



Barrack Heights Public School

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'WORKING TOGETHER'

NEWSLETTER

2015 Term 4 Week 7

TERM 4 IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 16th, Wednesday 18th

and Thursday 19th November

Monday 23rd November-4th December

Tuesday 24th November

Wednesday 2nd – 6th December

Kinder Orientation

Swimming Scheme

P&C meeting, 6pm

Stage 2 Gosford camp

Dear parents, carers, students and community members,

During the past few weeks, I have been conducting interviews with all staff members to discuss their professional development during 2015 and their future personal goals and wider directions for our school. These discussions have been extremely positive and insightful, and demonstrate to me the knowledge, dedication and commitment of our staff to Barrack Heights Public School. Today, the executive team used staff, student and Department of Education data collections and feedback to begin planning for 2016. Our three Strategic Directions of Learning; Teaching; Mindfulness and Wellbeing will form the basis of the next 12 month planning cycle. These directions will be discussed with all community members in attendance at our P&C meeting on Thursday night. If you would like to engage with this process, I encourage you to attend. The P&C meeting is held in the staffroom at 6pm.

Benefits of a strong parent-school relationship

Building and maintaining a good parent-school relationship is one of the best ways to support your child's education. Communicating positively with Barrack Heights Public School staff and getting involved in the school environment are great ways to start. As a parent, you know your child better than anyone else. When you have a strong and respectful relationship with your child's school and teachers, you're in a good position to give them the information they need to help your child get the most out of their education. When everybody is working together in the best interests of your child, we are more likely to reap academic and social benefits.

You can help your child get the most out of school by communicating and building relationships with teachers, other parents and students every day. This is better than having contact with our school only when something goes wrong.

Not all parents can be involved in school as much as they'd like, but you can still let your child know that school is important to your family. Talking about school with your child, being warm and friendly at school events, and being positive about the school and its staff sends the message that you value education and are interested in what's happening for your child at school.

Excursions

As you know, the staff of Barrack Heights Public School willingly plan and participate in extra-ordinary learning experiences for our students. This has been strongly demonstrated during the last two weeks with your children offered out of school excursions to Canberra, Kiama and Sydney. Excursions are an extremely beneficial way of consolidating classroom learning with the real world. I am proud of the commitment our teachers make to manage the challenges of supervising students outside of the school environment to allow our kids to have these experiences. This is not a challenge many current schools and teachers are willing to take. I would like to thank our staff for their commitment to holistic education and for the personal time, effort and energy they willingly give to our school.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Today and tomorrow, students from Kindergarten to Year 4 will walk to Balarang Public School to watch their student's annual performance. This year it is Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. The performance is free and as you have all given your children permission to walk within 5km of our school, no further permission note is required. We appreciate the invitation from Balarang PS and their Principal Anne-marie Hurley to include us in sharing their learning with us.

Year 6 DOSH Day

On Tuesday, Shellharbour City Council will be coming to our school to work with Year 6 on a Youth Transition Day. Students will participate in team building and confidence activities, to help prepare them for their transition to High School.

Library nightmare!

This week, I sent home letters to parents asking for assistance in location over 1000 missing library books from our school. The cost of replacing these missing books is close to \$20 000 – a significant portion of school funds that are needed elsewhere. Can I please ask that all parents work with their children to locate these missing books or assist in the cost of their replacement? Our library is a valuable whole school resource which enhances teaching and learning opportunities for all children.

Swimming Scheme

Keep up the great work! Thanks must go to the parents and carers who are returning notes and money for this years School Swimming Scheme. Every child in years 2 to 6 will participate during weeks 8 and 9 of this term. Your \$10 payment (subsidised by the school) is to cover the daily pool entry costs. The program itself is free, as it is run by the Department of Education. If your child is attending the Gosford excursion in week 9, they will still attend Swimming Scheme for 7 of the 10 day program – so please return their note and money as per usual.

Kindergarten Orientation

2016 Kindergarten Orientation to School continues this week. Between 10-11am and 2-3pm, new students will attend classes to familiarise themselves with Barrack Heights Public School. If you know of any community members who have children of school age, please encourage them to come and enrol now, so that they experience the full orientation process.

Sarah Rudling
Principal

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800
Crimestoppers 1800 333 000

AST SURF SCHOOL

PRESENTS



1800 711 189



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Programs starting from the **16th of November**
Available **AFTER SCHOOL** and on **WEEKENDS**

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2014 White Ribbon Day walk

Illawarra 2015 White Ribbon Day walk



Not violent. Not silent.

25 November 2015

White Ribbon Day and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

7am - 9am

The walk starts at Andrew Lysaght Park (east of the WIN Entertainment Centre) and finishes at Stuart Park. Following the walk we'll hear from DV survivor Shelly Walsh and Dr Michael Flood, an internationally respected expert on violence prevention.

More information and the walk registration form is at

<http://tinyurl.com/illawarraWRDwalk>

You can also visit the walk's Facebook page at

<http://tinyurl.com/illawarraWRDwalkFB>

Organised by the Illawarra Committee Against Domestic Violence in support of the White Ribbon Campaign