PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that we are more than ½ way through term 3 and there are just over 13 school weeks left in the year. When we take out the October Pupil Free Day and Public Holiday, there are just 64 learning days left in the 2014 school year. Every day at school is precious learning time and for continuity in learning children need to be attending school every day, unless genuine reasons exist for them to remain at home. There is an abundance of research that shows there is a direct link between attendance and academic achievement. In all the years I have analysed student achievement results and I find that the majority children who struggle to achieve academically often have irregular attendance records. I strongly urge all parents and carers to continue to ensure your children attend school every day.

SCHOOL CAMPS

Over the last 2 weeks we have seen our Year 6 and 7 students attend camps in Canberra and Tallebudgera (respectively). I am extremely proud to say that the feedback that I have received from the Camp coordinators and teachers about the behaviour and commitment of our Year 7s on Camp was superb. Special thanks go to Mr De Pasquale, Mr Nelson and Ms Bourke who escorted the children on Camp and ensured all the children were safe and well supervised.

During the week I have been speaking to Mr Wagh who is on camp with the Year 6 children in Canberra. He has advised me that it has been wonderful receiving numerous compliments from tour guides and members of the public about the excellent behaviour and manners of the Barkly Highway children. I would also like to specially thank Mr Wagh, Ms Kelly and Ms Ritchie who have accompanied the children on camp and ensured their safety and enjoyment.

STAFFING CHANGES

Over the last 2 weeks there have been a few staffing changes at Barkly Highway. This week we welcomed Yvette Wehlow to our school community. Yvette will be replacing Tempest in Prep Red. Last week we also welcomed Mr Ben Kobe to our school as an LRT. On behalf of the school community I welcome Ben and Yvette and know that they will enjoy their time at our school.

I would like to congratulate Brittany Froude on successfully winning the AO2 position in our school’s admin office. Brittany has been with us for most of the year and with that position now being filled, Kerri Capewell will be continuing in her role in the office until the end of the year.

PARENT TEACHER STUDENT DISCUSSIONS – WEEK 9

Parent Teacher Student Discussions will be held in Week 9 this term (week commencing 8 September). Teachers will this week be sending notes home with children requesting suitable times for these discussions to occur. At Barkly Highway State School we are committed to keeping parents and carers informed about your child's progress. We offer two periods of Parent/Teacher discussions and two written reports annually. Please take this opportunity to speak to your child's teacher so that you are aware of your child's social development, their individual strengths and areas of improvement. Parent/Teacher discussions are also an excellent chance for parents and carers to speak to teachers about specific focus learning goals you would like to see your child achieve. I would also encourage children to participate in these discussions with teachers and parents/carers.

NAPLAN DATA RELEASE

This week the 2014 NAPLAN Data was released and the school’s Leadership Team is currently analysing this data. I will provide the school community with detailed information as to our performance in the very near future and this report will then be tabled at the next P&C Meeting. On a quick perusal of our results, I am pleased to say that our improvement agenda has continued
positive. We have had a 30% increase in the number of areas where we have performed “similar to the national cohort”. One fact that is also clear is that children who have continuity and high attendance rates in their schooling achieve high results. When we track the children who sat NAPLAN at Barkly Highway in Years 3 & 5, and in Years 5 & 7, their results achievements exceed state average.

ENROLMENTS FOR 2015
We are now taking enrolments for Prep and other year levels in 2015. Please contact the Office for forms or further details. To enrol in Prep next year, children need to be born between the dates of 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010. With the Year 7s moving to High School in 2015, we are able to accept a greater number of enrolments from outside our catchment area, given that we currently only receive approximately 35% of our enrolments from within the area.

Our Enrolment Management Plan does not prevent us from accepting enrolments from outside our catchment area. What we need to ensure is that children in the catchment area are guaranteed enrolment. As a school with a capacity of 624 children, we have the capacity to accept further enrolments. Our EMP provides that we can accommodate up to 90 children in Prep – Year 3 and 84 children in Years 4 – 6. This being the case, we have sufficient capacity to accept enrolments in all year levels.

NEXT P&C MEETING
Thank you to those parents and community members who were able to attend the P&C meeting on Tuesday 12 August. Your input and participation into that meeting was greatly appreciated. Our next P&C Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 9 September at 6pm in the staffroom. I look forward to seeing as you at the next meeting.

PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE
The 2014 Premier’s Reading Challenge will conclude on Friday 5 September. I would like to thank Mrs Spitzner-Lewis for all her work in organising and managing this yearly event at our school. Every student who takes part in the Premier’s Reading Challenge should celebrate their reading achievements! Our school will be celebrating our student reading achievements by holding a sausage sizzle during the PRC Celebration Weeks from 10 November - 21 November 2014. At this time children will also receive their certificates signed by the Premier.

SCHOOL OPINION SURVEYS
The annual School Opinion Survey closed on Friday 8 August. Thank you to all the parents/caregivers, students and school staff who completed this year's School Opinion Survey. Your effort to complete the survey shows your commitment to ensuring our school can be the best it can be. We look forward to reviewing our survey results when we receive our school report later this year.

ARD FEEDBACK
Last weekend, a number of students from our school were selected in the Mount Isa District Athletics Team and invited to participate in the Regional Carnival held in Longreach. Congratulations to James Moloney and Leo Schaefer – you did an outstanding job representing our school over the weekend.

HoseS NEWS
Term three has been a very busy time for all of the Special Needs team at Barkly Highway State School. The first five weeks have flown by and my personal induction into this school has been a fantastic experience so far. My name is Geoff Miller and I am the new Head of Special Education Services. I have worked in the field of special education for 15 years, and am extremely excited to continue my journey as an educator focused on inclusive practices that facilitate and promote a school wide philosophy around education for all. Already in my first five weeks I have seen firsthand why Barkly Highway State School is such a wonderful school.

The classroom teachers and teacher aides that I have been fortunate enough to work with to date are committed, passionate and strive to ensure positive achievement for all students.

The Special Education Program is made up of a hard working group of teachers and teacher aides. Our teaching team consists of: Miss Cobb, Mrs Ivanov, and Mrs Kake. The amazing team of SEP teacher aides consists of: Mrs Knight, Mrs Anderson, Mrs Luparia and Mrs Moloney. Personally I must thank this team of talented people for ensuring my transition into the role as HoSES has been an extremely enjoyable and easy one.

Currently our SEP program supports students from as young as 1 ½ years old up to our current year seven students. In the Early Childhood Development Program we have been focusing on social skills and functional skills that will assist with future placement in prep classrooms. We currently have 4 different groups access the ECDP. For all of our Prep to year 7 students the focus is on access to curriculum opportunities on the same basis as their classroom peers.

Geoff Miller

PE NEWS
Interschool Softball and AFL
Earlier this term, students from our school participated in day one of the Interschool Softball and Interschool AFL competitions. The second of these days will be on Friday 12 September. Well done to those who participated in the carnival so far. Thanks to Mr Nelson for volunteering his time to take the AFL Team and to Miss Burke for coaching our school Softball Team.

Regional Athletics Carnival
Last weekend, a number of students from our school were selected in the Mount Isa District Athletics Team and invited to participate in the Regional Carnival held in Longreach. Congratulations to James Moloney and Leo Schafer – you did an outstanding job representing our school over the weekend.

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 Father’s Day stall is going to be just as great, with lots of fantastic gifts, so start saving! It will be held in Week 8 (Monday 1st-Friday 5th September). The Bike-a-Thon will be run over the last week of school. Bike-a-Thon notes have been sent home on yellow paper last week. Keep a look out for these in school bags and return the sponsorship and permission form by Wednesday 10th September. Any student who brings in a donation (regardless of the amount) will go in the draw for a prize. If you can’t ride a bike, start practising now and throw away those training wheels!

Barkly’s Got Talent – Friday 5 September
Due to a change in planning for the term, Barkly’s Got Talent will now be held on Friday 5 September, not Friday 12 September as has been previously advertised. As the date draws near, students who were successful in their audition will work with staff to ‘polish’ their act. There will be prizes on the night for first, second and third place, as well as a performance from our school choir. Drinks and snacks will also be available for purchase on the evening. We hope to see you there supporting this great event for our students to show their talent. All money raised from the evening will go back into the school through purchasing resources for our students.

Ben DePasquale

RESOURCE CENTRE NEWS
Wow! Lots of exciting events and activities are happening at the moment around books and reading at the Library.

Book Fair (Week 7)
Our second Book Fair for the year, themed “Book Fair Garden”, will be happening next week, starting on Monday 25/8 and ending Friday 29/8. We will be open from 8.00am-3.00pm Mon-Thurs and 8.00am-11.00am on the Friday. All classes will have a browse through the available books during the week. We would love for families to take the time and have a browse and enjoy spending time together, and may we stress there is as always no obligation for you to purchase a book. We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Book Fair!

1. WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!! Pllleeeeaaassseeee!!!!
   As always we do rely on your help to make the Book Fair the enjoyable success it is. Could you please spare 15 minutes (or more if you like or are able to) of your valuable time before, after or during playtime at either break on any day of the book Fair. All we ask for is a bit of crowd control and that extra pair of eyes, I have a sheet with available time slots at the front counter of the library. Please have a look and fill a spot! Thank you very much to the staff who have already committed some of their time to support this event.

2. Brochures are going to be in your class pigeon holes to be handed out during the week please.

3. The class viewing timetable for the Book Fair is coming around in the next couple of days.

Book Club
We apologise that Issue #6 is more or less coinciding with our Book Fair. It has been handed out and if you should wish to order, please make sure you hand your order form back to the office by this Friday.

Book Week
All students enjoyed reading some of the CBCA shortlisted books over the last few weeks and the Award winners of the CBCA were announced last Friday.

Our Book Week competition winners from our school have been chosen and we will announce them shortly. The winning entries from all participating schools are now on display at the Town Library. All other entries from our school are on display at the school library. So take a few minutes to look at them next time you are passing by and also, make a trip to the town library to look at our exciting entries there. We are finishing our Book Week celebrations with a Dress up Day (favourite book character) and Parade on Friday.

Premier's Reading Challenge (PRC)
This Challenge started back in May and will come to end in 2 weeks’ time. All students are invited to read a set number of books and record them on their reading record sheet. We are hoping for most of our students to participate.

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

Best Regards
Svenja Spitzner-Lewis

Book Week & Book Week Parade

What is Book Week?
Each year, schools and publics libraries across Australia spend a week celebrating books and Australian authors and illustrators. Classroom teachers, teacher librarians and public librarians develop activities, offer competitions and tell stories relating to a theme to highlight the importance of reading. This year’s theme is “Connect to Reading – Reading to Connect”.

Book Week Parade
This Friday 22 August 2014 students have the opportunity to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. At 2:00pm everyone will gather in the Undercover Area for our Book Week parade. The best dressed student from each class will win a prize.

We are hoping that all prizes will be here by Friday’s parade; if not then prizes will be given out on Monday’s parade. I can’t wait to see all of the fantastic costumes and the students of Barkly Highway State School transform into their favourite book characters on Friday.

Brooke Kings and Svenja Spitzner-Lewis
CHAPPY CORNER

Well the world of Breakfast Club has been a popular place to be over the winter. The temperatures have been frosty in the mornings and a number of students have been lining up for warm milos to get their brains revved up and ready to learn first thing. Breakfast Club operates from 7.30-8.15am on Mondays and Thursdays. It is available for all students for toast, cereal and milo. Parents are most welcome to join in and there is tea and coffee available.

It was a privilege to support Miss Kelly with a reading program for students leading into the NAPLAN tests in term 2. NAPLAN results are due to be released shortly and we look forward to seeing how well students at Barkly Highway have been able to improve their reading ability.

I have been able to support a number of students this year with pastoral care issues. It has been encouraging to work with teachers and other support staff to help students with external life situations enabling them to feel more confident about themselves and engage in class and get the most from their education.

Over the June July holidays I coordinated a holiday program for primary age children at the Baptist Church. We had over 50 young people from primary schools all over Mount Isa. The response from students and parents was hugely positive. Planning is already underway to make this event bigger and better next year. I’m not sure how we can top an inflatable gladiator arena – but that is always the challenge of excellence.

In term 1, I assisted Jo Elliot from PCYC to facilitate a Drumbeat course for students in years 6 and 7. This term we are running another Drumbeat course for students in years 5 and 6. The development of the students we have seen through this course has been very encouraging. If your child has been participating on this course please talk to them about what they have been learning. I am sure they would love to tell you about it.

YEAR 7 CAMP 2014

This year our grade 7’s went to Tallebudgera Beach School for an awesome 5 days of pure excitement and happiness. One of the main reasons for our grade 7’s to go on the camp was to be challenged, to learn new skills and meet new people. We had loads of fun and were lucky enough to have many activities which involved the amazing ocean! Beach games, canoeing, being dragged behind a speedboat in a toboggan, learning how to body surf and rock wall climbing were some of the awesome activities we were able to participate in. Most of our activities were about lots of teamwork and concentration.

We were privileged that our last day on camp would be spent at Dreamworld. We had many opportunities to go on many rides and roller coasters and to spend some money on the candy store which everyone looked forward to. Some people were a bit edgy about getting on a roller coaster and facing their fears, but most people were brave enough to put their fears behind them and get on a ride. Together all of us had a spectacular time in a spectacular place, the Gold Coast. Thank you to all the teachers who helped plan the camp for us and made our experience even better than we could have ever imagined.

Loren Palmer
6/7 Green

TUCK-SHOP NEWS

Back by popular demand are NACHOS!!! The special started on Monday 18th of August and will end on Friday 12th September. They are $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!!

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.
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, encourage your child to plan the ending. If they are writing a narrative story, they could plan how they want their characters to "wrap up" the story so they know where they are heading as they write.

Enjoy writing,
Cheryl Gallagher
(Literacy Teacher)

When drafting a story, encourage your child to develop their characters by writing about their actions and behaviours rather than just telling us their character traits e.g. friendly, mean etc.

Enjoy writing,
Cheryl Gallagher
(Literacy Teacher)
COMMUNITY NEWS

Hello Everyone

As we are all aware, changes to the Education System will commence next year with Grade 7 being included in High School and Grade 10 moving to the Senior Campus. Change and transition generally causes some concerns and anxiety until the situation is normalized. Centacare would like to support schools and families at this time by presenting the 'Taming Your Teenager Program' and the 'Dealing with Children’s Anxiety Program'. These programs provide the information necessary to respond to teenagers in a confident and supportive manner. Parents, Carers and Teachers of Year 6 and 7 students, as well as the higher grades could benefit greatly from this information. 'Taming Your Teenager' will commence on the 27th August 2014 and will only be available in the evening. 'Dealing With Children's Anxiety' will commence on 22nd of October 2014 and both morning and evening sessions will be available. We would appreciate it if you could also share this information within your school newsletter.

The Triple P Program
(The Positive Parenting Program)

Triple P is a parenting and family program that assists parents to promote a strong, caring relationship with their children and to effectively manage a variety of common behavioural problems and developmental concerns

COMMENCES WEDNESDAY THE 27th OF AUGUST

MORNING SESSIONS 9:30AM – 11:30AM

Taming Your Teenager
(Engaging Adolescents)

A Three Week program for parents with children from the ages Of 11-18 years giving you tools for

- Understanding adolescents
- Categorise behaviour for consistent reactions
- Understand reasons behind typical reactive teenage behaviour
- How to have “Tough” conversations about serious issues

Date: Wednesday the 27th of August   Evening Sessions Only
Cost: $15 Course $15 Workbook

For more information call Liz or Angela at Centacare Family Centre on 4749 8000.
Extra assistance available for people with language or learning

Mount Isa Go-Cart Club are offering come and try day Saturday the 27th of September.
Where: Mount Isa Go-Cart Club (Bendall Drive off Duchess Road)
When: 27th September 9am-2pm
Cost: Children 7 years and above $5 for 5 laps. Over 18’s $10 for 10 laps
Drivers must have long sleeved shirts, long pants and closed in shoes.
Proceeds from the canteen are going to Tracey Tweedie for Leukaemia Treatment

Child Protection Agency is running a poster competition. You are encouraged to design an A4 poster showing what child protection means to you. Some keys words you can use in your design your poster are: love, consideration, happy, fun, respect, listen, belonging, understanding, family etc. There are many exciting prizes to be won, including: cinema Mount Isa tickets, Ruby and Birdie Vouchers and Book Vouchers.
When: 7th-13th September
Competition closing date: 1st September
Judging: 2nd September
Winners announced 3rd September
Write name, age and school on back of entry
Submit all entries to school office

Anglican Church Community Fair
3 Station Street Next to PCYC

Saturday 30th August
9am - 1pm

Mount Isa Go-Cart Club
Mount Isa Choral Society

LA BOHEME
MOUNT ISA
Thursday 4 September
Featuring the Mount Isa Chorus - FREE school preview 1pm
Tickets on sale 1 August at Outback at Isa 4747 3300
Performance 7.30pm

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Child Protection Agency
Poster Competition