Parents, Carers and Community members,

Welcome back everyone! I know that there are many parents out there who are particularly grateful that school has resumed once again! Our staff is eager to begin a fresh Term, with plans for some solid teaching and learning experiences for our students.

As usual, we have a lot happening in the next few weeks, with many excursions and experiences for your children to participate in as part of a well-rounded education. I will attempt to highlight these for you in this week’s newsletter, but please check with your child EACH night for notes or information so that they do not miss out.

Staffing changes

Once again, we have some staff changes, which I will explain here:

In the office: Mrs Chris De La Torre continues to replace Mrs Glenda Grimshaw until Week 8, and then Mrs Wendy Dowling will begin as our new permanent Senior Administration Officer. Wendy is returning to the Department of Education and Communities after a period of absence and has come to us as a transfer. Mrs De La Torre will continue to work with Mrs Dowling, assisting her transition to our school, for the remainder of the term.

Mrs Judy Attard will continue to replace Mrs Helen Mullin on Mondays.

In the School: We welcome back Mrs Elizabeth Scott to class 1/2S.

Mrs Danielle Munro will work in all K-2 classes as our “Interventionist” (support teacher) as part of the Early Action for Success reform.

Mrs Stephanie Kolevski will replace Mrs Munro as our Science (Relief from Face to Face) teacher, Monday – Wednesday.

Mr Dan Eaton will replace Mr David Grose (School Counsellor) until his return from leave in Week 6.

NAIDOC Week

Barrack Heights Public School prides itself on the collaborative work that we do with our local Aboriginal Community, and the learning experiences we provide our entire school body around Aboriginal Education. In addition to our regular programs, this week the school will be holding a variety of events to celebrate National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week. NAIDOC is a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and an opportunity to recognise the contributions of Indigenous Australians in various fields. Our school looks forward to a great week of learning, especially our rotating activities and sausage sizzle on Thursday. Our NAIDOC celebrations begin with an assembly on Thursday, and all parents and carers are welcome to attend.
As part of this celebration, I would like to share with you some unique success stories coming out of our great school.

**Ngargin Doctors**

This year, our school has been invited to participate in a special program called “Ngargin (young) Doctors”. The program aims to educate both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children in both Western and Indigenous health care – recognising the signs of sickness and having the knowledge to know where to go for help. The program is being facilitated in schools across Australia, and cannot be done without the permission and assistance of local Community members. Our local facilitator is ex-student Troy Tungai. He is sometimes assisted by his mum, Veronica Archibald and local Elder Aunty Patty Roberts. Mrs Chris Mangos is the teacher that works with Troy, in planning and delivering the lesson each week. We recently became the focus of an SBS story, which was shown on both SBS and NITV channels. You can watch this by following the link: [http://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/284875331934/young-doctors-program-aims-to-tackle-poor-health-in-indigenous-aussies](http://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/video/284875331934/young-doctors-program-aims-to-tackle-poor-health-in-indigenous-aussies)

**Sports Star – Rhiannon**

During the last two weeks of Term 2, Rhiannon travelled to the Northern Territory to compete as a member of the NSW PSSA Girls Cricket team in the National Championships. Rhiannon’s team ended the week as the undefeated National Champions, which is an outstanding result! On her return, Rhiannon travelled to Newcastle and competed in the NSW PSSA Girls State Soccer Competition. The Mid-South Coast Team came third overall. Rhiannon is an excellent ambassador for her family, school and community! We are so proud of her achievements.

**School Kids Indigenous Peer Program (SKIPP)**

For the past three years, Aboriginal boys in the Illawarra have been attending a program that allows Aboriginal Community male mentors to become involved in “men’s business”. This includes workshops and experiences that promote respect, tolerance, resilience and learnings in local culture and traditional knowledge with members of the Illawarra Koori Men’s Group. Barrack Heights Public School has been a strong supporter of this program for many years and up to 10 students are invited to attend each year.

**Uniforms**

Yes, the weather has turned really cold!!! Winter is here!! Today, it was really obvious that many students came to school out of uniform. As you know, we pride ourselves on the appearance of our school, and uniforms really make a difference. Wearing layers of jumpers in school colours is a great way to keep warm. There is a limited supply of second hand jumpers and tracksuits available from the Office. Alternatively, K-Mart, Target and Best & Less stock tracksuits in our school colour (royal blue). If you have any school clothing that you no longer need, we are grateful for any donations back into our clothing pool.

Have a great week
Sarah Rudling
Principal

**NAIDOC Celebration on Thursday 17th July**

During the NAIDOC celebration we will recognise and remember the military service of our Aboriginal people. As part of the celebrations, our students will be involved in a rotation of activities including Indigenous art and craft, yarning circles, games, songs and dance. There will be a free BBQ provided for all students on the day.