

Barrack Heights Public School

HUNTER STREET

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‘WORKING TOGETHER’

NEWSLETTER

2015 Term 1 Week 8

TERM 1 IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 17 th March	St Patricks Day P&C AGM - 6pm in the staff room
Friday 20 th March	International Day of Happiness :)
Saturday 21 st March	National day of Action Against Bullying and Violence
Wednesday 25 th March	School Cross-Country
Thursday 26 th March	School photos
Wednesday 1 st April	Clubs Open Day Return raffle tickets
Thursday 2 nd April	Easter Hat Parade Easter Raffle drawn - 12.30pm
	Last day of Term 1
Tuesday 21 st April	Students return from Easter holidays

Dear parents, carers, students and community members,

2015 Parliament Induction

Congratulations to our Parliamentarians who were inducted last Thursday. I am certainly proud of their leadership efforts so far this year, and I know that their parents and relatives are also proud of their status in our school. I look forward to working with all of our Stage 3 students throughout 2015.

Compulsory School Attendance – changes to the policy

This morning I attended a meeting with all Principals in the South Coast Network. During this meeting, our Home School Liaison Officer explained changes that have been made to the NSW Department of Education and Communities School Attendance Policy. I have included the official two page “Information for Parents” sheet to this newsletter, but some of the more important changes are as follows:

1. Exemptions can no longer be granted for students going on family vacations, family business or bereavement during school terms. An application can be made by parents and carers to the Principal and if granted will be marked as “Leave” and included in the student’s total absences for the year.
2. Parents are required to explain absences of their children within 7 days of the initial absence.
3. Frequent absences due to illness may require consultation between the school and medical practitioner, and a health care plan may need to be implemented.
4. Principals or their delegates will undertake all reasonable measures to contact parents within two days of an absence being unexplained, if contact has not already been made.

In short, the staff at Barrack Heights Public School work hard to maximise the learning and engagement of your child in their primary school education. We want our students at school, on time, every day – unless they are sick, have an unavoidable medical appointment or have an exceptional or urgent family matter to attend to. Please help by working with us and continuing to keep our attendance data free from concern.

Lifeline Big Book Fair

As a promotion for this Saturdays Lifeline Big Book Fair, a voucher has been given to all parents and community members of Barrack Heights Public School. On showing the voucher, you will receive 20% off the purchase price of books being sold. Please read the voucher for conditions.

BIG BOOK FAIR

Family Day Saturday 21 March 2015 from 12pm – 5pm

Reading is not only great for your education, it is also valuable for your wellbeing and helps children build relationships with those they read with

To encourage as much reading as possible, we would like to offer you 20% off your purchase when you visit the Book Fair between 12pm and 5pm on Saturday 21 March 2015. WOW!

Barrack Heights Public School

Illawarra Sports Stadium, Hooka Creek Road, Berkeley.

Entry by gold coin donation and eftpos is available.

For more information, visit www.lifelinesouthcoast.org.au/events

Voucher MUST be presented at the event to receive the discount

Clubs Open Day

In 2015, we have changed the format of Clubs at Barrack Heights Public School. This year we are conducting Clubs on every alternate Thursday afternoon, with a “Clubs Open Day” at the end of each term. This gives teachers and students the opportunity to engage in an extension/excursion activity to compliment the Thursday afternoon activities. This Terms’ Clubs Open Day will be occurring on Wednesday 1st April. There are many Clubs leaving the school grounds and some Clubs will require a small payment for students to participate. I have asked teachers to send out information notes to all students this week. If your child does not receive a note, please contact the front office or look on our new School Stream App for further information.

Positive Behaviour – Tips for Parents

Try these tips to encourage the behaviour you want in your child.

Catch your child being ‘good’. This simply means that when your child is behaving in a way you like, you can give them some positive feedback. For example, ‘Wow, you are playing so nicely. I really like the way you are keeping all the blocks on the table’. This works better than waiting for the blocks to come crashing to the floor before you take notice and bark, ‘Hey, stop that’. This positive feedback is sometimes called ‘descriptive praise’. **Try to say six positive comments (praise and encouragement) for every negative comment (criticisms and reprimands).** The 6-1 ratio keeps things in balance. Remember that if children have a choice only between no attention or negative attention, they will seek out negative attention.

Sarah Rudling
Principal

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800
Crimestoppers 1800 333 000

Saint Patricks Day

Stage 3 are having a green jelly and ice-cream day on Tuesday 17th (St Patricks Day) to fundraise for the Year 6 Farewell. Jelly cups will be \$2.

Dimi Wheeler

Pink Day

Friday 20 March is **National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence**. Students will be participating in educational activities to promote anti bullying and tolerance. Students are invited to wear pink clothing on the day to support the day. It is not a mufti day and students must wear uniform if they choose not to wear pink. Any part of your child's outfit that is not pink must be replaced with school uniform. If you would like to do some activities with your child at home this is an excellent web site <http://bullyingnoway.gov.au/>

Natalie Harris

Barrack Heights Learning Club

The Smith Family's – Barrack Heights Learning Club will run every Thursday during the school term from 3.00pm-4.00pm, commencing Thursday 12th February in Mrs Miller's room (next to last year's community room).

Free tutoring is provided as well as activities for students in year K – 6.
Please Contact Richard at The Smith Family on 42970833 if interested as places are limited
Richard Zamora, Program Coordinator, Learning For Life
The Smith Family

School Stream App

Our school P&C has kindly donated and set up a new App available on your Smart Phones called **School Stream**. The App will allow you to access the school newsletter from your phone/device along with class notes, notifications, canteen price lists, our schools' Information Booklet and much more. The App will make communication between the school and families so much easier and we will also save on our printing costs. Detailed instructions on how to download the App are included in the newsletter.

Barrack Heights Easter Raffle

Thank you to all parents and students who have sold and purchased our school Easter Raffle Tickets. To promote and support this fund raising activity we are encouraging the teachers and students to join in the fun by donating chocolate eggs or bunnies to school in return for a ticket /tickets in the Easter Raffle. These eggs can be given to the class teacher who will then give the student their raffle tickets. We guarantee no chocolate Easter Rabbit will be harmed or especially eaten by any chocolate loving teacher and all rabbits or eggs will find their Easter home in their Easter Basket.

Easter Hat Parade

You are invited to the K-2 Easter Hat Parade on Thursday 2nd April.

Please join your child in their room at 12.00pm, as they make and decorate their hats. Please do not fully make their hats at home before this time. (The crown of the hat may be made at home but the children need to decorate their hat at school).

The children may bring their cardboard and any decorations such as:-cotton wool, ribbons, stickers, coloured paper, small Easter Eggs, chicks and other decorations in a plastic bag labelled with their name, before the day. Please note, loose glitter is not allowed. The children will also need their own stapler, glue, sticky tape.

The children will then parade their hats and perform Easter songs in the hall at 12.30pm.

Year 3-6 students may make an Easter Hat or an Easter Tie at home and parade it at the Easter Hat Parade.

The P&C Easter Raffle will be drawn at the end of the Easter Parade. Thank you to all those parents and teachers who have bought tickets and donated chocolate Easter Eggs or Easter Bunnies to the raffle.

We look forward to seeing you,

Mrs Denise Broomham

Assistant Principal


Stewart House

Bags are being sent home for the donation of used clothing for Stewart House. Please ensure that all clothing donated is washed and in good condition. Please return your donated clothing by Friday 8th May as collection day Tuesday will be 12th May. Bags can be left just inside the hall near the Bbq.



Our school now has a free app to deliver school information, instantly and directly to your smartphone.

How to get the School Stream app on your mobile device

1. From your mobile device go to the **App Store (iPhone/iPad)** or **Play Store (Android)**, search for **School Stream** and download the app to your phone.
2. Make sure you agree to **push notifications**
3. Once School Stream has finished installing, open the app, **type your school name into the search** then select your school. For more detailed instructions go to **schoolstream.com.au/download**
4. Are your children attending different schools? Tap the school selector,  select add a school, type the school name* into the search then add. Jump between your children's schools by touching the school name/logo in the top blue bar, or switch schools from the slide-in menu.

*Any additional schools will need to be licensed users of School Stream to appear in the app.

Choose what notifications you receive

1. Open the School Stream app on your mobile device
2. From the slide-in menu, go to Settings
3. Under Edit/Alerts select My Schools and select your School to open the Notifications page
4. Toggle notifications on or off individually (e.g. Alerts, Events, Newsletters, etc.)
5. When you have finished, use the Back button to return to the Settings page, then select Done to return to your School

Return at any time to change the notifications you receive.

Don't have a smartphone?

If you don't have access to a smartphone and require information to be delivered via traditional methods (printed notices, email and SMS), please fill out the form below and submit it to the office.

Family name: _____

Students Name	Class

Please indicate the reason:

- ☐ I don't have access to a smartphone (e.g. iPhone, Android, etc.)
- ☐ I prefer not to receive information from the school on my smartphone
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

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<https://applications.fer.trade.nsw.gov.au/>

* eligibility criteria apply



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Resources & Energy



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Midnight
16 June 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

PHONE - Service NSW 13 77 88

EMAIL - fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au

WEB - www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/info/familyenergyrebate



Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

<http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/learning-engagement/attendance>

The school leaving age:

<http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/learning-engagement/attendance>

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 5129

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities