

Barrack Heights Public School

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‘WORKING TOGETHER’

NEWSLETTER

2014 Term 4 Week 11

TERM 4 IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 16th December

Year 6 Farewell

Wednesday 17th December

Last day of school for all students and last day of
Primary school for Year 6!

Wednesday 28th January 2015

Year 1 - Year 6 students return back to school

Dear parents, carers and students,

Parliament 2015

Congratulations to our 2015 Prime Ministers, Jay Irvine-Prong and Ruby McPhillips and Shadow Prime Ministers, Poppi-Rose Roach and Hunter Debnam who were announced at our Awards Presentation Assembly yesterday. They will lead our Front Bench Members who were announced last week, in forming the official Parliamentary team for 2015. Well done!

Party Day

Last week's party day held at Killalea State Park was a huge success. Students participated in a round-robin style of activities that promoted teamwork and fun! We were joined by two members of the NSW Mounted Police, who were generous in sharing their knowledge and talking about their jobs and the horses of course! Thanks to Miss Dunn, Mrs Harris and Miss Bunt who lead the organisation of the day.

Presentation Day Assembly

Congratulations to all the students who received awards yesterday at our Presentation Day Assembly. Special thanks to Mrs Broomham and Mrs De La Torre who worked tirelessly in organising the event. You definitely used your 5 Keys to Success! Well done!

Uniforms 2015

As you prepare for a new school year, may I remind all parents that girls school uniforms have changed for 2015. Bike shorts and leggings are no longer acceptable school uniform. Girls may choose to wear either royal blue shorts, a royal blue skirt, netball skirt or the new bike pant skirt – available at our uniform shop for just \$15 (cheapest you will find!). Our red collared school shirt (with logo) is the preferred attire for the top. Boys should continue to wear royal blue shorts and red collared shirts. All clothing items are available from the canteen, with some versions of pants and shorts available at Big W, Best and Less and KMart.

Classroom Supplies 2015

If you are looking to get your child organised for school next year and wondering what is needed, please don't panic. Generally, we ask that students in years 3-6 bring their own stationery including pens, lead pencils, ruler, glue stick, eraser, highlighter, whiteboard marker, coloured pencils, textas and wind up crayons. We do not allow liquid paper or permanent markers at school. In addition to this, individual teachers will send home a supply list early in Term 1 with any special requirements. Students in Kindergarten to Year 2 are mostly catered for by the school. This is where your \$20 per student school contribution goes - as well as funding art and craft supplies, paper for photocopying and books for students to write in. NSW public schools are encouraged to ask parents for \$80 per student to purchase the years school supplies, so please support our school as we appreciate that \$20 is a more reasonable request for parents.

Principals Message

2014 has been a fantastic year at Barrack Heights Public School. As I look back and see how quickly the year has gone, I cannot believe what we have achieved. As you know, I am very vocal about my commitment to high quality, engaging and innovative educational reform for our school, and as we consistently strive for excellence in and around our school, there have been some subtle and then some not so subtle changes.

Physically, we have replaced garden beds, painted, recarpeted, added signage and redesigned classroom learning spaces. In classrooms, students have benefitted from additional technology that supports learning, new literary resources and a number of subsidised experiential learning activities that have enhanced classroom based lessons.

I would especially like to acknowledge all of our teachers, who have engaged with the extensive number of both State and Federal Reforms passed down to schools this year. They have had to do an incredible amount of Professional Learning this year in addition to using three new Syllabus documents in English, Mathematics and Science. In addition to this, our Learning and Support Team has been working tirelessly to assist teachers to write Individual Learning Plans to differentiate school for over half of our student population. Believe me, teaching is definitely NOT a 9-3 job!

Financially, this year our school benefitted from the new Resource Allocation Model of funding for schools. This new model ensures schools are provided with appropriate funds to deliver programs that meet the needs of the students in each particular school. This year, we used these funds to create two Alternate Learning Classes, employ a speech therapist, additional learning and support staff, a music teacher, an additional Senior Administration Officer, two Aboriginal Education Workers, buy much needed resources, provide a breakfast program and as previously mentioned, subsidise many excursions both in and outside of school.

This year also saw our school included in the 3 year Early Action for Success Reform, attracting an Instructional Leaders position and more than \$100,000 in additional funding each year to support the staff and students in Kindergarten to Year 2. We welcomed Mrs Jo Collins as our Instructional Leader and Mrs Vanessa Brown as our Interventionist and Preschool coordinator. These staff members will continue to work in our school for the next 2 years.

Our Aboriginal programs Ngargins Yarn Up and Norta Norta have continued with success. In addition – this year we joined the Malpa Young Doctors program – called Ngargin Doctors at our school. This program was delivered by Facilitator Troy Tungai, supported by Mrs Chris Mangos. Our school was filmed by SBS and a short documentary was produced. We are really proud of our inclusion in this program and thank Don Palmer and his team for allowing us to become part of this fabulous National program. All of our students are benefiting from being educated in this area.

Our school ethos is underpinned by strength, safety, engagement and learning and I would like to once again thank the school community for working together to support our school's vision and motto. I feel a great sense of achievement on behalf of everyone attached to Barrack Heights Public School.

Next year will surely bring us a new set of challenges. I would like to wish our retiring staff members, and those moving to other schools the very best of luck. Please make sure you keep a piece of Barrack Heights Public School in your hearts and minds forever, as we will for you. Farewell to Mr Robert Ryan (classroom teacher), Mr Dave Grose (school counsellor), Mrs Merin Korber (Reading Recovery), Mrs Christine De La Torre (Senior Administration Manager), Rebecca Maxwell (classroom teacher), Leann Roughan (classroom teacher), Stephanie Kolevski (classroom teacher) and Mrs Kaye Perry (Aspect). Thank you for your contributions to our school.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday!

Sarah Rudling
Principal

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Council's Community Connections will continue to promote school holiday activities, but instead of using a printed program, they will now be published on our Shellharbour Kids Website.

To find out what's on in Shellharbour these school holidays, visit the Event Calendar <http://shellharbourkids.com.au/event-calendar>

or the School Holidays page <http://shellharbourkids.com.au/fun-play-page/school-holidays>



Kid's Fishing Workshop

The Department of Primary Industries is holding a kid's fishing workshop in the school holidays on Wednesday 14th January 2015. The day runs from 10am-2pm and involves fishing techniques, bag and size limits and fish handling tips for catch and release. The cost is \$40 which includes a rod, reel, shirt, hat, tackle box and a show bag to take home! Bookings are essential. Call Stephen Thurstan, primary Industries NSW. Ph 4220 8484 or 0438 245 190 or email stephen.thurstan@dpi.nsw.gov.au. Go to www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/info/workshop for more information or see our school noticeboard for flyer.

National Parks Discovery Ranger Holiday Program

Please find the link attached for the National Parks Discovery Ranger holiday program. Discovery Rangers specialise in sharing their natural and cultural knowledge with people of all ages.

From rare rocks and plants to unique animals and cultural sites, national parks are special places where you'll experience wonders unlike anywhere else in the world.

Come exploring on a Discovery Ranger guided tour and discover the wonders of these special places.

www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au

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