FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Days of celebration
This week we will be acknowledging both Harmony Day and National Day of Action Against Bullying as a whole school. However, as both these days are to be celebrated in schools on the same day, we have had to come up with a creative approach. Today on parade we acknowledged The National Day of Action Against Bullying by our student leaders role playing a number of scenarios and actions for our student body.

This Friday at 9.00am we will celebrate Harmony Day with a special parade. Our students and community will be treated to a range of cultural songs, dances and stories. My thanks go to Mrs Artango, Mr Underwood and the school community engagement team for their time in organising this event.

Student Behaviour
It has been worrying to see the spike in physically and verbally aggressive behaviour in a small number of our students over the past few weeks. I am very firm in my belief that our school needs to be a safe environment for our staff and students and as such, behaviour that challenges this belief will be dealt with in a serious manner. We ask parents to reinforce the school expectations of safe and polite interactions with their children over the coming days.

As a school we are also placing high expectations of behaviour upon students representing our school (e.g. inter-school sport, choir and band tours, etc.). If a student receives a Major Office Referral (MOR) or fail to meet the expectations of their teacher (e.g. completed homework submitted on time), they will place their participation at risk. Again, I would ask for the community’s support in having these high expectations of our students.

Student Achievements
The following student achievements were acknowledged and celebrated this week –
- Year 2 BLUE were awarded the class of the week for their dramatic improvement in overall classroom behaviour. They even maintained this high level of behaviour while their teacher was away for two days.
- The Year 6 students were commended by the Principal of Kingston College last week for the maturity they showed during a recent visit to our school. While most prospective high school student normally ask questions about the tuckshop menu and the amount of ‘spares’ they receive, our students quizzed the Principal about the academic programs offered at the school. This was a great demonstration of our school vision of having an unrelenting focus on academic excellence.

Steve Kanowski
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY

National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence
Last newsletter I included some information for families about the definition and description of bullying. Parents and carers play an important part in assisting our school prevent bullying and provide a safe and supportive school community for everyone.

Sometimes, it can be difficult for parents or carers to know what to do when their child talks to them about bullying. The following advice comes from the Bullying No Way website.

If your child talks to you about bullying:
1. Listen calmly and get the full story. Your calm response is important to allow your child to tell you all about the situation. After they’ve told you their story, ask questions to get more details if you need to: who, what, where, when. Although you may feel some strong emotions about your child’s experience, try to keep calm to avoid more distress to your child.
2. Reassure your child they are not to blame. Many children blame themselves and this may make them feel even worse. You could say things like, ‘That sounds really hard to deal with. No one should have to put up with that.’ or ‘I’m so glad you told me. You should be able to feel safe at school; that’s not fair at all’.
3. Ask your child what they want to do and what they want you to do. A critical part of your response is to avoid jumping in to solve the problem. While it is natural to want to protect your child, helping them to find their own solution is a better option. It helps them feel they have some power in the situation.
4. Visit [www.bullyingnoway.gov.au](http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au) to find some strategies. The website has tips and ideas for different bullying situations. One idea is to practise strategies at home to help your child feel more confident.

5. **Contact** the school. Your child may be reluctant for you to do this, so discuss the idea and reassure them that the school would want to know and is able to help. Make an appointment to meet with your child’s teacher. Contact the school immediately if you have a concern about your child’s safety.

6. **Check in regularly** with your child. Keep the conversation going. It can take time to resolve issues, so check in regularly with your child about their experiences and their feelings. Your ongoing support is important.

Don’t forget, our school is taking part in the 2015 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence during assembly Tuesday 17th March.

**Staffing Changes**
On Friday we said **au revoir** to Mrs Dube, as she prepares to welcome her first baby and takes maternity leave for a year. We wish her the best of luck. Berrinba also welcomes Mrs Kimberly Webb who will be Mrs Dube’s replacement on year 2.

**School Wide Positive Behaviour Support**
Last week we celebrated our first Green Day for 2015. Our focus was on celebrating the day camps and informing our parent body about our Learner Qualities (connect, inquire, regulate, collaborate, persist). Well done to our hard working SWPBS team for their continued dedication to a safe and supportive Berrinba and many thanks to our families that took the time to speak to one of our staff members about the Learner Qualities.

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**HARMONY DAY**

We are celebrating Harmony Day on Friday 20th March with a parade in the hall from 9:00am - 9:45am. There will be variety of performances including choir and dance. You may wish to wear orange clothing. Parents and carers are especially welcome.

**STAFF CAR PARK**

The front of the office is not a drop off zone for parent and their students. Parents who continue to do this are putting the lives of our students in danger. A number of parents are not only parking here but are driving in at high speed.

**P&C NEWS**

Our next general meeting for 2015 will be Monday 20th April 6pm. All members of our school community are encouraged to attend. We are always looking for fresh faces with new ideas to join our P&C.

**PHOTO DAY**

All P&C executives and members are invited to attend photo day on the 26th March 2015 to have their photo taken for our new and exciting badges. Times to be advised.

**FUNDRAISING**

School Calendars are available to keep up with important dates. Starring our very own Berrinba East students! $5 each from the Uniform Shop.

We are always on the lookout for sponsors to help support our school and P&C. If you or someone you know can help, please contact the President on 0432 478 257.

We are currently searching for donations for our mother’s day stall. All donations will be greatly appreciated. If you are able to help in any way please see one of our friendly P&C executives.

**CROSS COUNTRY**

It’s nearly that time again for our Annual Fun Run Fundraiser! Forms have been sent home for students to collect sponsors from family, friends, workmates and neighbours! Please remember, students should have adult supervision at all times. We do not encourage students to go door-to-door.
Every student who participates in the Cross Country Run will receive a reward! Every $5 raised gets a ticket in the draw for a chance to win 1 of 14 Prize Packs! Highest fundraising class (1 junior & 1 senior) wins a Class Party! All profits raised will go towards school PE programs & improvements.

SCHOOL BANKING
School banking is a great opportunity to start teaching children about budgeting and the value of money. ALL children (including non-students) are welcome to be part of our School Banking Program.

Our School Banking day is FRIDAY. EVERY deposit earns a token. Even 5c! 10 tokens can be redeemed for a cool prize! Great NEW prizes for 2015!! "Mail" your bank deposit book at the Tuckshop by 9am EVERY Friday. Please allow 3 working days for money to be credited to accounts. Information packs are available from the Uniform Shop.

UNIFORM SHOP
CASH ONLY! Open Tuesday & Thursday 8.15am-8.30am. New stock has now arrived of shorts and skorts! Unfortunately due to supplier issues, polo shirts are not expected to arrive until the end of term 1. We will be having a 3 day uniform sale of second hand and factor second uniforms on the 24th-26th March 2015 from 8 to 9 am.

SENIOR SHIRTS
Orders have been placed. The excepted delivered date will approximately be the first or second week of Term 2.

TUCKSHOP
The tuckshop will be open every Thursday at second break only for the sales of:
Ice blocks ranging in price from 50c to $1.50
JJ's $1.70
LOLS and Play water $2.50
Water $1.00

EXPRESSIONS OF INTREST
We are currently looking at holding a multi-cultural day in August date to be advised. We are looking for expressions of interest if you would like to be involved please provide written interest and post it in the P&C corresponded letter box.

BOOK CLUB
All book club orders are to be mailed into the mail slot by Friday 9am the 20th of March 2015

CURRENTLY SEARCHING FOR:
We are currently searching for a donation of a single door fridge for the tuckshop. If you are able to help please see Carolyn the P & C president

FOR SALE AND FREE FURNITURE
48 page plain ruled - 20c
48 page Yr 2 exercise book - 30c
48 page Yr 2 botany book (great for at home!) – 30c
48 page 10mm grid book – 30c
2x lead pencils - 20c
Eraser - 20c

We have 1 metal/wood bookshelf and 1 wooden bookshelf – both great for shed storage, or even organising your shoes!! 1 Desk approx 1.7m x 80cm. Great for doing homework on!!

Come have a look in the office if you’re interested in taking them home.

SCHOOL PHOTOS
Please be aware school photos are on the 26th March. Order envelopes have been sent home with this weeks newsletter. PLEASE NOTE the order forms and money will need to be returned on the day of the photos to the photgraphers, who will have spares if required – order forms cannot be handed into the school beforehand.

JOLLYBOPS SCIENCE SHOW
On Friday 27th March (Week 9), the Jollybops Science Show is coming back to Berrinba East State School to give a science presentation to all students from Prep to Year 6.

There will be a show addressed to:
Prep to Year 2: “Balloon Science” at 9:30-10:20,

There will be exciting, interactive and interesting science demonstrations. Students need to pay $6 to attend. Money needs to be sent to the office by Friday 27th March (week 9) at the latest. Parents who would love to engage in Science with his/her child are invited to the show at no cost at the same time as their child’s class.

We can’t wait to see you all there!