Dear Barrack Heights School Community,

It’s been a fantastic start back at school with most students (and teachers!) settling straight down to business! As the weather gets cooler, can I please remind everyone, that jumpers MUST have your child’s name on them for ease of return when they inevitably become lost! Our lost property is often overflowing with anonymous jumpers – which will be recycled into our uniform pool each week if they are not claimed.

**Kiss and Drop Zone**

I would like to thank the parents who are waiting in the concrete area and steps (away from the undercover canteen area and entry to the hall) to collect their children. It is becoming increasingly difficult for staff to escort children to the school gate, as the undercover area is also the waiting point for students taking buses and waiting for After School Care transport. **PLEASE HELP US to make this a safe environment for ALL children at Barrack Heights Public School.** Waiting in this area causes unnecessary overcrowding and for some smaller children distress, as they become “lost in the crowd”. Waiting in the open space between the square garden bed and gate is a much better option for all of us.

**ANZAC Commemorative Assembly**

I would like to thank and congratulate Mrs Dimi Wheeler and our excellent Parliament Leaders for their well-organised ANZAC assembly last Friday. This is the first time we have had flagpoles to run a more formal ceremony, and it was flawless. Also, many thanks to the parents and carers who sent in floral tributes that were laid in class groups around the flagpoles. Our website has photos of the day.

**District Cross Country**

Last Thursday Mr Mark Ellsmore and Mr Rob Ryan escorted 55 of our talented Cross Country runners to the District Carnival at Blackbutt. Two of our students - Ruby M and Rhiannon T, who came 1st and 4th in their respective age groups, have now qualified to attend the South Coast Regional carnival on the 30th May. We are very proud, not only of their sporting achievements, but the sportsmanship that they showed to other competitors on the day. Congratulations!

**Opportunity Class Applications (Years 5 and 6 - 2015)**

Government schools use a range of strategies to meet the educational needs of gifted and talented students. One strategy is opportunity class placement which provides intellectual stimulation and an educationally enriched environment for gifted and talented students.

Offers for opportunity class placement will be made on the basis of the Opportunity Class Placement Test results and school assessment. The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held on Wednesday 23 July 2014. Online applications opened on Monday 28th April and should be used by all parents with access to the internet, email address (not the student’s) and a printer. Paper application forms are held with Mrs Dimi Wheeler (5/6W) and can be distributed on request. All applications must be submitted by Friday 16th May, 2014. Late applications will not be accepted after this date.

For further information please visit: [www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement](http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement)
School website
Have you looked at our school website recently?
How do you use it?
What would you like to see on it?
Work has been done on the website over the past couple of months, including adding some photos, information and news items. The school calendar is regularly updated and each week’s School Newsletter can be downloaded from there. You can also locate email addresses to contact the school and/or individual teachers.
The school website team would like to get some feedback about the site. If you have any feedback about how you use it and what you like about it, or suggestions for what you’d like added, then please contact Miss Bunt in person, send a letter into the school or email her at: marianne.bunt@det.nsw.edu.au.
Your feedback and suggestions are greatly appreciated!
Miss Marianne Bunt, Assistant Principal

Family Services Illawarra
This Friday, Family Services Illawarra begin a free 6 week program for parents called “Bringing Up Great Kids”. The program promotes positive, respectful parent and child relationships. The program begins on Friday 9th May and continues for 5 weeks after this date. There is free childminding available!
After completing the program, parents will be better equipped to:

- Understand the origin and nature of their parenting style
- Understand the messages they give to, and receive from, their children
- Identify and respond to the needs of their children
- Build a positive, respectful relationship with their child
- Source information and support for themselves in their parenting role

If you are interested in attending this program, please call Family Services Illawarra on 4255 5333, or leave your name with Mrs Mullin at the front office.

NAPLAN Testing
Next week all of our Years 3 and 5 students will sit the National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The tests cover spelling, reading, writing, grammar and language conventions as well as mathematics. There are 4 tests overall. Students in Years 4 and 6 will continue with their learning program, but may not have their normal class teacher during this time. It is important that parents and carers encourage their children to do their best, understanding that this is not a test taken under “normal” teaching conditions. This can cause anxiety for some students and we want to assure parents that Barrack Heights teachers will, at all times, support your child.

Parenting Ideas - Membership
Our School P&C have purchased a year’s subscription to the Parenting Ideas magazine. Parenting Ideas is Australia’s leading provider of parenting education resources to schools. They offer an extensive range of learning resources to parents, articles and up-to-date content for school newsletters, as well as professional development for teachers and parents. If you would like to see more, please go to: www.parentingideas.com.au and follow the instructions in the parents section. You can download the Parenting Ideas Magazine here as well. Additional information will be included in our weekly newsletter – this week look for the article on “Helping students get ready for the NAPLAN tests”.

Have a fantastic week!
Sarah Rudling
Principal
**P&C NEWS**

**Easter Raffle**
Thank you to everyone who sold and bought tickets in this year’s Easter Raffle, and also all those families that donated eggs as prizes.

Our Easter raffle winners were:
- **First:** Amelia S
- **Second:** Skye W
- **Third:** Poppy R

The Smiggle voucher for most tickets sold went to Tim M. Well done Tim!

**Mother’s Day Stall This Week!!**
The P&C are holding a Mother’s Day stall this Friday 9th May. Kids can buy a lovely gift that they have chosen themselves. The gifts range in price from $2 to $8 and include candles, travel mugs, cup & saucer, photo frames, caps, bath lotions, memo pads, bookmarks, pens, cards and more. Buy for mum, nanna or grandma, or for anyone special. Kindergarten parents, please place money in an envelope with child’s name, class and amount enclosed.

If any parents are available to help with the stall on the day for a couple of hours, it would be greatly appreciated. Meet in the hall at 8.45am.

Our next meeting will be held on 20 May at 6pm in the staffroom. We would love to see you there!

**Library News**
We have been having lots of fun in the library so far in 2014 with Webquests, drama and of course reading lots of books. Many students completed an application to be a Library Monitor and all have been given an opportunity to work in the library with me.

We are particularly excited about a couple of events this month. May is the National Family Reading month and we have been reading books about different types of families and discussing who we could read to, or with. We have included family pets as an important part of this picture, so hopefully we have seen some cosy moments of shared reading. All students were given a sheet to record time spent reading, and there are prizes to be won as we enter this online. Week 3 will see our Oasis themed book fair begin! Students will visit the school first to browse but there will be opportunities for families to come along in week 4 to purchase. Library monitors and extra volunteers will be very busy in the coming days transforming our library into a ‘cool place to discover hot books’ Some information has been sent home, but stay tuned for opening times for the fair.

Thank you to those who ordered from last month’s Book Club. Be patient! There was a mix-up with the order but I have been assured they are on their way! The new order forms have been sent home and I will appreciate having them returned by Wednesday, 14th May. Feel free to contact me via the office if you have any questions on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

Also, **After School Sport** starts this week and there are still some spots left.

Thank you

Julie Debnam