NEWSLETTER

TERM 2 IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 12th June  
In2Uni Day – Year 6

Tuesday 17th June  
P&C Meeting at 6pm

Wednesday 18th June  
Buddist/Bahaii Scripture excursion 
Reports home today

Thursday 19th June  
School Athletics Carnival

Friday 20th June  
PSSA Primary Gala Day

24th, 25th & 26th June  
3/6B & 3/6D camp

Thursday 26th June  
Assembly

Friday 27th June  
Last day of Term 2

Tuesday 15th July  
First day of Term 3

27th October – 31st October  
Stage 3 to Wyee outdoor Education

Parents, Carers and Community members,

Athletics Carnival
Our school Athletics Carnival is next Thursday 19th June. Just to clarify, this is A NORMAL SCHOOL DAY and ALL students from Kindergarten to Year 6 should be in attendance. The cost is $5 for any child who requires bus transport to or from the venue. If you are taking your child to the carnival, you do not need to pay, but you need to let us know on the permission note, as we have to confirm buses by this Wednesday. If you require financial assistance to send your children to the carnival, please contact the front office.

One very talented kid!
Tomorrow, our very own Rhiannon T begins a training camp for NSW girls cricket up in Campbelltown. Then on Saturday, Rhiannon will fly with her teammates to Darwin to compete in the PSSA National Girls Cricket Championships all week. Not only will Rhiannon compete in this tournament, but when she arrives home on Monday 23rd June she has to travel directly to Newcastle to play soccer in the PSSA NSW Championships! This is an amazing two weeks for a kid from Barrack Heights, and we are SO proud! Play hard and fair Rhiannon, we are all cheering you on from school.

SEMESTER ONE REPORTS AND PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS
Supervisors now have the reports written (mostly over this long weekend!) by all class teachers. These will be proof read and given to me by Friday for a final read and sign. They take many long hours to create, and we appreciate your interest in them. You will receive your children’s Semester One reports next Wednesday 18th June. These reports will give you information regarding your child’s academic achievements and social skill development during the first half of the year. Teachers use a variety of assessment tools, as well as professional judgement, to construct these reports. Teachers will send home notes for you to request appropriate times for these interviews in the coming weeks.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on school students with disability – 2014
Our school is participating in the collection of nationally consistent data on school students with disability. We will be collecting information already available in the school about the support that is being provided to students with disability. Better data will help the Government plan for students with disability. The data collection will have no direct impact on your child and they will not be involved in any testing process. The NSW Department of Education and Communities will provide data to the Australian Government from all NSW public schools in such a way that no individual student or school will be able to be identified. In this way, we will ensure the privacy and confidentiality of all students. All information is protected by privacy laws which regulate the collection, storage and disclosure of personal information. Information about the Australian Government’s Privacy Policy can be found at:

**Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition**

On Thursday, Zac B and Cleo D represented our school in the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition at Mount Terry Public School. Both students gave a champion effort, with Zac taking home a Highly Commended Award! Congratulations!

**Talking Tactics Together’ Drug Education Program**

I would like to thank all of the parents and carers of students in 5/6W and 5/6H who attended the Talking Tactics workshop last Tuesday evening! Although it was cold, the effort and participation of all our committed senior students, really made the experience worthwhile! We now know lots more about drug use and our society. I would like to thank Mrs Di Woods and her team for their leadership and organisation is allowing our school to be part of this great program. I would also like to thank Mrs Wheeler and Ms Harris for their continued hard work and commitment to educating our children. Well done!

**Early Action for Success - Forum**

Tomorrow and Thursday, our Instructional Leader Jo Collins and I will be in attendance at the first forum for new schools in the Early Action for Success agenda. We will be working with the Department of Education and Communities Literacy and Numeracy Leaders as well as Principals and Instructional Leaders across the state. We both look forward to sharing our new knowledge and understandings around this project with both the staff and parents in the future.

**In2Uni – Year 6**

This Thursday, all of our Year 6 students and their parents will be spending the day at Wollongong University as part of their Stage 3 program. This aims to start the conversation with students about higher education. It gives students the opportunity to experience university, interact with university students and staff and think about why they might like to consider study beyond school. I look forwards to hearing about this experience from our senior students.

**Parenting Ideas - Membership**

This week look for the timely article on “Reading your child’s report” attached to this newsletter. All articles are also published on our school website with the school newsletters.

**Final thoughts**

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow.
Learn as if you were to live forever.” - Ghandi

Sarah Rudling
Principal

**A Reminder from the Office**

- When your children are absent from school (for whatever reason) please remember to either phone, email or send a note explaining the absence.
- There have been a lot of students coming to school wearing jumpers which are not uniform or not wearing a jumper at all. We have given out many of our spare jumpers to these children and they have not been returned. Therefore our supplies are getting very low in sizes from 8 upwards in our second hand uniform pool. If you have any jumpers or track pants, in good condition, that no longer fit your child, please consider donating them to the school.
- There are still quite a lot of families who have not yet paid their school fees of $20 per child. We would really appreciate your payment being made ASAP.
- Please remember, for safety reasons, no one is permitted to walk through the teachers’ car park at any time.
Reports can mean anxious times for children. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children.

**Could try harder . . . always does her best . . . lacks concentration . . . easily distracted . . . a pleasure to teach . . .** Do these comments, taken from a batch of student reports sound familiar?

Student reports bring mixed feelings for parents. Pleasure and pride if they are performing well but considerable angst when children are not progressing as you hoped.

Reports can mean anxious times for children too. Will my parents be disappointed or proud? This is the main concern of most children. Kids of all ages take their cues from their parents, so your reaction to their school report can affect the way they see themselves as learners and as people.

Before you rip open the sealed envelope containing the report do a little self-check to see if you are in the right frame of mind:

1. **Are your expectations for your son or daughter realistic and in line with their ability?**

   Expectations are tricky. If they are too high then kids can be turned off learning. Too low and there is nothing to strive for. Pitch your expectations in line with your child’s abilities. A quick check of your child’s last report cards may provide you with a good yardstick.

2. **Do you believe that children learn at different rates?**

   There are slow bloomers, late developers and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom, so avoid comparing your child to siblings, your friends’ children and even yourself when you were a child. Instead look for individual progress.

3. **Are you willing to safeguard your child’s self-esteem rather than deflate it?**

   Self-confidence is a pre-requisite for learning, so be prepared to be as positive and encouraging as possible. School reports come in different formats. Some are prescriptive while some use grading systems such as A, B, C, etc. with room for teacher comments. Regardless of the format school reports should provide you with an idea of your child’s progress in all subject areas, their attitude and social development.

Here are some ideas to consider when you open your child’s report:

- **Focus on strengths**

   Do you look for strengths or weaknesses first? The challenge is to focus on strengths even if they are not in the traditional 3Rs or core subjects.

- **Take into account your child’s effort and attitude to learning.** If the report indicates that effort is below standard, then you have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, then you cannot ask any more than that, regardless of the grading.

- **Broaden your focus away** from academic performance to form a picture of your child’s progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence his happiness and well-being, as well as give an indicator to his future. The skills of independence and co-operation are highly valued by employers so don’t dismiss these as unimportant.

- **Take note of student self-assessment**

   Kids are generally very honest and will give a realistic assessment of their progress. They are generally very perceptive so take note of their opinions.

- **Discuss the report with your son or daughter**

   Talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

After reports are read and discussed celebrate your child’s efforts with a special activity or treat. In this way you will recognise progress and remind them that the holidays are just around the corner when they can forget about assessment, tests and reports for a while.