

Barrack Heights Public School

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‘WORKING TOGETHER’

NEWSLETTER

2014 Term 3 Week 8

TERM 3 IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 4th September

Friday 5th September

Friday 12th September

Thursday 18th September

Friday 19th September

Tuesday 7th October

Father's Day Stall

Year 6 Warilla High School visit

Assembly

PSSA Gala Day

Kindy excursion to the Lake Foreshore

Assembly

Last Day of Term 3

First day of Term 4 for everyone

Parents, Carers and Community members,

School Administration Support Staff (SASS) Appreciation Week

This week is SASS Appreciation Week. Our school is strongly supported by administration staff who perform many duties every day to assist both teachers and students at our school. These people include our office staff – Mrs Helen Mullin, Ms Judi Collins and Mrs Christine De La Torre; School Learning Support Officers (SLSO's) – Mrs Belinda Kejda, Mrs Sonia Pasalic, Mrs Sue Chapman, Mrs Kathie Grice, Mrs Sue Harruddin, Mrs Jenny Bedford, Mrs Deb Davies; Aboriginal Education Workers (AEW's) – Ms Veronica Archibald and Mr Troy Tungai; General Assistants (GA's) – Mr Ed Costello and Mr Craig Sevenoaks. I would like to thank these important people who work hard to make Barrack Heights Public School a successful and happy school.

New staff

I would like to welcome Mrs Wendy Dowling, our new Senior Administration Manager, to our school. Wendy takes up her position on Tuesday, and is the permanent replacement for Mrs Glenda Grimshaw. I would like to also thank the very talented Christine De La Torre, who has relieved in this position for the past two terms. Chris will remain at our school, taking up a new position we have created to support Student Welfare. Chris will work closely with Mrs Jenny Miller and the Learning and Support Team, streamlining our processes and assisting with the increasing amount of processes and paperwork we are required to complete.

In addition to this, we have a new School Learning Support Officer – Mrs Deb Davis – working with students both in class and in the playground. Welcome Deb.

Important events of the week

Students from Barrack Heights Pre-School will begin their transition to school program this week, coming up between 12 and 1pm each day from Tuesday. We welcome these children and their teachers into our school.

This Thursday, the P&C are running a Father's Day stall between 9-11am. After this, AZARAK Experimental Kitchen are returning to Barrack Heights PS for two shows between lunch and recess. We thank chefs Shane and Marty for their continued enthusiasm and passion in sharing "food science" with the kids of the Illawarra. Thursday afternoon, we will hold our fortnightly whole-school assembly – parents are most welcome to attend.

On Friday, students in Years 3-6 will be participating in the PSSA Primary Gala Day. Notes and money (\$2) MUST be returned by Wednesday. Please support us by 'working tough' with any of your children who have said they "don't want to" attend. It is our expectation that ALL students attend, and we have been actively promoting the day as such.

Growing Gorgeous Boys into Good Men

WHAT: Celia Lashlie was the first female prison officer. Her "Good Man Project" provided the opportunity to talk to 180 classes of boys and provide significant insight into the minds of teenage boys and what they are feeling in this period of their lives. Celia's presentation gives parents food for thought and plenty of hints to work with their teenage sons. All parents will find something valuable - regardless of whether they have sons or not.

WHEN: 29th October 2014, 9:30-11:30am

WHERE: Centenary Hall, Tongarra Rd, Albion Park

CONTACT DETAILS: A donation of \$2 (at the door) is appreciated Contact Di Woods 0401718469 or Donna Forknall: (02) 4254 2700 donna.forknall@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au, Or try booking online using this link. <http://www.trybooking.com/100049>

Lost property

It has come to our attention that there is a large amount of lost property being taken from the bins that does not belong to the families who are claiming it. Lost property is not a "free for all" clothing pool. It is there for parents to reclaim items that have been left lying around the school. Many teachers return items to students directly, but our school cleaners and other workers within the school often place items in lost property, understanding that they can be "found" in a safe place. For this reason, the lost property bins have been moved away from the entry doors of the office. If your child has lost something at school (clothing, drink bottle, lunch box), please ask the office staff and they will assist you in checking in the lost property bins. Alternatively, second hand school clothing may be purchased for \$2/piece from the office.

Parenting Ideas

This week's Parenting Ideas article is about "Being a great dad". Please take the time to read this timely article!

Kindergarten 2014 enrolments

The school is now taking enrolments for next year's Kindergarten students. If you have, or know of, a child who will be starting school next year at Barrack Heights Public School, then please contact our administration for further information. Enrolment forms can be picked up from the front office.

If you have any questions or concerns, or have a child with special needs who will be starting kindergarten in 2014, then please ask to speak to the Kindergarten coordinator, Mrs Angie Maranesi.

P&C News

Father's Day Stall

The P&C are holding a Father's Day stall on Thursday 4 September. Students can buy a lovely gift that they have chosen themselves. The gifts range in price from \$2 to \$10 and include screw driver and tool kits, stubbie holders, mug and coaster sets, travel mugs, caps, photo frames, pens, desk caddy, key rings, car care and more.

Buy for Dad, Pop, Grandpa, or for anyone special. Kindergarten parents, please place money in an envelope with child's name, class and amount enclosed.

If any parents are available to help with the stall on the day for a couple of hours, it would be greatly appreciated. Meet in the hall at 8.45am.

Parenting Ideas

The P&C have purchased a subscription to the Parenting Ideas Website. The factsheets attached to our school's weekly newsletter are examples of some of the useful topics covered by the website. To take advantage of the Parenting Ideas website from your home computer, please contact the office for the unique code for our school subscription. This is a fantastic resource for all parents!

Starting Strong

During Term 4, we will be running a school preparation program called *Starting Strong* for children who are enrolled in Kindergarten at Barrack Heights Public School for 2015. *Starting Strong* is a free program, funded by the Early Action for Success strategy.

The children will attend Barrack Heights PS every Thursday from 9.30 a.m. until 2.30 p.m. during Term 4, when they will participate in a well-planned Early Childhood Program. They will have the opportunity to experience language and literature experiences, counting and measuring, music and movement, art and craft, construction and manipulative activities, as well as discover what 'big school' is like. Mrs Danielle Munro, a teacher at our school, and Mrs Vanessa Brown an Early Childhood Teacher, will teach the children every Thursday.

Parents and carers are invited to come and have a cup of coffee or tea, meet new friends and have a chat after you have taken the children to the *Starting Strong* classroom each Thursday and a short parent workshop on aspects of school life will be run. Topics will include how to help your children with reading and writing, fun maths activities and games to play.

For more information on *Starting Strong*, please call in at the school office and collect an information brochure.

I'm looking forward to meeting our new Kindergarten children and their carers.

Jo Collins

Early Action for Success Instructional Leader

Operation Christmas Child

The students of Barrack Heights Public school have been asked again this year to change the lives of children in desperate situations around the world through gift filled shoe boxes for Christmas.

Special gift boxes are available at our school for anyone who would like to help. We ask that you:

1. Collect a gift box from the school ASAP
2. Decide whether you will make up a box for a boy or a girl
3. Read the newsletter each week where there will be instructions on what to put in your gift box.
4. Encourage your children to participate by choosing each week what will go in to your gift box.
5. Return your gift box to the school at the end of this term, full of wonderful gifts for a child.

There are different items to be included, each week over the next seven weeks.

WEEK 1 **SOMETHING TO WEAR** - t-shirts, underwear, cap, beanie, dress, shorts, pyjamas etc

WEEK 2 **SOMETHING TO LOVE** - teddy bear, doll, soft toy, blankie etc

WEEK 3 **SOMETHING FOR SCHOOL** – exercise books, pencil case, pens, pencils, eraser

WEEK 4 **SOMETHING TO PLAY WITH** - tennis ball, cars, skipping rope, marbles, yo-yo, slinky etc

WEEK 5 **SOMETHING SPECIAL** - carry bag, sunglasses, bangles, stickers, craft kit etc

WEEK 6 **SOMETHING FOR PERSONAL HYGIENE** – soap, face washer, toothbrush, comb, hairbrush

Chocolate Fundraiser

Year 4, 5 and 6 are selling Cadbury Chocolates to raise money for our end of year camp. Several parents in the community have offered to sell chocolates to assist us even if their child is not attending camp. We are very thankful to these parents! We are now going to re-order chocolates. If you would like to help us out by selling a box of chocolates please return the attached form to Mrs Harris by Friday 5th September. You will receive your chocolates during week 9 and the money needs to be returned no later than Term 4 week 1, 10th October. Each box contains 50 chocolates that sell for \$1 each. All chocolate s that are ordered must be sold as Cadbury does not accept unsold returns.

Thank you

Child's name: _____ Class: _____

Boxes of chocolates required: _____

Thank you
Mrs Harris

COMMUNITY NEWS



JOIN THE FUN OF LITTLE ATHLETICS

Registrations for Lake Illawarra's 2014-2015 Season will be taking place every Sunday during August between 1pm and 3pm at the Myimbarr Community Park

Bring this ad to receive 10% of the Registration Fee*

*Valid for the 1st Child Only, Not valid for Online Registrations

060022554-140714

For more information contact

lilac@hotmail.com.au or
visit www.lilac.net.au

Parenting *ideas* INSIGHTS

Building parent-school partnerships

WORDS Michael Grose

Being a great dad

Many dads tell me that they want a better relationship with their children, particularly their sons, than they had with their own fathers.



There's no doubt that fathering has changed in recent years. Gone is the distant dad of the 1960's and 70's who saw his main job as keeping a roof over his family's head and bread on the table. An occasional game in the backyard and dishing out the heavy discipline that mums couldn't deal with was the extent of his involvement with his kids.

Many dads tell me that they want a better relationship with their children, particularly their sons, than they had with their own fathers. Sadly, many men still don't enjoy a close relationship with their fathers, but they are determined to change things with their own kids.

Here are seven ideas to help you form close relationships with your kids, and maximise your effectiveness as a parent and a partner:

1 Find something in common with your kids

Dads need something in common with their children. They relate better when they have a shared interest or shared passion with their kids. Many men relate to their kids while being active, and teach many important lessons through games and play. But if sport is not your bag, find something else that you and your kids have in common. A common interest is a great help for fathers who live apart from their kids who are looking to maximise the time they have with them.

2 Spend time with your sons

A dad can do little wrong in the eyes of a young boy. From around the age of five years a boy thinks his dad is like superman. Ironically, he may give his mum a hard time at this stage. Dads need to spend as much time with their sons in these impressionable years as possible. They just need to be careful not to push their sons too hard or turn every game into a lesson. That's when boys turn off their dads.

3 Don't whip out on discipline

Dads are traditionally the kings of play, but they can go missing when it comes to discipline. They get their kids excited in a game before going to bed, then expect their partner to settle them down. It helps if both parents can take their share of managing children's behaviour.

4 Treat your daughters well

There are strong links between close fathering and the healthy development of girls. Dads teach their daughters strong lessons about how they should be treated by males. So dads need to treat their daughters respectfully so they learn to expect this treatment in their future relationships with men.

5 Say good bye Superman, hello Clarke Kent

Adolescent boys are programmed to challenge their fathers. It's part of the growing up process. Australian author John Marsden refers to this phenomenon as the 'old ram, young ram syndrome'. He's right. It's a type of rite of passage

that plays out in many Australian homes. Verbal jousting matches are a popular father-son game where boys take great delight in proving their fathers are fallible. A dad at this stage needs a sense of humour as well as a willingness to stand back and allow other mentors in to his son's life.

6 Support your partner

Fathers may play an integral part in the lives of their children but they also have a profound effect on the quality of mothering that children receive. There is little doubt that a woman who can share the emotional and financial burdens of child-rearing with a supportive partner is more likely to be a loving, affirming mother. Supportive fathering is one of the keys to better mothering.

7 Change as your child changes

Kids grow up at the speed of light and change before you know it. They're kids one day and teenagers the next. They can catch many fathers unaware. The most effective dads are those who change their parenting to suit the needs of their kids at each stage of development, rather than stubbornly hold to outmoded ideas of how they think their kids should be.

Those fathers who are a little apprehensive or lack sufficient confidence should become involved in as many aspects of parenting as they can. The best way to learn about parenting is by doing it. Children are a terrific resource for fathers - men can learn about children from children themselves. By being alert, watchful and learning to listen to their children fathers can learn all they need to know about parenting.



Stay one step ahead of your kids with great ideas & expert advice from Michael Grose. Join Michael's **NEW Parentingideas Club** today at parentingideasclub.com.au. You'll be so glad you did.



parentingideas.com.au

