Principal's Message
Thank you to all who were able to attend our ‘Welcome Afternoon Tea’ last Wednesday. It was great to meet with other parents and staff for an informal ‘get to know you’.

P&C – Parents and Citizens
Thank you also to parents and community who were able to join us for the P&C Meeting and AGM following the afternoon tea. We were able to engage in some robust discussion regarding staffing and our involvement with the PBL (Positive Behaviour For Learning) program. Congratulations to our new committee:-
President: Lisa Lucken
Secretary: Kylie Costello
Treasurer: Ronlyn Potter
Canteen Sub -Committee: Wren and Graeme Lee-Archer

Swimming Stars
Congratulations to our Relay team- Claragh, Annalise, Sunai and Mia who have qualified for the Zone Swimming Carnival on Thursday (25th Feb). Claragh and Elliott have also qualified for their individual 50m freestyle. We wish them well!

‘The Tell Them From Me’ student feedback survey
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Thursday 25th February. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.
Easter Raffle

This year’s SRC (Student Representative Council) have decided that they would like to raise some money by holding an Easter Raffle. They have already discussed a few projects they would like to work on and we need to make sure the budget is looking healthy! At this stage, we are seeking donations for prizes from BVPS families and friends. Emogen, the SRC secretary, will be writing some letters seeking donations from local businesses as well.

If you would like to donate to our raffle, please either ring the school on 66 897 202 or send in a note. Tickets will go on sale later in the term. Thanks for your support. Regards,
Annalise, Claragh, Nyama, Emogen, Reuben, Elliott, Elliot, Elizabeth, Jazper, Francis, James and Zuri and Mrs Mac.

SRC News

On Friday our new SRC (Student Representative Council) - Annalise, Claragh, Nyama, Emogen, Reuben, Elliott, Elliot, Elizabeth, Jazper, Francis, James and Zuri - were presented with their badges. Congratulations. I know they will do a great job! Thank you to Mrs Mac for her leadership with this group.

SRC News

Hello dear parents & carers of Barkers Vale kids,

A big thank you to all the parents & staff that attended the meet & greet, AGM & finally the P&C meeting last Wednesday!
There was a great deal of enthusiastic discussion. Some new & old faces are on board to keep the P&C on track, myself (Elliot’s mum) as the humble President, Kylie (Mallees mum) as the dutiful Secretary & Ronnie as the responsible Treasurer. Graeme & Wren are enthusiastic to stay on as coordinators of our great canteen.
In the lead up to future P&C meetings the agenda will be published in the preceding newsletter, hopefully giving all of you greater opportunity to contribute to a discussion or decision and add your own ideas to the agenda, perhaps attending to present it or putting it in writing...
The year has stared with some big changes & the general feeling amongst staff & the parents present on Wednesday is that the children are doing well with the 2 classes that we now have.
Our awesome canteen & all the volunteers that make it happen have helped boost the P&C’s ability to contribute to needs within the school. On Wednesday we were able to approve the purchase of almost $700.- worth of new readers for the Kindy kids. Thank you to Mrs Mac for always thinking ahead for our students.
We are hoping to create a garden roster for parents & citizens to help maintain the schools vegetable gardens & gear them towards being more useful for the canteen. This will likely be on a Friday afternoon. Please contact me (Lisa) if this sounds like something you might like to do. Graeme has said the canteen will buy all useful veges & herbs from the school! This will make it possible to buy things the gardens may need in the future & keep profits close, also teaching the children about the value of what they grow.
Finally a huge Thank You to all the contributions to the canteen, both in the way of food donated and time given helping out. If you are interested in helping out on a Monday please let me know on 0414 411 435 (text). Lisa (P&C president)
Welcome to the new Student Representative Council

All grades at the school (except the Kindies) have completed their voting and we have elected the SRC (Student Representative Council) for Semester One. Congratulations to all new members! I am planning to have meetings each Wednesday after lunch at this stage. Our first job at the next meeting will be to elect Office Holders (Secretary, President etc.) I am looking forward to working with the new team and if you have any ideas or thoughts please let us or your children know. We will have our suggestion box up and running ASAP!

Regards,
Julie McTaggart

Community Assistance—Can you help?

One of our parents is battling a chronic medical condition and requires costly spinal surgery. Angus Gough suffers from Tarlov Cyst Disease, a rare neurological spine condition. You can access his story and find out how you can help with the following link.
https://www.youcaring.com/angus-gough-466076
Dear Parents and Carers

In Term 1 2016, your school is taking part in the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, *The Learning Bar*, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will *not* be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes 30 minutes or less to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), has access to data from across NSW and is running a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research is looking at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students and schools will *not* be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students’ personal information will not be disclosed by the Department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next question. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you *do not want your child to take part* in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child’s school by Thursday, 25th February.


Kath Johnston                        Dr Jenny Donovan  
Principal                              Executive Director  
BARKERS VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL              Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation
Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey

non-consent form

If you do not want your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by Thursday 25th February.

I DO NOT give consent for my child/children to participate in the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.

Name of student/s: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Roll class: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Name of parent/carer: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Signature of parent/carer: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Date ………………………………………

RECYCLE ROSTER

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<td>Alison Ryan</td>
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<td>Wendy and Albie Jansen</td>
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<td>Kerry and Wayne Lord-Negus</td>
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<td>Kathy Johnson</td>
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<td>Jacqueline Boustany and Martin Freeman</td>
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<td>Therese Hedwards</td>
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<td>Trish &amp; Pete Strange</td>
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<td>Neil Rodway</td>
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Barkers Vale Public School will be celebrating Harmony Day on Thursday, 24th March (the day before Good Friday). The theme is *Our diversity is our strength.*

For those of you who are new to our school, this is a day when teachers and parents can offer small group activities which in some way relate to the theme of Harmony Day. These activities can be sports, craft, cooking, art … anything harmonious and fun! The activities run from around 11.30 till 3.00. The more choices the children have, the more they learn! Please, save the day and consider running an activity. I will be sending a form out in the newsletter closer to the day, for interested parents and friends to fill in.

If you have any enquiries, please don’t hesitate to call me at school.

Thanks and regards,

Julie McTaggart