focus on improving teacher knowledge and embedding collegial capacity building between teachers. This term our Lead Literacy Teacher, Cheryl Gallagher and Literacy & Numeracy Support Teacher, Ann Kelly will be focussing on working with teachers in a team teaching. Given the resourcing, expertise and actions we have initiated I believe the outcomes achieved by our children will continue to improve and exceed like schools results.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR VISIT

Today we are hosted Mr Robert Mitchell (ARD) at our school. During our meeting with Mr Mitchell we discussed and reviewed our school’s improvement agenda. It is pleasing to know that our school continues to make positive progress in its learning focuses. At the same time these discussions and reviews assist in our identification of our next targeted areas.

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RELAY FOR LIFE

Last Friday we held a casual dress day for a gold coin donation. It was pleasing to see so many children come to school in casual clothes to support this cause. I am pleased to say that our school raised $460.00 on the day and these funds have been donated to Relay for Life in support of Cancer Research. Well done Barkly Highway community!

P & C MEETING

Our next P & C Meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 August at 6:00pm in the staffroom. It has been pleasing over the last few meetings seeing more parents and carers come to the meeting. I hope to see even more families come along to our next meeting so we can hear from a wider variety of members of our school community.

ATHLETICS TEAM

Last week our Athletics’ Team competed in the Mount Isa Primary Schools Athletics Day. It was pleasing to see that our team were successful in winning the carnival for the first time in 3 or 4 years. Congratulations to all the boys and girls who competed on the day – your behaviour and efforts were brilliant.

CONGRATULATIONS MISS TIMOTI

Recently our Prep Red teacher, Miss Tempest Timoti was advised she was successful in being appointed to the position of Head of Curriculum at Dimbulah State School (Far North Queensland Region) until the end of the year. On behalf of the school community I would like to congratulate Tempest on her appointment and wish her well in her new role. Tempest will be commencing this role on Monday 11 August 2014.
SCHOOL SURVEY

The School Opinion Survey (SOS) was due to close on 3 August 2014; however we have been advised by the Department that responses will continue to be accepted until the end of this week, Friday 8 August. On Tuesday we forwarded home a letter to parents and carers advising of this. This extension was given to all schools to enable them to maximise their parent/caregiver and staff responses. If you haven’t completed the survey, I would encourage all stakeholders to do so before tomorrow. Thank you to all the parents, carers and staff who have already completed their responses.

LORETTA GIORCELLI PD SESSION

Last Saturday 2 August, teachers from our school, along with other teaching staff from other schools in and around Mount Isa, participated in a day of professional development delivered by Professor Loretta Giorcelli. Approximately 60 teachers (32 from Barkly Highway) engaged in learning about Inclusivity in Education, differentiation for learners and school’s professional responsibility to embrace and celebrate difference. I would like to acknowledge and thank all the teachers who attended this professional development for showing commitment and dedication to their own professional learning and development.

Ross Kubler

DEPUTY’S REPORT

Schools are busy places and Term Three at Barkly is no exception. We have camps, Optiminds, Book week celebration coming up, Little Peoples’ Carnival among many other things. Of course through all of this our core business of literacy and numeracy continues. Nobody would dispute the importance of all of the above items but I also acknowledge the part that teachers and schools play in what is called the hidden curriculum. The Hidden Curriculum include the life skills and relationships that develop between the teacher and students. The quiet word of encouragement, the lesson in responsibility or the working through a behaviour issue together. Yes we want great readers and mathematicians but we also want to produce great citizens and leaders.

ICAS Competition

We had 20 students compete in the ICAS English test last Tuesday. We only have one competition to go, Maths scheduled for Tuesday 12 August. The results for the UNSW Science competition have arrived. Congratulations to the following students who have achieved a great result. All students will receive their certificates at next week’s assembly.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jack W</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arangan B</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronan C</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayden G</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Distinction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bobby W</td>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dylan G</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Merit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack M</td>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Credit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Reading Empowers; Literacy Enables; Literature Enriches

Reading is a basic skill for modern life, a vital prerequisite for lifelong learning and qualifications. Perhaps those of us who read every day - who carry books so that even standing in line at the checkout is not wasted time - take for granted what is not available to those who cannot read or have no books to broaden their horizons.

Literacy has a direct impact on all aspects of our lives. It represents opportunities and choice, the ability to interact, function and contribute to a wider society. Literature also has a very special place in the lives of readers. From the nursery rhymes and Possum Magic of childhood to the Harry Potters and the favourite novels of our adolescence and adulthood, fictional characters become lifetime companions, often being revisited time and again. The power of books to elevate, entertain and challenge must never be underestimated. Novels give readers a chance to improve social skills and understand more fully the complexities of social interactions. Thus, it is beneficial to read as widely and as often as possible.

Reading is not just a school skill but a life skill. It is both a gift and a right. It is the obligation of parents and teachers alike to do all they can to foster and refine this ability in our children.

Ash Wag

PE NEWS

Interschool Softball and AFL

This term, students from years 5, 6 and 7 have been invited to participate in Interschool Softball and Interschool AFL competitions. Trials for these sporting teams have been completed, with successful students already training with their team during lunchbreaks. Games will be played in a carnival format over two days – Thursday 7 August (today), and Friday 12 September. Permission notes advising of game details have been sent home with the participating students. 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. Good luck for your first game today, Thursday 7 August!

District Athletics Carnival – OUR SCHOOL WON THE CARNIVAL!!!

On Thursday 31 July, around 35 students from our school headed off to Sunset Oval to participate in the Mount Isa Interschool Athletics Carnival. During the Carnival, students from all primary schools in Mount Isa compete for a position on the Mount Isa District Athletics Team. Our students performed superbly on the day, with many of them being selected in the Mount Isa District Team to compete at Longreach later this month. Well done to all those who proudly represented Barkly Highway State School.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to be in the Mount Isa District Athletics Team: Brodie Roberts, Maddison Moore, Hayley Watt, Leo Schafer, Terri-Anne Knight, Conor Bowden, Ethan Roberts, James Moloney, Brian Ombeba and Allisa Sidnell.

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.

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 be just as great, with lots of fantastic gifts, so start saving! 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!

This event will involve students collecting donations to accept the challenge and bringing their bikes to school to ride laps and complete obstacle courses on the oval.

The purpose of the event is four-fold:
• to raise money through donations to support our Student Council;
• to encourage our students to be active;
• to provide some education on bike safety; and
• to have fun!

Different grades will take part in the Bike-a-Thon on different days between 8:30am and 10:00am. The proposed schedule is:

- **Monday 15th September**
  - Prep
- **Tuesday 16th September**
  - Years 1 and 2
- **Wednesday 17th September**
  - Years 3, 3/4, 4
- **Thursday 18th September**
  - Years 5, 6 and 7

Letters and donation collection sheets have been sent home this week.

*Let’s get everyone involved!*

**Bring your bicycle to school on your day in Week 10 (and your helmet) and join in the fun!**

**Prizes for every grade!**

**NO MOTORBIKES ALLOWED!**

MUSIC MATTERS
The Senior and Junior choir are singing together at “Barkly’s Got Talent Night”. Also there will be another parade performance this term. I will let you know the date in the next newsletter. The other news is Opera Queensland will be presenting a free school show of “La Boheme by Puccini” on September 4th at 1.00pm at the Civic Centre. Choir members were given invitations last week. Any parents or carers, who would like their child to go, just ask the office for a form.

RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS
What a great start to this term it has been. Our Prep students have had a fantastic start to borrowing and finding their way around the Library. Borrowing happens on a weekly basis and we appreciate your help reminding your children of their library day and to return their borrowed books on a weekly basis, as well as looking after them (e.g. away from food, drinks etc.) It is great to see most students in Prep-Year 3 have a library bag, which is essential for being able to borrow a book. We are still busy with a number of activities happening this term. It is fantastic to see so many students involved.

**Book Club**
Orders from Issue #5 have come back and have been handed out to students.

**Book Week**
To celebrate Book Week in style we are asking everyone to **DRESS UP** in their favourite book character on Friday 22/8/14. The competition in relation to Book Week, that we as a school participate in, has now closed. Winners from our school will be decided on shortly and then send over to the Town Library to be displayed together with entries from other school during Book Week, so good luck to everyone who entered.

**Book Fair**
Our second Book Fair will be coming in week 7, so keep an eye out for more information!

As always please come and see us with any queries you may have.

Kind Regards

Svenja Spitzner-Lewis

TUCK-SHOP NEWS
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. We still have our special of Spaghetti Bolognese, finishing on 15th August. It is $4.50 and this includes spaghetti with Bolognese sauce topped with cheese. It can be ordered at the Tuckshop or on Flexischools.

Our new special starting on Monday 18th of August, back by popular demand, will be NACHOS!!! They will be $4.50 which includes corn chips, nacho mince and cheese. Extras are sour cream $0.25, salsa $0.25 and guacamole $0.50. These can also be ordered on Flexischools or at the Tuckshop. To make life a little bit easier for our parents and caregivers we have added Birthday Club to Flexischools, just log onto www.flexischools.com.au and you will notice a new tab for Birthday Club.

Have a great week!
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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mardi Gras
Barkly Highway State School staff and students will be participating in the Mardi Gras parade this Friday night. We are meeting at our float in Simpson Street between 6:00pm and 6:15pm for a 7:00pm start. A permission form must be returned if children would like to be part of our float. Students are to be collected at the end of parade at the corner of Sutton and George Streets.

If you aren’t going to be on our float, make sure you are at the parade cheering us on!

A huge thank you goes to Donna Mullaly and Sarah Cobb for managing this year’s entry, to Martyr Transport for the truck and to Raymond Towler from Sandvik for driving the truck. Thanks also to all the helpers across the school who are making our float possible.

See you at the parade!

Parent Information Session – Year 5 Camp

Don't forget, we will be holding a Parent Information Session about Year 5 Camp on Wednesday 13th August at 5:00pm in 5 Blue's Classroom. This session will provide more details about the camp and teachers will be available to answer any of your questions. We look forward to seeing you there to talk about this exciting adventure!

Thanks!
Ann Kelly
ST:LaN
Barkly Highway State School
Ph: 4743 2513

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