Term 3 Important Dates

Tuesday 5th August
Thursday 7th August
Wednesday 13th August
Tuesday 19th August

Thursday 21st August
Friday 22nd August
Thursday 4th September

Parents, Carers and Community members,

Girls Soccer
Over the last two terms, the senior girls from our school have competed in the NSW State Knockout for Soccer/Football. The girls played four games and reached the Illawarra Final, which they unfortunately lost 1-0 to Russell Vale. Along the way they defeated Balangan PS, Shellharbour PS and Albion Park PS. In total, 17 girls competed in this competition. The girls are to be complemented for the manner in which they represented their school. At all times they demonstrated all the keys to success, both on and off the field. Their persistence, confidence and resilience were particularly evident as they played tough opposition, from much larger schools, in some trying conditions. Well done girls and congratulations on your excellent effort and for the way you represented your school. I would also like to thank Mr Robert Ryan, who spent many lunchtimes training the girls, organising games and associated paperwork and coaching with patience and persistence!


Well done everyone!

Early Leavers/Late Arrivals at school
Each month, our Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) visits the school to review student attendance. Students who have an unusually high absence count during that time, are reviewed and, depending on the circumstances, interventions are made. This can include both formal and informal communication from the HSLO to parents and carers asking for the reason students have been absent from school. This can include the frequency of late arrivals and early departures from school. Currently, there seems to be a large increase in students who are missing parts of their school day. It is essential that your children attend school from 9am until 3pm every day. Each time they miss a day or a part of a day, their learning is interrupted – and it can be difficult to catch up. Please make every effort to get your children to school on time each day, and to leave them at school until 3pm.

Life Education
On behalf of our school community, I would like to thank the Illawarra Mutual Building Society for their sponsorship of the Life Education Van (and Happy, Healthy Harold). This sponsorship has allowed ALL of our students from Kindergarten to Year 6 to attend the Life Education Van for FREE! Visits will occur during the next week.

Professional Development for our staff
This Wednesday, all of our teachers in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2, will attend training with our Instructional Leader, Jo Collins, in a strategy called TEN (Targeting Early Numeracy). This training will give our teachers the knowledge to assess, identify and teach individual students the skills and strategies they need to move along the Numeracy Continuum. We are pleased with the development our K-2 students are
making in both Literacy and Numeracy since our inclusion in the Early Action for Success reform, but there is still a lot of work to be done. Please talk to your child’s teacher to find out how you can assist your child’s development at home.

On Thursday and Friday, I will join Principal’s from Wollongong, Shellharbour, the Highlands, South Coast and Far South Coast at the Primary Principal’s Association Annual Regional conference. The theme of the conference is “Change, Challenge and Opportunity” with guest speakers talking on topics such as leadership, adversity, disability, multiculturalism and Aboriginal education. I look forward to sharing my learning with both staff and parents in the future.

**Local Government Week**

Tomorrow, all of our students will walk up to Blackbutt Recreational Area to participate in the Shellharbour City Council Showcase. Students will rotate around a number of activities that highlight the work of our local council. Hopefully, all parents and carers have by now signed the annual “Permission to…” note. If you have not signed this note, please contact the front office. Mrs Mullin

**School Contributions 2014**

Last week, many families were sent home invoices for our annual school contribution. This payment is a voluntary contribution to our school, but it allows us to purchase things like additional paper, tissues, pencils and other stationary, paint, glue, laminating pouches and other school supplies that our global funding grant does not cover. Thank you to the parents and carers who have returned their school contribution – it really makes a big difference to our school budget! Without your contributions, less school funds can be spent on teaching and learning resources – including readers, sports equipment, maths equipment and science experiment resources. This year’s contributions are well below the Department of Education’s recommended amount of $80 per student. Our school is asking for $20 per student or $50 per family.

**Old bricks**

In preparation for our next garden landscaping project, we are looking for donations of old house bricks. These will be used to create a retaining wall around two of the gardens at the entrance to our school. Please contact the office if you know of anyone that may be able to assist us in this area.

**TV – turn it off**

Studies have found that children who watch large amounts of television have poorer school results and consume a higher number of unhealthy snacks. It’s important that parents set limits for watching TV. You set the limit and your child chooses when to use this time.

*A message from Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District*

**Parenting Ideas**

This week’s Parenting Ideas article is on “Getting Kids to School ON TIME!” Please have a read at the tips and tricks to assist you in the morning!

Have a great week
Sarah Rudling
Principal

**Operation Christmas Child**

The students of Barrack Heights Public school have been asked again this year to change the lives of children in desperate situations around the world through gift filled shoe boxes for Christmas. Special gift boxes are available at our school for anyone who would like to help. We ask that you:

1. Collect a gift box from the school ASAP
2. Decide whether you will make up a box for a boy or a girl
3. Read the newsletter each week where there will be instructions on what to put in your gift box.
4. Encourage your children to participate by choosing each week what will go in to your gift box.
5. Return your gift box to the school at the end of this term, full of wonderful gifts for a child.

There are different items to be included, each week over the next seven weeks.

**WEEK 1** SOMETHING TO WEAR - T-shirts, underwear, cap, beanie, dress, shorts, pyjamas etc

**WEEK 2** SOMETHING TO LOVE - teddy bear, doll, soft toy, blankie etc
WEEK 3  SOMETHING FOR SCHOOL – exercise books, pencil case, pens, pencils, eraser
WEEK 4  SOMETHING TO PLAY WITH - tennis ball, cars, skipping rope, marbles, yo-yo, slinky etc
WEEK 5  SOMETHING SPECIAL - carry bag, sunglasses, bangles, stickers, craft kit etc
WEEK 6  SOMETHING FOR PERSONAL HYGIENE – soap, face washer, toothbrush, comb, hairbrush

Life Education
The Life Education Van will be arriving at our school tomorrow, Tuesday 5th August. The timetable for all classes to attend is:
Tuesday 5th August          ASPECT
Wednesday 6th August    1/2S        3/6D
Thursday 7th August       5/6H       1/2E       1/2B
Monday 11th August        3/6B       3B         KM
Tuesday 12th August       4/5R      5/6W        KH

Happy Harold products can be purchased during the school visit. A note listing the products available and their costs can be obtained from your child’s classroom teacher. Please place the order form with the name of your child and their class and the correct money (as change will not be given) in an envelope and drop off at the school office during the visit. Tuesday, 12th August is the last day that orders will be accepted.

Mrs Holloway
Life Education Co-ordinator

Year 6 T-shirts
Year 6 T-shirt money is due by Friday 8th August. The cost of the shirt is $30. No late orders will be taken after that date.

Mrs Wheeler

Chocolate Fundraiser
Year 4, 5 and 6 are selling Cadbury Chocolates to raise money for our end of year camp. Several parents in the community have offered to sell chocolates to assist us, even if their child is not attending camp. We are very thankful to these parents! If you would like to help us out by selling a box of chocolates please return the attached form to Mrs Harris by Friday 8th August. You will receive your chocolates during week 5. The money will need to be returned no later than week 7, 26th August. Each box contains 50 chocolates that sell for $1 each. All chocolates that are ordered must be sold as Cadbury does not accept unsold returns.

Thank you

____________________________________________________________________________________
Child’s name: _______________________________ Class: __________________
Boxes of chocolates required: ____________

Thank you
Mrs Harris
FREE Aboriginal Family Mornings

• Come for a Yarn and morning tea @

Mt Warrigal Public School 10-12 on Wednesday’s or
Koonawarra Community Centre 10-12 Thursday’s
Port Kembla Community Centre 10-12 Friday’s
(during school term only)

COMMUNITY NEWS

CREATE YOUR OWN CRICKET MOMENT

PLAYCRICKET.COM.AU
“Come on Jack! Get a move on. School starts in ten minutes and you’re not even dressed yet!”

If this scenario sounds familiar then you are not alone. Anecdotal evidence suggests that getting children to school or pre school on time can be one of the most difficult tasks for parents.

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do precious minutes are lost. A child who is fifteen minutes late to school each day misses one week of school every year.

How can you get your dawdling kids out the door without yelling yourself hoarse? Here are a few techniques and ideas for you to try to get your punctually-challenged children to school on time:

✔ Establish a morning routine.

Make sure your children know what is expected of them in the morning, and also what you will do. Resist nagging but be willing to take them to school even if they haven’t fully prepared for the day.

✔ Identify and remove distractions such as television.

If the children are regular watchers before school change the routine and keep the TV off. It should only be turned on when children are completely ready for school.

✔ Teach some of the basics of time management.

The average adult underestimates by about 25 per cent the time it takes to do various jobs. Make sure you have realistic time estimates and stop packing so much into the time you allocate. Encourage older children to estimate how long it takes to do activities such as getting ready in the morning. Then they can measure the time taken to do these tasks and compare their estimates with real time.

✔ Arrive at school ten minutes early.

Plan to arrive at school early rather than be there on time. This idea works well for perpetual latecomers, whether young or old.

✔ Model a good routine.

Its pointless expecting children to be organised in the morning if you are in a muddle yourself. Set a good example by being as methodical as possible and avoid sleeping in unless your children are so organised that they get you breakfast in bed. And pigs might fly as well!