Principal’s Message

It was wonderful to have a great attendance at our recent P&C meeting. We were able to engage in some robust conversation discussing plans for ensuring positive community collaboration and some excellent opportunities for our students. Thank you.

We are currently finalising the Annual Report (formerly the Annual School Report). It is an opportunity to reflect on 2015 and also forms a basis for planning in 2016. This report will be available on our school website on 1st April.

Outside School Hours Care

Do you need an extra hour or two after school finishes before you pick up the kids? Do you want to keep working a little longer? Go to the gym? Do the shopping, gardening or cleaning? Lots of our city and town cousins have the option of placing their child in an Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) program & this may soon be an option for us. The P&C are canvassing parents at our school and other local schools to see if there is need for an OSHC program. In small schools this program works slightly differently to larger schools. All the same services are available, qualified staff, run a registered program with the support of the school and community partner. The main difference is that we would only need 5 children each afternoon to make the program viable and because of the model the group size stays nice and small, a maximum of 7 children can attend. We can also start with as few as 2 afternoons a week and build up from there if needed. Other small schools in the area have done this and will happily share their learnings with us. You may want to check with Centrelink to see whether you are eligible for Child Care Benefit, which makes this care very affordable.

If you are at all interested please fill in the slip below and return it to school ASAP.

Cheers Kylie, P&C Secretary

Outstanding Days

Term 1

Week 9
Thursday 24th March—Harmony Day
Friday 25th March—Good Friday—Public Holiday

Week 10
Tues 29th March: students return after Easter

Week 11
Fri 8th April: Ice Cream Day; Last day of term

Term 2

Wed 27th Apr: Students return
Thurs 28th Apr: ANZAC Service
Fri 29th Apr: COLOURSS Cross Country @ The Risk PS
10th-12th May: NAPLAN

Outside School Hours Care

Child/ren’s name: ………………………………….
Parents name: ……………………………...
Ph. Number, we can contact you on to discuss possible days and start dates: …………………….
How many days would you likely use the program – …………………
Number the days 1 -5
(1 being the day you most need care to 5 being the day you least need care)
Monday □  Tuesdays □  Wednesday □  Thursday □  Friday □

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Outside School Hours Care
Easter Raffle

The SRC (Student Representative Council) Easter raffle is off to a brilliant 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 now have lots of donations for prizes! Many 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;
- Ms Johnston has donated a small book and CD set;
- The Law (James, Leonie, Claragh and Fergus) family have donated a lovely box of Ferrero Rocher chocolates;
- Mrs Hedwards has donated an Ayurvedic Massage from Johnny McLaren and Helen Cameron;
- The Nimbin Emporium has donated DVD vouchers;
- Wadeville Woolies has donated a meal voucher;
- An enamel necklace (painted red) from Singapore kindly donated by Lisa Lucken (P & C President and mum of Elliot);
- A hanging basket of succulents and cactus planted and propagated by Elliot Rooney (Year 2);
- A Goodie Bag from Nimbin Craft Gallery donated by Savannah and her mum, Jess;
- A Miss Marley colouring in book donated by Oscar, Jamie and Miss Marley;
- A vertical garden hanger and 2 insect candles donated by Bunnings, Lismore;
- ADULTS ONLY PRIZE: a bottle of white and a bottle of red wine donated by Nimbin Hotel;
- A collection of Easter chocolates donated by Ms Johnston;
- A gorgeous pack of skin and hair care goodies kindly donated by the Terry family (Tia, Liam, Elliott and Francis);
- Jon, Sharon and Sunai from the Sphinx Rock Café have donated a Food Hamper;
- Tania, Darryl, Blossom and Jazper have donated a delicious smelling bag of coffee (I’m breathing it in as I type…) and 2 beautiful and bright tye-dyed T-shirts.

Thanks for your support! It shows what an awesome community spirit we have here at Barkers Vale. Please support our supporters where you can!

Many, many thanks,
Annalise, Emogen, Nyama, Reuben, Claragh, Elliott, Elliot, James, Zuri, Jazper, Francis, Elizabeth and Mrs Mac
Funds For Fiji

On Friday at Barkers Vale Public School we revealed yet another example of the generosity and kindness in our school and community. The SRC initiative was supported quite wonderfully, as on Friday morning we made a line of coins and notes to send to Care Australia to help with the disaster relief in Fiji. Each denomination was counted and collected by an SRC member and our coin line reached a long way across the assembly area. At this stage we have raised in excess of an amazing $201,60!!

Great work, everyone and thank you.

Regards,
The SRC and Mrs Mac

The President, Vice President and Secretary of the SRC

GARDEN NEWS

This week the newly stripped gardens had a nice soaking! On Friday, the 4th of March, Wendy, Lisa, Ronnie, Zuri, Kaara, Reuben and Elliot R. all combined forces to save the worms! They too (the worms, I mean) had a nice soaking… maybe a little TOO much. Wendy gave the Worm Savers (Zuri, Kaara, Reuben and Elliot R) a lesson on worm care and talked about cutting up the compost to make it small enough to help the worms. They also talked about what they can and can’t eat and drained some water out.

We have reorganised our compost bins at fruit time and lunch and recess and are encouraging the children to use them more wisely. Ronnie is still looking after some of the compost, but we are working towards making it a pupil responsibility, if we can. Next Friday Lisa is coming up to guide the Worm Savers once again and we will encourage this team to teach the skills learnt this week to some new helpers next week.

We invite any keen helpers each Friday afternoon around 2pm to come up and give a hand with garden maintenance and education of the children in this task. It’s fun, the children are enthusiastic and it helps us get our garden going!

Many thanks to the team today and we look forward to seeing you!

Regards, Julie Mac
The theme of this year’s Harmony Day is *Our diversity is our strength.* Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it.

At Barkers Vale PS we will celebrate **Harmony Day on Thursday, 24th March** – that’s the day before Good Friday. (The 21st March is the listed day, but it can be held any day!) We would like to invite parents, carers and friends to come along and run an activity – anything safe and enjoyable you would like to share with the children! This can be making something, sport, cooking, dancing, storytelling, singing... anything you feel would be worth sharing with the children of our school.

On the day each adult will run their activity with small groups of children (around 12 or maybe less) three or four times – depending on the number of activities there are. It will probably start around 11:30 – again, this depends on the number of activities we have to offer. The sessions will last about 30 to 40 minutes each. If you can’t run a group perhaps you could come and join in or help out. (The colour for Harmony Day is orange so if you and/or your children can dress in orange, that would be great.)

Please fill out the slip below if you would like to help and I will contact you before the day to let you know how the day will operate. We will provide any materials we can, but we also do have a small budget for any goods you may need to purchase – **please keep receipts.** Thanks and we look forward to seeing you there.

 Regards, Julie McTaggart

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**YES, I CAN HELP!** The activity I will run is ______________________________________. The equipment and type of area I will need will be ______________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________.

This activity would suit: (circle one) **any age** / younger children (K – 3) / older children (4 – 6)

My name is ___________________________________________________________

My best contact number is ______________________________________
Dear Barkers Vale families,

A lot was discussed at the last P&C meeting. It was quite productive. Thank you to everyone involved (teachers & parents alike). Remember if there's ever an issue you'd like raised or an idea you'd like to float you're most welcome to come along OR pass it on to one of the P&C...

The canteen is going wonderfully well thanks to the awesome parents helping out. Graeme would like remind people that your contributions to the canteen (fresh produce or baked goods) are invaluable so THANK YOU.

Barkers Vale is looking for expressions of interest from people that would consider using an after school service (at the school). This service will be available to families at Cawongla & Rainbow Ridge also. It's understood many working parents would greatly appreciate the extra hour or 2 after school finishes. So please contact myself (lisa-timeisart@hotmail.com) for more info.

The P&C is going to be changing banks so it will soon be easier to pay your school contribution (fees) via direct deposit. The recommended amount is $30 for a single child, $50 for 2 or more. These fees are very important to the school. They support the subsidy of many school activities (excursions etc), help keep cost of uniforms & hats down, help fund extra equipment used at school... Money not received via contributions is extra money that needs to be fundraised. Contributions can easily be made in instalments.

The SRC has raised the money to buy fresh sandpit sand! Seth (Mallees)) dad) is generously donating his time & truck to deliver it. Yay!

I'm am hoping to hold another Mother's Day stall at the Blue Knob Farmers market (on May 7th) so watch this space for updates...

The P&C, on behalf of the SRC, has applied for a grant for a sound garden. Fingers crossed.

Thank you to Wendy Jansen for giving our enthusiastic green thumbs a hands on lesson in worms on Friday. We learned what worms like & don't like, what they need to be happy & thrive & how to use their castings & wee! There will be extra vigilance to ensure composting is done correctly for the worms too (ask Zuri, Elliot, Ruben & Kiara). The gardens are slowly getting rejuvenated to become a working-for-our-canteen-garden.

Have a great week folks. Lisa Lücken (P&C president)

School Contributions (School Fees)

A reminder that voluntary school contributions (School Fees) for 2016 are due. They are payable to the P&C. Cost is $30 per child or $50 per family. We have become aware that many families are not aware that such fees exist. Although they are voluntary, they play an important role in helping to subsidise costs for excursions, transport to swimming and cultural events and the provision of some learning resources in the school. Last year less than 10% of families made contributions. We hope to have improved support from our school community this year.

Regards, Kath Johnston
A final thought for the week.....

With 'Wellbeing' being an important focus of schools, our community and The Department of Education, I thought I would share the following with you. One of the main goals of schools is to equip students with the skills to become capable and confident citizens who are future ready for the 21st Century.

**One of the most important skills you can teach your child:-**

One common trait all successful adults have is **resilience**. The ability to bounce back from disappointment is something we have the opportunity to teach our children every day.

As our kids constantly remind us, life isn't always fair. **How do we balance the desire to shelter and protect our children with the need to teach them how to cope with life's disappointments?**

The School A to Z website asked top teachers all over NSW for their tips for parents on **developing resilience** so children can succeed in the face of unexpected challenges.

These tips include:
- Resilience doesn't come naturally to all kids - we need to specifically teach those skills.
- Always saving your child from failure doesn't give them the opportunity to learn better skills.
- To interact effectively with their peers, our kids need to develop resilience.
- Commend your child's strengths, and be positive about their abilities to improve their other skills.
- Self-esteem comes from conquering challenges, not from constant praise that everything we do is brilliant!
- Kids notice how well parents handle stress and challenges and then copy those behaviours.
- Extracurricular activities help develop social skills.
- Life isn't always fair. Teach your child how to accept that and adapt to challenging circumstances.
- Create opportunities for your child to talk about their problems - teens often open up more if you're doing some activity together.

Kath Johnston, Principal