FROM THE PRINCIPAL

NAPLAN
As you know, the annual National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests will be held from 10th May to 12th May 2016. Now that the Australian Curriculum is being implemented in each state and territory, we’ve aligned NAPLAN to the Australian Curriculum: English and the Australian Curriculum: Mathematics. As such, NAPLAN should have less impact on your child’s day-to-day learning, as the best preparation for NAPLAN is for students to continue learning what they do every day in the classroom.

NAPLAN is an important tool for parents, educators and the public to see how Australia’s children are meeting essential literacy and numeracy standards. It’s a point-in-time snapshot assessment of students’ achievements in these important areas. It certainly doesn’t replace the important tests that are regularly held in classrooms around the country. It simply complements existing tests and adds a valuable national dimension.

In August–September you’ll receive your child’s NAPLAN results. If you have any concerns, you should speak to your child’s teacher, as they know your child’s learning best.

Some students may feel anxious about NAPLAN, but it’s up to the adults in children’s lives to help keep NAPLAN in context. It’s a test that is only taken four times in a child’s schooling life – over three days, there are four tests that take around one hour each. NAPLAN tests what students should already know from their everyday learning, and there are no prizes or repercussions for doing well or not so well in the tests.

NAPLAN doesn’t test everything that happens in a classroom – it isn’t intended to – but it does look at the critically important areas of literacy and numeracy – skills that your child will take with them to their adult life.

It is vitally important that all students sitting this test arrive at school on time and are well fed. If this provides a challenge for some families I would encourage them to access our Breakfast Club here at school to ‘buy them more time’ in the mornings.

SCHOOL UNIFORM
We are having a range of issues regarding students arrive at school out of school uniform. Some of these issues include –
* Not wearing Navy Blue shorts to school. Unfortunately we are getting a variety of shorts ranging from the local football team to denim. Additionally there is a great deal of variance when it comes to the length of these garments.
* Failing to wear the school polo to school or wearing another shirt under the school polo.
* Failing to wear a Navy Blue jumper or jacket to school.

After speaking to students and families who have now gone to High School, they have sighted the expectation of school uniform as being the biggest difference between Primary and High School. To prepare our upper school students for the transition to High School we will be increasing our expectation of school uniforms in the lead up.

At Berrinba East State School we are attempting to change a school culture by where high expectations are the norm. Having pride in appearance and the school plays a big part in this and can be demonstrated by wearing the correct school uniform.

Steve Kanowski
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY

ATTENDANCE

BESS ATTENDANCE TARGET 95%

BESS CURRENT ATTENDANCE 89.3%
The Top 5 Attendance classes in Week 2 were:

1. 1CM  94.28%
2. 345KW  94.11%
3. 6CF  93.31%
4. Prep TH  91.82%
5. 4MC  91.17%

In Week 2 BESS had 8 out of 18 classes (44%) with an attendance rate above 90%. This is lower than the end of Term 1. We have now accounted for all students who have left/returned late from holidays and we look forward to attendance improving quickly!

Explained / unexplained absences
Currently, 34.78% of student absences are unexplained. Absences are counted as explained when the parent/guardian contacts the school or provides a note to explain why a child is away. Most explained absences are listed as student illness or holiday.

Below is an extract from the Education Queensland policy, explaining the definition of explained absences.

**Holiday** - The parent or guardian has informed the school that the student/family is taking a holiday. Holidays during the school term are discouraged, and should be avoided if possible. If the absence is more than 10 consecutive days, an exemption is required. To apply for an exemption, please contact the school office to discuss this option.

**Illness** - The parent or guardian has informed the school that the student is sick. This includes all references to ill health or reasons related to the health of the student. If a medical certificate has been provided this will be noted and kept on file. If a child is unable to attend school for a period longer than 10 consecutive school days, an exemption is required. Please contact the school office to make an appointment to discuss your child’s medical needs.

**BULLYING VS CONFLICT**
From time to time, we have reported incidents of conflict between students. Quite often, parents and students label these incidents as ‘bullying’ without the incident being investigated and all sides of the stories heard.

We need to clearly identify the difference between conflict and bullying, in order to appropriately respond to bullying incidents. While the two seem similar in some instances, there is actually a distinct difference.

Below is a simple infographic, to describe the differences between bullying, conflict, isolated incidents and ‘joking around’. Take a moment to talk to your child about the differences.

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Kathryn Marshall
Deputy

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**P & C NEWS**

**GENERAL MEETING**
The next P&C General Meeting will be Monday 16th May at 6.00pm in the Staffroom (please note the change of day). Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

**WOOF WOOF OUR GREAT GUARD DOG**
Woof Woof is located near our Big Red Mail Box. All P&C money, Book Club orders and Bank Books can be mailed there. This is open Wednesday Thursday and Friday. Our mail box is
cleared daily so no money or banking books are left overnight.

**P&C SHOP**
Opening hours: Tuesday ONLY 8.00am to 9.00am and 1.00pm to 2.00pm. Remember no EFTPOS is available - cash only.

As the weather is starting to get a little cooler, don’t forget we have a BESS fleece jacket for $26.00 with front zip side pockets and school logo.

**TUCKSHOP**
We are currently in the process of finding a suitable Convenor. For our tuckshop to be a busy, happy and inviting place, a roster of regular and reliable volunteers is vital. If this is you, please leave your contact details in Woof Woof.

**SCHOOL BANKING**
Banking day is Friday. ‘Mail’ your deposit book into “Woof Woof” by 8.45am Friday – deposits will not be made after this time. Books will be returned to your class. Please allow up to 3 business days for deposits to be credited into your account. Happy saving! Remember every deposit earns a token, even 5c! 10 tokens can be redeemed for a prize!

**Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea**
Thank-you to everyone who came to our afternoon tea. We hope you all enjoyed the afternoon, and it was great to hear the senior strings. I am sure there would have been a lot who remember when they first started - they have certainly come a long way. Well done all!!!

**Disco**
Our first disco for the year is Friday 13th May (Black Friday). Make it fun and wear your fancy dress/costume on the night. Tickets will be on sale from Wednesday 11th May in front of the Admin Building.

Prep to Year 2: $5
Year 3 to Year 6: $7
Ticket price includes entry, a cup of hot cheerio’s, a drink and a bag of chips. Glow products will be on sale starting from 50 cents as well as lollies, drinks etc… Start that great costume now!!!

**GARDEN DONATIONS NEEDED**
Our new School Groundsman, Jamie, has been hard at work improving the various gardens around the school. We are now seeking donations of the following:

- Plants (including natives, shrubs and trees)
- Seedlings (flowers and vegetable)
- Packet seeds (any sort)
- Empty plastic pot plants
- Garden Equipment (trowels, shovels, spades, digging forks, shadecloth, etc…)

Please bring items to the office.

A big thank-you to the families who have donated plants already.

**SCHOOL PHOTOS**
School photos have arrived and have been sent home with your child. If you have any issues with your photo orders, please contact Silver Rose Photography directly on 3262 5788 or email them at schools@silverrose.com.au

If your child is a school captain, a school band or junior strings member, junior or senior choir member, or student leader, there will soon be a display in the notice board at the office should you wish to order any of these photos. You will need to order these directly from Silver Rose Photography.

**CHAPLAINCY NEWS**
It is Chappy Week in week 6 this term. One of the fun activities is for the family to come to cDonald’s in Woodridge to have dinner or a treat between 5.00-7.00pm on Wednesday the 18th May. Last year we had a fun night with free face painting, balloon animals, fake tattoos, games and more to
make it just like a party. Our School was well represented and along with families from a few of the other local schools we had a great night. 10% of the money taken both from inside and the drive through during those hours in donated to Chaplaincy to benefit our kids. Last year it was a little hard to get a park but I have noticed that there is a big carpark across the street at the shops. We would love to see you there. See the notice in this Newsletter for more information.

Wendy Hilton
School Chaplain

BOOKCASE & TABLE TO GIVE AWAY

We have a bookcase that is no longer needed by the school, to give away. It is quite old, in reasonable condition, and would be best suited somewhere like a shed for storage. We also have a couple of trapezium-shaped tables.

Please come to the office if you are interested.

HEALTHY LUNCH IDEAS

The following snack ideas are suggestions to pack for school or to prepare at home between main meals. They are nutritious, tasty, quick and easy to prepare.

- Pancake or pikelet (add mashed bananas to mixture for a change)
- Fruit/date/pumpkin/ or plain scone
- Wholemeal crackers & a slice of low fat cheese
- Rice cakes with thin scrape reduced-fat cream cheese (eg. Philadelphia Lite) and Vegemite
- Celery sticks with a thin spread of peanut butter topped with sultanas
- Low fat cheese with a bundle of carrot and celery sticks
- Small handful of dried fruit
- Small container of assorted salads (eg. tabouli, pasta, rice)
- Salad box with a hard-boiled egg, cherry tomatoes and a bread roll
- Vegetarian quiche or frittata
- Noodles with chicken and snow peas
- Sushi rice roll with avocado, carrot and tuna
- Chicken drumstick
- Frozen banana (spear peeled banana with icy-pole stick and freeze) or other frozen fruit such as grapes, peeled orange or mandarin segments
- Fruit kebabs (use icy-pole sticks).
Culture in the Park
Ewing Park, Woodridge
Sunday 22 May 2016
11.00am-1.00pm

BBQ  Sport  Culture

Contact:
Logan District Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Elders
372 Kingston Road, Kingston
Phone: 0452 589764

Supported by: