



# Barrack Heights Public School

HUNTER STREET

BARRACK HEIGHTS 2528

Email: barrackht-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone: (02) 42 964 222 Fax: (02) 42 972 818

**‘WORKING TOGETHER’**

## NEWSLETTER

**2017 Term 2 Week 1**

### TERM 2 IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	The Smith Family Clothing Appeal collection day
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Mid South District X Country
Tue-Thu 9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> May	NAPLAN
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Stage 3 “Les Miserables” Excursion to WHSPA

Dear parents, carers, community members and students,

### Welcome back to Term 2!

Staff have plunged headfirst into Term 2 today, participating in You Can Do It training and Stage and Grade planning for their classes. There are a few staff changes and some new faces amongst us, and I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of them on behalf of our school and community.

- Mrs Angie Maranesi will be fulfilling an additional Learning and Support Teacher role for the remainder of the year. Ms Jasmine Butt will be teaching 3/4M, with Mrs Maranesi continuing to supervise Stage 2 classes.
- Ms Elizabeth Scott is taking a well deserved break, spending her seven week long service leave on a trip to North America and Canada. Mrs Kea Hamer will teach 5/6S in her absence, with Mrs Dimi Wheeler supervising Stage 3 classes.
- Ms Erin Lewis will be working part time (4 days) Tuesday-Friday, with Mrs Elizabeth Macedo teaching 1/2L on Mondays.
- Jake Lewis will join our School Learning Support Officer (SLSO) team, working 9am-12pm four days per week.
- Mr Daren Dunn, “Black and Deadly - On Ya Feet” will work with 15 Stage 3 students on a new reconciliation/respect project each fortnight. More details will follow.

### Shave for a Cure

It is my great pleasure to congratulate our school community on helping to raise \$642.85 for Ava and Roxy D’s Shave for a Cure. The girls look stunning in their new haircuts and are SO close to their individual goals of raising \$1000 each for the cause. It gives me pride to know that we have such selfless and hardworking students in our school who think of others before themselves!

Go Roxy and Ava!

### Professional and Legal Responsibilities of Teachers - Care and Supervision of Students

It is crucial that every school and staff member actively provides for the protection, safety and welfare of students. Ensuring the protection, safety and welfare of each student helps create the foundation for an effective learning environment. **I would like to clarify the responsibilities of both myself and teachers with regard to the supervision of students within school grounds, particularly before school. This is due to an increase in the number of students entering school grounds prior to 8.30am – the official opening time of the school.**

The terms of settlement between the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) and the NSW Teachers Federation on the Care and Supervision of Students recognises:

- the duty of care owed by the DET through its staff to students;
- principals and teachers have a responsibility for the protection, welfare and safety of students in school grounds when the school is open;
- parents (inclusive of guardians and legal guardians), caregivers, students, transport providers, police and members of the public have a role to play in ensuring the protection and welfare of

students in travelling to and from schools. Principals and teachers have an educative role to assist in providing for the welfare and safety of students in travelling to and from school;

- the commitment of teachers and the DET in providing a safe learning environment for students;
- the goodwill of teachers in providing a range of extra curricula activities for students; and
- the need for supervision arrangements to have regard to the wide range of responsibilities of teachers including timetabled class time, less preparation, professional development and administrative tasks.

### **Duty of care**

The duty of care owed by the Department through its staff to students arises directly from the special relationship between teachers and students. It derives from the fact that students up to the age of fifteen years are required by law to attend school and parents are required by law to send them to school.

The duty of care is a duty to take reasonable measures to protect students against risks of injury, which reasonably could have been foreseen. The duty of care has been expressed by the courts as requiring teachers to take such measures as in all the circumstances are reasonable to prevent injury to the student. The duty is not to ensure that there is no injury, but to take reasonable care to prevent injury which could reasonably have been foreseen.

### **Custom and practice**

In meeting the duty of care, for many decades principals have been responsible for making arrangements for the effective supervision of students in the school grounds during the period of half an hour before school work begins in the morning, taking into account the risk of harm to students and the workload of teachers.

The hours of duty as specified in regulations, determinations, handbooks and legislation are -

Teachers are required to be on duty at their schools half an hour before school work begins in the morning and may be required to be present, if thought necessary by the teacher in charge of the school, for half an hour after the dismissal of the school in the afternoon. Where special circumstances arise which, in the interest of the school, necessitate attendance beyond these hours, the attendance of the staff may be required.

In larger primary schools the practice has been for teachers to be assigned to provide supervision of students during the half hour before lessons commence, usually at 8.30am. In smaller primary schools supervision arrangements are consistent with the smaller number of students and staff, and are more informal in nature.

### **School supervision plan**

1. Recognising the duty of care to students and the principles and past custom and practice outlined above, the parties agree that all schools will have a formal supervision plan which provides for the effective supervision of students in the half hour before normal classes begin and during recess and lunch time.
2. Principals and teachers at each school are in the best position to identify reasonably foreseeable risks and put in place arrangements which are reasonable to protect students against injury.
3. The principal is responsible for the development, implementation and evaluation of the student supervision plan in consultation with staff. A feature of this should be fairness and equity. Principals should consider the views of students and the parent bodies in the development of this plan.
4. The plan should be based on a comprehensive assessment of risk, taking into account factors relevant to the school such as: the age, number and nature of students; the finishing time of kindergarten classes; the layout and terrain of the school grounds, including split sites; proximity of play areas to busy roads; fixed playground equipment; climatic conditions; the activity being undertaken; emergency situations; potential hazards; transport arrangements; as well as the duties and workload of individual teachers.
5. Under this plan, and recognising specific school conditions, supervision usually involves actual teacher presence in the playground and/or buildings where students are present, or teacher observation of students from the point in the school, which provides ready access to those students. Where this is impractical in small primary schools the plan must specify how the supervision is to be provided to ensure that the duty of care is met.
6. The duty of care must be exercised from the time the school formally accepts the presence of students half an hour before normal classes begin until they safely depart the school after normal classes finish.
7. Special arrangements apply in relation to school activities such as excursions and sporting activities conducted outside the school grounds.

8. The supervision plan should specify the supervision arrangements and responsibilities of teachers at various times throughout the day and be distributed to all teachers including new teachers and casual teachers. Teachers should be given the opportunity to clarify their understanding of the plan and their role in it. The supervision plan should be communicated to parents and caregivers and be accessible to visitors to the school.

9. Parents are to be informed of the opening hours of the school.

10. The Principal should ensure that students understand the supervision arrangements throughout the school day. Students should be informed of where the supervisory teacher(s) are on duty. Students should be instructed to seek the help of a supervisory teacher in situations which demand it. Students should be instructed as to what constitutes unsafe activities.

11. Any variations to school hours should include an assessment of the impact on school transport arrangements and school supervision requirements.

### **SUPERVISION BEFORE AND AFTER NORMAL SCHOOL LESSON TIME**

**It is not the responsibility of schools to provide free child minding services for students for extended periods before and after school.** Schools are not expected to provide supervision for students any earlier than the half hour before normal school classes commence in the morning. When normal classes finish in the afternoon it is expected that students will safely depart the school.

*(Taken from the NSW Department of Education Teachers Handbook (2003))*

The opening (supervisory) hours of Barrack Heights Public School are from 8.30am - 3.00pm. Many staff arrive before 8.30am and leave well after 3pm, as they are fulfilling other responsibilities of teaching and school operation. If students arrive before or leave after these times, it is difficult for school staff to effectively engage with these other tasks, including lesson preparation and attendance at meetings.

### **ANZAC Assembly**

BHPS Prime Ministers and Shadow Prime Ministers joined other students from local schools on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April, at the Shellharbour City Council Centenary of ANZAC Commemoration Service. I would like to thank parents and siblings for their support of our school leaders and attending the service with Mrs Wheeler and I.

At 10.30am on Wednesday 26 April, our Parliamentary Leadership team will conduct an ANZAC Commemoration Assembly around our flagpoles. Students who would like to bring a floral tribute or wear some rosmari are most welcome to do so.



### **Assemblies and Clubs**

This Term, whole school assemblies will occur on Mondays at 10am on even weeks (2,4,6,8). Our first assembly for the Term is next Monday 1st May. Parents, carers, relatives and community members are always invited to attend. In alternate (odd) weeks, students will participate in Clubs. This Term, Clubs Open Day (excursion) will occur on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June (Week 9). On this day, teachers are encouraged to extend students experiences and understanding of the Club, by organising a special event. A cost may be associated with this excursion, but is usually kept under \$10.

### **NAPLAN Tests**

During Week 3, all students in Years 3,5,7,and 9 in Australian schools will participate in the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy. These tests are administered over 3 days and students will be encouraged to participate to the best of *their* ability. Parents are reminded, that the associated “test conditions” of NAPLAN do not mirror best teaching or learning practice, and this can cause concern, stress and anxiety for some students. Our teachers and support staff will always ensure that students are supported and comfortable in completing these tests. As always, your child’s class teacher is the best source of current, professional experience and examples of your child’s academic and social development at school. However, if you would like to have a look at some sample tests, the link is: [www.nap.edu.au/naplan/the-tests](http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/the-tests).