Principal’s Message

We are continually working towards providing great learning spaces and experiences for our students. As mentioned in the P&C news last week, we are committed to rejuvenate the School’s Vegetable Garden, ready to plant salad vegetables and herbs for future use in the canteen. Thank you to Ronnie, Lisa, Lyn and our students for their hard work on Friday clearing out the old gardens. Mrs Mac and students also prepared the sandpit ready for the delivery of new sand.

Thanks to Seth who will be delivering the new sand for the sandpit and to the SRC who have raised funds to pay for the new sand.

Our students have been having great fun playing in the fountain with the bamboo that Owen prepared for us.

Swimming Stars

Congratulations to our Relay team- Claragh, Elliott, Sunai and Mia who competed at the Zone Swimming Carnival last Thursday. Our relay team placed 5th in the PP5 which was a fantastic effort. Unfortunately Annalise was unwell and unable to compete. Thankyou to Elliott for stepping in at the last minute. There was some intense competition on the day, but a great experience for our swimmers.
Easter Raffle

The SRC (Student Representative Council) Easter raffle is off to a good start. Emogen, the Secretary, has already written a lovely letter asking for donations and we have sent a few off to (hopefully) generous businesses.

We already have some donations for prizes! Thanks go to the following generous individuals / families / businesses:

- The Hawthorne Family (Michael, Rechel, Elizabeth and Mickey) have donated three bags of delicious Easter Eggs;
- Nimbin Newsagent and General Store have offered a fruit tray.
- A pack of Ferrero Rocher chocolates from the Law family
- A Book/ CD Box from Mrs J

Thanks for your support. If you would like to donate to our raffle please ring the school (66 897 202) and leave a message or fill in the slip below.

Thanks,
Annalise, Emogen, Nyama, Reuben, Claragh, Elliott, Elliot, James, Zuri, Jazper, Francis, Elizabeth and Mrs Mac.

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YES! I would like to donate _____________________________________________________ to the SRC Easter Raffle. I will send it to the school via _____________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

Name: ____________________________________ Best Contact Number: ______________
A reminder that our next P&C meeting is **this Thursday 3rd March @ 4.00pm**. We look forward to seeing you there!

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**School Gardens**

We are fortunate to have a wonderful resource at Barkers Vale Public School in our vegetable gardens. Many, many hours of hard work went into the establishment of the gardens and many hours into maintaining it (thank you Wendy, Albie, Ronnie to name a few and apologies if I have missed anyone).

We have decided to start a new initiative with the gardens this term. This was suggested by Graeme and Wren through the P&C and the staff also discussed what could work for us at the staff meeting.

The idea is to plant specifically for the canteen and then the canteen would buy the produce. This system allows the project to be self-sustaining (we hope...) and a little "shop" project for the school.

On Friday 26th February Ronnie, Lisa (P & C President) and a group of children are stripping the garden, replanting bits and then we will build the soil up in preparation for planting. Wren (Chef Extraordinaire!) will guide us in what to plant later on and through the magic that is growing a garden we hope to produce some goodies to really use.

Each Friday we are hoping to select a group of children or a class who can do a little maintenance and maybe record keeping / tracking growth etc. We would love volunteers on Friday afternoons (the last half hour would be great) to drop in and help, add expertise etc. No need to book in, just drop in and I'm sure we could organise a group to garden together.

We are really keen to make this work and look forward to making it a whole school project. We appreciate your support and look forward to crunchy, yummy fresh veg ala BVPS!

Regards,

Julie McT

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**P&C News**

A reminder that our next P&C meeting is **this Thursday 3rd March @ 4.00pm**. We look forward to seeing you there!

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**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](https://www.youcaring.com/angus-gough-466076)
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who</th>
<th>When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kathy Johnson</td>
<td>Week 6 Thursday 3rd March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Boustany and Martin Freeman</td>
<td>Week 7 Thursday 10th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yindi Keune</td>
<td>Week 8 Thursday 17th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therese Hedwards</td>
<td>Week 9 Thursday 24th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trish &amp; Pete Strange</td>
<td>Week 10 Thursday 31st March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neil Rodway</td>
<td>Week 11 Thursday 7th April</td>
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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.

More information about the survey and the research is available in English on the CESE website: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

Kath Johnston
Principal
BARKERS VALE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Dr Jenny Donovan
Executive Director
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation